

ALASKA POST

Vol. 2, No. 1

Home of the Arctic Warriors

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

www.wainwright.army.mil/alaskapost

January 7, 2011

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AT A GLANCE

COURTS-MARTIAL

U.S. Army Alaska held courts-martial on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson from Nov. 30 to Dec. 16, 2010. Seven courts-martial involved the possession or use of Spice.

More on Page 3.

COL. MARK LOWE

U.S. Army Alaska deputy commander, returns 28 years later after serving his first assignment at Fort Wainwright.

More on Page 7.

NEW CARD SYSTEM

The DEERS - ID Cards Office has an online appointment system.

More on Page 7.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK

Fort-Wainwright-Pao

TWITTER

twitter.com/PAOFWA

USARAK

usarak.army.mil

FLICKR

flickr.com/usarak

flickr.com/fortwainwright

ARMY NEWS

army.mil

ARMY SERVICES

myarmyonesource.com

DEFENSE VIDEO

dvidshub.net

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday

Partly cloudy.
Low -20 High 0

Saturday

Clear to partly cloudy.
Low -20 High 0

Sunday

Clear to partly cloudy.
Low -20 High 0

Unrestricted visibility
NE winds 5 -10 mph

Forecast courtesy of
Det 3, 1st Weather Squadron,
Fort Wainwright, AK



First 2011 baby born at Bassett Army Community Hospital

Staff report, BACH PAO

Chief Warrant Officer Jason Burke, D Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade and his wife Paulette celebrated a very special New Year by welcoming a very special gift, Reagan Leigh Burke. At 7 pounds 14 ounces and 20 1/2" long, Reagan Leigh became Fort Wainwright's newest resident at 6:52 a.m. Jan. 1, just hours after the community's first "New Years Baby" born at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. In addition to their new baby girl, to help mark this once-in-a-lifetime moment the Burkes received a gift basket from the Maternal Newborn staff at Bassett Army Community Hospital filled with items donated by staff members to help the family get off to a great start. (Courtesy photo)

Stryker vehicles loaded for NTC

Brian Schlumbohm, Fort Wainwright PAO



Stryker vehicles are loaded onto rail cars Jan. 3 for transport to the National Training Center. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division keep things moving as they load vehicles on rail cars for transport. The loading and binding happened Monday. Lt. Philip Anklin, 1-25th SBCT, officer in charge of the operation watched over 80 Soldiers and contractors as they performed the task of loading and securing 111 Strykers, five Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks also known as HEMTTs Load Handling Systems and four trailers all bound for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"Safety is of the utmost importance when working in low light and cold of Alaska and all persons on site wear hardhats and reflective equipment," said Anklin.

Workers with the Alaska Railroad were contracted and responsible for securing all vehicles to the railcars. Anklin said, "Having the rail(road) tie down the vehicles is making it way more expedient." Even though the Soldiers are trained, having the two separate groups working side-by-side allows each to focus on their particular task, "doing it efficiently and safely."

Year in review 2010



Please see story Page 3, photos Pages 4 and 8

Army Chief of Staff visits Fort Wainwright Soldiers, families

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO



Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and his wife Sheila (not pictured) had an opportunity to sit down and chat after the Town Hall meeting, Dec. 21 at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center. Gen. and Mrs. Casey were here to listen to concerns, visit with Soldiers and families and wish them happy holidays. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and his wife Sheila paid a holiday visit to troops in the heart of the Last Frontier.

Gen. and Mrs. Casey visited Soldiers, family members and leaders from the Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks communities Dec. 19-20, thanking them for their

service, wishing them happy holidays and listening to their concerns.

The general started his day early Monday with a visit to the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade to speak with members of Task Force Denali who the week prior began returning from humanitarian flood relief efforts in Pakistan.

"It's very important the Pakistani people see the United States as a country that wants to help them and wants to help them advance," Gen. Casey said. "What those great Soldiers did was to help foster that feeling in the people they came in contact every day. They are very, very proud of what they did and rightfully so."

His message to those troops still en route, Casey said, is, "hurry up. It would be nice to have everybody home for Christmas."

The Department of Defense recently announced that 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division will deploy to Afghanistan in May. Gen. Casey addressed the subject of dwell-time for Soldiers between deployments.

"We've put ourselves in a position so we can increase time Soldiers spend at home. Given the drawdown in Iraq and given the growth of the Army that we've already accomplished, Soldiers deploying this time next year can go with the expectation of two years at home," Gen. Casey said, "Studies tell us it takes two to three years to recover from a one-year combat assignment. We have not had that for five years, but we will get there."

Please see, ARMY CHIEF, Page 2

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Commander's column

Col. Timothy A. Jones, Garrison commander

Looking forward in 2011

New year brings hope, challenges and changes for Wainwright Soldiers, families

I hope that you all had a safe and happy holiday season.

We at U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright remain as committed as ever to providing the best possible support and services to you and your families in the coming year.

There is a lot on the horizon for 2011, most notably the upcoming deployment of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and elements of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

The Stryker vehicles are being rail-loaded now and the 1-25th and 16th CAB will be heading to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., later this month for an intensive training rotation there.

Their return from California will signal the start of the push to ensure their deployment is smooth and efficient. The deploying Soldiers will undergo the routine processing that ensures all records – medical, dental, legal, personnel, finance and more – are up to date and powers of attorney are signed.

Army Community Service will maintain its counseling, classes and programs designed to provide the tools to help you deal with everyday life and to overcome hurdles that you may encounter.

ACS's fellow agencies in the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will continue their high standards of support throughout the year. When the Soldiers have left, our recreational activities will become more family centered.

Outdoor Recreation will sponsor special family events, including fishing, boating and tours. The bowling center will reopen in April after extensive remodeling.

DFMWR will continue to look for entertainment by comics and musical groups and will sponsor numerous special events for Soldiers and families. Some of these include: a romantic candle-lit dinner for Valentine's Day; March Madness at the ski hill; children's carnival in April; car and bike

show in May; a new summer concert series on the ski hill; BBQ cook-off and July 4th celebration; battle of the bands; Oktoberfest; Labor Day party and lots more. Watch the Alaska Post, Channel 5, www.wainwright.army.mil and our Facebook and Twitter pages for more information.

Child and Youth Services will continue to provide quality child care and programs for kids of all ages to enjoy and will provide respite care for families of deployed Soldiers.

DFMWR is not the only directorate looking toward a busy year. The Directorate of Public Works will oversee a number of construction projects, including the start of a new hangar. 2010 construction brought us upgraded barracks, new family housing, two new administrative operations facilities, a new military police administrative facility and a new training aids support center – all designed to improve your workplaces and living spaces. The new School-Age Services building near Arctic Light Elementary School will open this year as well.

Although Soldier traffic will decrease dramatically, the construction projects will bring a surge in heavy trucks and construction traffic all over post.

We expect the greater Fairbanks community will embrace our families in the same ways they have done in the past. The Chamber of Commerce, local churches and businesses and individuals have stepped in to support families of our deployed with holiday parties, special dinners and other shows of support.

We expect 2011 to be a busy, successful year, filled with activities and support to help families meet the challenges of deployment.

If you have a question or issue you would like to see addressed in the Garrison Commander's column, please e-mail the Public Affairs Office at linda.douglass@us.army.mil.



Female Soldiers attempt to close gap between U.S. and foreign cultures

Spc. Thomas Duval, 1-25th SBCT PAO



Pfc. Ruby Lara, Pfc. Amy Longoria and Spc. Jessica Garza (from left to right) act as female Afghan role players during a Female Engagement Team training exercise at Fort Wainwright's Battle Command Training Center Dec. 15. (Photo by Pfc. Andrea Johnson/1-25th SBCT PAO)

Whether it's adapting to a foreign environment or dealing with multiple deployments, Soldiers, both male and female, have teamed up to accomplish some of the most difficult tasks. But as Soldiers continue their daily operations in Afghanistan, there are obstacles that separate the two genders.

In the Afghan culture women are forbidden to talk to men they aren't related to, making it difficult for male Soldiers to assess the needs of the female population. Recognizing this cultural gap between the U.S. forces and the Afghan people, the Army has begun deploying female engagement teams.

Comprised of five to six members, FETs work directly with maneuver battalions.

The Army adopted the idea for the female-focused teams from the U.S. Marines' "Lioness" program. Initiated in Iraq, female Marines were put in small teams and attached to units to help facilitate a female-search-female approach.

The Army has since broadened the mission of the FETs to include elements of community relations and cultural awareness, said 1st Lt. Robin Tullercash, a platoon leader with the 184th Military Intelligence Company, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

"FET teams now allow female Soldiers to engage with the Afghan females and build a relationship with that half of the population," Tullercash said. "We want to gain the trust and support of our Afghan counterparts."

Although Tullercash admits that bridging a gap between two cultures can be difficult, it's a challenge she recently welcomed.

"It's an exciting opportunity," she said. "It's inspirational."

As the officer in charge of the 1-25th SBCT's female engagement team, Tullercash led a team of female Soldiers through a wide variety of classes focusing on cultural awareness, the Afghan language, Pashtu, and local customs.

"We are training the Soldiers how to properly assess the atmosphere of the village and find out the needs of the Afghan women while sending them the message that we care," Tullercash said.

Understanding these areas of the Afghan culture is something she said is important to establishing rapport among the customarily silent female population.

"[The training] gives the team a valuable look into the lives of Afghan females," said Pvt. Koncina Outcalt, a mechanic assigned to the 25th BSB.

Completing the course Dec. 16 at Fort Wainwright's Battle Command Training Center, the 1-25th SBCT's FET is already looking ahead to the next challenge which will come early next spring as the Fort Wainwright-based unit prepares to deploy to Afghanistan.

"It's exciting to be given the opportunity to go out there and do different things," Outcalt said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge."

ARMY CHIEF: Gen. George W. Casey and wife Sheila bring message to Wainwright Soldiers, families

Continued from Page 1

The Caseys' visit came at a time of 30-below temperatures and about two hours of daily sunlight. "George assured we'd go somewhere at Christmas time that had snow," Sheila Casey said. "I think it's important to see and go to places that do not get a lot of traffic. When everybody here is doing important work and living their lives in conditions like this, it's important for them to know people are thinking about them and they are appreciated."

Gen. Casey stressed the importance of the United States Army Alaska mission. "The central design feature for the Army has got to be versatility and our versatility is only enhanced when they are operating in different climates," he said, "so what goes on here and at the Northern Warfare Training Center is hugely important and we know if we need to send someone to a cold place, we have well-trained Soldiers."

The general also spoke about the Army Family Covenant and assured Soldiers and families that these programs will not be affected by budget cuts. "We will keep family and support services at the same level we've resourced for the next several years because that's important," Casey said.

Casey assured Soldiers that they will continue to receive non-chargeable rest and recuperation leave while on deployments. "When I was the commander in Iraq in late 2006 I wrote a letter to the Chief of Staff of the Army requesting non-chargeable leave for Soldiers and at the time I didn't know I was writing the letter to myself," he said. "I was very pleased to get that through and I don't see it changing any time in the near term."

Sheila Casey thanked military spouses and families for what they do every day, and what they sacrifice. "I think it's important for spouses to take care of themselves. So often as caregivers we put ourselves at the bottom of the pile," she said, "It's important to reverse that and put themselves on top of the list so they have the wherewithal to take care of their families and anything else that comes up. It's not a selfish act, it's survival."

Gen. Casey said both he and Sheila couldn't be prouder of the Army's accomplishments over the last year: "I think the men and women, the Arctic Warriors up here, need to understand the leadership of the Army and the American people are hugely proud of what they've done for this country."



Sheila Casey, wife of Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey sat down after the town hall meeting Dec. 21 at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center and spoke about the sacrifices and resilience of Soldiers and families, and wished them happy holidays. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

LEGAL NOTICE

Disposition of personal effects

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Spc. David A. Martin of C Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, may contact Capt. LaDarrian Sherman via U.S. mail to: HHC, 1-24th Inf. Bn., Fort Wainwright, AK 99703 or by calling (907) 353-2493.

Disposition of personal effects

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pfc. Cameron Stratton, of 176th Signal Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division may contact Capt. Garrett Mitchell via U.S. mail to: Brigade HHC, 1-25th SBCT, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703 or by calling (907) 353-2444.

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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2010: A look back at the accomplishments and triumphs of Fort Wainwright

Connie Storch, Fort Wainwright PAO

During the holiday break the Alaska Post asked Fort Wainwright installation leaders to reflect on the past 12 months and share some 2010 highlights for our readers.

Salutations began with the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Summer sizzled for the Fort Wainwright Fire Department in June 2010 when they were named the "Best Medium-sized Fire Department" in U.S. Army Pacific.

The DES dive team recovered a body of drowned man in Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska, in August. DES police and emergency responders secured and searched the on-post elementary school in response to an anonymous report of a gunman on school grounds in September. Children, teachers and school staff were secure, safe and calm throughout the incident.

Contract Security Guard positions were successfully transitioned to Department of the Army security guards, part of the U.S. Army's initiative to save taxpayer dollars. During the November 2010 ice storm, Fort Wainwright successfully implemented the garrison's Severe Weather Plan, as road conditions transitioned from amber to black in two hours. The immediate action by DES forewarned drivers, allowing many to stay off the road during extremely hazardous conditions, which tremendously reduced the traffic accident rate.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for infrastructure including buildings and roads. Traffic lights were installed and tweaked to accommodate thousands of U.S. Army Alaska Soldiers returning from deployment last year as well as the families and civilian personnel who support them. Improved traffic flow decreased waiting time at intersections and arguably reduced pollutants from idling vehicles at those former four-way stops.

Construction of several new facilities in the 2010 season included a 26,500 square foot Training Aids Support Center; a 76,624 square-foot Company Operations Facility four-plex; a new Military Police administrative facility and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal central facility. The four-plex has

deployment equipment storage, enclosed hardstand and an operations facility to support mission readiness and training capabilities. DPW's working estimate of construction costs for these facilities at \$43.9 million.

The new buildings are more energy efficient than existing structures built to 1950s standards. Where possible, facilities were designed for multiple or alternative uses and potential expansion to support changing mission needs and the U.S. Army transformation initiatives.

Miles of new recreational paths were added to the main post and connected much of family housing and the barracks in 2010. USARAK Soldiers will likely use the pathways year-round for PT, snowshoeing and skiing when weather permits.

The summer was anything but quiet for the single Soldiers residing in older Fort Wainwright barracks. Over the summer they saw three older barracks demolished, a new 94-room barracks come online and a new 144-room addition of Building 3207 come online. The new two-person suite layout provides increased privacy, shared kitchenettes and baths and walk-in closets. Other amenities featured in the new barracks include laundry rooms located conveniently throughout the building, mudrooms, common areas for relaxation and exterior athletic courts and pavilions.

It was a leaner, greener year for Fort Wainwright. The initiation of a recycling program, the first of this scale for Interior Alaska, allowed for recycling of cardboard and paper, steel, plastic, glass and aluminum. Over 130 tons of recyclables were collected by the Army's partner at no cost to the Army and over \$9,000 in tipping fees were saved, since that tonnage was diverted from landfills. The installation's recycling efforts continue to be successful and cost-free for taxpayers through partnering with K and K Recycling and North Haven Communities.

The Military Personnel Division made significant strides in customer-centric services. Customer satisfaction was reflected in Interactive Customer Evaluation comments. ICE feedback rates improved

to 93 percent in 2010. ICE comment frequency increased from 1,200 comments in 2008 to 9,100 comments in 2010 for the fiscal year.

The FMWR School Liaison Office rang the bell for school partnerships. Soldiers continue to volunteer in on- and off-post elementary schools individually and with their units. The formalization of the school partnership agreement in August 2010 among Fort Wainwright Garrison and USARAK commands with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District reflected the Army Community Covenant to strengthen military families and their relationships in schools and the community. The partnership now includes Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska as well. Soldier volunteers act as mentors, tutors and friends to students within school and BBBS guidelines.

Family and MWR sent kudos to Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. Single Soldiers contributed more than 1,000 hours in volunteer time for the betterment and support of installation and community programs on post and in Fairbanks and the surrounding areas. The Fort Wainwright BOSS program was awarded the Gold Level 2010 Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

The post's Legal Assistance and Claims Office spread good cheer in the form of tax preparation and refunds of nearly \$4 million, saving Soldiers more than \$400,000 in tax preparation fees. Perhaps not all were glad tidings, but all was helpful information spread through the Law Center's articles on consumer fraud, real estate, divorce and the Service Member's Civil Relief Act. The legal assistance team also persuaded many local attorneys to offer free initial consultations and reduce legal fees for service members and their immediate family. The Legal Assistance Office was proud to serve Soldiers and Families during deployments and returns, offering legal assistance and preparing forms.

This is a brief look at some of the ways installation personnel supported our Soldiers and families in 2010. For a preview of plans for the exciting year ahead, check out the garrison commander's column on page 2.

ARMY HOLDS COURTS-MARTIAL

Staff report, USARAK PAO

U.S. Army Alaska held 10 courts-martial on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson from Nov. 30 to Dec. 16, 2010. Seven courts-martial involved the possession or use of Spice, an intoxicating substance prohibited by order of the commander of U.S. Army Alaska.

One Soldier was acquitted of the charges brought against him.

On Dec. 2, 2010, Pvt. Steven Watts from 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, was convicted of adultery, providing alcohol to a minor, breaking restriction, violating an order not to drive on post and driving under the influence of alcohol. He was sentenced to 75 days confinement, reduction to private (E-1) and a bad-conduct discharge.

On Dec. 2, 2010, Spc. Andrew James from 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, was convicted of wrongful possession and use of Spice, a prohibited intoxicating substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 60 days confinement, forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for two months, and reduction to private (E-1).

On Dec. 3, 2010, Sgt. Trey Buffington from 1-40th, 4-25th BCT, was convicted of wrongful use Ecstasy. He was sentenced to perform hard labor for 60 days, to forfeit \$500 pay per month for two months and reduction to private first class.

On Dec. 14, 2010, Spc. Shawn Dupuis from 1-501st, 4-25th BCT, was convicted of wrongfully possessing Blue Lotus, a prohibited intoxicating substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 30 days confinement, forfeiture of \$500 and reduction to private (E-2).

On Dec. 14, 2010, Pfc. Camden Wohlers from 1-501st, 4-25th BCT, was convicted of wrongfully using Blue Lotus, a prohibited intoxicating

substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 21 days confinement, forfeiture of \$500 and reduction to private (E-2).

On Dec. 14, 2010, Sgt. Isaac Lopez from 1-501st, 4-25th BCT, was convicted of wrongfully possessing Spice, a prohibited intoxicating substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 35 days confinement, forfeiture of \$1,000 and reduction to private first class.

On Dec. 15, 2010, Spc. Aaron French from 1-501st, 4-25th BCT, was convicted of wrongfully possessing Spice, a prohibited intoxicating substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 16 days confinement, forfeiture of \$1,000 and reduction to private first class.

On Dec. 16, 2010, Spc. Stephen Hole from 1-501st, 4-25th BCT, was convicted of wrongfully possessing Spice, a prohibited intoxicating substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 27 days confinement, forfeiture of \$500 and reduction to private (E-2).

On Dec. 16, 2010, Spc. Timothy Good from 1-501st IN, 4-25, was convicted of wrongfully possessing Spice, a prohibited intoxicating substance, in violation of U.S. Army Alaska CG Policy #0-21. He was sentenced to 14 days confinement, forfeiture of \$500 and reduction to private first class.

Additional Courts-Martial results will be published as verdicts are rendered.

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with Jennifer

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Army officially announces deployment

The Department of the Army announced on Dec. 17, 2010 that the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division is scheduled to deploy in May 2011 for one year to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 4,000-Soldier brigade returned from a 12-month deployment to Iraq in September 2009 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since the Brigade's return from the previous deployment, many of the unit's Soldiers and leaders were replaced as part of the Army's Force Regeneration system and its equipment was refurbished under the Army's Reset Program in order to prepare for future operations.

Much of the Brigade's resetting consisted of training - from individual Soldier skills on up through Battalion-level unit exercises. This training included intense training on neutralizing enemy forces as well as cultural and medical aid training.

The Brigade will conduct a Mission Readiness Exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. in Feb. 2011 as part of their final certification before deploying. Upon their return from the National Training Center, there will be a two-week leave period to allow Soldiers and families to prepare personally for the deployment.

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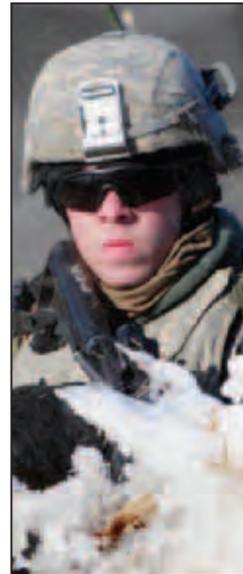
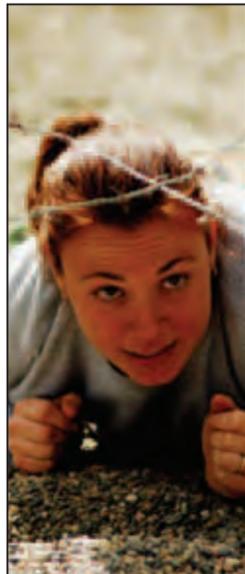
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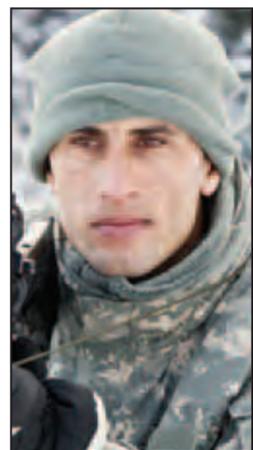
Fort Wainwright scrapbook - Faces of 2010



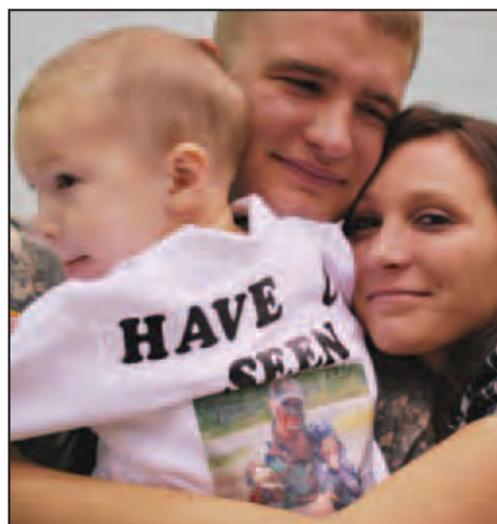
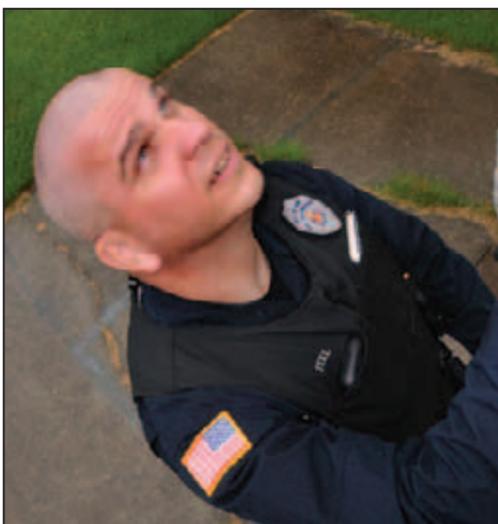
(From left to right) Boy Scouts from Den 6, Fort Wainwright participated in the annual Scouting for Food drive. Capt. Jessica Milloy marched toward the finish line during Expert Field Medical Badge qualification. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David A. VanderJagt assisted youth with constructing a cardboard village during the "30-hour famine" to experience hunger and homelessness. Spc. Marques Littles waved to the crowd from a Stryker vehicle during the annual Golden Days Parade. Delaney Sabotka, 4, daughter of Arleen and Sgt. 1st Class Dan Sabotka went for a Stryker ride during family day activities. Spc. Shatai Edwards was happy to be home after an eight-month deployment in Iraq with the 472nd MPs. (File photos)



Pfc. Thomas Cook smiled during a fierce tug-o-war competition with students at Badger Elementary School. Stephanie Geddings, wife of Maj. Larry Geddings crawled through the obstacle course during GI Jane Day. Mikayla Coffey, 4, teamed with mother, Stacie Coffey to bake a prize-winning blueberry and raspberry pie with patriotic red, white and blue colors earning top honors at the Independence Day bake-off. Spc. Brian Gourley kept a vigilant eye during an air evacuation training exercise. Elysa, 7, daughter of Kayleigh and Spc. Anthony Mayner practiced with Dad during opening day of little league. (File photos)



Madison, 8, daughter of Chief Warrant Officer Aaron May got an introduction to flying from Dad during the Ladd Army Airfield 70th Anniversary and Fort Wainwright Community Celebration. Mr. Woodchuck was trapped and relocated to a more suitable location. He had taken residence under the sidewalk of the Physical Fitness Center. Sgt. Andrew Slaughter climbed a rope ladder during the final challenge of the 5-1st Cavalry spur ride. An Indian Army soldier guarded the landing zone perimeter during the joint training exercise Yuhd Abhyas. (File photos)



Officer Christopher Teel, Directorate of Emergency Services, demonstrated proper respect and etiquette with raising the flag at Salcha Elementary on the first day of school. Jayden, 1, daughter of Mandy and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Davis danced during the Parent and Child ABC Music and Me class at School Age Services. Dianna and her son Nathen, 4, were smiles once united with husband and father Spc. Aaron Westcott. Nita Fowler and her canine pal from Ravin Kennels greeted Soldiers and families during the winter safety and recreation transition fairs. (File photos)

Wainwright racquetballers enjoy smack-attack during Holiday Tournament



In the left court John Kemp (left) and Nick Potter battle their way through the bracket, while Randy Kinsey and Phillip Walker take their shot at advancing during the Holiday Racquetball Tournament at the PFC, Dec. 27 through 29. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Rick Romine (foreground) takes a shot off the back wall during a match against Allen Shaw. Romine won the tournament which was played Dec. 27 through 29. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Robotics clinic



Gabriel Cummings, 11, son of Sgt. Scott Cummings, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, demonstrates his robot's abilities as it goes through its paces. Gabriel Cummings built the robot, programmed a set of instructions using software on a computer and transferred those commands to the robot, making it able to do any number of tasks based on the structure of its design. He has a great interest in robotics and enjoys the challenge of creating them. This week-long robotics clinic was to build up interest for a possible creation of a robotics club which would compete nationwide, said Terry Duncan, Workforce Prep Specialist, Child and Youth and School Services. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Students were given instruction, schematics and parts to build robots from the ground up during their second week of the holiday break at Fort Wainwright's School Aged Services. Students, Eliza (right), 8, daughter of John and Maj. Sandra Snipes, Medical Department Activity-Alaska, and Jordan, 8, daughter of Christy and Staff Sgt. Kevin Calderara, Criminal Investigation Division, were on their second day of building their robotic dog. When finished, the two said their dog should be able to walk on four legs and possibly take voice commands. "We've been working on it along time. I think this is harder than the other projects to make," Eliza said. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Dodgeball tournament emphasizes the five d's: dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge



Duck the balls and dodge the volley - Some holiday fun for scores of Soldiers who came out to participate in the Physical Fitness Center's Holiday Dodgeball Tournament, Dec. 28 and 29. Players seemed just as excited to get a chance to pummel their opponents as they were to win. Volleys of well-aimed (and not so well-aimed) dodgeballs flew, bounced, whipped and corkscrewed, one side to the other until games end with the last of one team getting tagged. (Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

what is it? when is it? where is it? **find it here!**



You are being followed by a moon shadow.

A total eclipse of the moon was visible throughout all of North and Central America Dec. 20 from 10:41 p.m. until 11:53 p.m. Alaska Standard Time. This was the first such eclipse in almost three years for us in Alaska according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Stepping out to check, I finally began seeing the change close to 11 p.m. and got the camera out. A bit too cold to be holding onto a metal tripod for any length of time, I was only willing to take a few shots before going back in.

A lunar eclipse happens when the shadow of the earth passes directly between the sun and moon. The event is not an uncommon one; the last total eclipse of the moon for we Alaskans took place back in August 2007. The next will be on Dec 10, 2011, in case you missed this one.

There are three types of eclipses which are commonly viewed: total, partial and penumbral. The total eclipse, like the one Dec. 20, takes in all three stages - the slight fading of the moon (not easy to notice), the shadow creeping across and finally the dark copper, orange color as the moon is in full shadow of the earth.

All the facts and figures can be found on NASA's webpage at www.mreclipse.com/Special/LEprimer.html. The passing of a shadow may not be something to write home about or make an intriguing photo, but the immensity of the objects is still very interesting and magical nonetheless.

Notes:

Unlike a total solar eclipse, when the sun is blotted out, a lunar eclipse rarely turns the moon totally black.

Because of sunrises and sunsets around the world that scatter and refract light from the sun, the moon generally appears bright and coppery orange, or sometimes brown or dark red-black, depending on pollution. (Photo and story by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright)

Friday - 7th

KEEPING THE LOVE ALIVE, PART 1, 10 a.m. to noon, Building 3401, call 353-4227.

A RAINFOREST STORY HOUR, 3:45 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700, call 353-2642.

IMAGINATION STORY HOUR AND CRAFT, 4 to 5 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700, call 353-2642.

OPEN ICE SKATING, 5:30 to 7:45 p.m., PFC Ice Rink, call 353-7520.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FIRST FRIDAY, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727, call 353-7520.

Saturday - 8th

WOMEN IN THE WILDERNESS - CROSS COUNTRY TRIP TO WHITE MOUNTAINS, 8 a.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050, \$30 per person, call 353-4089.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 8 to 9 a.m., PFC, call 353-7223.

SNOWMACHINE SAFETY COURSE, 9 a.m., Outdoor Recreation Center in Building 4050, \$10 per person, call 361-4089.

BASIC MATTING AND FRAMING CLASS, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Building 3757, \$35 per person, call 353-7520.

Sunday - 9th

OPEN ICE SKATING, 1:30 to 4 p.m., PFC Ice Rink, call 353-7520.

QUILTING BASICS, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727, call 353-7520.

ARMY vs. AIR FORCE COMMANDER'S CUP HOCKEY GAMES, 4:30 and 6 p.m., PFC Ice Rink, call 353-7520.

Monday - 10th

ROMP AND STOMP, 10 a.m. to noon, School Age Services, Building 4391, call 361-7372.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 8 to 9 a.m., PFC, call 353-7223.

AUTO SKILLS SAFETY CLASS, 6 p.m., Building 3730, call 353-7436.

MR AND MISS MANNERS, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700, call 361-4391.

Tuesday - 11th

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 6:30 a.m. to noon, PFC, call 353-7223.

THAT'S THE TICKET GAME, 10 to 11 a.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, call 353-4227.

Wednesday - 12th

VETERANS' BRIEF, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Education Center Room 106, call 353-2113.

OUR HEROES' TREE DISPLAY, 4 to 6 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700, call 353-2642.

MILITARY FAMILY COLLEGE NIGHT, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Youth Center, Building 4109, call 361-9377.

NEWCOMERS AND INFORMATION FAIR, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center in Building 1044. Mandatory for Soldiers, spouses and civilians encouraged, call 353-4227.

Thursday - 13th

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 8 to 9 a.m., PFC, call 353-7223.

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 6:30 a.m. to noon, PFC, call 353-7223.

WOODSHOP QUALIFICATION CLASS, 5 to 8 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727, \$20 per person, call 353-7520.

FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM INFORMATION, 2 to 4 p.m., Army Community Service, Building 3401, call 353-4227.

Alaska Post

To place an event or class on the calendar send an email to pao.fwa@us.army.mil no later than close of business Monday prior to the print week. The name of the event or class, date, time, location and a contact phone number must be included.

For display advertising contact the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner at (907) 459-7548.

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Col. Mark Lowe, USARAK deputy commander, returns to Fort Wainwright

Brian Schlumbohm, Fort Wainwright PAO



Col. Mark Lowe, USARAK deputy commander recently sat down and chatted with members of the media. He returned to duty in Alaska after 28 years. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Col. Mark Lowe, U.S. Army Alaska deputy commander, returns 28 years later after serving his first assignment at Fort Wainwright. Very pleased to be back where his career started, he plans to make Alaska his home from now on, even after he retires.

Back in 1983, he was a lieutenant, new to the Army, fresh out of Ranger School and working as a rifle platoon leader in the 6th Battalion, 327th Infantry, 172nd Light Infantry Brigade. Today he returns to Alaska a colonel and second in command of USARAK personnel, equipment and assets - major units including the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and 16th Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Wainwright and the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry at Fort Richardson.

You could say a few things have changed for him. He remembers living in a small two-room officer's quarters and if he wasn't marching to the range he would have been driving in an M151 Jeep with canvas doors during the winter months. Now, Lowe drives a bit more comfortably in command vehicles and has larger quarters to call home. Jokingly he did note that the new truck that he had always wanted (and drove up in) was too large to fit in his present garage. So, like many of Alaskans, he parks outside and plugs in when needed.

Growing up on a dairy farm in the little town Remington, Va., and meager beginnings, he was encouraged by his father to work on his education.

His father drove home the idea by taking a photo of him as a young boy standing in about six inches of cow manure and later giving him the photo along

with the words "Always get your education or this is what you have to look forward to."

His father had been a sergeant with the National Guard of Virginia, his grandfather a lieutenant colonel during World War II. So following in this tradition, his brother and he attended the Virginia Military Institute and after receiving Army scholarships his education and the Army seemed to fall in line.

Years later, while digging into a firing position at Fort Greely during a spring thaw he found himself once again standing in six inches; but this time, it was mud. He turned to his platoon sergeant and said, "Take this picture." Lowe later sent the picture to his father with the words, "You lied." So, some things have changed and some things haven't, he said.

Lowe had a chance to visit with Soldiers of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, while out on the firing range preparing for the National Training Center and their eventual deployment later this year. He said going out to the range was "kind of like stepping back in time." There have been improvements with heated buildings and extended ranges. But after watching them train and speaking to the Soldiers, he said, "It really hasn't changed. Some of the challenges that we meet on a day-to-day basis up here are some of the same problems we had 28 years ago."

Lowe sticks to four principles he believes in: teach, coach, train and mentor. "Out there, that's what I saw the NCOs doing." He said, after being with the Soldiers as they trained, "I'd go to combat with any of these guys in a heartbeat."

Birth announcements

Sept. 28

A daughter, Annika Aurora, was born to Hosanna and Capt. Joel Johnson, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Nov. 15

A son, Raymond David Jr, was born to Melinda and Master Sgt. Raymond Lingley, 28th Military Police Detachment.

Dec. 16

A son, Justice Khimani Zyair, was born to Spc. Ashley Dixon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment and Spc. Joseph Dixon, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

A daughter, Kaleah Rae, was born to Amanda and Pfc. Theodore Ludtman, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

A daughter, Kennedy Jo, was born to Sarah and Staff Sgt Kenneth Seymore, 49th Missile Defense Battalion.

Dec. 17

A son, Max Randell, was born to April and Staff Sgt Keiven Favor, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Dec. 22

A daughter, Madison Leigh, was born to Stacey and Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Whitfield, Medical Department Activity-Alaska.

Dec. 23

A daughter, McKinley Mae, was born to Courtney and Capt. Kenneth Bath, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

A daughter, Sophia Bella, was born to Maria E and Spc. Arpad Galbo, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Dec. 24

A son, Ashton Levi, was born to Akina and Sgt. Jordan Trimmer, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Dec. 26

A son, Parker Westman, was born to Lisa and Sgt. Tyler Nelson, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Dec. 29

A son, Hayes Warren, was born to Sarah and Maj. Sean Demars, Medical Department Activity-Alaska.

A son, Tristan Gary, was born to Gabrielle and Sgt. Gregory Brilinski, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

A daughter, Kinsley Nicole, was born to Raine and Sgt. Nathan Kaiser, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Dec. 31

A daughter, Natalie Raine, was born to Heather and Sgt. Michael Murphy, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Jan. 1

A daughter, Reagan Leigh, was born to Paulette and Chief Warrant Officer Jason Burke, D Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Jan. 2

A son, Linkin Isiah, was born to Elizabeth and Sgt. First Class Joseph Raap, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Jan. 3

A son, Ian Joseph, was born to Angela and Spc. Brandon Stauffer, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Changes at ID office

The DEERS - ID Cards Office has an online appointment system. The website is available for all ID-card customers including active duty, family members, retirees, civilians and contract employees.

For your convenience and to alleviate waiting time, please go to the following website to make an appointment with the DEERS - ID Cards office: <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil/>

Appointments are highly recommended. To avoid the possible wait, schedule an appointment and be seen within minutes of your scheduled time.

For additional assistance or questions contact the Fort Wainwright DEERS - ID Card Office inside the Welcome Center, 3401 Santiago Ave. Room 138, call 353-2195.

The office is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, but is closed all federal holidays.

For your information

Christian concert

Music artist Dan Meyers will perform a Christian concert on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Northern Lights Chapel.

"Concert Dan takes you on a journey of scripture and thought that draws from the life around him and his study in God's Word," said Lt. Col David VanderJagt, garrison chaplain. "He develops a picture or moment in time through storytelling and then takes the listener into the song where they can meditate upon the truth of God's Word and its application to their life."

Dr. Martin Luther King observance

The 2011 Fort Wainwright Dr. Martin Luther King observance is scheduled for Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the PFC and all are welcome to attend.

Visitors entering Fort Wainwright who do not have access are required to obtain a pass (located just before the main gate) prior to entering the post. Drivers must present license, proof of insurance and registration.

Scholarships

Scholarships through the Commissary are available again this spring. The Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children Program is offering \$1,500 scholarships to qualified applicants. Applications are available through Feb. 22.

For information, contact commissary director Loriann McDonald at 353-7310, a school guidance counselor or visit the Scholarships for Military Children Program Websites at www.militaryscholar.org or www.commissaries.com.

Tax assistance

The Tax Center opens Jan. 19. Active-duty, mobilized Reserve, retirees and the family members of these sponsors who have simple personal income tax returns are eligible for tax assistance service.

Returns may be filed electronically whether you are getting a refund or you owe taxes. Only taxes prepared by a Fort Wainwright Tax Assistance Center staff member can be electronically filed at the Tax Assistance Center.

The Tax Assistance Center is located in Building 1049, Unit 4 near the Law Center on the north side of Fort Wainwright. Both appointments and walk-ins are available, but customers having an appointment take priority.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 353-6559.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is accepting scholarship applications from spouses and dependent children. Information, including deadlines and an application can be found online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

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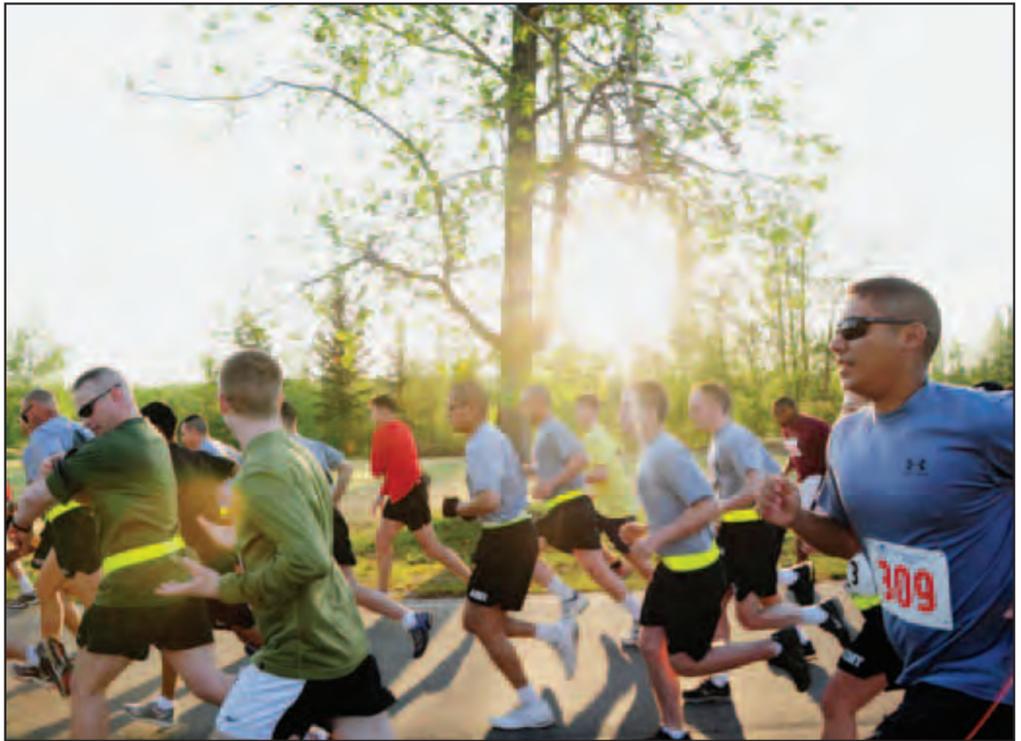
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Fort Wainwright Soldiers and families find the time to play in the Interior: Recreation and leisure snapshots of 2010



(From left to right) Brian Mueller (71) stops quarterback Joshua Oberg (7) from passing, forcing him to run the ball during the 2010 flag football championships. Soldiers and family members hit the pavement on May 21 for the qualifying round of the Army 10-Miler running race. Heroes of the Diamond, a multi-branch military and first responder baseball team visited Child and Youth School Services, played ball with Fort Wainwright youth, then played the Alaska Goldpanners, in the Midnight Sun baseball game. The Alaska Goldpanners won 4-3 in the bottom of the 15th inning. Youth from the Fort Wainwright Child, Youth and School Services Center sped down one of the tubing lanes at the Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area during spring break. Aaron, son of Jennifer and Staff Sgt. David Shaw was all smiles going to first base during a Little League game. Lt. Col. Nick Sengstacke chills out and waits for the elusive nibble during an ice fishing trip to Birch Lake. (File photos)

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