

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors



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Engineers receive civilian Purple Hearts in Kabul

Paul Giblin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox presented U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian employees John J. Keys, of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Jacob A. West, of Fayetteville, N.C., Defense of Freedom medals, which recognize civilians who are killed or wounded during conflict, March 31.

The medal is the civilian equivalent of the Purple Heart.

Keys, 52, and West, 30, who are civil engineers, were injured during a bomb blast that killed two military personnel in the village of Yahya Khel in the eastern region of the country on Oct. 19, 2011.

At the time, the men were inspecting a two-lane gravel road through the village center. As they stepped from a raised portion of the road toward a culvert that channeled water under the road, an insurgent triggered an 80-pound improvised explosive device.

Keys and West were both standing just feet from the blast center and were thrown several yards and knocked unconscious by the explosion. The two military personnel were killed instantly. Keys and West were treated for concussions and shrapnel wounds and still suffer from headaches and ringing in their ears. Both, however, remained on the job after the attack, and

later were promoted to supervisory positions at the Corps of Engineers' district headquarters for northern Afghanistan.

"People don't want these awards," Cox said while presenting the medals at the Qalaa House compound in front of about 300 civilian employees and military members.

"You shouldn't go out there seeking something that identifies you as either being shot or blown up. It's not a nice thing to have, but it's important to recognize these two gentlemen for their service," the general said.

Keys and West both said they accepted the medals in honor of the two men who were slain that day - Navy Chief Petty Officer Raymond J. Border, 31, of West Lafayette, Ohio, and Army Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira, 33, of Newark, N.J. The four men had worked together at the same base for months.

The Corps of Engineers is the leading agency rebuilding critical infrastructure in Afghanistan after three decades of war. Much of the agency's work is focused on building police stations and military facilities for Afghanistan forces.

Keys and West, though, are involved with the Provincial Reconstruction Team program that assigns individual engineers and construction representatives to coalition military compounds



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, commander of the Transatlantic Division, presents the medal to John Keys, 52, from Fairbanks with the Defense of Freedom Medal March 31 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The medal is equivalent to the Purple Heart for civilians who are killed or wounded in the line of duty. Jacob West, 30, from Fayetteville, N.C., both of whom were injured when an improvised explosive device detonated while conducting a combined mounted and dismounted road improvement survey near Paktika province, injuring both and killing two U.S. service members, Navy Chief Petty Officer Raymond J. Border, 31, of West Lafayette, Ohio, and Army Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveria, 33, of Newark, N.J. while serving on a Providential Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. The medal symbolizes the extraordinary fidelity and essential service of the department's civilian workforce who are an integral part of Department of Defense and who contribute to the preservation of national security. (Photo by Mark Rankin/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

in the rural regions of the country.

Provincial Reconstruction Team members develop smaller projects, such as roads, bridges and schools, which are built at the request of local Afghan officials. The projects are intended to

bolster economic and humanitarian conditions for Afghan nationals.

On Oct. 19, Keys, West and the others were assessing a roughly two-mile section of road from the village of Gheybi Khel to Yahya Khel, which are about 60 miles south of

the capital city of Kabul, in Paktika Province near the Pakistan border. Village leaders asked coalition forces to resurface the road with cobblestone to reduce dust and mud.

The group had traveled from Forward Operating Base Sharana in a

convoy of heavy military rigs called Mine Resistant Armor Protected carriers, or in military jargon, MRAPs. The tan-colored vehicles have V-shaped hulls that are designed to

See **PURPLE HEARTS** on page 4



Sgt. Alaina Lewis, a communications noncommissioned officer with Task Force Arctic Wolves, carries one of her bags out to the helicopter landing zone in preparation for her redeployment from Forward Operating Base Masum Ghar, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, back home to Fort Wainwright. March 30, 2012. (Photo by Maj. David Mattox/1-25th SBCT PAO)

Homecoming: Soldiers talk about what they're looking forward to

Sgt. Michael Blalack, 1-25th SBCT PAO

Task Force Arctic Wolves are wrapping up a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and the thoughts of the Soldiers who have spent a year away from family, friends and the comforts that most take for granted, turn toward home and the process of readjusting to normal life.

Rejoining family is the principal thought on most Soldiers' minds as they pack their gear, reflect on how the deployment has been for them and say goodbye to Afghanistan.

"It's been a long year away from my wife," said Sgt. Ryan Fuller, an

infantryman with the 1-25th SCBT Tactical Assault Command. "That's all I'm really looking forward to, is spending time with her."

Staff Sgt. Shuntanna Armstrong, the brigade information assurance noncommissioned officer, also has family in mind. "I've got to get back to my baby girl. I've been gone too long and I've missed her."

After a year in the strictly controlled environment of a forward operating base, things as simple as wearing jeans, lying in the sun or just driving are things to look forward to.

"I just want to get in my car and

See **HOMECOMING** on page 2

What may be considered trash could possibly be treasure

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

As Soldiers return to Fort Wainwright, Families will be on the move. Some are leaving, others will be coming in and some will just decide just to move on up - get rid of the old; bring on the new. Whatever it is, it will usually generate trash. While there will be items that are unwanted, ditched, discarded or destroyed, there are often things that can be reused or recycled, which in turn reduces waste.

As we move into spring and prepare to celebrate Earth Day, discussions center on sustainable products, sustainable people and sustainable resources. For the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska, sustainability is the 50-meter target. It is something they focus on every day. "Our mission is to help Sgt. and below," said Rachel Oldfield, program manager. "When some

See **TREASURE** on page 2

EXTENDED WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



Mostly cloudy
Light winds
Highs 40 to 50
Lows near 25

Saturday



Partly cloudy
Highs near 45
Lows near 25

Sunday



Partly cloudy
Highs 40 to 50
Lows near 30

Forecast courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

BRIEF

Earth Day Event

Fort Wainwright's annual Earth Day event is set for April 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Physical Fitness Center. The 2012 theme asks, "If not you, who? If not now, when?" For assistance answering those questions, contact Andy McDonough, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, 353-9746. Find more information at www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Wainwright-Earth-Day/307814042623266.



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SN/ BIRCHWOOD HOMES

Medical Department Activity - Alaska

Help in welcoming home

On behalf of everyone at Medical Department Activity-Alaska I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home all the Soldiers who have and will be redeploying over the next few weeks. This is a time of celebration, reintegration and adjustment for everyone here at Fort Wainwright.

While redeployment is an exciting time for Soldiers and Families, it can also be overwhelming for adults and children alike. Knowing what to expect and how to deal with changes can make homecoming more enjoyable

and less stressful.

Soldiers will find that their children have grown and may be different in many ways. Spouses at home may have become more independent and learned new coping skills. Face-to-face communication between Family members may be awkward at first. You may notice that children regress to an earlier stage of development or act out at home or school. Soldiers might even miss the deployment for a while. While all of these changes are normal and most resolve on their own, at times Soldiers and Families need a little extra help in regaining

their balance.

If you or someone you know is having difficulty with reintegration, the Child and Family Assistance Center can help. Our CAFAC staff includes three social workers, a psychologist, a marriage and family therapist, a licensed professional counselor and an outstanding administrative support staff.

We offer individual counseling, marital and family counseling, initial evaluations for behavioral problems, parenting education, and coordination of care with your child's teachers, primary care providers, and other key personnel as needed.

In addition to traditional counseling support services we have a provider who is trained in 'therapy,' which seeks to improve a child's behavior and emotional state by strengthening the parent-child relationship. This is especially helpful for bonding and attachment issues which may occur after deployment. Also on staff is a certified Scream-free Parenting educator. Scream-free Parenting helps parents learn to calm their emotional reactions in the context of their parenting style. This class can be taught for individuals or in a group setting.

The center sees adult Family members and children and requires no referral. Because our program caters exclusively to Family members and children, there will be no interruption in services as our Soldiers return from deployment. Please note that the CAFAC will see active-duty service members along with their spouses for marital counseling or with their spouses and children for family counseling.

The CAFAC is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. including training holidays, and is located in Building 4066 602nd



Col. George Appenzeller
MEDDAC-AK commander

Street. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 361-6284 or 361-6059. Keeping military Families strong is the CAFAC mission.

Thank you again to all our returning service members and welcome home.

Homecoming: Fun, family, responsibility

Continued from page 1

drive instead of walking everywhere," said Sgt. Alaina Lewis, communications NCO with the brigade.

"Probably the first thing I'm going to do is hit the gym," said Spc. Joshua O'Quinn, an infantryman with assault command, "I've got to keep up the workout routine I've had for the deployment, but, then McDonald's... Definitely McDonald's... Just because I can. And after that I've got a hunting trip planned."

Enjoying the plethora of outdoor activities Alaska is known for is high on several Soldiers' to-do list.

"I'm really looking forward to doing some fishing and hunting," said Staff Sgt. Charles Marsh, assistant operations NCO at FOB Masum Ghar's Base Defense Operations Center. "Getting on a four-wheeler or out on a boat, that's what I'll be doing."

At an awards ceremony at FOB Masum Ghar, Col. Todd Wood, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, cautioned Soldiers to continue to be safe

and responsible during redeployment and reintegration; to look out for each other. "You've spent the last year being there for your buddies, and they've been there for you; that doesn't stop when you get home."

Over the course of the deployment, the 1-25th SBCT has turned what was one of the most hostile and volatile areas in Afghanistan into a more secure and stable environment that is preparing to transition security operations to the Afghan Army and Police forces.

"It's been a deployment. They're all pretty much the same," said Sgt. Corey Buffington, an infantryman with the assault command. "I've made a lot of good friends this deployment, though; more than the last one. I'm ready to go home. I'm going to get there just in time for my daughter's first birthday."

Sgt. Scott Larson, an operations NCO, is a little more pragmatic. "I'm going to buy a truck, and then get back to work. No real parties or celebrations planned. I'm just going to get back to work, it's what I do."



Staff Sgt. Shuntanna Armstrong, the information assurance noncommissioned officer with Task Force Arctic Wolves, works in the server room of Forward Operating Base Lagman in Zabul province, Afghanistan. (Courtesy Photo)

Cut your healthcare clutter, go online

Brian P. Smith,
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

When you go to the doctor, do you sit by the mailbox, waiting for your claims statement to come in? Or do the envelopes and statements just pile up?

Cut your clutter and get access to your Tricare healthcare information quickly when you register for a secure TriWest.com account and sign up for paperless Explanation of Benefits statements, referral and authorization letters and fee statements.

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"Go Green" with TriWest - easy access. Manage your health care online anytime, from anywhere in the world.

- Convenient - quick and easily; find all your information in one safe, secure place. Get emails when new information is posted to your account.
- Secure - go paperless and don't worry about shredding, filing or losing your statements again.
- Simple - TriWest archives and organizes up to three years of information for you (30 days available on the mobile site), making it easy to find what you need, when you need it.
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For more information on the benefits of being a registered user—like Quick-Alert email and text—visit TriWest.com/Paperless and find out more about the benefits of "Going Green" when you register today.

Celebrate diversity

Linda Douglass, Fort Wainwright PAO

From its earliest days, America has been peopled by immigrants, starting with those who crossed the land bridge into what is now North America, to the great waves of Europeans for religious or economic reasons.

The first wave of mass migration was between 1820 and 1880, when about 15 million people came over from Europe.

The next major wave of emigration was the late 18th to the early 19th century, which brought about 25 million people.

When I was in elementary school we were taught that America is "the melting pot of the world." Our teachers explained this meant Americans came from a number of ethnic backgrounds that came together to create new customs and traditions.

In many other countries around the world, customs and traditions remain relatively untouched. Germany, Italy, France, England, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Asia and Africa, for example, all still practice many of the same traditions - religious, patriotic and epicurean - that they did centuries ago.

They celebrate Saints' Days with parades and icons. They eat the same foods their ancestors ate, prepared the same way. In addition to worldwide observances, like Christmas or Passover, they observe holidays specific to their countries or regions.

We Americans do that as well, with our own holidays like July Fourth or Thanksgiving. We have also, as a result of our diversity, added some of the same holidays and traditions celebrated in other areas.

We see Irish-Americans celebrating St. Patrick's Day with parades and shamrocks. We see German-Americans eating pork and sauerkraut on New Year's Day for good luck, or Chinese-Americans celebrating their new year with parades featuring large dragons.

The customs are time-honored and are important to the people who practice them, as they are a means of maintaining identity and family traditions.

Many ethnic groups settled in the same areas of cities when they immigrated to America. We still see large neighborhoods like Little Italy in New York or Chinatown in San Francisco and New York. We still have a large German population in Lancaster

County, Penn.

But we also have neighborhoods all over the country with no ethnic identity, because the various groups have all melded in one diverse area.

It is this diversity that makes America what it is today - a country of people with numerous differences who work and play together. It is those differences that make others interesting.

I've learned to cook bulgogi; to dance a South-Pacific dance; to say hello, goodbye and thank you in Russian. I've tried foods from many countries because my friends and acquaintances brought them to potluck dinners. (Some of them I'll never eat again, others are among my frequently used recipes.) I've worked side-by-side with Amish kids to earn summer spending money and I've gone fishing with Taiwanese baseball players who did not speak English. (We all got along fine with sign language.)

I believe it's these differences that make my life fuller. Learning something new and enjoying sharing my background and my culture with others makes me want more.

Unfortunately, today we live in a world of suspicion and distrust. We are wary of those who are "different" from us, and sometimes afraid of them and their customs. Since 9/11, we've stopped exploring the differences and we've become distant toward people we don't know well.

It's time to change that and once again celebrate the differences, to learn something new from another part of the world or from another culture or another religion. It's time to realize that people, for the most part, regardless of where they're from or what they believe, are no different from us. They want to raise their families in peace, they want to get along with their neighbors and they want to share their friendship.

Soldiers, Family members and civilians on Fort Wainwright encounter people every day who espouse a wide variety of ethnic, cultural, regional and religious traits.

April is Celebrate Diversity Month. Go out and share some of your customs and traditions with someone from a different background. You'll both come out winners.

ALASKA POST

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Treasure: ASYMCA of Alaska promotes sustainability

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of our Soldiers and Families are simply stretched financially, we are there to help them out.”

ASYMCA on Fort Wainwright does a number of things to meet their mission. One of them is the food pantry located at the office in Building 1047. “It is for Families who may be having some trouble buying groceries. They just come to the office and get what they need – no questions asked,” Oldfield said. The only thing they do ask is that the military member sits down with a financial counselor at Army Community Service, “so they don’t get dependent on the program.” The idea is to help get to the next paycheck by supplying diapers, baby formula and canned food items. “We are there to help take the stress off Families.” Many of the items in the food pantry are donated by people who no longer need diapers and baby formula or are leaving the installation and don’t want to take the extra canned food items with them. Oldfield said they will also accept unopened cleaning products as well as unused toiletries.

Like the food pantry, another program promoting sustainability is the Thrift Store located in Building 1031. They carry a variety of items from furniture and household goods to clothing and toys. “Furniture and clothing is expensive. Kids outgrow things and Families just can’t afford to always buy new ones,” said Oldfield. “Especially when someone happens to move here during the winter, they come from some place warm and all they have are sandals and shorts. We have the resources to help them out.” She also said there are often times when Families arrive before their household goods and need furniture. “We have those things at a reasonable price to help people feel at home and reduce that financial burden.” They also give toys away at the Thrift Store – another item kids outgrow that often end up in a heap.

With Soldiers returning there are various parties, military balls and special events that require formal wear. “These functions are often required and buying a nice dress or suit can be another mon-



The Armed Services YMCA operates the Thrift Store located in Building 1031, call 356-1211 for information. (File photo)

etary drain on the Family. For them, we have the After 5 Boutique with articles for loan,” Oldfield said. It is available to anyone with a DoD ID card, but is also one of the areas where the ASYMCA is lacking. Anyone who has a dress they’ll never wear again, a tuxedo, dress shirts, ties or formal-wear accessories is encouraged to recycle those items, rather than throw them out or let them sit in the closet.

Y-on-Wheels is another program that promotes sustainability and helps with the reduction of automobile exhaust emissions. Oldfield said, “We offer rides to and from anywhere on post, door-to-door, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., for a dollar. This helps Soldiers and Family members save fuel, is less wear and tear on their personal

vehicles, encourages carpooling and hopefully helps alleviate some traffic congestion issues.”

ASYMCA will be one of the many exhibitors at the Fort Wainwright Earth Day celebration April 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Physical Fitness Center. Fliers and information about their programs will be available and Oldfield said they will accept food items and clothing throughout the day. “The Thrift Store will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day for anyone with larger objects.” She will also accept the bits and pieces that will fit in the mini-van.

The ASYMCA works to improve the

quality of life for active military, Family members, retirees and veterans. They are sustainable through grant funding and private donors, which Oldfield hopes will continue to grow. “We are careful not to overcharge for items at the Thrift Store,” she said, “We only hope it helps us maintain it and the other programs we provide. Our goal is to make it a sustainable part of the community and put back, whatever it brings in.”

For more information on ASYMCA programs and opportunities visit www.asymcaofalaska.com or call 353-5962.

For information on the Earth Day celebration, call Andy McDonough at 353-9746.

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AFC/OPEN ROAD FILMS
AK POST-/LOCKOUT-
3 x 10.5

21393877
CARLSON CENTER
AK POST/OUTDOOR SHOW
3 x 11.0

Purple Hearts: Civilians recognized

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deflect blasts from bombs hidden in roads.

At the first village, Keys, West and Border, who served as a construction representative, and an Afghan interpreter named Zia, exited the rigs and walked along the center of the road the rest of the way. They took notes, photographs and videotape to document the road conditions.

They were escorted by Oliveira and other well-armed military personnel on a security detail. The security personnel positioned themselves mostly to the edges, walking ahead, behind and to the sides of the unarmed civilians, constantly checking alleys, doorways, rooftops and other spaces where insurgents could hide.

The convoy of slow-moving 14-ton MRAPs and a couple of Afghan police pick-up trucks kept pace.

Everyone in the group wore combat gear – helmets, flak jackets, fire-retardant uniforms and gloves, boots, ballistic glasses and personal first-aid kits. The military personnel were prepared for action; they carried assault rifles, grenade launchers, pistols and communication equipment.

The engineers were focused on their assignment. “We were looking at all the drainage features and what it would require to make it a proper cobblestone road,” Keys said.

The group passed about a dozen three-foot-deep craters left by previously detonated improvised explosive devices, but the group followed a mine-detecting vehicle that had not identified any unexploded IEDs.

The road was lined by an open trench along one edge, and was bordered on both sides by tall mud and brick walls that border family compounds, which are commonplace in Afghanistan.

At noon on a sunny day when the temperature reached about 90 degrees, the group reached the end of the inspection. It was about two hours after the road tour started. A few of the trucks turned around within the narrow space.

A group of five men – Keys, West, Border, Oliveira and the interpreter – paused in the road to assess a culvert that channeled a murky

creek under the road. Keys snapped a few photos of the downstream side of the creek to the south. A trickle of water ran along the bottom of a 15-foot-deep gully. An orange cat crept under a drippy pipe protruding from the side of the gorge.

Then Keys snapped a photo of two craters in the road near where they stood.

was a few steps behind Keys, walking slower as he shot video, dictating his observations as he went.

Keys looked to West and the interpreter. “I remember turning and then – it’s hard to describe – it was just pain. I remember turning and this bad pain,” Keys said.

West, who was still shooting video, panned

right eardrum was blown out and a kidney was lacerated from the shock wave.

When he could, he called out for West by his nickname. “I yelled for Jake and I yelled for Chief,” he said. “I yelled for Jake and he didn’t answer right away, so I yelled for him again. Finally, he answered.”

West’s memory of that time period is nearly en-

about 100 yards away.

West’s first somewhat clear memory was sitting in the back of the MRAP, peering through a small window, watching Keys outside.

“He immediately went back to the site – unarmed – and helped the security forces team search for and recover our fallen Soldiers,” West said. “He did all that without being asked. He did all that on

col for such events.

Keys is serving a 14-month tour and is scheduled to return in June to Alaska, where he works as a civil engineer at Fort Wainwright. He’s the father of two sons – Carson, 17, and Nathan, 15, both of Fairbanks.

He previously served active duty for the Air National Guard for 16 years. He grew up in Port Clinton, Ohio, and earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Toledo in 1988.

West, who began his employment with the Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan, is serving a two-year assignment. He’s scheduled to return to North Carolina in October. He and his wife Lauren moved to the state just months before he deployed.

He grew up in Kansas City, Kan., and earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 2004.

Keys and West both chose to remain in Afghanistan after the bombing and went on similar missions within a week. They have since been promoted to run the entire Provincial Reconstruction Team program, overseeing engineers and construction representatives across northern Afghanistan.

Keys serves as the program director; West serves as the deputy director.

It’s important to note that their promotions were not tied to the explosion, said Col. Christopher W. Martin, who serves as commander of the Corps of Engineers in northern Afghanistan.

“Their selection to run the program is based on their familiarity with the Provincial Reconstruction Team, their familiarity with the program, their overall outstanding exhibition of leadership,” Martin said. “They are two separate, distinct incidents.”

Each medal, which is formally known as the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom, was presented after a thorough review process that lasted months.

“It’s outstanding that we had the opportunity to recognize civilians who were injured on the battlefield, just like Soldiers,” Martin said. “It’s not something you’re awarded; it’s something you’ve earned. No one can approve or disapprove it. If you’ve actually been wounded, you get this medal.”

Both Keys and West said they were honored to receive the medals, but were conflicted as well because they lost two friends that day. They remain committed to the reconstruction mission in Afghanistan.

The Provincial Reconstruction Team program in particular is vital to the cause, West said. “The job that we do – working directly with the military, supporting these operations – is very important to security. There was no way in my mind that I was going to leave these guys,” he said.

Accepting risk while working in a combat environment is a necessary part of the job, Keys said. “It’s a war zone. I didn’t take the IED personally,” he said.



U.S. service members secure the site after an improvised explosive device created a crater as wide as a Mine Resistant Armor Protected carrier in the village of Yahya Khel in eastern Afghanistan on Oct. 19, 2011. Keys, 52, and West, 30, who are civil engineers, were injured during a bomb blast that killed two military personnel in the village of Yahya Khel in the eastern region of the country on Oct. 19, 2011. (Photo by John J. Keys/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Next, Keys, West and the interpreter broke off and walked to the edge of the road to better assess the upstream end of the brick-lined culvert on the north. The interpreter initially walked ahead of Keys.

Keys stopped at the edge of the road, a distance of about 15 feet from where the group of five men had been standing seconds earlier. He snapped a photo of the gorge, which was lined on both sides by dirt alleys and walled compounds. About 450 yards away from the road was another walled compound, mostly parallel to the road.

Unknown and unseen at the time, two men were hiding at that compound, looking back at Keys.

The interpreter doubled back to West, who

back south at the same instant. He never saw the flash.

The road where all five men had been standing seconds earlier erupted like a “volcanic explosion,” according to a statement filed later by Navy Chief Bobby A. Long, who was 60 feet away. “I saw a massive blast of dirt and dust,” he wrote.

Keys was blown off his feet about 20 feet into the gully. West and the interpreter were knocked about the same distance to the edge of the road.

Keys awoke face down in the dirt. He was dazed and couldn’t figure out how he had gotten into the gorge. The air was thick with dust. Debris was still falling. He saw U.S. currency lying on the ground around him.

“It was weird,” he said. “Surreal.”

Still confused, he reached out to grab the closest dollar bill. “Then it popped into my head that this bill might be booby-trapped,” he said. He pulled his hand back and waited until his head cleared a bit.

Keys didn’t realize it at the time, but both his ears were bleeding, his

tirely shot. “I remember the smell. That’s the only thing I do remember. The burning dirt, chemical, plastic. Still today, if I smell that again, I know what that is,” he said.

West vaguely recalls his friend’s voice somehow wafting through the murk in his own head. West was laying face down, with dirt and bits of clothing and equipment still falling around him.

“Are you OK?” Keys called out. “I’m OK,” West responded.

“Where’s Chief?” Keys asked. “I don’t know, man. He’s gone,” West said.

Long, who’s a medic, and the security leader appeared through the dirt fog on the road above Keys.

The medic spotted Keys, asked if he was alright, then moved onto other victims. Keys heard the security leader radio for immediate military assistance. Keys heard him ask someone for ground coordinates, and he heard West, who had a global positioning device on his wrist, call out their precise location.

West remembers none of that.

Keys scrambled up the gully and found West standing, barely conscious, bleeding from his ears, face and hands. The interpreter was still on the ground. Keys led West to the closest MRAP as more military personnel secured the area from further attacks and attended to the interpreter.

With West safely inside the armored vehicle, Keys joined the search for Border and Oliveira. The group found Oliveira’s body in the gully, and Border’s body within the walled compounds, both

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ALASKA FUN CENTER
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April: Time to honor, celebrate and continue care for our military children

Staff report

More than 5,000 people on Fort Wainwright have something in common. Not Army wives, not this bunch. No they're not in the same unit. Hint: If the same demographic decided en masse to stop eating or wearing clothes from any particular business, the impact would be felt almost immediately. If they were given the vote, smart politicians would almost certainly court them. What this force of nature has in common: All are younger than 18, all are Family members. And yes, we're likely to see a few more children around now that so many of our Soldiers have returned – or soon will from the War in Afghanistan. Fort Wainwright proudly boasts more than 5,000 military children in our Army Family.

Now is the time to thank our military children, for they serve and sacrifice too.

Even folks without children can remember what it's like to be a child and empathize on some level with the military children of today.

April is the "Month of the Military Child." This year's theme, developed by the Army Teen Panel, is "Military Kids: Heroes for the Future." More than 1.7 million children have at least one parent serving in the military. An estimated 900,000 children have had one or both parents deployed multiple times over the last 10 years.

Taking a moment to thank military kids for their service, and the sacrifices they've made during 10 years of conflict is a simple way to remind everyone that as resilient as they've proven to be, our military children still need our support, said Lisa Hamlin, Child, Youth and School Services director at the Installation Management Command.

During the month of April, Fort Wainwright will join other U.S. military installations around the world in celebrating the MOMC with events and celebrations designed to recognize the sacrifices military children make and the support they provide to their Soldier-parent(s) and Families.

Fort Wainwright's Month of the Military Child celebration takes place April 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Youth Center gym. "Red, White and Seuss" is the title and theme for a wonderland inspired by Dr. Seuss storybooks. There will be an obstacle course and carnival booth games inspired by Dr. Seuss's story books and each child will receive a free Dr. Seuss book while supplies last. Activities are geared for children 2 and older. For more information, call 353-7713.

If you still haven't found time to visit the new School Age Center, why not drop by during the open house. The SAC will host an annual open house April 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The open house is for parents interested in summer camp for their children, or to get more information on fees and field trips for the upcoming school year. For details, call 361-9051.

The Youth Center is also having an open house April 28 from 2 to 6 p.m. Information about middle school and teen summer camps and trips will be available. For details, call 361-5437.

Nugget Lanes Bowling Center staff invites all military families to enjoy the newly renovated lanes and family-friendly atmosphere by bowling for \$2.50 per game and receive free shoe rental for children in grades K through 12 with Family member's DoD ID, throughout April. Nugget Lanes opens at 11 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more

information, call 353-2654.

While Family and MWR is known for providing childcare, youth activities, special events and family centered programs, military Families may find other help is needed to maintain emotional wellbeing.

"Now that troop strength in combat is being drawn down, there's a tendency to just breathe a sigh of relief and think things will all go back to normal," said Hamlin.

However, many child development and mental health experts believe military children may need support now, more than ever. Many are now dealing with a new reality; often added to their burden is adjustment to a parent who's returned home with severe wounds, post-traumatic stress, or other medical issues.

"In many cases, the simple fact that mom or dad is now home, and the family dynamic has changed, can have a big impact in a child's life," Hamlin said.

Soldiers and spouses can seek assistance at the Child and Family Assistance Center on post. The center offers counseling for military Families including spouses and children. Individual, Family, marriage and group therapy is available, said Brandy Ostanik, spokeswoman for Medical Department Activity-Alaska. Parents may consult the center for instance, if a Family member is experiencing anxiety, marital stress, depression, struggling with deployment issues or difficulty with childrearing. Referrals are not required. The CAFAC (pronounced K-FAC) is located off Gaffney Road at 602nd Street, look for Building 4066. For appointments or more information, call 361-6059.

The Month of the Military Child creates awareness of the service - and sacrifices



Army Strong Family member, Brandon Mitchell, demonstrates his strength at the carnival games during the Military Family Fun Fair on Fort Wainwright last month. Mitchell, 10, is the son of Jeanette and Sgt. 1st Class Jared Mitchell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. For more carnival games, join the Month of the Military Child celebration, a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation event, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Youth Center gym. (Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO)

- of our military's children. It is an opportunity to thank children for their support to our nation's war fighters, and recognize the important role they play in the strength of our nation by contributing to the strength of the Army Family.

The Army recognizes and ap-

preciates the sacrifices our children make daily, and is committed to maintaining excellence in schools, youth services and childcare to support children and their families.

Editor's note: William Bradner, IMCOM Public Affairs contributed to this article.

New way to pay at dining facility



Sgt. Kay Douglas from Medical Department Activity-Alaska, Nutrition Care Division hands Sarita Burgess her debit card to pay for her breakfast at the Bassett Army Community Hospital dining facility. On Wednesday morning the BACH DFAC began accepting debit and credit cards to better serve their customers. (Courtesy photo)

Brandy Ostanik,
Medical Department Activity-Alaska PAO

Sergeant 1st Class James Yarnell, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Nutrition Care Division at Bassett Army Community Hospital is retiring in August and he can do so knowing his vision has come to life. On April 11, after more than a year of legwork by various sections within the organization, the BACH dining facility became the first dining facility on post with the ability to accept credit cards.

Yarnell worked to implement this functionality at his last two assignments but both facilities finalized the process shortly after he transferred, so he never got to see the system in action.

"I believe that accepting credit cards helps us to serve our customers bet-

ter," Yarnell said. They won't need to run to the ATM to pay for their food and the lines should move faster because customers won't be digging for money in their bags or waiting for our cashiers to give them change. This is just a more customer-focused system."

If BACH trends the same way as other Army Medical Command dining facilities that accept credit cards, then sales should increase by 20 percent over the next year.

The BACH DFAC is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch. Between meal times, the dining facility has 'grab-and-go' times available from 1 to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. The monthly menu can be found on the hospital's website at <http://www.alaska.amedd.army.mil/menu/menu.pdf> or on our Facebook page.

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PRO MUSIC
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18395013
JUST HAIRCUTS
ALASKA POST/
COUPON
1 x 4.0

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DOWNTOWN BINGO
AKPOST/
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Friday-13th

BAT APPRECIATION WEEK STORY HOUR AND CRAFTS, 4 to 5 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM CRAFT NIGHT, 6 p.m. Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Open to participants in the EFMP, three and older. Call 353-4243.

OPEN MIC POETRY READING, 6:30 p.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Call 353-5437.

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

Saturday-14th

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 10 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7294.

CHESS CLUB, 3 to 5 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755.

BACK-COUNTRY COOKING CLINIC, 1 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Cost is \$10. Call 361-6349.

TEXAS HOLD'EM, 6 p.m., The Warrior Zone, Building 3205. Open to DoD cardholders 18 and older. Call 353-1087.

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

Sunday-15th

FORT WAINWRIGHT GOSPEL SERVICES, 9:45 a.m., Sunday school, 11 a.m., Worship service, Bassett Army Community Hospital, third floor conference room, Building 4076.

PROTESTANT SERVICES, 10 a.m., Sunday school, 11 a.m., Sunday Protestant worship, Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430.

CATHOLIC SERVICES, 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Southern Lights Chapel, Building 4107.

OPEN ICE SKATING, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

Monday-16th

ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP: ART EXPLORATION, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7372.

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7294.

Tuesday-17th

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

HOUR OF POWER GROUP STRENGTH CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

NATIONAL CHEESE BALL DAY EVENT, 4:30 p.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Call 353-5437.

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

FORT WAINWRIGHT GOSPEL SERVICES BIBLE STUDY, 6:30 p.m., Bassett Army Community Hospital, Medical Library, Building 4076. For more information email ac2.claxton@us.army.mil.

Wednesday-18th

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

BABY AND ME, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Registration is required. Call 353-4137.

BOOT CAMP, 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

SCHOOL AGE CENTER ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE, 6:30 to 8 p.m., School Age Center, Building 4166. Call 361-9051.

Thursday-19th

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

PROTESTANT WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL, 9:30 a.m., Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430. Childcare provided, for more information email wainwright@pwoc.org.

HOUR OF POWER GROUP STRENGTH CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE, Holocaust history observance, an opportunity for reflection from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Open to all community members. For more information call Equal Opportunity, 353-9234.

BOUNCY HUT NIGHT, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755. (Age 4 to 12 with parent).

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7294.

ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP: ART EXPLORATION, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7372.

Friday-20th

EARTH DAY: COMBAT WASTE EVENT, 4 to 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-4137.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM BOWLING, 6 to 7 p.m. Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Open to EFMP participants. Cost is \$2.25 per game, shoes included. Call 353-4243.

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

Saturday-21st

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 10 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

HOMEMADE BABY FOOD CLASS, 10 a.m. to noon, Child Development Center 1, Building 4024. Call 353-7713.

SKATE WITH THE NANOOKS, 1 to 3 p.m., Physical Fitness Center Ice rink, Building 3709. No Cost. Call 353-7713.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7294.

CHESS CLUB, 3 to 5 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755.

LIVE JAZZ, 6 to 8 p.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

NATIONAL HUMOR MONTH YOUTH COMEDY SHOW, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Call 353-5437.

YOUTH TALENT SHOW, 7 p.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Call 353-5437.

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

Sunday-22nd

FORT WAINWRIGHT GOSPEL SERVICES, 9:45 a.m., Sunday school, 11 a.m., Worship service, Bassett Army Community Hospital, Third Floor conference room, Building 4076.

PROTESTANT SERVICES, 10 a.m., Sunday school, 11 a.m., Sunday Protestant worship, Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430.

CATHOLIC SERVICES, 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Southern Lights Chapel, Building 4107.

OPEN ICE SKATING, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

Last-minute tax filers still have options



Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

The deadline to file income tax is Tuesday, but procrastinators or Soldiers returning from deployment don't have to hit the panic button just yet. The Tax Center on post will be open for walk-ins, today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Internal Revenue Service wants to remind taxpayers who haven't filed yet that the IRS Free File is still available. "For taxpayers who find doing their tax returns too taxing, the IRS Free File program provides free software to prepare and e-file your taxes at no cost," said IRS spokesman David Tucker II. "It's easy to get started at www.irs.gov/freefile and get those last minute tax returns filed for free."

Tucker said the Free File does the hard work for the taxpayer. Free File is a partnership between the IRS and leading tax software providers who make their brand-name products available for free. "You don't need to be a tax expert; the software will help find tax breaks for you, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit," he said. The software asks the questions; you supply the answers. It will find the right tax forms and do the math.

Products for Free File must be accessed through www.irs.gov to avoid any charges for preparing or e-filing your federal tax return. Tucker said, "Once you choose a Free File software product, you'll be directed away from the IRS website to the partner's site to prepare, print and e-file your federal return - all for free."

People who make \$57,000 or less can use the Free File software. People who make more can use Free File forms, an electronic version of IRS paper forms.

Those taxpayers who just can't make the Tuesday deadline can also request an extension. "Making the request is easy and free through IRS Free File," said Tucker. Just look for "free extensions" in the company offers. "Remember, this is an extension of time to file your return, not to pay. If you think you owe, you must also make a payment with your extension request."

For more information call the Tax Center at 353-2613 or visit www.irs.gov/freefile.

SOLDIERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING 353-6610 Have a Plan, Call Someone.

12393528
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
AK POST/SCIENCE POTP
2 x 4.0

16396078
CHARCOAL SUPPLY
COMPANY
AP/AP
2 x 4.0

18395015
DEREMER, DOUG
ALASKA POST/
CLOCK RE
1 x 1.0

**Fort Wainwright
PAO website:**
www.wainwright.mil

11394614
LOOSE MOOSE CAFE
AK POST/BUCKS AK PO
2 x 3.0

PURPLE UP

April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor youth impacted by deployment. In celebration, Alaska Operation: Military Kids, invites you to join us for Alaska's first-ever "Purple Up! For Military Kids." We are encouraging everyone across the state of Alaska to wear purple today as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes.

TAX CENTER

It's getting down to the wire to complete the 2011 tax returns. The Tax Center on post will be open for walk-ins, today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information call the Tax Center at 353-2613.

KITCHEN ON A WINNING STREAK

The kitchen renovations are underway and Nugget Lanes will continue to offer burger baskets, chicken strips, hot dogs, pizza and nachos with chili and cheese as renovations continue. Orders may be placed in the lounge. Renovations will continue through the middle of next week. To place an order or for more information, call 353-2656.

RESIDENTIAL AND FAMILY SECURITY

You and your family members should practice basic precautions for their personal security and safety. Familiarize your family with the local terrorist threat and regularly review protective measures and techniques that you use for the current threat. Ensure that everyone in the family knows what to do in an emergency situation: severe weather warnings, earthquakes, fires, flooding. More information at www.ready.army.mil.

EARTH DAY

The installation's annual Earth Day event, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Physical Fitness Center. The 2012 theme asks, "If not you, who? If not now, when?" For assistance answering those questions, contact Andy McDonough, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, 353-9746.

ID CARD OFFICE

The hours of operation for the military and Department of Defense ID Card office are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are required for all cards through May 1. For information call 353-2195 or 353-3615. Online at rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil.

MILITARY CHILD, FAMILY THERAPY

Family members of active and retired military can consult the Child and Family Assistance Center for assistance with youth and Family issues. Individual and group therapy is available. Referrals are not required. For more information or an appointment, call 361-6284 or 361-6059.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

The Army Emergency Relief annual fundraising campaign is underway. Soldiers interested in donating to AER should contact AER campaign coordinator, 1st Sgt. Tornald Hall at 353-7617. Soldiers, retirees and their family members who find themselves in an emergency situation can visit Army Community Service and pick an application or call for information. The AER office is located with Army Community Service in the Welcome Center, Building 3401 Santiago Avenue. For more information about the AER program, call 353-7453.

ARMY LEADERS SEEK OPINIONS

Take a short, 10-question survey about the Military Family Life Consultant program if you've used counseling or other MFLC services, Army leaders would like to know if you've benefitted from the program. The survey link will be www.surveymonkey.com/s/NQKQPX3.

LIBRARY HOURS CHANGE

The Post Library has new hours of operation. The library is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the Community Recreation Division, 353-7691.

WANTED: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command commonly known as CID, is currently seeking qualified applicants to become highly-trained criminal investigators. Special agents are responsible for investigating felony-level crime of Army interest, conducting protective-service operations, and working with other Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to solve crime and combat terrorism. To qualify, applicants must be U.S. citizens, be at least 21-years-old with at least two years of military experience but not more than 10, have no record of mental or emotional disorders and no record of unsatisfactory credit. Applicants must be able to speak and write clearly, have two years of college or at least 60 semester credit hours (fewer credits may be accepted if applicant meets remaining prerequisites), maximum grade of E-5 sergeant (non-promotable), be able to complete 60 months of service obligation upon completion of the Apprentice Special Agent Course. Soldiers with civilian or military law-enforcement experience are preferred, but it is not a requirement. To apply or for more information visit www.cid.army.mil or contact the Fort Wainwright CID office at 353-6213.

BENEFITS TRAINING

Free Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees Retirement System Benefits Training presented by Snow Federal Seminars and Chartered Federal Employee Benefits Consultants.

This informational, hands-on, no-cost seminar is to help understand government benefits and learn how to become financially ready to retire. For all members of the CSRS, FERS, Firefighters, Air Traffic Control, Law Enforcement Officers and federal employees and spouses are welcome. Class is set for Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Fairbanks, Wesmark Hotel, 813 Noble Street. Register online: <http://snowseminars.com/register/FortWainwright/897>.

For more information about seminars, please visit www.snowseminars.com.

CIVILIAN CLEARING

All employees terminating employment with the Department of the Army must clear post. Clearing or out-processing is required to ensure final pay is correct. For more information on clearing, contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at 353-7208.

WEIGH TO STAY

Active duty weight-control classes are offered at 8 a.m., the first Wednesday of every month at the Bassett Army Community Hospital, third floor conference room. For information call 361-5146.

VETERAN WEIGHT-MANAGEMENT

A weight-management program for veterans, VA MOVE, is offered the first Thursday of every month with the Veterans Administration Clinic. Call 361-6370 ext. 1 for more information or go online at www.move.va.gov.

FOR YOUR HEALTH CLASSES

Arctic Health Link offers monthly classes on diabetes, cholesterol, hypertension and tobacco cessation. For more information or to sign up for a class, call 361-4148.

PRE-RETIREMENT BRIEFING

A monthly summary of retirement benefits for those who are one to two years from retirement, presented by Carlos Garcia, retirement services officer. To schedule Survivor Benefit Plan or SBP counseling and to register for the pre-retirement briefing call 353-2099.

ALASKA POST SUBMISSIONS

To submit a photo, 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 459-7548.

ALASKA POST HOME DELIVERY

Housing residents who no longer want home delivery of the Alaska Post should e-mail the Public Affairs Office at pao.fwa@us.Army.mil or call 353-6780.

DRINKING? DON'T DRIVE

The purpose of the Soldiers Against Drunk Driving program - to prevent Soldiers from drinking and driving. Soldiers who have had at least two drinks run the risk of getting a DUI and should call a friend, taxi or SADD volunteer to drive them home. Soldiers can call SADD at 353-6610. Pick-up hours are 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and training holidays. Volunteers in the SADD program can be Soldiers, DoD cardholders or spouses. Civilian attire is authorized for Soldiers during volunteer times and a Transportation Motor Pool vehicle is available. Soldiers participating in the program qualify for day passes after accumulating volunteer hours: A three-day pass for 50 hours, a four-day pass after 80 hours and a four-day pass plus eligibility to be awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, worth 10 points toward promotion which helps with staff sergeant and sergeant first class selection after completing 150 hours of volunteer service. To volunteer call (573) 680-6085 or (805) 878-4971.

ARMY DISASTER PERSONNEL ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System is the Army's personnel accountability tool used in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. This web-based system is found at <https://adpaas.army.mil/> to account for active duty, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Department of Defense civilians, NAF employees, overseas DoD contractors (to include Hawaii and Alaska) and family members.

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

Remember what it was like when you moved for the very first time? Remember all the questions you had and the answers you didn't get? Be a sponsor and help another Family relocating to Alaska. Classes are offered through unit requests. For more information call 353-4227 or 353-7908.

NORTH POLE OPERATION TRANSPORTATION

Operation Transportation gives North Pole High School students the opportunity to use the newly renovated Youth Center on Friday afternoons without having to find their own way to Fort Wainwright. Students can take a bus from NPHS to the transit center in Fairbanks where they pick up a Youth Center bus to go to Fort Wainwright. The MAC bus costs 75 cents. Note that the transportation is only one way and students must find their own way home when the center closes at 9 p.m. For more information call 361-5437.

AUTO RESCUE OR SELF-HELP

Whether locked out or the vehicle needs towing, the Automotive Skills Center is at your service 24-hours a day. For towing and lock-out service, call 590-1716. For assistance with do-it-yourself auto care and winterization, drop by or call 353-7436.

NEWS TIP LINE

Alaska Post feedback: 353-6779

BRIEF**Workforce Reshaping Update**

The Garrison Placement Program is for Installation Management Command civilian employees. Internal announcements for vacancies will open for five days starting Monday for Fort Wainwright employees and April 19 for Fort Richardson Army Support Activity employees. The Workforce Portal Q & As, vacancy announcements and supporting documents are hosted on the secure server linked from www.wainwright.army.mil.

18395010
PURE ESSENTIALS DAY
SPA
ALASKA POST/YENSID
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NORTH STAR DANCE
AK POST/SPRING GALA
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BABULA, DR.
AK POST/AK POST
2 x 3.0

50394852
STANLEY NISSAN
ALASKA POST/BUY SMAR
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