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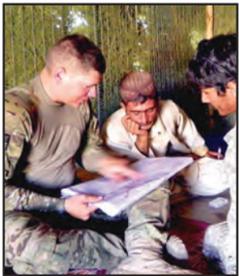
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WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday

Mostly cloudy
Chance of showers
Low 50 High 75
Winds 5-15 mph



Saturday

Mostly cloudy
Chance of showers
Low 55 High 80
Light winds



Sunday

Mostly cloudy
Chance of showers
Low 55 High 80



Forecast courtesy of
the National Oceanic
and Atmospheric
Administration

Soldiers become U.S. citizens during Independence Day ceremony in Afghanistan

Combined Joint Task Force 1, Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan, July 5, 2011 -- On a day marking the 235th birthday of the United States, five Soldiers from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Task Force Falcon, took the Oath of Naturalization, becoming some of the nation's newest citizens during a ceremony July 4, 2011.

"You are representative of the values and diversity that make our country stronger," said U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry as he addressed 48 servicemembers from 25 countries. "The great patriots who founded our nation have a lot in common with you. Like them, you've fought to keep America safe, and you've served with distinction."

See **CITIZEN**, page 3



Spc. Tod Lanki of Honolulu, right, a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Knighthawk, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, TF Falcon, became a U.S. citizen during a ceremony at Camp Pheonix, Afghanistan, July 4, 2011. Lanki, originally from the Marshall Islands, was singled out by U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry during the ceremony for having earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart while serving in Afghanistan. (Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot/Task Force Falcon Public Affairs)

Caring for warriors in transition is more than just medical care

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

Warriors in transition often need more than medical care. Sometimes it is just a matter of being pointed in the right direction, other times the need is more extensive, but whatever it is, chances are the Soldier and Family Assistance Center can help.



Kari Miller, member of the U.S. Paralympics Women's Sitting Volleyball Team came to Fort Wainwright March 23 to help coordinate a sitting volleyball clinic and tournament. Miller, a double-amputee, shared her experiences with staff members and Soldiers of B Company, Warrior Transition Battalion during a question and answer session. Those in attendance benefitted from hearing about the past seven years of her volleyball career, her progress in the sport that she loves and the positive effects she seen in the men and women who've participated. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/ Fort Wainwright PAO)

"The SFAC is about providing support to the wounded warriors. As the garrison command sergeant major, Soldier support is uppermost in my mind." said Command Sgt. Major Todd Wentland, garrison command sgt. major.

"We help Soldiers transition, either back into the military, back into their units or to the civilian sector, depending on what is best for them," said Rhonda Carlson, SFAC director.

"Soldiers, very few want to get out," she said. "They want to stay in the Army. This is their life and they plan on returning and it is very difficult thing for them to change plans, course in life."

"We have had Soldiers brought directly from the theater to here. I have had Soldiers say to me 'I just want to get this over with, so I can get back there with my buddies'. They don't want to be here. They want to be back with their buddies, doing what they are trained to do."

"Our mission is to alleviate as much stress in their lives as they are going through this transition. We try to facilitate, arrange social services for them," she said.

For the 36 Soldiers currently assigned to the WTU, sometimes even simple tasks can be challenging. "Some of our Soldiers are very overwhelmed right now because they are dealing with a medical issue, or dealing with other issues," Carlson said. "The SFAC is here to help those Soldiers however it can."

See **CARING**, page 3

Alaska Strykers bring hope to Afghan villagers

Spc. Thomas Duval, 1-25th SBCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan, July 5, 2011 -- Eastern Kandahar's Daman district is just one area suffering from the kind of ravages that can befall a country that has known almost constant war for decades.

Like many districts throughout Afghanistan, local villagers focus much of their time tending to their farms, which often suffer from drought. For the people of Daman district, a lack of schools and hospitals compound the difficulties they face every day.

During a recent mission Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, came to the aid of the suffering district.

Partnering with the local Afghan National Security Forces, Soldiers from "Task Force Automatic" helped deliver much needed school supplies, including such basics as pens, paper, books and book bags.

See **STRYKERS**, page 4



Fort Wainwright master sergeant leads the way in challenging career field

Spc. Thomas Duval, 1-25th SBCT PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan - In southern Afghanistan, finding time to celebrate a momentous occasion can be difficult and at other times completely impossible. On July 1, the soldiers of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, cleared their calendars and shifted focus to celebrate a benchmark reached by one soldier.

Soldiers, peers and mentors gathered at Forward Operating Base Lagman, in Zabul province, Afghanistan, for the promotion of Sgt. 1st Class Penny Barber to the rank of master sergeant. Although reaching the respected

rank is an accomplishment that very few soldiers will reach in their careers, it's even rarer among those who share Barber's military occupational specialty as an internment and resettlement specialist.

With her promotion, the Potsdam, N.Y., native became one of only 36 I and R specialists who currently possess the rank of master sergeant.

"It was difficult to reach master sergeant, but it was well worth the hard work and persistence," Barber said. "I am very proud that I accomplished this major task in my military career."

See **MASTER SERGEANT**, page 5

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SN/ BIRCHWOOD HOMES

Commander's column

Linda Douglass, Fort Wainwright PAO

Hail and farewell

Today is a day of mixed emotions for the garrison staff.

On the one hand, we have to say farewell to Col. Timothy A. Jones, our garrison commander.

On the other, we welcome back a former garrison commander, Col. Ronald Johnson, Col. Jones' predecessor.

It's the first time in Fort Wainwright history the incoming commander was the outgoing commander three years ago. The two men share in that history, but also in other bits of history that have occurred over the past six years.

Col. Johnson started the long process of transforming Fort Wainwright from an indirect-reporting garrison that reported to Fort Richardson to a direct-reporting garrison that reports directly to the Pacific Region of the Installation Management Command (IMCOM).

Col. Jones continued that transformation, including helping us to stand up new supporting agencies and bring on new civilian positions to serve the Soldiers and Families here.

It was not an easy task for either. It involved a lot of meetings, some of them long-distance teleconferences; a lot of paperwork, much of it with short suspenses; and a lot of thinking outside the box as they were tasked with making drastic changes within the garrison while they watched the budget shrink annually.

Col. Johnson started the legwork and coordination to privatize our housing. Col. Jones continued that work and under his leadership we entered into a partnership with Actus-Lend Lease and North Haven Communities to manage our family housing.

Col. Johnson also worked to privatize our utilities. Doyon Utilities celebrated with Col. Jones as we officially became our partners in the largest utility privatization in the Army.

Under the two commanders, our garrison staff successfully supported several major deployments and redeployments of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Team, now the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and of various aviation units from Task Force 49, now the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, as well as other separate units in that time. The staff took care of the Family members with special offers for child care, counseling and emotional support and special events to help keep morale high.

The two garrison commanders oversaw construction on post totaling many millions of dollars. We now enjoy new barracks; new family housing; new maintenance facilities; upgraded recreational facilities; new roads and traffic lights and more.

While they juggled all of this activity and change, they responded to several chains of command and still managed to effectively lead the garrison staff.

Above all, they kept the well being of our Soldiers and Families as their top priority. Everything they accomplished was done with the question, "How will this benefit our Soldiers and Families?"

Today Col. Jones will step down as our garrison commander and Col. Johnson will take up the leadership reins once again.

So we have to say farewell to Col. Jones – but not goodbye. He will retire in Fairbanks with his wife Theresa and their Family. We look forward to seeing you around town, Sir.

And we say welcome to Col. Johnson, his wife Candy and their Family. It's nice to have you back, Sir.

Best of all, we at Fort Wainwright will continue to prosper under the strong leadership we've enjoyed for the past six years.

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.

Keeping your house safe while it is home alone

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

With the kids out of school and your Soldier deployed, now may seem like the perfect time to go visit loved ones in the Lower 48. For families living in the North Haven Communities, a bit of preplanning will make for a worry free vacation and a happier homecoming when you return to Alaska, said Lori Glassco, marketing manager, North Haven Communities.

She suggested using resources such as a trusted adult friend and the Directorate of Emergency Services to make that happen.

"If a resident chooses to leave the area, we ask is that they notify our community center with some detailed information," she said. "We ask that our residents appoint a responsible adult to keep an eye on their home and obviously let us know who that person is in case of an emergency. We are looking for an address and a telephone number and the name of that contact."

Give the house sitter a key to check on the house, to maintain fenced in lawns during summer months and check for open windows and freezing pipes during winter months, as North Haven Communities does not make checks of the property during a resident's absence, Glassco said.

If leaving a pet in the home, an adult may move in to care for the pet, but if they are bringing their own with them, it can't put the home over the two pet limit, even on a temporary basis.

Family may visit those residing in housing during the duration of the deployment, but if they are

moving in they need to understand that the same rules apply to them as the residents. A background check must be completed before they can move in, Glassco said. These can be initiated through the rear detachment of the sponsor's unit, and a copy should be given to North Haven Community managers upon completion.

If children are coming to stay with the adult guests, a community manager needs to be informed to ensure that the home is not overpopulated.

"When it comes to guests, North Haven wants to make sure that the safety and security of our residents is not at risk," she said. "We need to make sure that the community office manager knows who is living in that apartment so that if something does come up..."

Glassco recommends using the resources of the Directorate of Emergency Services to help to keep homes safe and secure.

DES offers Project Safe Guard to assist Soldiers and Families in preventing home fires and intrusions by providing home inspections and expert advice.

"Providing fire- and crime-prevention inspections for Soldiers is a smart thing to do and provides peace of mind," said Maurice Fischer, DES director.

"Project Safe Guard was created in October 2008 at the request of the U.S. Army Alaska commanding general in an effort to reduce the numbers of fires and criminal activities associated with homes of soldiers and their families," said Morgan Boatman, Physical

MEDDAC commander

Col. George Appenzeller, MEDDAC-AK commander

Medical Department Activity Alaska Q & A



QUESTION:

How do I get an appointment once my primary care manager puts in a referral?

ANSWER:

Medical Department Activity Alaska works with other Military Treatment Facilities and a vast number of network providers to provide the best possible access to medical treatment for our beneficiary population. If your primary care manager cannot provide the services you require, they will refer you to a provider who can best meet your healthcare needs.

In the case of a referral to a specialty within MEDDAC-AK or the 3rd Medical Group, the department you have been referred to will call to set up an appointment. For a routine referral, the specialty department will normally contact you within 5 working days. If you have not been contacted during this time, please contact the specialty department to which you were referred.

Referrals to other MTFs or civilian providers are handled through your local referral coordination center. Remember, you must use a Tricare network provider, and have the authorization number provided by Tri-West to avoid out of pocket expenses. Once the RCC receives the referral, they will review it to determine where services can best be provided.

If determined the service can best be handled by local civilian providers, you will receive a letter from TriWest which contains an authorization number and name and contact information for the provider. Beneficiaries registered at www.triwest.com can also receive a Quick Alert email or phone call from TriWest, which reduces the wait time, when their Tricare authorization or referral request has been processed.

The RCC will directly contact beneficiaries whose referral has been determined to be best served by another MTF or an out-of-area civilian provider. They will work to coordinate appointment dates and assist with ensuring travel arrangements and orders are processed.

If you ever have a question about a referral or referral process feel free to speak with your PCM at the time of your appointment or contact the RCC on Fort Wainwright at 361-1813 or on Fort Richardson at 580-2778. No matter where you ultimately may receive your referral care, MEDDAC-AK's number one priority is to ensure you and your family receives quality care with quality caring.



Ask, Care, Escort Suicide Intervention (ACE-SI) Peer Training & Certification

Presented by U.S. Army Public Health Command

1 Day training:

July 21 or 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Max 30 participants per day)

Location:

Battle Command Training Center

To register contact:

David Lemelin, 353-1378 or
david.lemelin1@us.army.mil

Security Specialist.

The fire-prevention inspection is performed by members of the Fort Wainwright Fire Prevention Office. Fire Inspector Virgil Maddox said fire inspectors walk through the home with family members, point out hazards and explain how to eliminate them.

Project Safe Guard also offers crime-prevention inspections. Using a check list, "we look for security strengths and weaknesses or vulnerabilities that affect the safety and security of the property," Boatman said. "The goal is to deter, detect, delay and deny access to the home."

Information gathered during the inspection is for the resident's use only. Project Safe Guard is available to those living on and off the installation.

Glassco recommends housing residents use "House Watch" to protect their homes while they are gone.

"It is just one of the extra ways that we show residents that we care about their home and their safety and well being," she said.

"The House Watch Program provides an overall increase in police presence around homes during a resident's time away. With the information provided by the resident, a police officer will periodically go by the residence at which time the police officer will survey the residence to make sure that everything is all right," said Capt. Chris Luskleet, Fort Wainwright Police operations officer.

"The House Watch Program can

be a useful deterrent to anyone who may be considering accessing your home for criminal purposes," he said.

To enroll in the program, stop by the military police station. Completing the paperwork that North Haven requires for an extended absence is not the same as enrolling in House Watch. Nor does enrolling in House Watch satisfy North Haven's paperwork requirements. Glassco suggests providing each agency with a copy of the other's completed paperwork.

For people who live off post, Luskleet offered these suggestions for while they are away.

1. Stop mail and newspaper delivery.
2. Leave shades or blinds in normal positions.
3. Put automatic timers on lights; set the timers so they will turn on and off at random times in different rooms.
4. Ask a neighbor to put out your garbage cans.
5. Lock all windows and doors.
6. Have someone park a car in your driveway occasionally.
7. Arrange to have the lawn mowed and snow plowed.
8. Shut and lock your garage door.

Following these suggestions can give families on and off post peace of mind while they are away from home for extended periods of time, Luskleet said.

Local bands and backyard barbecue chefs prepare to battle at Birch Hill

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

There will be some friendly competition at Birch Hill, July 16 as the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts the Battle of the Bands and the Battle of the Backyard BBQ.

Both contests and the festivities are open to the entire community.

More than a dozen bands signed up for the music competition, which begins at 4 p.m. The bands scheduled to play are Delta Blues, Marc Brown and Blues Crew, Arly-Jylz, Phineas Gauge, Sonic Karma, Awake Antagonist, Ruckus, Bayonet, Character Reference, Behind Tide, Eating for Two, Fire X Night, Avery Wolves and Some Kind of Sorcerer. "We have a genre of rockabilly, ska, hip hop-progressive, classic rock, heavy rock, alternative and Christian rock," said Megan Brown, FMWR special events coordinator.

The Battle of the Backyard BBQ is sanctioned by the Alaska State BBQ Association. The association is a not-for-profit group recognized by the state of Alaska as the official sanctioning body for any and all legitimate barbecue competitions.

This will be the second annual barbecue battle on Fort Wainwright and is open to anyone who thinks they can cook. Teams will enter three proteins; chicken, pork ribs and tri-tip. Sauce will be a separate category. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as a grand champion overall.

The set up will begin at 6:30 a.m., the cook's meeting and meat inspection will be at 7 a.m. and cooking will start at 7:30 a.m. Turn-in times will be 1:30, 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m. Winners will be announced at 3:45 p.m. before the bands will begin their battle.

In addition to the Battle of the Backyard BBQ, the Alaska State BBQ Association sanctions three other competitions throughout the year; the Brr BQ in February, the Fair BQ in August and the most prestigious competition, the Alaska State Championship on the last weekend of Golden Days, which is July 23 and 24 this year.

The barbecue association also donates to local charities and provides culinary training and demonstrations during events. "The association is a group of people who love to cook, eat and talk barbecue," said Norm Jones, president of the Alaska State BBQ Association and captain of the Boss Hogg BBQ team. "Our membership consists of backyard barbecue chefs, restaurant owners, accomplished barbecue competitors and people who just love to eat barbecue."

The Boss Hogg team represented Alaska at the 2009 World Championship Invitational in Lynchburg, Tennessee. "It was a lot of fun rubbing elbows with the big boys down



Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO, serves barbecue at the Fairbanks, Midnight Sun Festival, June 19. Allen Shaw, event coordinator for the Alaska State BBQ Association and public affairs specialist, Fort Wainwright Public Affairs Office said, "As with any not-for-profit organization, we have to raise money to put on quality competitions. Because of this we have gotten the necessary permits to vend, have participated in several community events this summer and it has been a huge success. People enjoy the food and realize they have an opportunity to be part of the best tasting organization in the state. It's a great way to have fun and get involved with the community." (Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO)

south. I was also able to pick their brains and bring some ideas back home," said Jones, a motor vehicle operator for the Fort Wainwright Transportation Motor Pool.

In addition to the State Championship winner going to Tennessee, there is the Team of the Year competition which is a point race among teams who compete on the Alaska BBQ Association circuit. Points are awarded for overall finishes in Alaska BBQA events. This year the 3 Dogs BBQ team, captained by Dan Gilson, force protection officer, Fort Wainwright Garrison, won and will be competing at the National BBQ Festival Best of the Best Invitational BBQ Competition in Waycross, Ga. "This is a great opportunity to represent the State of Alaska on a national stage and let the rest of the country know that although Alaska has a reputation as being cold and desolate, that we can still produce world class barbecue."

Another one of Alaska's top barbecue competitors who works on post is Jeff Deckard, engineer tech, Directorate of Public Works, Residential Communities Initiative and housing, and captain of the Turnin-n-Burnin team. He is looking forward to the upcoming competitions. "It's fun to take something ordinary, put my spin on it and have a great outcome. Plus it's something my wife Shelly and I both enjoy doing together," Deckard said.

For additional information on the July 16 competition call Megan Brown 353-6043 and to learn more about the Alaska State BBQ Association, visit www.alaskabbq.org.

CITIZEN: Independence Day ceremony in Afghanistan

Continued from page 1

The TF Falcon Soldiers who became U.S. citizens during the Independence Day naturalization ceremony included:

Pfc. Felipe Andrade, a pathfinder with Company F, TF Knighthawk, 10th CAB, originally from Brazil.

Pfc. Robert Holm, an automated logistics specialist with Company E, TF Tigershark, 10th CAB, originally from Jamaica.

Pfc. Zeiko Ifill, an automated logistics specialist with Company E, TF Tigershark, 10th CAB, originally from Barbados.

Spc. Tod Lanki, a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Knighthawk, 10th CAB, originally from the Marshall Islands.

Spc. Jeridine Stewart, a communications specialist with Headquarters Support Company, TF Mountain Eagle, 10th CAB, originally from Palau.

Andrade said he lived in the U.S. for 12 years, and although over that time he has come to feel like an American, he now can truly call himself one.

"There's no greater feeling than to be called an American," he said with a smile.

For Stewart, who has served in the U.S. Army for seven years, the Fourth of July reminds her the U.S. is a nation of immigrants who've come from all over the world.

"I believe the U.S. is a melting pot of people of all races, all of who share the same freedoms," she said. "Now, I get to be a part of it."

Eikenberry, who will leave Afghanistan this summer, told the new citizens he is proud to call them American patriots.

"I want to thank each of you personally," Eikenberry said. "You are the real U.S. ambassadors here in Afghanistan."



LET'S BOWL

Star Lowry, (left) wife of Pfc. Rick Lowry, C Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade assists daughter, Winter, 6, with putting on bowling shoes July 1 at the Nugget Lanes Bowling Center. The newly renovated facility reopened and the Directorate of Family, Welfare, Morale and Recreation hosted the "Rolling Thunder" event as Soldiers, Family members, DoD civilians and special guests were treated to bowling, cake and appetizers. For more information visit www.ftwainwrightfmwr.com. (Photo by Allen Shaw/Fort Wainwright PAO)

CARING: More than just medical care for warriors in transition

Continued from page 1

"What we do is we basically assess the Soldiers need and hook them up with those agencies," Carlson said. "We make sure that they got an appointment that is convenient. That is not going to interfere with medical appointments that they have, we make sure that they are meeting in a place that is accessible to them. Especially if they have a disability, or a mobility issue, that they have a good place to meet with these providers."

Spouses of Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion are permitted to use the same services, but Carlson said very few take advantage of the opportunity.

"All of our services that are available to the Soldier are definitely available to the family member. We are here to help them in any capacity that we are able to," she said.

"We have always had a challenge getting our family members engaged. I hear this from other SFAC directors, so it not just local," Carlson said. "We are still trying to figure out what to do. Some spouses are really engaged in the unit and are here a lot, the other ones really just are not interested."

Afterwards, the staff will follow-up to ensure that those needs have been met.

"I try to follow up and check," she said. "They have so many things on their plate right now."

The Fort Wainwright SFAC was established in January 2008 and broke ground for a new facility in July 2010. To complete its mission, the SFAC has more than a dozen staff members whose jobs vary from finance to training, and includes nurse case managers and social workers. Carlson said that each Soldier is assigned a nurse case manager and meet with social workers for assessments.

"The social workers up here are more case managers. They do assessments and meet with spouses, but they don't actually do the counseling," Carlson said. "The counseling is

referred out. They make sure the Soldier is making their appointments that the Soldier is meeting with the right type of provider. That if psychiatric medication is needed, that they are seeing a psychiatrist. They manage the case in that way. They work with the nurse case manager. We all meet once a week to discuss their needs. It is important to have good communication."

Sometimes the SFAC cannot meet all of the Soldier's needs, and the Soldiers can't get to where help is available because of mobility or other issues so other agencies come there to meet with Soldiers.

"If we can't meet that need on post, we find a provider in the local community and get them hooked up with that provider," she said. "Or if they are going to be in another state we give them information on how to get in contact with their VA down there or the voc rehab office. It is a huge collaboration."

Carlson said that the SFAC is able to successfully support the Soldiers currently assigned to the Warriors Transition Battalion because of the support of post agencies and the garrison. She made special mention of Wentland and said he was instrumental in getting the SFAC its own space so they could better serve their target population. "When the Warriors in Transition concept was enacted on Ft Wainwright we needed to look at our support procedures in a new light," he said. "That's what sergeant's major do. We think outside the box and help people achieve success when the way isn't clearly marked."

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ALASKA DOLLAR PLUS
AK POST/AK POST
1 x 1.0

11385382
PERFECT PARTY, THE
AK POST/AK POST
1 x 2.0

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DOWNTOWN BINGO
AK POST/POW WOW
2 x 4.0

Ladd Airfield history sparks mystery, intrigue

Sheryl Nix, Alaska Post Contributor

The history of Ladd Airfield is rich and full of tales of bravery, innovation and a legendary pioneering spirit. Seeing historic photos of Ladd and learning about the harrowing tales of those first test flights, the partnership with the former Soviet Union during the Lend-Lease program, humanitarian operations and rich military heritage is thrilling and leaves many history buffs wanting more – more about the pioneers who braved the Interior winters without the direct benefit of Native ingenuity or modern cold-weather gear; more about what it was like to serve here even before Alaska was the 49th state in the Union; more about the historic properties on post and what it was like to use the utilidors, Fort Wainwright's underground tunnel system, for everything from basic transportation to jogging trails; and especially more about what really happened during the time the Army shared this installation with Russian soldiers and airmen.

Mary Shanks, architectural historian, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental, understands the thirst for more information about everything from buildings to people in Ladd's history and has spent much time

investigating these topics and sharing her findings with the community.

"We have a lot of history on this base," she said. "Some really fantastic history."

One of her favorite topics is also one that many here are anxious to discuss – the World War II period when the United States shared Ladd Airfield with 300 Russian officers and pilots stationed here during the Lend-Lease program.

"That's really fantastic history," she said. "There was actually, during World War II, a full complement of Russian soldiers on the base. We gave them full control of buildings. They were allowed to patrol their areas with their own guards. There was a Russian speaker in the control tower. It's amazing history."

Citing the unprecedented degree of international cooperation, Shanks said the relationship between the United States and Russia joined two sides "who were not best buddies" to fight the Germans.

But particularly in light of the current Russian espionage drama and spy swap playing out in the today's headlines, the rumors of espionage and treachery prove even



Allied aircrews pose for a picture somewhere in the wilds of Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photo)

more interesting and salacious.

"There's a lot of talk about exactly how many secrets got flown up the air route. The planes and everything that was on board all had diplomatic immunity. We couldn't search them. Diplomatic pouches came up from the Lower 48 and were loaded on these planes and you never quite knew what was in them," she said.

Another wrinkle in the conspiracy theories is the legend surrounding the death of Pvt. John White, a U.S. Soldier assigned as a driver for Russian officers.

White took the officers on a tour of Fairbanks and stopped at the KFAR radio station which had a back room used to send secret communiqués on weather and other issues vital to planning assaults on the Aleutian Chain. According to Shanks, the secret messages were sent by fax machine, brand new technology at the time, and could not be hacked or tapped unless you had the devices which were only located at KFAR in Fairbanks and a station in San Francisco.

The tour ended at Ballaine Lake where the Russians said they got separated from White and returned to the base without him. "They later found (White's) clothes folded up next to the lake and they had to drain the lake to find his body. It was decided that he drowned," Shanks said.

White's friends all said he was afraid of the water and would never have taken off his clothes and gone in. But the issue was dropped and never investigated to avoid an international incident.

"The story is that he caught them either trying to tap into the line or engaging in some other kind of espionage and they killed him to keep it a secret," Shanks said.

Other lore from those days includes everything from possible reasons why a Russian hangar burned to destroy stolen nuclear technology. But despite the rumors and stories of treachery, Shanks said the time the Russians shared Ladd Airfield with the United States is remarkable.

"The fact that there was so much international cooperation here is extraordinary," she said.

The Lend-Lease program was originally designed to provide war aid to Britain but after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, that was extended to Russia, she said. The 8,000 planes given to the Russians to use on the front lines against Germany made a huge difference in the war effort.

"Most historians think they were absolutely pivotal to winning the war because without them the Russians would have not been able to hold the front and Russia could have been taken over by Germany or at least the war would have stretched out for much longer," Shanks said.

These stories just scratch the surface of the history of Ladd. People can find additional information about the history of Ladd Army Airfield by contacting Lisa Graham the Cultural Resources Manager for Fort Wainwright at 361-3002 or come by the Environmental Office for a variety of publications regarding the history of the post.

Fort Greely Change of Command



Debra Zedalis, director, Installation Management Command Pacific, passes the IMCOM guidon to Lt. Col. Terry Clark, incoming garrison commander, of Fort Greely, Alaska during a change of command ceremony June 24. Sgt. Maj. Carolyn Reynolds, garrison command sergeant major and out-going commander Lt. Col. Chris Chronis are to the right in the photo. (Photo by Deborah Ward/Fort Greely PAO)

STRYKERS: Bringing hope to Afghan villagers

Continued from page 1

"It feels great to make a noticeable difference in the lives of the Afghan people," Capt. Angela Chipman of the 2-8th said. "We aren't just donating and delivering school supplies to the children, we are giving the children of the Daman district an opportunity to attend school and learn."

"It's about building a lasting relationship between the U.S. forces and the people of Afghanistan and providing them with long-term solutions to their problems," she said.

The relationship between the 2-8th, the Afghan people, and the Afghan security forces has shown significant gains in recent weeks, according to Chipman.

With support from their local Afghan counterparts, the unit was able to confiscate more than 30 bags of substance known to be key component in homemade explosives used in improvised explosive devices.

1st Lt. Theodore Leakas praised the efforts of the Afghan Border Police, stating that they have made significant progress in closing down the trafficking of dangerous substances throughout their area.

Sgt. Nathan Kaiser beamed with pride when the bags of potassium nitrate fertilizer were loaded into secure holding containers.

"Our guys have done great things to get this stuff off the streets and, in my opinion, I believe we've saved a lot of lives."



1st Lt. Theodore Leakas, 2nd Battalion 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, discusses ways to reduce smuggling in Afghanistan's Daman district with an Afghan Border Patrol team leader. (Courtesy photo)

MASTER SERGEANT: Leads the way in challenging career field

Continued from page 1

As the detention operations non-commissioned officer in charge, she is responsible for the health, welfare and rehabilitation of U.S. military prisoners as well as detainees. Although the task may seem simple, there is a lot that goes into being a successful I/R specialist.

"While deployed, we provide guidance to the command on when and how we can take a detainee into custody," Barber explained. "We are also responsible for training the soldiers who possess different MOSs on how to guard, care and watch over the detainees. We teach the soldiers when to use force and when not to on an unruly detainee."

According to Barber, the demanding day-to-day operations of the career field is one that very few can learn to live with.

Long hours, extended trips away from home and the nature of dealing with prisoners often force soldiers to change their career path or even get out of the Army altogether, she said.

Although the race or sex of a soldier has no effect in most career fields, Barber said being a female 'prison guard' definitely adds to the already challenging MOS.

"It is hard being a female in my career field because most [military] inmates and detainees don't give you the same respect that they would a male NCO," Barber said. "With this being a male-dominated field, you as a female have to prove yourself every day."

And prove herself is what she has done.

"She is passionate about her profession and takes personal pride in her work," said Maj. Maria Rodriguez, the 1-25th SBCT provost marshal and personal friend to Barber. "She is dependable and an extremely hard worker. She is a role model to career Army women of all ranks."

Barber said her motivation came from wanting to prove that females can accomplish just as much, if not more, than the male non-commissioned officers.

Barber earned the respect of her fellow Soldiers by turning what many might see as stumbling blocks into stepping stones, which she has used throughout her 19-year military



Command Sgt. Maj. Bernie Knight, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, command sergeant major, promotes Sgt. 1st Class Penny Barber to the rank of master sergeant during a promotion ceremony at Forward Operating Base Lagman July 1. Barber is just one of 36 internment/resettlement specialists who currently wear the prestigious rank. (Photo by Spc. Thomas Duval/1-25th SBCT PAO)

career to reach what some would call an unimaginable feat.

"Master Sgt. Barber has done what very few in her ranks have been able to do, and it's a result of hard work and dedication," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bernie Knight, 1-25th SBCT senior non-commissioned officer in charge.

Her dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed.

"Master Sergeant Barber is a no-nonsense NCO," Rodriguez said. "She is not afraid to take the hard right and voice her objection to an injustice or what her many years of experience has told her won't work ... She is dependable and an extremely hard worker. She has been a dual military spouse, a single

mom, has been deployed twice and had to make hard decisions. She does not shy from speaking about her experiences with mothers who struggle with the same challenges today. She speaks to them about options and ways to reach your career goals while being a responsible parent."

Throughout her lustrous career, Barber has overcome every obstacle that has come her way, but as she looks ahead, there is one challenge that still awaits.

"I have always wanted to be a first sergeant and lead a company of Soldiers," she said.

If Barber accomplishes her goal, she will add to her already large footprint imbedded into the Army's corrections program.

472nd Military Police Company prepares for Joint Readiness Training Center

Spc. Jacob Condon a Beaumont, Calif. native guides Spc. Heather Richardson, an Aurora, Colo. native, as they load an M1117A Armored Security Vehicle onto a semi truck trailer June 29 in preparation for the 472nd Military Police Company's upcoming training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy/USARAK PAO)



M1117A Armored Security Vehicles are loaded onto semi truck trailers for transport to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., for the 472nd Military Police Company's field training exercise. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy/USARAK PAO)

what is it?
when is it?
where is it?

find it here!

Transfer of authority at Kandahar



Maj. Gen. James L. Terry, commander Regional Command (South) in Afghanistan, and Col. Todd R. Wood, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division shake hands after signing the transfer of authority scroll on Kandahar Airfield July 7. During the ceremony, Canadians from the 22nd Royal Canadian Regiment relinquished responsibility for southern Kandahar to the 1-25th SBCT. (Photo by Spc. Thomas Duval/1-25th SBCT PAO)



After six year of command, the Canadian-based 22nd Royal Canadian Regiment also called Task Force Kandahar, relinquished responsibility of southern Kandahar to the Alaska-based 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division during a transfer of authority ceremony at Kandahar Airfield July 7. (Photo by Spc. Thomas Duval/1-25th SBCT PAO)

Friday - 8th

EFMP CRAFT NIGHT, 6 to 7 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Must be enrolled in the EFMP program to be eligible. Call 353-4243.

THAT'S THE TICKET, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Northern Lights Inn Conference Room, Building 3402. Call 353-6286.

EMOTION COACHING, noon to 12:45 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 361-7713 or 361-7372.

MIDSUMMER KNIGHT'S READ activity, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

CHENA RIVER KING QUEST, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Participants need to have a fishing license with King Salmon stamp, tackle, rod and reel. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth (7 to 15). Call 361-6349.

Saturday - 9th

COMMUNITY GAME DAY, 1 to 6 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

ZUMBA FITNESS, 1 to 2 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7223.

ALASKA FLAG DAY STORY HOUR and CRAFTS, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

ARTIST TRADING CARDS, 1 to 3 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Cost is \$25 and includes materials. Call 353-7520.

ALASKA FLAG DAY STORY HOUR and CRAFTS, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

BOATER SAFETY PROGRAM, 1 to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Open to participants ages 18 and older. A safety card is issued at the completion of the course and is valid for four years. Everyone renting a watercraft from the Outdoor Recreation Center is required to have a Fort Wainwright ORC Boater Safety Card. Call 361-4089.

Sunday - 10th

CHENA RIVER KING QUEST, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Participants need to have a fishing license with King Salmon stamp, tackle, rod and reel. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth (7 to 15). Call 361-6349.

ROCK CLIMBING TRIP, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Cost is \$10. Open to participants 16 and older. Climbers must have a Melaven Gym Belay Certification prior to registration. Trip will be held at nearby climbing sites. Call 361-2652.

Monday - 11th

CHENA RIVER KING QUEST, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Participants need to have a fishing license with King Salmon stamp, tackle, rod and reel. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth (7 to 15). Call 361-6349.

RED, WHITE and BLUE GOLF TOURNAMENT, 8 a.m. to noon, Chena Bend Golf Course, Building 2092. Call 353-6223.

GROUP CYCLING, noon to 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

ROMP and STOMP PLAYGROUP, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Transportation for Families to and from Romp and Stomp is available at Northern Lights Inn at 9 a.m. Call 361-7713/7372.

SAFETY CLASS (Required to use facility), 6 p.m., Auto Skills Center, Building 3730. Call 353-7436.

ZUMBA FITNESS, 6 to 7 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7 per class. Call 353-7223.

SINGLE PARENTING, 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room, Building 3042. Call 353-4248.

Tuesday - 12th

STRESS MANAGEMENT, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Northern Light Inn conference room, Building 3402. Call 353-4248.

GROUP CYCLING, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

ACT OUT—STORY TIME THEATRE, 2 to 3 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-4137.

CHENA RIVER KING QUEST, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Participants need to have a fishing license with King Salmon stamp, tackle, rod and reel. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth (7 to 15). Call 361-6349.

Family Readiness Group
KEY CALLER TRAINING,
9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Post
Library, Building 3700.
Call 353-4332.

MAGIC PARENTING, 10
a.m. to noon, Northern
Lights Inn conference
room, Building 3402. Call
353-6286.

GRIEF AND LOSS, 6:30
to 8 p.m., Last Frontier
Community Activity
Center Quiet Room,
Building 1044. Call 388-
2553.

Wednesday - 13th

INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL MEETING, 2 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

COPING WITH PTSD, 11 a.m. to noon, Northern Lights Inn conference room, Building 3402. Call 353-6286.

CARDIO SCULPT: STRENGTH & CARDIO, 5 to 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

GROUP CYCLING, noon to 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

ANGER MANAGEMENT, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Behavioral Health conference room, Building 4066. Call 353-4248.

BABY AND ME, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

CONQUERING THE TERRIBLE 2s, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Call 361-7713.

Thursday - 14th

FINAL HARRY POTTER FILM DISPLAY, all day, Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

CHENA RIVER BOAT RIDE, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Call 361-4089.

GROUP CYCLING, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Transportation for Families to and from Romp and Stomp is available at Northern Lights Inn at 9 a.m. Call 361-7713/7372.

ZUMBA FITNESS, 6 to 7 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7 per class. Call 353-7223.

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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The ALASKA POST - Home of the Arctic Warriors

For your information

FWA GARRISON CHANGE OF COMMAND

Col. Ronald M. Johnson will assume command of Garrison Fort Wainwright from Col. Timothy A. Jones. in a ceremony today at 3:30 p.m. at the post's parade field on Gaffney Road. The public is invited to attend. Visitors must stop at the visitors' center at the main gate with driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.

ARCTIC HEALTH LINK

Arctic Health Link will host a Cholesterol Class on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bassett Army Community Hospital.

This class offers participants information on nutritional and physical fitness methods for reducing total cholesterol level and improving HDL and LDL ratio, while improving overall health. It is open to all Tricare beneficiaries, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 361-4148.

An Asthma and Allergy Class will be offered by Arctic Health Link on Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Bassett Army Community Hospital.

This class educates those with allergies or asthma on reducing the attacks while also reducing the need for medication and clinic visits. It is open to all Tricare beneficiaries, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 361-4148.

LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pvt. Ryan J. Larson of B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, may contact 1st Lt. James Desjarlais, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1-25th SBCT, 3717 Neely Road, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-8700 or call 353-1630.

POST YARD SALE

The next post-wide yard sale is scheduled for tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about yard sales in housing, call 356-7000. For information about unit and organization sales and selling at the Lemon Lot on post, call 353-6612.

ARMY CAREER AND ALUMNI PROGRAM

The Army Career and Alumni Program will be closed today during their move back to the Welcome Center. Starting Monday ACAP will resume offering full services in Building 3401, Room 248.

The ACAP Center is hosting Employer Day on Wednesday, in the ACAP Center classroom from 12 to 4 p.m. Participating employers include: TSA, Pacific Movers, OfficeMax, Ft. Knox Gold Mine, TDL Staffing and Worldwide Movers. Also in attendance will be a representative from Universal Technical Institute. This event is open to the public and refreshments will be served. If you are seeking employment in the area, this is a great opportunity to meet with local employers face-to-face. Bring your resumé and dress for an interview.

ACAP is hosting a Transition and Job Assistance Workshop Monday through Wednesday at the Education Center Annex. The class will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday. The class is facilitated by Alaska State Department of Labor Veterans Employment Representatives and is offered monthly. It provides information essential to all transitioning service members. Learn how to job search, develop your resume, practice interviewing, understand networking and negotiate salary and benefits.

Learn how to apply for federal jobs at a class hosted by ACAP on Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. in the ACAP classroom. In this class, information is shared about entering federal service, how to apply for federal jobs with the Department of the Army and in other agencies, completing applications and using USAjobs to search for federal positions. This class is offered twice monthly and is presented by ACAP Staff.

For more information or to reserve a space call 353-2113

PHOTOGRAPHY LAB CLOSURE

The Photography Lab will be closed July 14 to 29 in order to allow the photographer to take annual leave. If you have any questions concerning photographic support during this period of closure please contact.

Mike Bonnell at 353-7037.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Armed Services YMCA is hosting the 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament July 29 at the Chena Bend Golf Course starting at 8 a.m. It will be a shotgun start and prizes will be given for holes-in-one, men's and women's longest drive and team prizes for 1st through 3rd. Entry fee is \$500 per 4 person team and all proceeds help fund ASYMCA programs in assisting local military personnel and Families.

For more information, call 353-5962.

BATTLE OF THE BACKYARD BBQ

Fort Wainwright's second annual Battle of the Backyard BBQ has room for a few good chefs for the sauce-making and meat grilling competition at the Birch Hill ski lodge. The barbecue competition begins 6:30 a.m., July 16, followed by the Battle of the Bands with more than a dozen competitors. The all-ages event is open to the public. The bands begin battling at 4 p.m.

See story on page 3.

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