



**176th Wing • Alaska Air National Guard**  
**eGuardian April 11, 2024**

---

## **April 2024 Regularly Scheduled Drill**

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TRAINING** *April 14*

176th Wing Equal Opportunity will host EO Training this drill Sunday, April 14, in the Wellness Center Classroom, Building 10480 at 10 a.m.

Squadron commanders: IAW DAFI 36-2710, commanders must receive a Key Personnel Briefing from EO upon taking command. Contact Capt Westfall at 907-854-1030 or email [kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil](mailto:kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil) for your briefing.

Leaders: please continue to notify 176 WG/EO whenever you encounter an incident or issue that could be EO-related (purview: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual harassment.) IAW DAFI 36-2710, EO is required to assist in documentation and provide consultation for commander-worked issues within EO purview. Contact Capt Westfall 907-854-1030 or [kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil](mailto:kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil) (she has document templates too!).

---

## EVENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

### AKNG CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM EVENTS

The AKNG Child & Youth Program is happy to celebrate Month of the Military Child this April. Below are all the events happening this month and through the summer. Events with an \* require pre-registration. Please contact Suzie Mauro ([Suzanne.m.mauro.ctr@army.mil](mailto:Suzanne.m.mauro.ctr@army.mil)) for registration information and/or to be added to the Child & Youth Program email distribution list.

#### April 12 – Purple Up Day

April 20 - MOMC Youth Ball – Fort Greely

April 22 – Earth Day awareness walk at JBER

April 26-27 – Operation Megaphone teen lock-in (JBER, Kennecott Youth Center)\*

May 23-27 – Teen Leadership and Cultural Exchange, Kodiak (Open to Youth Council members throughout Region 10)\*

June 11-14—**Boots on Boots off Day Camp, JBER (grades 1-5) \***

July 9-10 – **Flag Football Camp, JBER (ages 9-14) \***

July 15-19—Region 9/10 Symposium, Washington State (for Youth Council members)

July 30-Aug2—**Camp K overnight camp (grades 6-12)\***

### WARRIOR & FAMILY SERVICES MOVIE EVENTS

#### APRIL MOVIE:

WHO: AKNG Warrior & Family Services Families

WHEN: 13 APR 24 from 5:00PM – 8:30PM

WHERE: Frontier Theater

WHY: CYP Camp Sign Up and Information Booth

POC: 907-428-6663

WHAT: Mario vs Sonic Family Double Feature

17:00 – Sonic

18:30 – Mario

#### MAY MOVIE:

WHO: AKNG Warrior & Family Services Families

WHAT: Star Wars Film Marathon

WHERE: Frontier Theater

WHY: American Red Cross Speaker and Outdoor Recreation

POC: 907-428-6663

WHEN: 4 MAY 24 (May the Fourth Be with You) from 11:30AM-7:30PM

11:30 - Doors Open

12:00 – Episode IV: A New Hope  
14:30 – Episode V: Empire Strikes Back  
17:00 – Episode VI: Return of the Jedi

## **WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY TEAM UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **OpsWPS101 (aka Gender Focal Point training)**

Cadre: NGB Mobile Training Team and AKNG WPS Facilitators

Date: May 21-23

Location: AKNG JFHQ, Building 49000, Suite B-201

Description: This three-day course is designed to train Gender Focal Points at the National Guard headquarter and component level. It includes foundational knowledge and skills for implementing WPS within DoD mission areas. This course emphasizes how to conduct a gender analysis and weaves gender analysis exercises through thematic topics, including but not limited to: exercises, security cooperation, and the future operating environment (FOE).

## **EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE AWARDS**

Recognize the amazing employer that you work for outside of the National Guard.

### **Patriot Award**

Service members serving part time in the National Guard may nominate individual supervisors/managers for support provided directly to them. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors. It is a simple online submission, and the certificate comes to the Alaska ESGR office. ESGR will contact you and present the award with you to your supervisor at your civilian business.

Online at <https://esgr.mil/Employer-Awards/Patriot-Award/Form>.

### **Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award**

Nomination for this prestigious award runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. This award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve (only 15 given out annually). The ESGR State Committee reviews nominations and submits three to compete at the national level. If you are interested in submitting your company for the Freedom Award, reach out to the Alaska ESGR Committee staff member Amy Arsenault, [amy.m.arsenault.ctr@army.mil](mailto:amy.m.arsenault.ctr@army.mil), 907-428-6576. The nomination is an online

nomination but it is very detailed. ESGR can give you some tips for submission. <https://www.freedomaward.mil/>

## **CHILD CARE AWARE OF AMERICA**

Child Care Aware of America is a Department of the Air Force childcare fee assistance program available to all Air Force Active Duty, Guard/Reserve Active Duty, or Dual Status Reserve Technicians. It supplements the cost of off-base child care so members only pay what they would at the base Child Development Center.

More Information: <https://www.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespice/military-families/air-force/fee-assistance/>

## **ONGOING FREE COUNSELING SERVICES**

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) provide short term non-medical solution-focused counseling to support military families with the challenges of deployments, reintegration, parenting, relationship issues, conflict resolution, anger management and other life issues. They provide free, confidential services on and off military installations, flexible service delivery in non-traditional settings and times. With the exception of child abuse, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, and duty to warn situations, services are confidential.

In response to COVID-19, MFLCs are providing services via secure, encrypted video teleconference.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Husch Hathorne-Cantil at 907-382-1407. Appointments are available within 24-48 hours.

## **176TH WING COMMUNICATION FLIGHT CONTINUES TRADITION, BECOMES COMMUNICATION SQUADRON**

By Staff Sgt. Kelly Willett | 176th Wing Public Affairs

The 176th Communications Flight hosted a ceremony that redesignated them from a flight to a squadron March 3, 2024, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Communications Airmen provide various communication services to support military operations including cyber operations, deployable communications, network operations and information technology support among others.

The change from flight to squadron not only represents a name change, it encompasses the true mission the 176th Communication Squadron fulfills.

Flights represent smaller operational units focused on carrying out specific missions, while squadrons are larger organizational units that oversee and coordinate the operations of multiple flights within a particular area of responsibility or mission set. The squadron currently fulfills multiple missions across the wing.

In March 2011, 176th Wing moved to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. As a tenant communication support agency under One-Base, One-Network, the 176th Communications Flight continued to support the primary mission of the 176th Wing by providing trained and equipped personnel to support both federal and state missions.

The 176th Wing Communications Flight was poised to transition into a squadron, focusing on Enterprise Information Technology as a Service and Mission Defense Team initiatives. EITaaS initiatives involve managing and delivering IT services more efficiently and effectively. MDT initiatives are focused on defending critical missions and systems against cyber threats and attacks. Both of these critical missions help the 176th Wing accomplish their goals.

On March 15, 2018, the Cyber Squadron Enabling Concept was published, which introduced EITaaS and MDTs to the Air Force communications community. With these concepts, the vision of becoming a cyber squadron was born.

The new unit emblem, the Raven, symbolizes creation and knowledge in Alaska Native culture and is known for helping the local people. The Raven is also seen as a messenger bringing signals of change, and thus carrying on its wings the transformation to the digital age of communication as represented by the gold circuitry. The circuitry within the emblem also represents the connectedness of our unit members to each other, our state, and our great nation.

Alaska Air National Guard Lt. Col. Herbert Gladwill looked out on the new squadron and spoke about the unit's future.

"It is time to look to the future," he said. "You, the Airmen and [noncommissioned officers] of the squadron are the future of this organization. We will take up this new guidon and execute fixed cyber communications, agile communications and cyber mission assurance."

## **RUNNING WITH THE WIND: ALASKA AIR GUARD HC-130J COMBAT KING II EXPEDITES CRITICAL MEDEVAC**

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

Two Alaska Air National Guard Guardian Angel personnel recovery Airmen jumped from a 176th Wing combat search and rescue aircraft into the village of Kotlik March 22 to expedite medical care for a critically ill patient there before medically evacuating her to JBER.

The mission opened in response to a request from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation to medevac a patient experiencing internal bleeding from Kotlik to Bethel where a higher level of medical care was available. Civilian air ambulances could not support the medevac due to poor weather in the region.

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center communicated the request to the 176th Wing search and rescue duty officer. Upon accepting the mission, the SARDO dispatched a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk combat search and rescue helicopter and a 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130J Combat King CSAR fixed-wing aircraft. Both platforms carried Guardian Angel personnel recovery teams comprising combat rescue officers and enlisted pararescuemen.

For most civil search and rescue missions in Alaska, patients and distressed residents are recovered by the HH-60, callsign "Jolly," due to its ability to

land or deploy its rescue hoist just about anywhere. Because time was of the essence for the patient, mission planners decided to jump a GA team from the faster HC-130, referred to as "King" by the CSAR community. Some refer to the aircraft as the "Rescue Herc."

Alaska Air National Guard Master Sgt. Arnold Perea, 210th RQS HH-60 special missions aviator, underlined the importance of rapidly closing the distance.

"Our goal was to get to Kotlik as fast as possible," Perea said. "We had the C-130 go out ahead to do weather reconnaissance and see what the status was over top of Kotlik because we heard there was bad weather there. When they got there, they could see that it was clear enough for them [to jump] since they can get there quite a bit faster than us."

Maj. James Byrne, 212th RQS combat rescue officer, and Master Sgt. Daniel Lutz, 212th RQS pararescueman, said the patient's condition made jumping an urgent choice.

"The patient had significant internal bleeding, she was experiencing low blood pressure and had a rapid pulse," Lutz said. "That pushed us towards launching the Herc faster than we normally would, hoping to get blood onboard sooner rather than later. We retrieved two units of blood from the hospital: one unit on the helo, one unit on the Herc. We stepped out the door with the mindset of jumping to the patient, knowing the helicopter was going to be several hours behind us."

Village residents were waiting with snowmachines at the drop zone in a field near Kotlik ready to bring the GAs to the village clinic.

Orbiting over the DZ, Byrne said they had to consider the three risk factors of ceiling, visibility and wind.

"We had the ceiling, the visibility was good enough for us to jump, and the winds were higher than what we typically jump for training, but based on the DZ location and the terrain, all of the snow out there, as a highly proficient jump team, anyone [in the 212th RQS] could have made that jump," Byrne said. "As a crew we assessed the situation and risk factors and determined that it was still appropriate to conduct the jump."

In an attempt to prepare for a GA jumpmaster-directed jump, Byrne and Lutz tossed wind streamers and an electronic wind drift indicator out of the aircraft door to measure the gales, but the devices' swift disappearance in the weather rendered them useless.

The GAs turned to Maj. George Geiges, the 211th RQS combat systems officer on the HC-130 flight deck, who had all the tools necessary to calculate a good area to green light the jump.

"A crew-directed drop is one where the aircrew will pull tab data from charts and put it into the system on the aircraft," Geiges said. "The system plots where we can release. It gives us a LAR, a launch acceptability region, meaning we can drop the jumpers anywhere in that area, and their chute maneuverability gives them the ability to steer a little bit, and that is plotted out from a wind vector."

With the proper calculations made, the GAs exited the aircraft door into the cold, gusty Alaska night.

"Once we got out, we realized the winds were pretty manageable, so we turned and ran with the wind, traveling the 1.7 miles to the drop zone," Lutz said. "Once we neared the target area, we turned into the wind and were pushed back the remainder of the distance to the drop zone. At 1,000ft, we disconnected our reserve static lines. If you cut away [the main parachute], the RSL pulls out your reserve. Doing this allowed us to cut away our mains on the ground and not be drug by the high winds."

With as much as 80 pounds of medical and survival equipment strapped to their legs, the GA's pulled the release on their 15-foot lowering lines, and their gear hit the snow before they did.

"The landing itself was pretty easy," Lutz said. "It was a slight flair [of the parachute], and we both had stand-up landings and cut away the parachutes."

At the clinic, the GAs met with the village health aide who had been providing medical care for the ill resident.

"She was a very sick patient," Lutz said. "You could definitely tell by her color and vitals she had been losing blood."

Byrne said the team had more work to do before loading her on the HH-60 that had made its way through weather to Kotlik.

"The most appropriate option was to be able to provide a medical intervention as quickly as we could versus evacuating her out as quickly as we could," Byrne said. "We talked to a doctor in Bethel and relayed some of



the information and the vitals we were seeing in real time, and then we were given the recommendation to push blood.”

The original plan for evacuation to Bethel fell through due to many of the same circumstances that prevented civilian air ambulances from responding.

“We were trying to transload her to Bethel, but there was a band of weather between Kotlik and Bethel, so we had to divert to McGrath and do the transload to King there,” Perea said.

With the patient and the GAs onboard the HC-130, they departed McGrath for JBER where the patient was handed over to the Anchorage Fire Department for final evacuation to an area hospital.

Geiges said the mission was unique because of the level of teamwork required.

“We call ourselves the Rescue Triad, but in a lot of missions, one element stands out more than others, and I think this mission is a perfect example of that Rescue Triad working together, each team was completely reliant on the others,” Geiges said. “We needed the GAs, the HC-130 and the HH-60 to get this mission done. I think it’s a great example of how that triad works here in Alaska.”

For the mission, 210th RQS, 211th RQS, 212th RQS and the AKRCC received credit for one save.

## **176TH WING HOSTS TOUR FOR BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ALASKA**

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

The 176th Wing hosted Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska leadership during a March 13 wing tour at the wing’s JBER campus.

Alaska Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Anthony Stratton, 176th Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Arnzen, 176th Maintenance Group senior enlisted leader, spoke with BBBSAK CEO Jill Richardson and BBBSAK Anchorage community coordinator Caity Chandler about volunteer opportunities with BBBSAK while the guests learned about opportunities to serve in the Alaska Air National Guard.

Richardson said matching adult “bigs” with youthful “littles” provides benefits to the Alaska community.

“We match adult volunteers with youth in a one-on-one mentorship, and that mentorship helps support and guide the youth through their next stage of life,” she said. “Everybody needs a mentor in their life. We know that youth need at least three positive adults in their life to have the best possible outcomes.”

Richardson said she envisions what she called a healthy symbiosis between the two organizations. Members of 176th Wing are a natural fit to volunteer as bigs, while littles can gain exposure to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics dimension of service in a technologically advanced Alaska Air National Guard wing.

“We were very interested in figuring out how we may be able to partner with the Air National Guard to recruit volunteers, and we also wanted to expose our littles to the options they may have in their future,” she said. Richardson said about 15 percent of BBBSAK bigs are military volunteers, and she would like to see even more Guard members volunteer.

For more information about volunteering with BBBSAK or requesting a big, visit [www.bbbsak.org](http://www.bbbsak.org).

## **ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD RESCUE AIRMEN HELP 3 OVER EASTER WEEKEND**

By Staff Sgt. Kelly Willett | 176th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska Air National Guard rescue personnel of the 176th Wing medically evacuated a stroke victim March 30 from Bethel before rescuing two injured snowmachine riders near Ruby the same day.

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation requested assistance from the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center to medevac a stroke victim when civilian air ambulances were unable to respond due to foul weather. The request was forwarded to the 176th Wing search and rescue duty officer (SARDO), who dispatched a 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130J Combat King II carrying Guardian Angel pararescuemen (PJs) of the 212th Rescue Squadron onboard.

The HC-130, callsign “King,” picked up the patient in Bethel and transported him to JBER with the PJs providing in-transit medical care. At JBER, the

patient was transferred to a civilian ambulance for transport to an Anchorage hospital.

After two snowmachiners were injured in a collision near Ruby about 175 miles west of Fairbanks on the Yukon River, the snowmachine party activated an SOS signal on their satellite communication device. Following receipt of the SOS, the Alaska State Troopers requested assistance from the AKRCC who forwarded the request to 176th Wing. The SARDO dispatched the HC-130 and a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk, callsign, "Jolly," both with GA PJs on board.

The HC-130 air-to-air refueled the HH-60 during the mission to extend the helicopter's range. The helicopter landed near the snowmachine party, and the PJs stabilized the patients before loading them into the Pave Hawk for transport to JBER where they were transferred to a civilian ambulance and taken to an Anchorage hospital.

Air National Guard Col. Joshua Armstrong, 176th Operations Group commander, said the back-to-back missions showcased the capabilities of the Rescue Triad of the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons.

"The King crew worked a long day flying both missions, and Jolly had to navigate mountain passes in bad weather for more than a 600-mile round trip," Armstrong said. "From the mission planning of the RCC, to King providing weather reconnaissance for Jolly, and PJs providing critical patient care, the Rescue Triad demonstrated we are always ready and always there when our fellow Alaskans need us the most."

For the two missions, 211th RQS, 212th RQS and the AKRCC received credit for three saves, and 210th RQS received credit for two saves.

## **AIRMEN OF 211TH RESCUE SQUADRON COMPETE AT RESCUE RODEO**

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

For the first time, all active duty, Air National Guard and training fixed-wing rescue squadrons flying the HC-130J Combat King II joined together to compete at the Rescue Rodeo in Salina, Kansas, March 25-29, 2024.

The 71st Rescue Squadron organized the Rescue Rodeo to share best practices, train the new generation of rescue Airmen and build camaraderie across the small, geographically separated community.

"Rescue Rodeo is an annual competition that we are starting this year," said Maj. Joe Nunley, 71st RQS assistant director of operations. "In the Air Force, rescue is the best of the best around the world. We get together here to determine who, right now, is the king of the hill. It helps to foster unit cohesion; communication; sharing of tactics, techniques, and procedures; as well as morale among the rescue community."

Airmen from all over the nation who fly the HC-130J Combat King II participated in the event. Competing for the top spot were the rescue professionals from the 79th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona; 71st RQS, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; Air National Guard's 211th Rescue Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; 102nd Rescue Squadron, Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, New York; 130th Rescue Squadron, Moffett Federal Airfield, California; and the Air Force Reserve's 39th Rescue Squadron, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida.

"The HC-130J Combat King II is basically the Swiss Army knife of airplanes; it does literally everything that an airplane can do," Nunley said. "We came out here and tested our skills in all those different operating areas, and it helped us see where our weaknesses and strengths are to improve across the community. The skillsets we practiced here at the rodeo are things we have and will continue to execute in the real world, both downrange and during our support of civilian activities, whether it's a downed service member behind enemy lines or supporting astronaut search and rescue. You call, we haul, and it's just bread and butter for us."

Throughout the course, Airmen practiced precision drops, touch-and-go landings, and rescues, which simulated a downed pilot dressed as a famous search-and-find book character.

"It gives us a chance to operate in an environment outside of Moody," said Lt. Col. Brian Ayers, 71st RQS chief combat systems officer. "It is always good, because it takes us outside of our backyard and lets us work somewhere different, which is valuable for deployments and exercises."

After three days of competition in a close race between rescue Airmen, the 102nd RQS edged out by a single point over the 211<sup>th</sup> RQS, securing the trophy sword and bragging rights.

"We were proud to attend and represent all of the 102nd Rescue Squadron," said Capt. Chaz Smith, 102nd RQS pilot. "We showed who the real kings of rescue are!"

**AIRMEN OF THE YEAR/QUARTER ANNOUNCEMENT**

**State's Outstanding Airman of the Year: (Will compete at the National Level)**

AMN Category – Airman 1st Class Jasmine Brown (176th CES)

NCO Category – 168 WG

Senior NCO Category – Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Harding (212th RQS)

First Sergeant OY Category – Master Sgt. Christian Leamy (176th ADS)

**176th Wing Annual Award Winners for 2023:**

AMN Category – Airman 1st Class Jasmine Brown (176th CES)

NCO Category – Tech. Sgt. Esbei Arurang (176 FSS)

Senior NCO Category – Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Harding (212th RQS)

First Sergeant OY Category – Master Sgt. Christian Leamy (176th ADS)

Commander's Support Staff of the Year – Master Sgt. Eduardo Peguero (176th MXG)

Paul Lindemuth Leadership Award – Lt. Col. Jeremy Vancil (144th AS)

Company Grade Officer of the Year - PENDING

Field Grade Officer of the Year – Maj. Daniel Paulsen (176th OSS)

**4th Quarterly Award Winners (Oct – Dec 2023):**

AMN Category – Senior Airman Aaron Lemmer (176th MXS)

NCO Category – Staff Sgt. Fabio Coartney (176th LRS)

Senior NCO Category – Master Sgt. Jason Hughes (212th RQS)

Company Grade Officer Category – 1st Lt. Katharine Whaley (176th AMXS)

Field Grade Officer Category – Maj. George Gieges (176th OSS)

**National Level Award Recognition:**

176 Maintenance Group/Commander's Support Staff - ANG CSS Team of the Year

Lt. Col. Eric Manewal - ANG Lt. Gen. Howard W. Leaf Award (Officer Category)

**FINANCE CUSTOMER SERVICE MARCH 1 EARLY CLOSURE**

1. Due to a Squadron Function on 1-Mar-24 (Friday), Finance Customer Service will be closing for the remainder of the day beginning at 1300 hrs.
  - a. This means that Lobby Hours from 0900-1200 will operate normally.

- b. However, scheduled in-person appointments from 1300-1500 will be unavailable this day.
- 2. If you have any questions, concerns, and/or require assistance; please do not hesitate to contact Finance Customer Service.
  - a. CSP: <https://csp.cce.af.mil>
  - b. Lobby Hours: (Walk-Ins) M-F / 0900-1200 hrs
  - c. Scheduled In-Person Appointments: 1300-1500 hrs
  - d. For those that cannot Access CSP: [673cpts.helpdesk@us.af.mil](mailto:673cpts.helpdesk@us.af.mil)

## **DELAYS IN AGE 60 AND RRPA RETIREMENT PROCESSING**

### **Air Reserve Personnel Center Release**

1. **The Problem.** Significant delays in processing retirement applications for Age 60 and Reduced Retired Pay Age (RRPA) members meeting their eligible date.

2. **How did we get here?** These factors have led to a significant reduction in productivity:

a) Staff Turnover & manning. We experienced significant turnover in our Transitions Division and Retirements Branch to include the Division Chief and Deputy Division Chief positions. 57% of the team still require initial job training. 100% of the team are still learning the new myRetirements application system

b) System Issues. The RRPA application in myRetirements was unavailable until late August which created a surge in RRPA applications, increasing the backlog

c) Increase requests. Gray area applications for pay experienced a spike due to increased messaging reaching gray area retirees in conjunction with the migration to myRetirements

d) Application errors. Over 70 percent of applications received contain errors which require further applicant action, halting, or extending processing time

e) Late submissions. 25% of the aforementioned requests for pay were submitted by the requesting member after the pay effective date

3. Next Steps to resolve the delay issues. At the current rate of production, our target date to complete these applications is mid-February 2024. We

recognize that this delay may adversely affect members' benefits and entitlements. It's important to note, that pay will be retroactive as of the date of the order. Those members eligible for TRICARE benefits at age 60 will also be retroactively authorized on their 60th birthday. Here are the initiatives that Colonel Lonnie Sell and his team are working to resolve the delays and backlog:

a) EVOLVE Implementation. Big positive changes are happening at ARPC. I launched EVOLVE 2024 last month. (NOTE: more to come on this at upcoming ESG). EVOLVE reoptimizes ARPC for the Great Power Competition to include changing our mindset to one of production via efficiency and effectiveness. This means implementing a LEAN Production system and LEAN Management system (LMS). A key sustainment of EVOLVE is the LMS. Often CPI efforts generate a brief spike in improvement but then recede back to the previous process inefficiencies. A LMS prevents this from happening via an active focus on daily production and improvement.

b) myPers to myFSS migration. We are relieved to say that all myPers retirement applications are now migrated to MyFSS. This herculean effort required technicians 160 hours to manually transfer 412 applications for processing within MyFSS

c) Increase staffing. In response to the hurdles experienced we have added one permanent resource to the team and four RPA resources

d) CPI Green Belt training. All Airmen will be Green Belt trained and Branch Chiefs-and above will be Lean Leadership trained in the coming months—training has already begun. This will increase the effectiveness of the EVOLVE efforts to include the daily accountability boards, standard work & training development, the quality control team, "error proofing" of the system and process, and innovation cultivation

e) Daily Accountability Boards. Last week, we implemented daily accountability boards for Age 60 and RRPA Retirements. This means, each team conducts daily reviews of the status of availability, delivery, quality, cost and people to catch trends in a 24-hour period versus comparison to monthly outdated Service Level Agreements

f) Growing surge capacity. We are developing standard work documents for expedited training opportunities so other ARPC members can plug and play more easily during heightened operations.

g) Quality control team. With the current que in Age 60 and RRPA pay production line, we are enacting a quality control team that sifts through

applications and flows only complete applications to technicians, allowing focused processing. As part of our LEAN culture we are eliminating waste by returning and closing applications that were submitted with errors. This will ensure technicians start with quality at the front end to ensure standard processing cycle times.

h) "Error-proofing" system. We are working with system developers to enhance the system to assist the customer in eliminating errors upfront. As well as focusing on changes to the process maps.

**4. How you can help.** We are investing in training, implementing that training with process improvement, and most importantly, giving our personnel the space to innovate at the lowest level. There are a few things you can do to help us. To the extent possible, please...

a) Be patient

b) Encourage MPFs to provide status updates to individuals by utilizing the myFSS platform versus calling the ARPC MPF line

c) Encourage members to utilize their servicing FSS and assist members with information available in DAFIs and myFSS Knowledge Articles for general inquiry questions

d) Airmen who would benefit from Reserve military retirement counseling can contact the Reserve Retirement Counseling Cell (RRCC) at [arpc.dpt.rrcc@us.af.mil](mailto:arpc.dpt.rrcc@us.af.mil) or 1-800-682-1929 to make an appointment. Although the RRCC cannot be used for status updates, the member can contact his/her local MPF for that service.

5. Your understanding and patience is appreciated as the next steps are implemented to resolve the retirements backlog. Although these delays are painful for our customers, we have confidence our initiatives will drastically improve, not only retirements, but all programs and services entrusted to ARPC.

## **MILITARY ONESOURCE RESOURCES**

Did you know that Military OneSource is bigger than a 24/7/365 toll free number? The program offers more than just free non-medical counseling. It also provides assistance for the deployment readiness cycle. Military OneSource is a Department of Defense funded program that aids eligible service and family members with building resiliency; both within the military culture and on the homefront. To help strengthen one's resiliency skillset,



Military OneSource offers many activities that you and your family members can partake in. For example:

MWR Digital Library:

- Ancestry.com Library Edition - unlock the story of your family using more than 8,000 resources.
- Consumer Reports – are you looking to make a purchase? Use this online library to access 1,000+ ratings, reviews, expert buying advice, product comparisons, consumer user reviews and product video clips.
- EBSCO Audiobooks - more than 2,000 audiobooks in different subjects and categories available for free download.
- Mango Languages - check out this digital language learning program for learners of all levels, with courses in more than 70 different foreign languages, 21 English language courses, and 44 specialty courses.
- Morningstar Investment Research Center - find information and advice on mutual funds, stocks, exchange-traded funds and market returns. Track investments, access daily market news and commentary, view snapshots on investments and interact on the research center forums.
- PressReader Digital Newspapers - unlimited digital access to more than 7,000 newspapers from 120 countries in more than 60 different languages. These newspapers are provided in full-color, full-page format, and appear on your screen exactly as they appear on the news stand, many providing instant translation and audio.
- Stingray Qello Concerts - enjoy more than 1700 live moments in music history with the world's largest collection of full-length concerts and music documentaries streamed on-demand to just about any digital device. From the 1920s to today's hottest artists, Qello Concerts spans more than 30 genres, from classical to rock, reggae to country.
- Small Business Builder - helps patrons interested in planning and optimizing their businesses or nonprofits. Built for aspiring entrepreneurs and those with existing small businesses, providing a step-by-step process supported by a variety of recognized tools that enable users to produce complete business plans and other documents essential for gaining access to capital and growing their enterprise.

- Universal Class - over 500 online courses to aid with personal and professional interests: including FREE CEUs, plus online books, movies and music for all ages. Over 40 different references to use.
- Weiss Financial Ratings - Enjoy access to financial literacy tools on retirement planning, home and mortgage, insurance strategies, and saving for your child's education.
- Chill Drills: An overview of four simple drills to help reverse the symptoms of stress. These drills can help slow your heart rate, lower your blood pressure and reduce the level of stress hormones in your body. By doing these drills regularly, you can lower your baseline stress level and be better prepared to deal with stress in the future. Order yours online (free shipping) or download to your smartphone.
- MilTax - free tax services, which provides easy-to-use software that is designed specifically for the military community and is available mid-January through mid-October. MilTax also offers free consultations with experts trained to help military members and their families take command of their taxes.

Many other resources are located online with just a click of the mouse or online chat with a trained consultant to provide more guidance with your ideal topic. See: [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil).

## **AIRMAN SAFETY APP**

If there was a way to anonymously and quickly make safety reports on your phone, would you use it? There's an app for that. The Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) a voluntary, identity-protected means of reporting safety issues that increase the risk to Aviation, Occupational, or Weapons Safety. The goal of the program is to prevent future mishaps and strengthen a culture of safe, effective mission accomplishment. The two ways to submit an ASAP report are on the website (<https://asap.safety.af.mil>) or the smartphone app "Airmen Safety App." Contact: your friendly safety office (551-7604, [176wg.se.176wg@us.af.mil](mailto:176wg.se.176wg@us.af.mil))

## **UPCOMING AWS DAYS**

The 176th Wing is essentially shut down for business on the upcoming Alternate Work Schedule days. RDs (rescheduled drills) and AT days

should not be scheduled for these times. The full AWS calendar can be found on the new Wing SharePoint in the Resource Library.

April: 19, 26

May: 10, 24

June: 7, 21

---

## **RSD SCHEDULE**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED DRILL WEEKENDS**

May: 18, 19 core drill dates; 18-23 quarterly drill dates

June: 1, 2

July: 20, 21 core drill dates; 20-25 quarterly drill dates

---

## **WEEKEND DINING FACILITY HOURS**

### **Normal Hours:**

BREAKFAST: 0630-0830L

GRAB-N-GO: 0900-1030L

LUNCH: 1030-1330L

GRAB-N-GO: 1330-1630L

DINNER: 1630-1830L

MIDNIGHT: 2300-0100L

---

## **GATE HOURS**

For latest gate hours, visit <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Units/673abw/673SFS/>

---

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### **176th Wing**

Website: <http://www.176wg.ang.af.mil/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/176thWing>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/176thwing>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/176wg/>

DVIDs: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/176WPA>

SharePoint (requires CAC):

<https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12468/Pages/176%20Wing.aspx>

### **Alaska National Guard**

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AKNationalGuard>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/alaskanationalguard>

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard>

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NationalGuardAlaska>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AKNationalGuard>

### **JBER**

Website: <http://www.jber.jb.mil/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JBERAK>

Newspaper: <http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/397/arctic-warrior>

### **Fulltime Job Opportunities:**

<http://dmva.alaska.gov/employment.htm>

### **HRO – Alaska National Guard:**

<http://dmva.alaska.gov/HRO>

---

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The eGuardian is a service of the 176th Wing Public Affairs Office. See:

<http://www.176wg.ang.af.mil/units/wingstaff/pa/eguardian.asp>

EXTERNAL/COMMERCIAL LINKS: The appearance of hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the 176th Wing, the Air National Guard, the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense, of the external Web site, or the information, products or services contained therein. For other than authorized activities such as military exchanges and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sites, the United States Air Force does not exercise

any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. Such links are provided with the stated purpose of the Web site.