



INSIDE

SECTION ALPHA

- CG is Maj. General
- D6 gives AFAP update
- Heroe's Tree dedicated
- Mobility a daunting task
- Commander's column
- MEDDAC Q & A
- 'Stop Loss' extended
- AFAP update continued
- Smoke alarms save
- News on student loans
- 6-17th begins mission
- Tax Center serves big

SECTION BRAVO

- Boys and Girls Club
- Snow White
- Local artist contributes
- Wainwright actors
- Paralympic athlete visits
- Community calendar
- For your information
- Female aviators

AT A GLANCE

MIRROR, MIRROR



Allison Lingley played the Magic Mirror in the CYSS and Missoula Children's Theatre adaption of the fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." To read more about the play see pages 5 and 6.

ONLINE

FACEBOOK

FortWainwrightPao

TWITTER

twitter.com/PAOFWA

USARAK

usarak.army.mil

FLICKR

flickr.com/usarak

flickr.com/fortwainwright

ARMY NEWS

army.mil

ARMY SERVICES

myarmyonesource.com

DEFENSE VIDEO

dvidshub.net

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday

Mostly sunny.
Low 8 High 30

Saturday

Mostly sunny.
Low 6 High 33

Sunday

Mostly sunny.
Low 8 High 30

Unrestricted visibility
NE winds 5 -10 mph

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

USARAK commander earns second star

Staff report, USARAK PAO

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – U.S. Army Alaska's commanding general earned his second star in a ceremony March 18.

Admiral Eric T. Olson, commander of U. S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., conducted the ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Raymond P. Palumbo, who was a brigadier general when he assumed command of U.S. Army Alaska in July 2010, credited his family, fellow service members and mentors for his success.

"A smart man once said we're probably all just the average of the five people we hang around with the most, and I'd like to think that's true," Palumbo said. "There are so many people that have influenced me, from the time I was a little guy, until today. I'm the average of all of that."

The general is a 1981 graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. He has a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University, a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U. S. Army War College and is a graduate of the British High Command and Staff College.

He has commanded at the company, battalion, and brigade levels and served in numerous aviation and special operations assignments. Prior to his arrival in Alaska he served at Fort Bragg, N. C. as the assistant commanding general of the Joint Special Operations Command and then as the deputy commanding general of U. S. Army Special Operations Command.

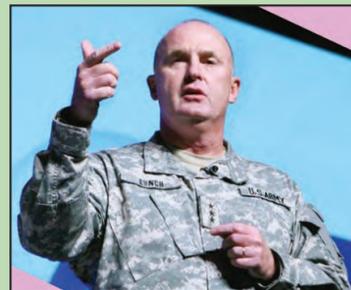


Commander of U. S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Admiral Eric T. Olson, passes the two-star flag to newly promoted Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, U.S. Army Alaska commander, as USARAK Command Sgt. Major David Turnbull looks on in a March 18 promotion ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt/U.S. Army Alaska PAO)



Isabella, 2, with help from her mother, Yadixa Alvarez places a handmade ornament of her hero father Hugo Alvarez on "Our Heroes Tree" located at the Fort Wainwright Library. Pvt. Hugo Alvarez is a member of the 539th Transportation Company, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade which is currently on a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

See more photos of "Our Heroes Tree" on Page 4



D6 AFAP update

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch,
Installation Management Command

The 27th Annual Army Family Action Plan Conference identifies 16 new quality-of-life issues

Earlier this month, I discussed the progress we made resolving 17 of 40 quality-of-life issues at the AFAP General Officer Steering Committee held in February. During the same week, AFAP delegates representing Army garrisons and commands worldwide met in our nation's capital to review and prioritize 88 quality-of-life issues that had been identified throughout the year at midlevel AFAP conferences across the Army.

As the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the overseer of the AFAP process, I had the privilege to speak to these delegates and impress upon them the great responsibility of identifying the most critical issues for the Army to work. Delegates were comprised of Soldiers, Spouses, DA Civilians, Wounded Warriors and Survivors. Each brought their own ideas, perspectives and experiences to share in the decision making process. The task before them was not an easy one, yet they met the challenge with an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and energy. They reviewed, they discussed and they challenged each other on the issues. At the conclusion of the conference, 16 new quality of life issues were identified and reported out to senior Army leadership.

The top five issues identified to senior Army leaders are:

- ID cards for surviving children with an active duty sponsor that annotate both active duty and Survivor status
- Wounded Warrior caregiver training
- Medically retired servicemembers' eligibility for concurrent receipt of disability pay
- Military Child Development Program fee cap
- Medical retention processing time restrictions for Reserve Component Soldiers.

Please see ISSUES, Page 2

How the Army keeps rolling along

Brian Schlumbohm, Fort Wainwright PAO

The 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division's deployment to is Afghanistan looming, Fort Wainwright Arctic Wolves Soldiers and their families are preparing to meet the challenge.

Preparation began last year for Fort Wainwright's transportation office as they start in on their part of herculean effort to successfully deploy approximately 4,000 Soldiers and their equipment across thousands of miles of land, air and sea from Interior Alaska to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Department of Logistics, Chief of Transportation, David Vanmeter and staff continued to work closely with the 1-25th SBCT, planning this colossal task.

As many Soldiers and military families have come to know, there is much to consider when embarking on a move. Whether it's a permanent change of station or just a few days trip to visit a far-off place, the logistics of getting everything and everyone there and back again can be challenging. Now consider multiplying that chore by thousands.

"It's a long, drawn-out process," Vanmeter said, "and the planning starts months in advance." Last July the process started with meetings between transportation and brigade supply personnel, going over unit Organizational Equipment Lists, the accounts of each unit's possessions and equipment which range from office supplies to Stryker tires. From that, a list is created,

Please see MOBILITY, Page 3



Jeffery Johnson, Department of Logistics transportation technician (right) checks completed paperwork Wednesday. Making sure the Soldiers have all the necessary documentation and they also understand how to prepare their vehicles for the extended storage ahead. Vehicles of single Soldiers are stored at government expense in a climate controlled storage facility in Fairbanks. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

17375774

SN/ BIRCHWOOD HOMES

Commander's column

Col. Timothy A. Jones, Garrison commander

Warfighter readiness begins at home



Deployment is on the minds of most of us here at Fort Wainwright. Approximately 600 of our Soldiers are already deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we are preparing to send roughly 4,000 out within the month.

Most of our garrison agencies are already fully involved in seeing that the deployment activity flows as smoothly as possible and that the Soldiers have all they need.

We are coordinating with the leadership of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division; 16th Combat Aviation Brigade; Detachment C, 125th Finance Battalion; Medical Department Activity-Alaska; Dental Activity-Alaska and other agencies to ensure that health records, finance records, powers of attorney and other paperwork is in order.

The Military Personnel Division will scrutinize records to ensure personnel records are updated.

Our Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security has been working the deployment process, working with Eielson Air Force Base personnel to secure the Joint Mobility Center there for operational support, provide Operations Security briefs to any group, among many other critical tasks.

Employees at the Directorate of Logistics are your supply, transportation, and maintenance people. They are hard at work supplying the deploying units with necessary gear and equipment. They will take care of the storage of household goods and privately owned vehicles for our single Soldiers, and when it's time to deploy, they will coordinate the movement of our Soldiers to the JMC and the aircraft to Afghanistan.

Our deployment support doesn't stop when the last plane has left Alaska. If anything, it picks up the pace then – when our primary focus becomes your families. It is very important to us that deployed Soldiers can do their jobs secure in the knowledge we are taking of their families.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsors special events for families throughout the year and these don't stop when Soldiers deploy. The DFMWR will ensure there are plenty of activities for your families to enjoy.

Child, Youth and School Services with the assistance of the Army Family Covenant is prepared to assist families with deployed Soldiers by offering 16 hours per child of free respite service each month. These hours can be used with the FAME workout program, Parent's Day Out and Parent's Night Out activities, and through hourly care offered at CDC2, SAS and FCC homes. Families will also be eligible for \$300 per deployment in free SKIES classes and \$100 in free SPORTS programming. All families wishing to use these services MUST register with CYSS. Registration is FREE. For more information on registration requirements or deployment benefits please call Parent Central Services at 361-7713.

Army Community Service agencies are ready to help families cope with the stress of deployment. The ACS staff offers counseling and support. Some of the areas they can help include:

- Family Advocacy – Soldiers and families can receive information on healthy life skills, parent education, child-rearing, stress management and relationships. Call them at 353-7317 for more information.

- Financial Readiness – Don't struggle with finances on your own. This office provides budget counseling and personal financial management, and they offer one-on-one financial counseling. For more information, call 353-7438 or 353-4369.

- Mobilization & Deployment Readiness – They understand the stress of deployment and they offer briefings, FRG support and training and Rear Detachment support. They also have a variety of brochures, pamphlets, DVDs and classes. Call them at 353-4332 or 353-4458.

We will hold a Deployment Fair at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center April 6 from 3 to 6 p.m.

The DFMWR will provide information outlining activities and services available to Soldiers and family members.

The Red Cross, Military Family Life Consultants, Social Work Services and TRICARE representatives will also be on hand to discuss they can help.

Representatives from Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) will coordinate with North Haven Communities to provide an information table on housing.

The Education Center will be there with an information table on their services, and DPTMS will provide information on OPSEC and Ready Army.

So to all our deploying Soldiers: Godspeed. We will take care of your families while you do your jobs. And while you are gone, we will begin preparing for and looking forward to your return.

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.

MEDDAC commander

Col. George Appenzeller, MEDDAC-AK commander



Question: What is the Army doing for brain injuries?

Answer: March is brain injury awareness month, and the first step is to understand what a brain injury is and what causes them.

The most common cause of brain injury in Soldiers are blasts. Blast injuries are injuries that result from the complex pressure wave generated by an explosion. The explosion causes a pressure wave that results in a rapid rise in pressure. The pressure wave primarily injures air-filled organs such as the ear, lungs, and gastrointestinal tract but can also injury organs surrounded by fluid filled cavities (brain and spinal cord). Think about the effect of going up and down on a plane—that is what happens in an instant to air filled organs. The second part is like the hit in a football game that causes a concussion.

Over the last few years our understanding of concussion and traumatic brain injury, also known as TBI, has increased dramatically. With the new research and evidence available, the Department of Defense has implemented an exposure screening program for all service members returning from theater. Exposures to events that carry a risk of TBI will trigger further evaluation by the screening health care provider and possibly yield a referral to a specialist. This will complement the screening program that was established by the Department of Veterans Affairs. DoD and the VA are sharing this important data across the departments to ensure that care providers have all the information they need to diagnose and treat a TBI.

Depending on the severity of the TBI, specialized rehabilitation may be required. This team approach may consist of physical therapists, occupational therapists, neuropsychologists and psychiatrists and is usually led by a primary care manager, or PCM, with special training in TBI management.

For those who require it, brain injury rehabilitation assists in reaching maximum levels of independence. Care strategies are based on the severity of brain injury. The more severe brain injuries may require a variety of approaches to care. Additional factors in dealing with TBI include patient care coordination; provider, patient and family education; and emerging medical technologies that enhance TBI care. Each brain injury and its recovery are different, and the brain has a remarkable way to adjust after injury. It is critical to know the symptoms and to seek treatment before there is a chance for additional, more serious complications to occur.

For more information about TBI, please visit Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury at www.dcoe.health.mil and Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at www.dvbic.org.

Soldiers and Tricare beneficiaries in Alaska may visit www.alaska.amedd.army.mil for helpful links to information and phone numbers. The Medical Department Activity-Alaska staff is always available to assist you with all your medical needs.

Correction

Last week's article titled, "Quit tobacco in her honor," was not by Shari Lopatin, Triwest Healthcare Alliance. The article is part of a series provided by Tricare, "Quit tobacco." Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud is the tobacco counter-marketing program of the U.S. Department of Defense, Tricare and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Officials extend deadline for 'Stop Loss' pay

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 21, 2011 – The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for special retroactive pay as compensation for involuntary extensions of their military service contracts has been extended to April 8, Defense Department officials announced today.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution President Barack Obama signed March 18 that provided funding for government operations through April 8.

The Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military services to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

When the special pay program began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts to reach them and remind them to apply, officials said.

Outreach efforts -- such as using direct mail, social networks and media outlets and engaging military and veteran service organizations -- will continue through April 8, officials added.

To apply for Stop Loss pay or for more information, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to www.defense.gov/stoploss.

ISSUES: Army Family Action Plan resolves quality-of-life issues for Soldiers, families

Continued from Page 1

Currently, there is no way to annotate both dependent Survivor status and active duty status on an identification card. This issue affects dependants of dual military parents when one military parent dies or children of a surviving parent who remarry a servicemember. This may cause undue emotional stress when Survivors must justify their Survivor status in order to qualify for Survivor specific services. The delegates recommend ID cards annotate both dependant survivor status and active duty status to ensure Survivors quickly receive all Survivor services available.

Delegates also recommend providing caregivers of Wounded Warriors formal standardized training on self-care, stress reduction, burnout and prevention of abuse/neglect. Without this training, caregivers may suffer from caregiver fatigue which may ultimately lead to neglect of a Wounded Warrior or damage to the Wounded Warrior and caregivers' relationship. The implementation of formal standardized, face-to-face training for designated caregivers of Wounded Warriors is critical to those who help heal our nation's heroes.

The elimination of the 20-year time in service requirement for medically retired servicemembers to be eligible for concurrent receipt of disability pay (CRDP) was also identified as an issue to be worked this year. The CRDP eliminates the offset between retirement pay and VA disability compensation. Removal of the 20-year restriction would restore the full retirement pay and VA entitlements to the medically retired servicemembers with less than 20 years of active service.

Some military families using Military Child Development Programs pay greater than 25 percent of their total monthly Family income for childcare. The recommendation is to cap program fees at 25 percent of the military Family's total family income.

Lastly, Medical Retention Processing for Reserve Component Soldiers is limited to six months from their date of release from active duty. However, medical conditions resulting from active duty service are not always visible within the first six months of release from active duty. Extending the medical retention processing to five years would allow Reserve Component Soldiers to receive proper medical treatment.

The remaining 11 issues identified by the AFAP delegates are Survivor, Medical, Family Support and Civilian personnel issues. I encourage you to learn more about these new issues by visiting the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/>. In addition, you can follow the progress on all issues that are currently being worked by selecting "Active Issue Search" at the bottom of the page and then search by issue number or keyword. The website also allows you to submit a new issue directly to your garrison or unit AFAP process, and provides AFAP brochures, articles and videos to download. You can also download the "HQDA AFAP Issue Search" application for free on your iPad®, iPhone® and iPod Touch®.

As I have said many times before, our Army will not break because of its Soldiers but it will break because of the stress placed upon our Soldiers and their Families. Never before have we asked so much of our Army Families.

Because of this, the Army will continue to fully fund and staff Army Family programs and keep our promise of providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service. In order to ensure the promise is always kept, we must continue to identify inefficient, redundant or obsolete programs and services so we can redirect those resources to where we truly need them. I challenge each of you to help us in this endeavor. In the near future, I will communicate to you where and how you can help. Moving forward, the AFAP process will not only be the identification of quality-of-life issues, but also the identification of potential offsets to resource those quality-of-life issues.

Support and Defend,
D6

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

EDITORIAL STAFF

Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander
Col. Timothy Jones
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright PAO
Linda Douglass
Command Information Chief
Connie Storch
Editor
Allen Shaw
Staff writers
Trish Muntean
Brian Schlumbohm

The ALASKA POST is authorized by Army Regulation 360-1 and is published by the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Army, and is under exclusive written contract.

Contents of the ALASKA POST are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Garrison Ft. Wainwright Public Affairs Office.

The ALASKA POST welcomes responsible comments from its readers and will publish letters, articles or photos submitted at least one week prior to the next publication. The ALASKA POST reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. All submitted material will become official Army property unless otherwise indicated.

To advertise call (907) 459-7548

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The Editorial office is located on Ft. Wainwright in Building 1047 #1; Mailing address is Public Affairs Office, 1060 Gaffney Road, 5900, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703. Call 353-6700 or 353-6701, or send emails to

pa.o.fwa@us.army.mil

The ALASKA POST – Home of the Arctic Warriors

MOBILITY: Taking the move to another level

Continued from Page 1

comprised of all the necessary items needed while in the field and to successfully accomplish the mission. This is the Unit Deployment List and it is this list that the transportation requirements are derived.

This UDL, Vanmeter said, gives the Transportation Office a "footprint" of the amount of cargo scheduled for shipment, the number of containers, vehicles, weapons, everything that is expected to move. It's the initial phase of the deployment, knowing what is needed to ship but, "there are always changes to the list," Vanmeter said, "technically 60 days prior, the UDL must be signed off and logged for shipment, that's what is supposed to happen." His experience has shown that there are always unexpected add-ins and that the UDL may experience changes, even up until the very day of being loaded.

From loading Strykers on railcars, in the dark, at 30 below at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to tracking their progress across land, sea and air to the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. and beyond. The art and science of transportation involves many people, organizations and an incredible coordination of effort.

Editor's note: In future articles, the Alaska Post will be delivering more parcels of information on just what it takes to mobilize the very best.
Army Strong.



Soldiers attend a briefing Wednesday by Jeffrie Clarke, traffic manager and Jeffery Johnson, transportation technician on how to prepare paperwork for the storing of their personal property and vehicles while they are deployed. Transportation office staff assist Soldiers to ensure they have all the necessary documentation and also that they understand how to prepare their vehicles for long-term storage. Vehicles of single Soldiers are stored at government expense in a climate controlled storage facility in Fairbanks. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Smoke kills, smoke alarms save lives

Sarah Chapman, Fire Prevention Office, Fort Wainwright



(File Photo)

The National Fire Protection Association estimates more than 94 percent of North American homes have at least one smoke alarm. The fact is, a simple smoke detector can prevent many tragedies, cutting your risk of dying in a home fire by nearly half. The catch is, they have to work. Simply owning one is not enough. You must maintain it as well.

Test your smoke alarms at least once a month, this usually involves pressing a "test" button. If your alarm does not respond, change the batteries. If it still does not respond, replace it. Batteries weaken with age and must be regularly replaced. A good rule of thumb is to change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time, or pick a special date like your anniversary or birthday.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning your smoke alarms. Debris and dust can generally be removed by using a vacuum cleaner attachment. Never paint any part of a smoke alarm. Once your smoke alarms are up and running, make sure everyone in the household is familiar with the sound of the alarms.

Both battery operated and hard-wired smoke alarms become less sensitive with age. The entire smoke alarm should be replaced every eight to

ten years. It is a good idea to write the date of purchase with a marker on the inside of your alarm so you will know when to replace it. Some of the newer alarms already have the purchase date written inside. In any event, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacement.

Do not disable your smoke alarm if it alarms due to cooking or other non-fire causes. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm after cooking. Instead clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place. Never disable an alarm by "borrowing" its batteries for another use.

Consider this fact: There are more homes with smoke alarms that don't work, than homes without any alarms. These poorly maintained units create a false sense of security for residents. By investing just a few minutes a month in your smoke detectors, you can reduce your risk of becoming one of the unthinkable statistics. Contact your local fire department on a non-emergency phone number if you need help or have questions about fire safety in your home.

For more information call the fire prevention office at 353-9140.

Big news for service members with student loans: Interest reductions, refunds may be retroactive

Jim Wherry, Chief of Legal Assistance, Fort Wainwright

The Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act permits service members entering active duty to reduce the interest rate on all loans and all debts entered into, before the service member went on active duty. The one exception has been debts for student loans. Now, that has changed for many student loans, and service members are now eligible to demand the lender reduce the interest rate on many student loans to 6 percent.

A little-noticed provision in the law has apparently eliminated the single exception. In August of 2008, Congress passed the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315, Aug. 14, 2008). The change made the 6 percent limit applicable to all federally-insured student loans.

Student loans before the service member went on active-duty. The student loan debt must have been incurred, before the service member went on active duty: if the service member took out a student loan and then went on active duty, he or she can demand that the lender reduce the interest to 6 percent. If the interest rate is lowered, the payments would also be reduced. Of course, if the service member went on active duty and then took out a student loan, the interest for that loan cannot be reduced and the service member would pay whatever the contract rate of interest is. The reduction in interest continues until the service member is no longer on active duty.

Consolidations. If a service member

consolidated student loan debts, after going on active duty, the debts may be considered "post-service debts." That means the interest rate may not be lowered. Consult with an attorney, before consolidating loans, or call the consolidator to determine what interest rate they will charge.

Federally-insured student loans. The new law applies to all student loans insured by the Federal government. Most student loans are federally-insured, but service members should check with the lender, or review the original loan documents. Some student loans with private banks are not insured, at all or are insured by state governments, and these would not be eligible.

Co-signors and guarantors. If someone else has co-signed for the service member's debt, the co-signor is also protected and will not have to make up the difference, or pay the higher interest rate. If the debt is in the name of the service member and the service member's spouse, jointly, the spouse is also protected and receives the benefit of the reduction in interest rates. (Unfortunately, student loan debts that are just in the name of the service member's spouse are unaffected by the Servicemembers'

Civil Relief Act, and there is no reduction in interest for these debts.)

When can a service member ask for the reduction?

Under Section 527 of the SCRA, a service member has up to 180 days after he or she has been released from active duty to request the reduction in interest under the SCRA. At that point, the lender must go back and calculate the interest from the date that the service member first received military orders calling them to active duty. Then, the lender must reduce the interest by the amount above the 6 percent. If the debt would have been paid off, the lender might owe the service member a refund.

Penalties and late fees. The change in the law may have other consequences: the 6 percent limit applies to interest, penalties, and late fees, so if a service member makes the request and then falls behind on their student loans, the most the lender can collect is 6 percent interest per year. No additional penalties and fees can be added, above that amount. If the student loan of a service member has gone into default, the service member should

contact the lender and demand that all "interest, penalties and late fee" be reduced to not more than a combined total of 6 percent per year. If a service member has already fallen into default and been assessed penalties by the lender, consult with a Legal Assistance attorney.

The Student Loan Repayment Program.

Even if a student loan is being repaid by the military in the SLRP, it is still important to write to the lender and request the reduction in interest. Interest continues to accrue, even on these loans, so a reduction in the interest means a smaller loan balance, after the military has paid what it will pay. Service members should contact all lenders and demand the reduction of interest, even if the loan is being repaid by the

military.

How does a service member demand the benefit? To make the request, service members must send the lender a copy of their military orders calling them to active duty, and a request to reduce the interest rate. If the service member has extended their time in the military by signing a new contract, include those orders, as well. Your Legal Assistance office can help. Keep a copy of any correspondence sent and follow up with the lender, in writing, to make sure that you get that to which you are entitled.

It's the law.

For more information, call the legal assistance office at 353-2613.

12379802
BLUE LOON, THE
AK POST/UPCOMING
1 x 8.0

11379114
PERFECT PARTY, THE
AK POST/AK POST
1 x 2.0

10378172
PRIESS, TIMA
AK POST/AK P/CERT. T
1 x 2.0

16379055
BADGER RD BAPTIST CHURCH
AK POST/AK POST
2 x 2.0

17379599
NORTH STAR DANCE
AK POST/SNOW WHITE
2 x 2.75

18378742
RELOCATORS INTERNATIONAL
FF-AK POST/DITY MOVE
1 x 1.5

6-17th Cavalry begins Iraq mission

Staff report, 16th CAB PAO

Troopers from the Fort Wainwright-based 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, formally assumed an aviation mission in Iraq March 5, taking over from the 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment in a transfer of authority ceremony on their forward operating base in northern Iraq.

The ceremony marked the end of a monthlong relief in place between the two units as the 6-17th assumed the mission of full spectrum aviation operations in support of stability operations as a part of Operation New Dawn.

Lt. Col. Michael McCurry, 6-17th commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. William McGaha, uncased the unit's colors in front of their tactical operations center.

Members of 6-17th finished deployment preparations shortly before the Christmas holidays and began arriving in Iraq in late January, leading an aviation task force of more than 500 personnel from six different units across the lower 48 states.

They are slated to be one of the last active duty U.S. Army units to leave Iraq at the completion of Operation New Dawn.

"Task Force Saber stands ready to carry on with our heritage. Just as F Troop, 17th Cavalry Regiment was the last ground Cavalry unit to leave the Republic of Vietnam, so Task Force Saber, with 6-17th as its core element, is committed to finishing the mission of Operation New Dawn for the people of Iraq and to honor the efforts that our country has made over the last eight years," said McCurry.



Lt. Col. Michael McCurry, 6-17th commander and Command Sgt. Maj. William McGaha, uncased the unit's colors in front of their tactical operations center in Forward Operating Base Diamondback, Iraq, March 5. (Courtesy Photo)

Fort Wainwright dedicates 'Our Heroes Tree' at library

Photos by Brian Schlumbohm, Fort Wainwright PAO



"Our Heroes Tree" at the Fort Wainwright library was dedicated Wednesday. The tree was designed by Earl "Doug" Boyce, a former Soldier, who is shown here with his wife Joy Wohlman Boyce. Boyce works at the library and coordinated the local program.



Col. Timothy A. Jones, garrison commander, hosted the dedication and took a few moments to read from a book of quotations by children of service members from all military branches, "My Hero," and look through a scrapbook of drawings and letters from the children in the community.



Lt. Col. David Raugh, commander, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and Command Sgt. Major Joseph McFarlane, 5-1st command sergeant major, took a moment to check out the tree prior to the dedication along with Chaplain (Lt. Col) David VanderJagt, garrison chaplain.



(From left) Col. Todd Wood, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division commander, posed for pictures with Col. Timothy A. Jones, garrison commander, Command Sgt Major Todd Wentland, garrison command sergeant major, Lt. Col. David Raugh, commander, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and Command Sgt. Major Joseph McFarlane, after the ceremony.

Millions in refunds go to Tax Center customers



Refunds keep piling up for Fort Wainwright Soldiers - \$2.6 million has been refunded to Soldiers, other service members and retirees who've taken advantage of the free preparation and e-file services available at the Fort Wainwright Tax Center since the center opened nine weeks ago. Less than a month remains to file tax returns; the deadline is April 18. Walk-ins are welcome to stop by the Tax Center, Building 1049 off Gaffney Road, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or avoid the wait and schedule an appointment by calling 353-2613. (Illustration by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Youth Services hosts Boys and Girls Clubs of Alaska Youth of the Year competition

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

Fort Wainwright Youth Services hosted the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Youth of the Year ceremony on March 15.

"The Youth of the Year is one of the premier programs that the Boys and Girls Club has to offer," said Steve Ratto, Boys and Girls Club regional service director. "It is really centered around character and leadership for our young adults."

"This is not just about a kid that comes to the club, this is about a kid whose life the club has impacted over time and has been in a position not only to take advantage of the club's services, but has also turned around and began giving back to their own club in some fashion," Ratto said.

Whittney "Logan" Eastwood, son of Chi Chi and Sgt. 1st Class Warren Eastwood, 28th Military Police Detachment, 793rd Military Police Battalion, was chosen to represent the Fort Wainwright Boys and Girls Club at the state-level competition.

"Logan is absolutely wonderful," said Molly Moore, assistant director of the Youth Center.

"Not only is he very involved, volunteering on a regular basis, but he is respectful, courteous, nice to everyone," Moore said.

He is a sophomore at West Valley High School, a member of the student government and has lettered in football, basketball and track. Active in his church, he also volunteered this year as the assistant coach with the Tanana Eagle 7th and 8th grade basketball teams.

"Logan is a very, very intelligent young man," said Megan Brown, Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation special events coordinator and former youth services director. "His family is very supportive of him. He and his sister have been

very involved with what is happening at our youth center. He is a basketball superstar, anything that has to do with sports. He is part of the HIRED! Program right now, helping out with the youth sports. He spends time helping with the little kids. He was a joy to have at the Youth Center."

Logan hopes to study at Kansas University and pursue a career in counseling.

The five competitors gave speeches on leadership as well as one-on-one interviews with the judges.

For Logan, the most difficult part of the competition was the public speaking, but ultimately he said, "it was a good learning experience," allowing him to see how he can improve and what is being done in other communities.

Brown coordinated the three day event and kept the competitors busy in their downtime with tubing on Birch Hill, laser tag, ice skating and rock climbing.

Karimah Shine of Anchorage ultimately won the competition. She received \$3,000 in scholarships, \$2,000 provided by University of Alaska College Savings Plan and \$1,000 donated by Tupperware.

"It was a very tough decision," said Mark Young, who was one of three judges for the competition. "They all brought their own positive qualities to the competition. We ultimately went with who we thought would represent the state of Alaska best."

"We are proud to be able to support the Boys and Girls Club," said Linda English, executive director of UA College Savings Plan. "We take every opportunity we can to celebrate academic achievement for youth across the state."



Logan Eastwood, son of Chi Chi and Sgt. 1st Class Warren Eastwood, 28th Military Police Detachment represented Fort Wainwright Boys and Girls Club at the state level leadership competition here earlier this month. (Courtesy photo)



On the EDGE! Library beautification

Maryssa Bridges, 13, daughter of 1st Sgt. Joey Bridges, 184th Military Intelligence Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (left) and Rebecca Lamb, 14, daughter of Staff Sgt. Melvin Lamb, 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1-25th SBCT, paint a mural at the library. Members of the EDGE! Program have out of school opportunities that children and youth ages 6 to 18 can experience, develop, grow, by participating in adventure, art fitness and life skill activities. For more information about EDGE!, call 361-4391. (Photo by Brandy Ostanik, CYSS, Partnership Specialist EDGE! Program)

Fort Wainwright youth perform "Snow White" with Missoula Children's Theatre

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

Fort Wainwright's Child, Youth and School Services partnered with Missoula Children's Theatre for an original adaption of the classic fairy tale "Snow White" which was performed at Pioneer Park March 19.

MCT's program synopsis explains that in this variation of the play a young princess named Snow White finds herself in peril when her stepmother, Queen Bella is told by her magic mirror that the princess is fairer than she. Aided by her two henchmen and a band of evil bats, the queen plots to get rid of Snow White. Snow White escapes from Queen Bella and from the Black Forest creatures with help from Witless the Woodsman and finds a home with the seven dwarfs. When Queen Bella learns of Snow White's whereabouts she attempts to poison Snow White. But, Queen Bella's evil plans are thwarted when Snow White's fearless forest friends, her father King Backwards, the seven dwarfs and the prince come to her rescue.

"It was kinda twisted" said Whinnifred "Freddi" Eastwood, daughter of Chi Chi and Sgt. 1st Class Warren Eastwood, 28th Military Police Detachment, 793rd Military Police Battalion.

Freddi was cast as Snow White for the first play she had ever performed in. It was really fun, she said. "It was something different to do with my spring break."

Although she had lots of lines as the lead, she said she didn't have much of a problem memorizing them. "My lines were long, but they rhymed so they were kind of easy. I have always been good at rhymes."

Sitting still while being made up to look like Snow White was a bit more difficult. "I don't really wear makeup that much, so it was weird. But just to sit there and have them try to make me look like Snow White... Still I had a good time, I would do it again."

Allison Lingley, daughter of Melinda and Master Sgt. Raymond Lingley, 28th Military Police Detachment, 793rd Military Police Battalion, was

the Magic Mirror in the play.

She had performed in one play in elementary school and was happy to have an opportunity to perform again, Allison said.

Allison enjoyed working with the younger kids (children as young as kindergartners were in the play). She said that they were less nervous than some of the older performers, herself included.

"I was pretty nervous," Allison said. Her biggest concern was that

she would forget her lines, but she remembered them all.

Tonya McCarty, CYSS training and program specialist, coordinated the project.

"The kids just loved it," she said. "It gave them an opportunity to show their skills and to learn new skills. It gave them confidence, being up there. It showed them teamwork. Just the responsibility of committing to something and then following through and finishing it."

McCarty said that it was a big responsibility and commitment for the parents as well. Parents had to transport their kids back and forth, making sure they were there on time and available for rehearsals four to five hours a day, as well as helping them with their parts. "It was very much a family program."

"The youth gave "an absolutely fabulous performance," McCarty said. "I was so impressed."



Freddi Eastwood was Snow White in the CYSS and Missoula Children's Theatre adaption of the fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." She is the daughter of Chi Chi and Sgt. 1st Class Warren Eastwood, 28th Military Police Detachment, 793rd Military Police Battalion. Also in the photo are Calida Davis and Eric Heuchert, who played Queen Bella and Witless the Woodsman. Both are tour actors. (Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO)

12379382

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS/ARCTIC

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

find it here!



Artist Wayne Yoder presented this painting to the library Tuesday during the "Our Heroe's Tree" dedication. The painting depicts a Soldier embracing her child after returning home. It is on loan to the library for a month. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Children as young as 5 were in the play "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Preston Boothe, Christopher Cummins, Garrett Love, Anjolie Geisel and Leeza Wood all played Forest Animals Saturday at Pioneer Park. (Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Kari Miller, member of the U.S. Paralympics Women's Sitting Volleyball Team which took the Silver Medal in the 2010 Sitting Volleyball World Championship, came to Fort Wainwright Wednesday to help coordinate a sitting volleyball clinic and tournament. The tournament took place yesterday at the Physical Fitness Center. Miller a double-amputee, shared her experiences with members of B Company, Warrior Transition Battalion in a question and answer session. Going over 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. Adaptive volleyball "has added more to my life than being physically fit," she said. "Here's where I can show who I am, through sports." Miller shares her story and talent in hopes that others may find it as beneficial and rewarding as she has, both mentally and physically. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Women's history quiz

1. Where did the first women's rights convention meet?
2. What state elected the first female governor?
3. Who opened the first birth control clinic in the United States?
4. Who was the first woman to win a Pulitzer prize?
5. Who was the first female member of a Presidential cabinet?
6. Who was the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court?
7. Who was the first female Secretary of State?
8. Who was the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Director?
9. Who became the first woman vice-president candidate on a major political party ticket when selected in 1984?
10. Who was the United States delegate to the United Nations who championed and won approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948?

Please see ANSWERS, Page 7

Friday - 25th

ALASKAN TALES STORY HOUR and CRAFTS, 4 p.m., Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

GET READY...MARCH MADNESS Friday, Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area. Friday is Soldier Appreciation day. No cost for Soldiers (active duty Reserves, Guard and retired service members). For more details, check out the website: www.ftwainwrightfmwr.com/

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 7 p.m., Southern Lights Chapel

SOLDIER NIGHT OUT AT MARCH MADNESS, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area. Must be 18 participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-9131.

Saturday - 26th

NORTHERN EXPOSURE, Dog mushing and snowmaching adventure from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Call 361-4089.

ST. PADDY'S DAY SPIN, 9 a.m. sign up and class starts at 10 a.m., Post Fitness Center, Building 3709. Wear your "green" in honor of St. Paddy. Limited to the first 28 who sign up on day of spin. Refreshments provided. Call 353-7223.

ENCORE OF ALASKAN TALES STORY HOUR & CRAFTS, 10:30 a.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

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

BLACK OPS TOURNAMENT, 1 p.m., Warrior Zone, Building 3205. Must be 18 to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-1087.

MARCH MADNESS continues Saturday, Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area. Saturday is Family Day. There will be a variety of activities available starting at noon for the entire family. For more details, check out the website: www.ftwainwrightfmwr.com/

KYLE SULLIVAN...RAIL COMPETITION Saturday, 2 p.m. Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area. Professional snowboarder Kyle Sullivan returns to his hometown to sponsor a rail competition at Birch Hill where he learned how to ride. Giveaways include snowboarding equipment, sports collectibles, gift certificates, and a grand prize of a snowboard. Call 353-9131.

Sunday - 27th

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MASS, 11 a.m., Southern Lights Chapel.

GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY PRAISE AND WORSHIP, 11 a.m., 3rd floor Bassett Army Community Hospital. Call 361-5535.

MARCH MADNESS finale Sunday, Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area. Sunday is the End of the Madness. The Ski and Snowboard hill closes at the conclusion of the event. Check out the festivities between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., including the daring polar plunge and the bonfire for s'mores. For more details, check out the website: www.ftwainwrightfmwr.com/

Wii BOWLING LEAGUE, 2 to 4 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755.

Monday - 28th

ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP, 10 a.m. to noon, School Age Services, Building 4391. Transportation for families to and from the playgroup is available at Northern Lights Inn at 9:30 a.m. Call 361-7372.

Tuesday - 29th

STRESS MANAGEMENT, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room. Call 353-4227.

Wednesday - 30th

ANGER MANAGEMENT, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room. Call 353-4227.

GAME NIGHT, 4 to 7 p.m., Youth Services, Building 4109. Call 361-5437.

Thursday - 31st

NOMINATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, due today. Forms and more information is available at Army Community Service, Building 3401 or call 353-6267.

TAX CENTER OPEN, noon to 7 p.m. Call 353-2613 for appointment.

Ongoing

TAX CENTER OPEN, weekdays and some Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 353-2613 for an appointment.

Alaska Post

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.

Available to GCI Cable subscribers on post



CHANNEL 5 Watch for Current Facility Information, Photos and Special Community Events

Also find it online under the Command Channel 5 link @ WWW.WAINWRIGHT.ARMY.MIL

AFAP CONFERENCE - MARCH 30 - 31

For your information

FATHER-DAUGHTER BALL

The annual Father-Daughter Ball is slated for April 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Westmark Hotel. The cost is \$25 per family, no matter how many people are in the family. Tickets may be purchased at the Armed Services YMCA office located at 1047-4 Nysteen Road between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The ASYMCA can only accept cash for ticket purchases.

For more information call the ASYMCA, 353-5962.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

Army Emergency Relief is the Army's way of taking care of their own. Soldiers, both active and retired and their family members can get financial assistance from AER during times of emergency.

To do this, AER needs your help. The annual AER campaign continues until May 15. If you need information about AER check out their website at www.aerhq.org/ or contact Master Sgt. Kenton Allen by calling 353-7534.

HONORING OUR VOLUNTEER

Nominations for the Military Volunteer of the Year, Civilian Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, Military Spouse of the Year, Volunteer Family of the Year and Overall Volunteer of the Year Award are being accepted until Thursday.

Volunteers desiring free childcare need to register by April 7. For more information contact Denise Mitchell at d.mitchell1@us.army.mil or call 353-6267.

The 2011 ACS Volunteer Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for April 14.

TAX CENTER OPEN

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

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

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

For more information or an appointment call 353-2613.

PWOC GROUP MEETS

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Northern Lights Chapel, 3430 Luzon Avenue. Free on-site childcare and home-school room. For more information, call 356-1299 or email wainwright@pwoc.org or Facebook: PWOC Fort Wainwright.

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.

THANK YOU FORT WAINWRIGHT

I want to pass along thanks to the people of Fort Wainwright for leave donation, prayers, and support for my daughter Sabrina, a high school sophomore who has been stricken with Ewing's sarcoma.

I would like to say thank you for the daily notes, cards, prayers and all the other little but important things necessary for life.

For Sabrina's friends, thank you for being there for her despite the distance of thousands of miles.

Keep it going as we are on a long distance run. She wants to win this.

Thank you for continuing to keep Sabrina in your prayers and know what it means to the family.

Thank you for your understandings and consideration.

-Fabio Mariutto

16378850
JOSIE & SMITTY CLEAN-
ING S
AK POST/AK POST
1 x 1.0

16376066
NEW HOPE METHODIST
AK POST/AK POST
1 x 2.0

18379717
GOOD NEWS FISHING GUIDES
AK POST/FISHING GUID
2 x 3.0

CHAPEL SERVICES

Northern Lights Chapel

Sunday

10 a.m. - Sunday School
11 a.m. - Protestant Worship
5 p.m. - Protestant Youth of the Chapel

Thursday

9:30 a.m. - Protestant Women of the Chapel

Every other Saturday

8 a.m. - Protestant Men of the Chapel

Southern Lights Chapel

Sunday

9:30 a.m. - Catholic Education Classes
11 a.m. - Roman Catholic Mass

Thursday

4 - 6 p.m. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Bassett Army Community Hospital Chapel

Sunday

11 a.m. Gospel Bible Study

Tuesday and Thursday

Noon - Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday

Noon - Catholic Liturgy of the hours

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 23

A daughter, Audrina Alexandra, was born to Allison and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Buecker, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

March 9

A son, Gabriel Fabian, was born to Kara and Spc. Jorge Palacios, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

March 10

A son, Kamrin Dennis Keith, was born to Melanie and Spc. Shawn Weiler, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

A son, Easton James, was born to Courtney and Sgt. Johnathan Wood, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

March 11

A son, Thomas Garland, was born to Sarah and 1st Lt. Luke Maffey, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

March 14

A son, Gabriel Patrick, was born to Tamera and Pfc. Christian Coffey, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

A son, Robert John Whitten, was born to Angela Stanfield-Whitten and Sgt. First Class Jason Whitten, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

March 15

A daughter, Auaha Alexsis, was born to Kimberly and Pfc. Scott Russell, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

A daughter, Reese Ella, was born to Steph and Spc. Kurtis Beguhl, 1984th U.S. Army Hospital.

EMAIL NEWS TO: pao.fwa@us.army.mil

11379102
IMAGE OPTICAL
AK POST/AK POST
2 x 3.0

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

A special early commencement ceremony for graduating seniors of deploying Soldiers will be April 1 at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center starting at 7 p.m.

If you are a graduating senior and plan to attend this ceremony call Barb at 452-2000, extension 411 today.

Official graduation ceremonies will be held mid-May.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

The Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base Joint College Commencement ceremony is April 18, 2 p.m. at the Eielson Air Force Base theater.

A reception follows at the Yukon Club at 4 p.m. For more information, call 353-7486.

TOASTMASTERS

Members of the community who are interested on honing their speaking skills are invited to join Toastmasters International which now has a club at Fort Wainwright.

By learning to effectively formulate and express ideas, it opens an entirely new world of possibilities for personal growth and professional development. Club members will learn to be more persuasive and confident when giving presentations and will learn ways to improve one-on-one dealings with others.

Toastmasters meets Tuesdays, from noon to 1 p.m. in the conference room in Building 1555.

For more information on Toastmasters, contact Eileen Wallace at 353-9156 or via e-mail at eileen.j.wallace@us.army.mil or Alison Boyce at 750-9223 or ahboyce@gmail.com.

CHESS CLUB MEETS

The chess club meets every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044.

All are welcome to attend. Call 353-7755 for more information.

WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATION

The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade will host the Fort Wainwright Women's History Month celebration today at 1 p.m. at the Physical Fitness Center.

The theme for this year's observance is "Our History Is Our Strength" featuring Jeri Wigdahl as the guest speaker. Wigdahl is a community leader, active volunteer and has recently come out of retirement to work in public relations.

Mariah Ver Hoef, a student at University of Alaska Fairbanks, who has recorded three albums of original music will perform.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wiest at 353-0398.

WOMEN'S HISTORY QUIZ - Answers

1. The first women's rights convention met in Seneca Falls N.Y. in 1948.
2. In 1924, Wyoming elected the first female governor. Wyoming, then a territory, was the first to grant women the right to vote, in 1869.
3. Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in the United States in 1916. She formed the American Birth Control League, which later became Planned Parenthood.
4. Elizabeth Wharton won the Pulitzer Prize for her 1920 novel, "The Age of Innocence."
5. Frances Perkins served as Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor.
6. Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman judge on the United States Supreme Court and was nominated by Ronald Reagan in 1981.
7. Madeline Albright was the first female Secretary of State. Since then two other women have served in that capacity, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Rodham Clinton.
8. Katherine Bigelow won an Oscar in 2010 for "The Hurt Locker."
9. Geraldine Ferraro, who was Walter Mondale's running mate in the 1984 presidential election.
10. Eleanor Roosevelt served in the United Nations after being first lady for 12 years.

Female aviators defy reported odds

Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie L. Carl, 101st Airborne PAO

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (March 21, 2011) -- When Chief Warrant Officer 4 Trudy Truax arrived at her first unit as an OH-58A pilot in 1996, her commander refused her orders.

"I've had my own battalion commanders not speak to me," Truax said.

Truax was one of the first females to join the community of Cobra, Apache and Kiowa pilots after then-President Bill Clinton lifted the restrictions that kept women from flying the traditionally combat-focused rotary-wing birds. She was one of only six women in her class - three from West Point

and three warrant officers.

Today, she's the only one of the six still serving in the Army, and she serves as the standardization instructor pilot for Company C (Dustoff), 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, which is currently deployed to Afghanistan with Task Force Thunder, the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade.

According to a study released earlier this month by the Military Leadership Diversity Commission, women account for only 16 percent of leadership positions in the military - a seemingly staggering statistic to release during National Women's History Month. The numbers aren't so shocking when compared to the overall statistic of women serving in the military, which is 16.4 percent, according to a Sept. 30 report released by the Department of Defense.

To Truax and the other women who fill key positions within the aviation community, the numbers are just that - numbers. And they don't take into account the positions that women are holding within the military or where they were 20 years ago.

Lt. Col. Neil Reilly, the squadron commander for 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, was assigned to 2nd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Rgt., in 1998. With him was then-Warrant Officer Anne Wiley, who had recently graduated as an OH-58 Kiowa pilot. Today, Wiley is a chief warrant officer 4 and serves as the senior standardization instructor pilot for Reilly's unit. She is the first female to hold that position at a squadron level. But she didn't get there overnight.

"I went through relentless hazing," Wiley said of her time as a new pilot and a female in a man's world. "But today, when one of my peers comes up and bumps me on the shoulder and asks how it's going, I know it was worth it, and that I've made it."

The challenges Wiley and her counterparts faced in the beginning paved the way for many who've come since.

"Flying has been my recurring dream since I was little," said Capt. Carmel Cammack, an assistant operations officer in Task Force Palehorse and an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot. "I've never been treated any differently, and I appreciate the fact that (other women) were the ones to pioneer this for me. I know that they went through a lot of hazing and a rash of other stuff that I have not had to go through."

For Reilly, it's never been about gender, and Wiley and the female pilots like her have proven that time and again.

"Miss Wiley maintains a mission focus, but has the personality, the charisma, and also has the professionalism and experience that afford her a great deal of credibility," Reilly said.

For the women filling the leadership roles, the professionalism and experience are the important parts.

"As you show your competence and as you show that you can hang with the boys, you show that you're as good as the boys, your acceptance is there," Truax explained. "You must always maintain, as with any aviator, proficiency and excellence, and if you can show that's what you have, then you're fully accepted."

While Truax and Wiley have been around long enough to know what

it's like to be evaluated on gender rather than competency, they've witnessed the shift throughout their careers, and the younger women coming up behind them have only experienced evaluations based on capabilities.

Capt. Donna J. Buono, the company commander for Company B, 3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, which is task-organized under Reilly's unit for the deployment, was commissioned in 2004 and joined her first unit as a platoon leader while the company was deployed to Iraq. She was the first female to serve with the company in more than 15 years.

"I was anticipating a little bit of push-back," she said. "And I think what I got for about a month was less female-male stuff it was more new platoon leader, and after about that month of transition - getting used to them and getting to know 'em - I think I had a very positive experience."

"It's more about being a good leader and being competent, and much less these days about male-female," she explained.

In fact, the main challenges that limit the number of females serving in leadership positions are often brought on by their own accord rather than by restrictions or gender bias within the Army.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Elizabeth Kimbrough is a pilot in command and safety officer with Co. B, 3rd Bn., 101st Avn. Rgt. She flies the AH-64D Apache, which often serves to intimidate on the battlefield. At nearly 32, Kimbrough said she loves what she does, but thinks her family is afraid she'll stay in forever.

"My time will be up after June of next year, and I'm still on the fence," she said. "I love, love my job, but I'd still like the opportunity to get married and have kids, and I don't know how I'd do it if I'd stay in. So that's something I think about nearly every single day."

Kimbrough isn't the only one facing that challenging decision.

"I have kind of fended off most relationships that have possibly started," said Cammack. "I personally think it would be extremely hard to have a family in the military. Right now I have the opportunity to say that I don't want kids in the military. I think that would be hard, and that is not something that I want to do. How that's going to play into future career? I don't know. I don't know. It's tough."

As pioneers for women in aviation, both Wiley and Truax stand as an example in this regard too. Wiley started her aviation career as a single mom. Truax has a different perspective.

"Women can be in the Army, and we can have 20-plus year careers and we can have 20-plus years married to the same man, and like I have - I have four children," she said. "I want it all. I want the cake and the ice cream. You can have a solid marriage. You can have children and still do your time in combat."

As with anything in life, it's about balance and maintaining that delicate harmony between professional and personal. But for those women who want to fill the leadership roles, the doors are far from closed.

"I never expected to be where I am today, and I never expected to be in the positions I've been in," Truax said. "Standardizations wasn't a place women went. I think the new men of the Army, new commanders, they understand, and if I didn't cut the mustard I wouldn't be in the positions I've been in. But they very much have unlocked the doors to allow us to show that we have the ability to do what we (Army aviators) do."

"I had to open the doors by proving myself, but they unlocked them for me."



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anne Wiley (left), the senior standardizations instructor pilot for 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, and Capt. Carmel Cammack, an assistant operations officer for the unit, both OH-58D Kiowa pilots, prepare to reposition an aircraft at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie L. Carl, 101st Airborne)



From left to right: Capt. Carmel Cammack, Capt. Donna J. Buono, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anne Wiley, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Elizabeth Kimbrough, all leaders within Task Force Palehorse, join for a group shot in outside the task force's operation center at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie L. Carl, 101st PAO)

40376333
AFC/ASHFORD UNIVERSITY
AK POST/-TBD-/AK POS
3 x 11.5

12379396
MCKINLEY POLARIS
AK POST/2011 RANGER
3 x 4.0