

# ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

Vol. 2, No. 39

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

September 30, 2011

## INSIDE SECTION ALPHA

Army top NCO visits Alaskan Soldiers

Garrison commander

Operation Rising Star

1-25th commander update

Civilian awardees

Programs and Services Survey

## SECTION BRAVO

Community Calendar

For Your Information

2nd Engineers stand up

Afghan school

## AT A GLANCE

MEET THE COMMANDER



Col. Johnson's return to Fort Wainwright

More on page 4

## RISING STARS



Local talent shines at Nugget Lanes

More on page 3

## WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday

Mostly cloudy

Low 25 High 45



Saturday

Mostly cloudy

Low 30 High 45

Light winds



Sunday

Mostly cloudy

Low 30 High 50

Forecast courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Three Stryker Soldiers killed in separate incidents

Staff Report, U.S. Army Alaska PAO

A noncommissioned officer assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright was killed Sept. 14, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, by the blast from a pressure-plate improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr., 26, from Pharr, Texas was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright where he served as an infantryman.

Rodriguez joined the Army in March 2006, graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., and served for three years with the 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry at Fort Bragg, N. C. He arrived in Alaska in March 2010. Rodriguez also served two previous combat tours of duty in Iraq - from November 2006 to October 2007 and from December 2008 to November 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A Soldier assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright died Sept. 18 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device while on a dismounted patrol.

Spc. Ryan J. Cook, 29, from Fort



Spc. Ryan J. Cook



Sgt. Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr.



Sgt. Timothy Douglas Sayne

Walton Beach, Fla. was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright where he served as an infantryman.

Cook joined the Army in March 2008 and graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He arrived in Alaska in May 2009. Cook had one previous combat tour of duty in Iraq - from September 2008 to September 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

One other Soldier from the brigade was wounded in the same incident.

A noncommissioned officer assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright was killed Sept. 18, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, by the blast from a pressure-plate

improvised explosive device.

Sgt. Timothy Douglas Sayne, 31, from Reno, Nev. was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright where he served as a cavalry scout.

Sayne joined the Army in February 2008, graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Know, Ky. and arrived at Fort Wainwright in August 2008. He had one previous combat tour of duty in Iraq - from September 2008 to September 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Their 4,000-Soldier brigade deployed to Afghanistan in mid April 2011 for a one-year tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The next of kin have been notified.

## Army's top NCO visits Alaska Soldiers

Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy, U.S. Army Alaska PAO

The Army's highest-ranking noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, visited the Soldiers and Families of U.S. Army Alaska to talk about proposed policy changes and to answer questions on a variety of topics ranging from retirement, a drawdown of Army personnel and the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy.

See CHANDLER, on page 5



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III speaks with Basic Mountaineering Course Instructor Staff Sgt. Peter Notkin during a Sept. 22 visit to the Northern Warfare Training Center at Black Rapids. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brehl Garza/U.S. Army Alaska)

## Garrison commander talks about being back at Fort Wainwright

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

"If I had to pick one phrase to best describe it, I would say it is like coming home," said Col. Ron Johnson, garrison commander, about returning to Fort Wainwright.

"It was my first choice," he said. "When I left here in 2008, I knew it was possible to come back to Fort Wainwright as the commander, but highly unlikely."

Although a lot has changed since Johnson left in 2008, he said the physical changes were not as much of a surprise as might have been expected.

"We have stayed in touch because we have a lot of friends here at Fort Wainwright and in the local community," he said. "All of them said 'you're not going to recognize it when you come back.' I was really expecting large, big changes and my first impression when I came back was it really looked the same. Part of that is because I was deployed to Afghanistan for a year and then I did come back to the post for about a month while my daughter finished up her final year of high school. Also, I was involved in the planning for the military construction on post, so I was very familiar with the plans, so to see all of those projects completed were probably the biggest change that I saw."

See BEING BACK, on page 4

## Nugget Lanes hosts Operation Rising Star Competition

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

Among cheers and tears, Nicole Walters was named the winner of Fort Wainwright's Operation Rising Star contest, Sept. 24.

The contest, sponsored by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Veterans of Foreign Wars was held at the recently renovated Nugget Lanes and started out with 17 contestants Sept 23.

The top six sang again Saturday

night to decide on the top three. Those three, Walters, Spc. Michael Polmanteer, Medical Department Activity-Alaska, and Kayla Elenes then sang one final song to determine the winner.

"I was overfilled with so much joy, it was so amazing," Walters said Monday morning. "I am still floating on cloud nine."

See RISING STAR, on page 3



Nicole Walters, wife of Staff Sgt. Spencer Walters, 73rd Engineer Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, was the winner of the Fort Wainwright Operation Rising Star Competition. While he could not be there to watch her perform, her five daughters, friends, members of her family readiness group and people from her church cheered her on. (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)

17385044

SN/ BIRCHWOOD HOMES

# 1-25th commander gives update from Afghanistan

Staff Sgt. Trish McMurphy,  
U.S. Army Alaska PAO



Col. Todd Wood, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division

More than 6,000 miles away, Col. Todd Wood, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division based here, leads his unit in assisting the Afghan police and army in securing and stabilizing Afghanistan.

Wood spoke to Alaska media via teleconference Sept. 13 about the brigade's mission.

The unit's primary mission in Afghanistan, according to Wood, is assisting and training the local police and Army units in security so that they are able to create a stable country for their people, but they have also assisted in economic development and other projects.

"We are making a difference," he said.

He said roads are being built, schools being established and a variety of economic development projects going on to assist the people of Afghanistan to be more self-sustaining and self-sufficient.

Although the 1-25th leaders may not be experts in every field, like agriculture, engineering or construction, Wood said, they are trained to think on their feet and come up with "workable solutions" to the problems the people in the area face.

"We were able to tap into an agricultural team that taught us things as diverse as poultry farms and how to set a check dam to save water for better irrigation," he said. "We have provided assistance to almost every walk of life that a developing society would need help with, including medical and security. This place is so undeveloped and the need is so great ... that you can make a big difference in the lives of many just by providing them a safe way to get to and from the market."

"The people have the ability to grow food and get that food to market without having to pay a tax to the Taliban," Wood said. "They can come and go with relative ease and freedom with us here and the Soldiers see that and they get the appreciation from the locals that they run into," said Wood. "It is very rewarding to see the impact that Soldiers can have on this population, it's almost immediate. We have formed a very close bond with the people we are living with here."

The more than 4,000 troops of the 1-25th have also helped train and assist the Afghan police and Army to become self sustaining and gain the confidence and knowledge needed to take their roles in maintaining the security the U.S. and coalition forces have helped them establish.

Wood gave his condolences to the Families of those who have lost loved ones during the unit's deployment as well as those who have been injured and said their sacrifices have not been in vain.

"This country is grateful in having the U.S and the coalition forces over here helping them," Wood said.

The unit's losses are felt equally at home in Alaska and in Afghanistan, Wood said, and his Soldiers have committed themselves to continuing their mission in honor of their fallen comrades.

Wood expressed his gratitude for Alaska's support to 1-25th Soldiers and their Families.

"I would like to thank the entire state of Alaska for absolutely opening their arms up to our Families while we are deployed over here," Wood says. "We sure appreciate the great support from home."

Lt. Col. Mark Adams, commander of the 1-25th Brigade Troops Battalion also spoke at the teleconference. He noted progress in the fight against Improvised Explosive Devices.

"Soldiers are getting smarter and more resilient (in locating Improvised Explosive Devices); they see the indicators, how people act along the road; they stop and question them and a lot of the locals will point out IEDs when asked."

"We have been very successful in recent weeks. Our find rate is well over 90 percent," said Adams. "The soldiers are getting better and they are very confident in what they do."

With the experience gained in such a short period of time, the Soldiers are able to operate more and more safely and with fewer losses of life or injuries.

Wood said the overall unit morale was high and that the Soldiers are genuinely committed to their mission.

"The Soldiers are working very hard to accomplish their mission," Wood said, "which is to provide that kind of security which is going to allow this country to transition to complete independence."

## Medical Department Activity - Alaska Corner

Col. George Appenzeller, MEDDAC-AK commander



QUESTION: What can I do to avoid the Emergency Room this winter?

ANSWER: We all know that when the temperature drops and snow starts falling, the emergency room gets busier. The number one reason for visits are colds and flu symptoms. The best way to avoid most winter illness is through good hand-washing, covering your coughs and sneezes with the hollow of your elbow and proper clothing and hydration. The flu vaccination is also a great prevention measure. Even though they make you miserable, the majority of treatment for these illnesses is supportive, meaning treatment of symptoms and watching for more serious illness.

One way that Medical Department Activity-Alaska can help is through a program that orients you to self-care options. This can be done in one of three ways.

First, it can be done online. Go to [www.alaska.amedd.army.mil](http://www.alaska.amedd.army.mil) and click online education.

Another way is to come to the library at Bassett Army Community Hospital and review the course there. After reviewing the information and passing a short test, you will receive a "Take Care of Yourself" book and the ability to obtain select over-the-counter medications from our pharmacies, free of charge and without an appointment or trip to the ER. We also have the ability to bring the course to Family Readiness Groups or other groups on post. Please contact the library staff for further information.

An additional source for self-care information for the flu can also be found at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

Weather-related injuries are also a major reason for clinic and emergency room visits. The first step to prevent these injuries is dressing appropriately for conditions. Choose clothing carefully and dress in layers. In addition to warmth, layering makes it easier to avoid becoming overheated. Parents must monitor what their children are wearing and especially ensure infants and toddlers are dressed appropriately before heading out into the cold.

Another major source of injuries are falls, which can range from a simple bruise to broken bones. Remember, no matter how well snow and ice are removed from parking lots or sidewalks, some slippery surfaces will remain. Taking the simple precaution of wearing appropriate footwear and traction-aids can prevent ER visits.

Additionally, remember to protect yourself when participating in winter sports. Wear appropriate safety equipment, like helmets, to protect you in the event of a fall and ensure the equipment fits properly and is in good repair.

Inside the home, carbon monoxide can be a silent threat. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that that decreases your blood's ability to carry oxygen. It can be produced by a malfunctioning gas water heater or furnace, or an unvented kerosene or gas space heater. In the garage, carbon monoxide can build up if the garage door is closed while a car or generator is running. Babies, children, older adults and people with anemia or heart or lung disease are especially at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. Symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, headache, dizziness, confusion and fainting. Check and service your equipment regularly. Install carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are functioning.

Finally, driving presents a variety of challenges during an Alaska winter. Now is the time to ensure your vehicle is ready. Remember that part of vehicle readiness is an emergency kit containing critical items including warm clothing, blankets, food, water and safety equipment. Whether traveling by vehicle or foot, you must give yourself plenty of time to get places.

Alaska is beautiful this time of year and simple planning and precautions can help keep you and your family safe while you enjoy its wonders.

## Army ensures 'right mix' for junior NCO promotion points

Staff Report, Fort Wainwright PAO



Due to the unusually high number of Soldiers attaining high promotion points without attending the appropriate schools, the Army is making changes to the semi-centralized promotion system that will be effective Jan. 1.

The Army has three distinct elements within the military-training category: NCOES, resident military training (includes courses such as Equal Opportunity, Combatives, Bus Driver, Combat Lifesaver, etc.), and computer-based training. The total promotion points that can be earned in military education is 260 for promotion to sergeant and 280 for promotion to staff sergeant -- this remains unchanged.

Under the NCOES category:

Distinguished honor/leader graduates earn 104 points (competing for sergeant) and 112 points (competing for staff sergeant) respectively.

Commandant's List graduates receive 92 points (competing for sergeant) and 101 points (competing for staff sergeant) respectively.

Graduates receive 80 points (competing for sergeant) and 90 points (competing for staff sergeant) respectively.

Active-component Soldiers should see revised scores, based on these newly-established ceilings, in the automated Promotion Point Worksheet beginning Dec. 5. Soldiers recommended for promotion and integrated onto the recommended list not later than Dec. 8 will have these ceilings applied in determining their promotion scores for Jan. 1 selections.

Additional information on these changes will be made available in the near future.

# ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander**  
Col. Ronald M. Johnson  
**U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright PAO**  
Linda Douglass  
**Command Information Chief**  
Connie Storch  
**Editor**  
Brian Schlumbohm  
**Staff writers**  
Trish Muntean  
Allen Shaw  
**Contributors**  
Spc. Thomas Duval, 1-25th SBC PAO  
Capt. Michael Newman, 5-1st UPAR

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 353-6779 or 353-6701, or send emails to [pao.fwa@us.army.mil](mailto:pao.fwa@us.army.mil)  
The ALASKA POST - Home of the Arctic Warriors

# Fort Wainwright civilian employees earn special recognition

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Two Department of Defense civilian workers have been chosen as the second quarter winners of the Civilian Employee Recognition Program.

Kate Millburg, supervisory general engineer, chief of Design Branch for the Directorate of Public Works, was chosen as Civilian Supervisor for contributing to business results far beyond what was expected. "Kate has effectively coordinated all reviews and provided valuable input to protect the garrison's interest," said Mike Meeks, director of Public Works. "She has championed the energy analysis reviews on military

contract projects and brought significant discrepancies forward that have changed the criteria the Army is now using," he said.

Millburg's duties include project design to maintain, repair, alter or modify and construct Army real property facilities, supervise the activities of a multi-disciplined engineering and architectural team and enforce project standards. In addition, she was selected and has completed the training requirements for the fiscal year 2011 Pacific Leadership Academy. "Kate's supervisor was informed throughout the program of her progress and found her work

product and effort exemplary," said Meeks.

She has also volunteered and been instrumental in the opening of the community food co-op that is considered a valuable resource to the local community.

The non supervisor civilian of the quarter is Carol Kacal, a supply technician for the Directorate of Logistics Supply and Services Division in the Material Management Branch. "Carol distinguished herself by stepping up to the plate to perform duties and responsibilities of the Supply Support Activity Accountable Officer while the assigned accountable officer recovers from a heart-attack," said Mary Kay, director of Logistics. "Throughout the quarter she (Kacal) consistently demonstrated technical and tactical competence within the warehouse and has recovered over nine million dollars in equipment processes," Kay said.

Kacal's typical duties require her to assist the stock records officer with the management of the Stock Record Account by input into the automated Standard Army Retail Supply Systems. Kay said, "She has a thorough knowledge required for data processing cataloging, maintenance, disposal

and performing administrative functions in the automated supply systems."

As an officer on the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kacal also supports all veteran-related social functions and was instrumental in procuring the wreath for the ceremony of four new monuments at the Monterey Lakes Memorial Park. "She always volunteers to serve as a committee member and sometimes chairman for DOL activities," Kay said.

The Civilian Employee Recognition Program is part of the Installation Management Command Incentive Award Program for Military and Civilian Personnel. It allows directors and agency chiefs authority to recognize and reward superior job performance with limited resources. Once employees are nominated, a civilian selection board, guided by the Deputy to the Garrison Commander, scores the individual nominees and names a winner. Quarterly winners receive a Certificate of Achievement/Appreciation award and a two-day time-off award.

For more information on the Civilian Employee Recognition Program, contact Kelly Cyrus, chief, Administrative Service Division at 353-7624 or [kelly.cyrus@us.army.mil](mailto:kelly.cyrus@us.army.mil).

## RISING STAR: Nugget Lanes hosts singing competition

Continued from page 1

Walters is the wife of Staff Sgt. Spencer Walters, 73rd Engineer Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, who is currently serving overseas. While he could not be there to watch her perform, he sent her text messages throughout the evening and she was surrounded by her five daughters, friends, members of her family readiness group and people from her church.

Polmanteer, who works at Bassett Army Community Hospital, was the second-place winner after singing Josh Grobin's "Remember When It Rained."

"I really enjoy singing," he said. "Singing is what gets me through to the next day. There is always some song that you can relate to and I express myself through singing."

Kayla Elenes, wife of Sgt. Jacob Elenes, 184th Military Intelligence Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team,



Kayla Elenes, wife of Sgt. Jacob Elenes, 184th Military Intelligence Company, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, took third place in the Operation Rising Star competition with the song "Someone Like You" by Adele. (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Spc. Michael Polmanteer, who works at Bassett Army Community Hospital, was the second-place winner of the Fort Wainwright Operation Rising Star Competition after singing Josh Grobin's "Remember When It Rained." (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)

25th Infantry Division, took third place in the competition with the song "Someone Like You" by Adele. She said she was excited for the opportunity to compete again after being busy for the last few years raising her family.

"The thing that made this contest special was all of these competitors coming and bringing their best and wanting to share their gifts with everyone," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeffrey Price, the commander and bandmaster of the 9th Army "Arctic Warrior" Band, who was also a judge for the contest. "Without all of them, it wouldn't have been as successful."

In addition to the singing competition, there was also a "Spirit Award" given to the 1st Battalion,

5th Infantry Regiment family readiness group. The \$300 award was given to the family readiness group that showed the most support through the loudest applause during multiple roll calls done through the two nights of competition.

The presence and participation of the family readiness groups "added a dynamic and energy that hasn't happened on this post for this type of event," Price said. "It really was a dynamic event."

11385641  
BABULA, DR.  
AK POST/AK POST  
2 x 3.0

12386200  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA  
AK POST/AK POST  
2 x 4.0

18386787  
AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE  
AK POST/AK POST  
2 x 6.0

# BEING BACK: Garrison commander returns to Fort Wainwright

Continued from page 1

“Organizational changes are probably the biggest thing I have to get used to. There are some units on post that weren’t here before. As the brigade-level, 0-6 commander of the garrison, there are new parts of this organization that I was helping to stand up as I left, but did not exist when I was here before. Parts of the organization have changed, we have gained some things, and actually lost some things too,” he said.

Since Johnson left after his first tour as garrison commander, the lodging, housing and utilities have all been privatized.

“I had started most of those processes so I was aware of it, but those have been completed. Operationally, the organization looks a lot different, a bit more to it. With change comes challenge and Johnson recognizes that Fort Wainwright has its share ahead, with the biggest one being what he calls “the new fiscal reality that appears to be on the horizon.”

“If you watch the news, it talks about a lot of potential military cuts. In a lot of peoples’ minds, the wars are winding down. In the average person’s mind in the community you would think that we are done fighting in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan seems to be winding down, because the surge is over and we are redeploying Soldiers. If you are involved in that process however, you would know that the war is still very much going on over in Afghanistan and we feel that here, suffering losses at a pretty high rate.”

“My biggest challenge will be to provide the type of world class support our soldiers and families deserve in a fiscally constrained environment.

At the same time I have to ensure we are taking care of all our employees, making sure that our organization is taken care of while we take care of others. That is going to be a hard row to hoe the next two years, if things go as it looks like it could.”

Johnson has faced challenges before.

He took his Special Forces team to Laos in 1996 to stand up their national unexploded ordnance clearing headquarters and set up a national training center where Lao citizens were taught to be UXO technicians as well.

“The challenge of being the first Special Forces unit to operate in the communist country of Laos since the Vietnam War was significant. Working in an environment where you are trying to help a former enemy is difficult as you have to overcome such obstacles as fear, resentment and lack of trust.”

Right after 9/11 he worked with the Nepalese Army in their struggle against the Maoist insurgency.

“We helped them conduct counterinsurgency operations and worked to build both the capacity and capability of their counterinsurgency forces.” Johnson said.

He has also done multiple tours in Afghanistan. He said the last one was one of his most challenging and rewarding combat tours.

“I got to work directly for Gen.

(David A.) McKiernan, who was the four-star general in charge of Afghanistan at that time,” he said.

He had Johnson “stand up a special program that dealt with security, development and governance at the grass roots level and so I worked at the village, tribal and sub-national level of government.”

The overall goal was to start at the grass roots level and work up in an effort to build a relationship between the Afghan people and the Afghan Government. We had to enable the subnational level of government in Afghanistan, that being the District and Provincial governmental structure, to be value added to the Afghan people at the village and tribal level. In many cases the average Afghan (who does not live in the few large cities) sees little to no value or direct benefit to themselves from the Afghan central government. This program addressed this issue.

“Basically we focused and enabled the Afghan government’s agencies and ministries to do development and governance work at the lowest levels in conjunction with the tribal and village leadership. Additionally, we helped the Afghan government establish a program to train local village security forces that would then protect their own villages from the Taliban. Once these forces were trained and equipped, our Special Forces teams worked with them to provide local security as well as to integrate them into the District and Provincial security structure (essentially tied them to the Afghan Police and Afghan National Army units in their areas).”

As interesting as his last assignment was, Johnson is happy to be back at Fort Wainwright.



Col. Johnson has served multiple tours in Afghanistan as part of the Special Forces and said that his last one was one of his most challenging and rewarding combat tours. Johnson is second from the right, bottom row, in this photo. (Courtesy Photo)

“It is a pleasure to be back here and working amongst what I believe to be the best civilian workers in DoD. I have been around the Army a while now, and have served at different posts and I have never been at an installation where individual employees care so much about the mission,” Johnson said. “They are completely focused on accomplishing the mission, which is very similar to my experience within the Special Forces



Col. Ron Johnson considers his biggest accomplishment to be that he still has his Family. “I have what I think is a beautiful Family,” he said. “I have been married for 26, going on 27 years to the same wonderful woman. It hasn’t been easy for her, because of me and what I do for a living. I have put them in a lot of really bad situations, put a lot of stress on them. My children, I think are all wonderful citizens and good people. I would say that is my biggest accomplishment; that I have got three beautiful children that are productive members of society and good citizens and that I have the best wife I could ever hope for.” (Courtesy Photo)

community. It is very similar to working with Green Berets as I have most of my career; just like with them, failing to accomplish the mission is not an option.”

Although the quality of employees is exceptional, Johnson said “I think there is a lot of hard work left to do. I think everyone needs to be ready to roll up their sleeves and continue to work hard and maybe even do things a little differently than the way we have always done them. Our operational

multiple deployments to Iraq and the extension of the 172nd Stryker Brigade. Being in command of the Garrison at this time was a chance to make a difference and to give back to the Army. We provided the best support possible during a time when it was critical to do so. For me personally, it was a chance to give support where previously in my career, I had always been the one receiving support. It was really nice to be able to make a difference for other people, to be there and support them and their Families when Soldiers were deployed.”

He hopes to do the same for Families of deployed Soldiers this deployment.

“Our sole purpose here at the Garrison is to support our Soldiers and Families,” he said. “Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Wentland, I and all of our Garrison staff are completely focused on just that. We don’t have any misconceptions about why we are here. Everyone knows we are in a supporting role and our only mission is to support the commanding general and his priorities which are to provide trained and ready units, and to build strong Families and arctic tough leaders.”

“As we go through these deployments, it is important for the Families to realize that there are a lot of people here in the Garrison whose only mission every day is to support them with programs and services. That these programs and services are out there and that people need to take advantage of them. If there are any issues during this deployment, there is most likely a solution and that solution most likely belongs to the Garrison. If there are any questions at all about issues that they’re having, or if they feel there is the appearance of lack of support, we really need to know about it. No mission is too tough when it comes to supporting our Soldiers and Families.”

## Afghan Children embrace new school year

Capt. Michael Newman and Sgt. Thomas Duval, 1-25th SBCT PAO

Most people can think back and remember the stories told by their grandparents about their days in school; the many stories about the uphill battle both to and from school. No buses, no shopping for fancy backpacks with their favorite cartoon character. For most people this is a part of history, an ending to a joke and a memory left for scrapbooks.

For children here in Shah Wali Kot region of Afghanistan, our grandparents’ memories are a reality. Often times the children

of SWK are not awarded the opportunity to learn for many different reasons, but thanks to the SWK District Center with help from International Security Assistance Forces the children have a more stable learning environment.

As a result of his hard work, dedication, and planning Habib Ullah, the SWK Minister of Education opened the doors to a new school and a new school year earlier this month.

See CHILDREN, on page 5



Afghan teachers and school children celebrate the new school year with a group photo in Shah Wali Kot district earlier this month. Members of the 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division were joined the Afghan people to celebrate the occasion. (U.S. Army photo by, Capt. Michael Newman/5-1st UPAR)

# CHANDLER: Visits Alaska Soldiers

Continued from page 1

Chandler's first stop on his Alaska tour was Fort Wainwright, the Army's northernmost military post, where he spoke at a forum with more than 100 Soldiers and spouses about some of the top issues and concerns of Soldiers and Families in Alaska and around the world.

Retirement was one of the main topics of discussion. In the current economic state of the country, many Soldiers worry about their benefits and wonder if they will be able to support themselves and their Families upon retirement.

"Retirement is not something the Army has control over, but the entitlements [like retirement] are paid for by the Army's budget," Chandler said. "There are some decisions that need to be made. Decisions will be for those who come later, not those that currently serve." "This is about trust," he said. "The Soldiers [now] serving trust the American people to provide their quality of life, pay and allowances in exchange for the trust [the American people] place in the Soldiers to defend our country."

Chandler asked the Soldiers attending the forum at Fort Wainwright if they would be interested in alternative retirement options and mentioned several that may be available in the future.

One is a lump sum payment at retirement.

Chandler cited the example of a sergeant first class retiring at 20 years who could receive a lump sum of about 1.4 million dollars and asked how many would be interested. Several raised their hands. Even more raised hands when medical benefits were added.

An enhanced 401K with matched funds is another option under consideration, according

to Chandler.

"Right now it's a one size fits all," he said. "You serve for 20 years and you get something."

Chandler said the Army would continue to push Congress to "retain the current benefit" for those currently serving and said changes would be made for those who join the service in the future.

Along with retirement and current economic woes, Chandler also talked about a drawdown in the size of the Army.

"We are going to reduce the size of the active component," Chandler said, "from 570,000 to 520,000 over the next five years."

"We are going to do that in four ways," Chandler said. "We are going to bring less people in service."

Chandler said this has already been implemented and would continue for the next several years.

"We are also going to retain less people," he said, "have selective early retirement boards for those that are retirement eligible and not offer the opportunity to continue to serve for those that are not performing to standard."

Chandler said this did not affect those wounded in combat who cannot perform to their normal standards, but to those who failed to put forth the effort to meet standards.

DADT repeal

Chandler addressed the recent repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, emphasizing that standards of conduct remain the same.

"It's our job to enforce the standard, to ensure and maintain that sexual orientation is not part of what we consider to be important in the Army," Chandler said. "It is a private matter."



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III visits with Soldiers during a Sept. 22 town hall meeting at Fort Wainwright. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Brehl Garza/U.S. Army Alaska)

"What we are concerned with is a standard of conduct," he said. "Inappropriate or public displays of affection in other activities are inappropriate no matter what your sexual orientation is." Chandler said. "You know what right looks like."

## Garrison Programs and Services Survey

For US Army and all military, active and retiree, their Families and civilians who utilize Fort Wainwright support programs and services

As the Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander, I personally request that each of you take a few minutes to complete this valuable survey. Our Garrison, along with all other Army installations, faces the potential for budget cuts which could affect the programs and services we offer. Your responses will help me illustrate to senior leaders which programs are critical and which programs we may be able to reduce. For your convenience we have provided the survey in both an electronic format at the link below and a printable version that may be completed and placed in any ICE Comment box. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Major at the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, 353-7623.

We are the Army's home

Col. Ronald M. Johnson  
Commander  
Fort Wainwright

The screenshot shows the Fort Wainwright website interface. At the top, it says "U.S. ARMY IMCOM Installation Management Command PACIFIC REGION" and "Home of the Arctic Warriors FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA". A central banner reads "Customer Survey Army Programs & Services" and includes a call to action: "Take the online survey" and "Printable survey". The page also features a "press service" section with a "TOP STORIES" list and a "Social Media" section with icons for Facebook, Flickr, and Twitter.

To take the survey [www.wainwright.army.mil/sites/local/](http://www.wainwright.army.mil/sites/local/), choose either the online survey or printable version. (Graphic Illustration by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

## CHILDREN: Embracing a new school year in Afghanistan

Continued from page 4

"This is a great day for the children, a great day for the teachers and parents. This is a long time coming and I am very pleased to be here," said Ullah.

Lt. Col. David Raugh, commander of 5th Squadron 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, stopped by to congratulate them on a job well done.

"We are really proud of them and hope that we see more schools like this in SWK," Raugh said.

The children ranged from age 5 to 13 and came with book bags in hand; ready to start after a long summer. They were not only excited for the first day of school but had smiles on their faces when the soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5-1 CAV welcomed them and exchanged handshakes and high fives. Some of the children knew a little English and demonstrated their knowledge in a proud way. Counting in English was a popular demonstration. And a few "how are you" as well.

Habib introduced five new teachers that will work full time at



Spc. Brad Falde, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, shakes an Afghan Child's hand. The boy is on his way to the first day of school in the Shah Wali Kot district. (U.S. Army photo by, Capt. Michael Newman/5-1st UPAR)

the school. They gave a tour of the new school, and were proud of the accomplishment of establishing a new school right next to the SWK District Center. NDS Officer, Mohammad Gul was one of the teachers that said he was more than happy to serve the people of

SWK by volunteering his time to teach the children.

There was also discussion of providing an after school program that would allow them to teach adults to read and write. The topic was popular among the volunteer teachers and is something Habib says he plans to pursue further.

With 5-1 CAV soldiers there to celebrate the occasion, 19 children arrived bright and early, smiling and filled with excitement, knowing that they are the first to attend the brand new school.

Some traveled more than five miles and were really excited to see soldiers here to congratulate their eagerness to learn and make history.

When asked what he thought about his first day of school, one child said that his parents were also very excited and he waited a long time for the opportunity to learn.

"Education is the key to building better communities and providing better jobs for our citizens. And the teachers here today want to be a part of it" said Ullah.

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

## Friday – 30th

**STORY HOUR and CRAFT**, 4 to 5 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

**HOMEWORK CENTER**, 2:45 to 6 p.m., School Age Services, Building 4166. Call 361-7394.

**OPEN ICE SKATING**, 5:30 to 7:45 p.m., Physical Fitness Center-Ice Rink, Building 3709. Admission for open recreational ice skating is as follows: Individual daily fees; 4 years and under are free; 5 to 17, \$2.50; adults, \$3.50; Family of four or more, \$8 ; skate rental, \$1.50. Call 353-7294.

## Saturday – 1st

**ANGEL ROCKS DAY HIKE**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Open to participants 7 and older. Cost is 10 per person. Call 361-6349.

**GROUP CYCLING CLASS**, 10 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**STORY HOUR AND CRAFTS**, Cancelled. Call 353-4137.

**BACK COUNTRY COOKING CLINIC**, noon, Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. Cost is \$5.

**ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS**, 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7.

**OPEN ICE SKATING**, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Physical Fitness Center-Ice Rink, Building 3709. Admission for open recreational ice skating is as follows: Individual daily fees; 4 years and under are free; 5 to 17, \$2.50; adults, \$3.50; Family of four or more, \$8 ; skate rental, \$1.50. Call 353-7294.

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

## Sunday- 2nd

**CERAMICS and POTTERY**, 2 to 5 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Cost is \$65 and covers materials for 3 sessions. Open to participants 16 and older. Call 353-7520.

**OPEN ICE SKATING**, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Physical Fitness Center-Ice Rink, Building 3709. Admission for open recreational ice skating is as follows: Individual daily fees; 4 years and under are free; 5 to 17, \$2.50; adults, \$3.50; Family of four or more, \$8 ; skate rental, \$1.50. Call 353-7294.

## Monday- 3rd

**GROUP CYCLING CLASS**, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

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

**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK**, Youth Center, Building 4109. Call 361-5437

**DANCE LESSONS**, 6 to 7 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755.

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

## Tuesday- 4th

**GROUP CYCLING CLASS**, 6:30 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**PRIME TIME FITNESS CLASS (SENIORS)**, 9:30 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**GROUP CYCLING CLASS**, 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**TREASURER TRAINING**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Post Library Classroom, Building 3700. Call 353-4332.

**STRESS MANAGEMENT**, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Army Community Service, Building 3401, Call 353-4248.

**FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING CLASS**, 4 to 5 p.m., Melaven Physical Fitness Center, Building 3452. Call 353-1994.

**KEY CALLER ESSENTIALS**, 6 to 8 p.m., Post Library classroom, Building 3700. Call 353-4332.

## Wednesday- 5th

**HOOR OF POWER GROUP STRENGTH CLASS**, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**, 2 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**BABY and ME STORY HOUR**, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Library, Building 3700. Space is limited and registration is required. No cost. Call 353-4137.

**CARDIO SCULPT CLASS**, 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**PERSONAL FINANCIAL READINESS**, 8:30 to 4 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-7438.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**, 11 a.m. to noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

**GROUP STRENGTH FITNESS CLASS**, noon to 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

## Thursday- 6th

**GROUP CYCLING CLASS**, 6:30 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**PRIME TIME FITNESS CLASS (seniors)**, 9:30 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**THOR ART THURSDAYS**, 4 to 5:45 p.m., Library, Building 3700. Space is limited and registration is required. Parent participation is necessary for children under 12. No cost. Call 353-4137.

**GROUP CYCLING CLASS**, 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. No cost. Movie rated G or PG. Call 353-7755.

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

**LEVY BRIEFING**, 9 to 11 a.m., MPD Basement Classroom. Call 353-4333.

# Starting to close the gap: Week 4 - That's what I'm talking about

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Although I posted one of the best weeks ever, Bear keeps devouring wins to stay on top but everyone else is closing the gap. The furry fellow is mauling the competition for now, but hopefully he'll soon go into hibernation.

Browbrose Salsa isn't far behind holding onto second, while Brain has moved up two spots. Tate and Brain are tied in third, Urbi is in the 4th position, one point behind them. A-Team is only one behind Urbi, followed by the Jones Bros who are just one game behind me.

A-Team is only one behind them, followed by the Jones Bros who are just one game behind me. We are starting to close the gap and that's what I'm talking about. One of the biggest upsets of the week was the Bills victory over New England 34-31 to remain unbeaten. Quarterback Ryan Fitzgerald led a rally to overcome a 21-0

second quarter deficit throwing for 369 yards and two touchdowns. Buffalo now sits alone on top of the American Football Conference East division.

Another early season shocker is the Detroit Lions. QB Matthew Stafford threw touchdown passes to rally the Lions from a 20-0 halftime deficit to a 26-23 victory over Minnesota. The Lions are also undefeated while the Vikings are now 0 and 3.

In other matchups San Francisco beat the Bengals 13-8, Cleveland edged by the Dolphins 17-16 and New Orleans beat Houston 40-33. Drew Brees continues to be solid with 370 yards passing and 3 TD's. The New York football Giants outscored Philadelphia 29-16, Tennessee beat Denver 17-14 and the Raiders defeated the Jets 34-24.

An interception late in the game sealed

the deal as the Chargers beat KC 20-17, the Ravens picked apart the Rams 37-7 and Green Bay continued to play like champions taming the Bears 27-17. The Seahawks squeaked by the Cardinals 13-10, the Bucs did the same against the Falcons 16-13, while Pittsburgh barely hung on to beat the Peyton-less Colts 23-20.

The Monday night game was a mess for the Cowboys. The outcome of that contest fell on the foot of kicker Dan Bailey who kicked 6 field goals leading Dallas to an 18-16 victory over the Washington Redskins.

The mornings are frosty, leaves are hitting the ground and the fragrance of rotting cranberries fills the crisp autumn air. It can only mean that we are getting close to you know what...another weekend of football and that's what I'm talking about.



A - Team

DET @ DAL DAL  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE TEN  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL WAS  
SF @ PHI SF  
MIN @ KC KC  
PIT @ HOU HOU  
CAR @ CHI CHI  
ATL @ SEA SEA  
NYG @ ARI ARI  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK NE  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL BAL  
IND @ TB IND



Steve Tate

DET @ DAL DAL  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE TEN  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL STL  
SF @ PHI PHI  
MIN @ KC MIN  
PIT @ HOU HOU  
CAR @ CHI CAR  
ATL @ SEA ATL  
NYG @ ARI NYG  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK NE  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL BAL  
IND @ TB TB



Jones Bros

DET @ DAL DET  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE CLE  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL WAS  
SF @ PHI PHI  
MIN @ KC KC  
PIT @ HOU HOU  
CAR @ CHI CHI  
ATL @ SEA ATL  
NYG @ ARI NYG  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK NE  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL BAL  
IND @ TB TB



Brain

DET @ DAL DET  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE CLE  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL WAS  
SF @ PHI PHI  
MIN @ KC MIN  
PIT @ HOU HOU  
CAR @ CHI CAR  
ATL @ SEA ATL  
NYG @ ARI NYG  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK NE  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL BAL  
IND @ TB TB



Bear

DET @ DAL DET  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE CLE  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL WAS  
SF @ PHI PHI  
MIN @ KC MIN  
PIT @ HOU PIT  
CAR @ CHI CHI  
ATL @ SEA ATL  
NYG @ ARI NYG  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK NE  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL BAL  
IND @ TB TB



Ed Urbi

DET @ DAL DET  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE CLE  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL WAS  
SF @ PHI SF  
MIN @ KC MIN  
PIT @ HOU PIT  
CAR @ CHI CAR  
ATL @ SEA ATL  
NYG @ ARI NYG  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK OAK  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL BAL  
IND @ TB TB



BrowBrose Salsa

DET @ DAL DET  
NO @ JAC NO  
TEN @ CLE TEN  
BUF @ CIN BUF  
WAS @ STL WAS  
SF @ PHI SF  
MIN @ KC MIN  
PIT @ HOU HOU  
CAR @ CHI CHI  
ATL @ SEA ATL  
NYG @ ARI NYG  
DEN @ GB GB  
NE @ OAK NE  
MAI @ SD SD  
NYJ @ BAL NYJ  
IND @ TB TB

Bear

35 Wins / 13 Losses

Steve Tate

29 Wins / 19 Losses

Brain

29 Wins / 19 Losses

Jones Bros

26 Wins / 22 Losses

BrowBrose Salsa

31 Wins / 17 Losses

Ed Urbi

28 Wins / 20 Losses

A - Team

27 Wins / 21 Losses

## For your information

### PWOC FIRST FRIDAYS

"Spa Night," Oct. 7, 6 p.m. at Northern Lights Chapel. Join women in the Fort Wainwright community for a night of pampering, fabulous food, door prizes and free childcare. Due to limited slots for spa services, including facials, hand and foot scrubs and neck and shoulder massages, reservations are highly recommended. School-aged children's programming will be at Southern Lights Chapel for this night and preschool and nursery programming will be at Northern Lights Chapel. Reservations begin Monday. Please contact PWOC at [wainwright@pwoc.org](mailto:wainwright@pwoc.org) for specific event and RSVP information.

### 29TH ANNUAL HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

Community Spouses' Club 29th Annual Holly Days Bazaar set for Oct 14 and 15. The Holly Days Bazaar features only handcrafted or handmade items and is filled with artisans of every kind. If you or your friends create items that are handmade or handcrafted please visit our website to complete a vendor registration form. New vendors are always welcome. Fort Wainwright's CSC is open to new members and appreciates volunteers. Contact information is also available on the CSC website, [www.wainwrightcsc.org](http://www.wainwrightcsc.org).

### DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

The Family Advocacy Program would like to designate Tuesdays in October as Wear Purple day in recognition of Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

### NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS SALE

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will hold a non-appropriated funds sale of items starting Oct. 21 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the School Age Services building, 4391 Neely Road. For more information call 361-7258

### TDS HAS MOVED

Trial Defense Service is now located across Gaffney Road from the Law Center, Building 1051, Apt. 8.

### BREAST CANCER DETECTION

Please join Bassett Army Community Hospital and the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Fairbanks at the Breast Cancer Awareness Fair. Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Bassett Army Community Hospital's Primary Care Lobby, 1st floor. This is a day for the military community of Alaska to rally together in support and honor of those battling breast cancer.

### FLU VACCINE

Flu vaccinations are available at Bassett Army Community Hospital, Primary Care Department. Last year, 80 percent of confirmed flu cases on Fort Wainwright occurred to persons who did not get the flu vaccine. Flu clinic will continue until Oct. 7, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### NORTHERN ALASKA MILITARY RETIREE COUNCIL

Monthly meetings will begin starting Oct. 6, continuing through May 2012. The first meeting, Oct. 6, 7 p.m., will take place at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center, building 1044. Meetings are open to retirees of all branches of service. The agenda will include updates on legislative and Tricare issues; there will also be seating of new council officers. For more information contact, Carlos T. Garcia, Retirement Services Officer, 353-2099.

### PET BLESSING

The Fort Wainwright Community of Faith celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Blessing pets, a spiritual celebration to honor loyal companions who love unconditionally. Bring pets to the Southern Lights Chapel Tuesday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Have animals on leash or in appropriate containers. Please bring only domestic animals. No exotic pets such as reptiles or feral animals. Ensure pets are up-to-date with shots before arriving. Coffee and hot chocolate will be provided throughout the day. St. Francis Medals provided for pets. For more information contact Chaplain (Capt.) John Brocato at 361-4380.

### DENTAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Training for the American Red Cross Dental Assistant Training Program will start January 2012 at the Kamish Dental Clinic Fort Wainwright. 650 hours of classroom and clinical training, held Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This program will require a significant commitment on the student's part and in return, they will receive high quality dental assistant training and when graduated will have a marketable skill. Call 353-7234 or email: [wetzell@usa.redcross.org](mailto:wetzell@usa.redcross.org).

### CHILD FIND SCREENINGS

Exceptional Family Member Program and the Alaska Early Intervention Program have partnered together to bring Child Find Screenings to Fort Wainwright. If you are concerned about your child's development, we encourage you to attend for babies from birth to 36 months. Screenings include vision and hearing. Screenings are scheduled for Nov. 8 and March 6, 2012 at the Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Times are 8:30 a.m. to noon for appointments only and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for walk-ins. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call the Alaska Early Intervention Program at 456-4003, extension 0.

### BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE ARMY FAMILY

Don't deal with a problem alone. In case of emergency, dial 911. To speak with someone in the local area, call Careline Crisis Intervention, 452-4357. After Duty Hours Chaplain, 353-4182 or 353-4180; Fort Wainwright Bassett Army Community Hospital Emergency Room, 361-5491; Police Desk, 353-7535; Toll-free Careline Crisis Intervention (877) 266-4357; Military OneSource, (800) 342-9647 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255 or visit [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Members of the Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline team will be in the community of Fairbanks to meet with the public to discuss the ASAP natural gas pipeline project. Join us for information, refreshments and door prizes, Thursday, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Westmark Hotel's Yukon Room.

For more information call, 907-277-4488 or 855-277-4491 (toll-free) or visit [www.gasline.us.com/](http://www.gasline.us.com/)

### FAIRBANKS EVENTS

#### Music

Arctic Chamber Orchestra, featuring Klara Min on piano, Sunday, 4 p.m. at the Davis Concert Hall, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Prices and information can be found at [www.fairbankssymphony.org](http://www.fairbankssymphony.org)

Brazil Guitar Duo plays a blend of traditional and Brazilian works, Oct. 7, 8 p.m. at Hering Auditorium, see [www.fairbanksconcert.org](http://www.fairbanksconcert.org) for costs.

#### Theater

"I Hate Hamlet", Sunday, times vary, at the Riverfront Theater. See website for costs at [www.fairbanksdrama.org](http://www.fairbanksdrama.org)

#### Sports

Readers on the Run, v. IV, Oct. 9, 11a.m., starts at the Ida Lane Clausen Gazebo, Ester \$10 to \$15, 5K fun run, [www.esterlibrary.com/readersontherun](http://www.esterlibrary.com/readersontherun)

### YOUTH OF THE CHAPEL

Check us out on under Facebook, "Fort Wainwright Youth of the Chapel".

For point of contact, call Robert Auker, 361-4463 or email, [robert.auker1@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.auker1@us.army.mil).

### RED CROSS EMERGENCY CALLS

No matter where military members and their Families are stationed, they can rest assured the Red Cross will deliver their notifications in times of crisis.

To contact the Red Cross for emergency assistance, call (877) 272-7337. The number is toll-free within the continental United States. For the Fort Wainwright Red Cross station office, call 353-7234.

## Find us online

### Facebook

[FortWainwrightPao](https://www.facebook.com/FortWainwrightPao)

### Twitter

[twitter.com/PAOFWA](https://twitter.com/PAOFWA)

### USARAK

[usarak.army.mil](mailto:usarak.army.mil)

### Flickr

[flickr.com/fortwainwright](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortwainwright/)

[flickr.com/usarak](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usarak/)

### Army news

[army.mil](http://army.mil)

### Army services

[myarmyonesource.com](http://myarmyonesource.com)

### Defense Video

[dvidshub.net](http://dvidshub.net)

## LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Sgt. Timothy D. Sayne of Bravo Troop, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division may contact 1st Lt. Krystal Harrell, Echo Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1-25th SBCT, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, 99703. Phone contact, (321) 960-5494.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Spc. Ryan Cook, of 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Regiment, may contact Capt. Donald Smith at 361-2211. Send mail to: Capt. Donald Smith, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, 99703.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Spc. James Paquette of C Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade may contact Alaska Casualty Assistance Center at 384-3811.

18386448  
LASKA REFINISHING &  
UPHOLSTERY  
AK POST/COUPON 10%  
O  
1 x 4.0

10387777

ALLISON, SCOTT  
AK POST/AP/S SALON-P  
2 x 2.0

18385632

PURE ESSENTIALS DAY SPA  
AK POST/TUES & WED S  
2 x 2.0

18385589

C & J DRIVE INN  
AK POST/DOUBLE YOUR  
2 x 2.0

10387772

THAI KITCHEN  
AK POST/AK POST  
2 x 2.0

40384790

DIRECT TV  
FF RHP/AK POST/HELP  
2 x 2.0

# 2nd Engineer Brigade stands up at JBER

Staff Report, 2nd Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

The colors of the 2nd Engineer Brigade were uncased for the first time in 56 years during an activation ceremony Sept. 21 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Pershing Field.

Col. Thomas J. Roth, 2nd Engineer Brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Dickens formally ushered in the next chapter of the unit's history with help from Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, commanding general of U.S. Army Alaska.

The guests of honor were Jack Reed, a World War II veteran who served with the brigade's original incarnation, the 2nd Engineer Amphibious Brigade, and Ed Leard III, whose grandfather Edwin Leard was killed in action during World War II while serving with the unit.

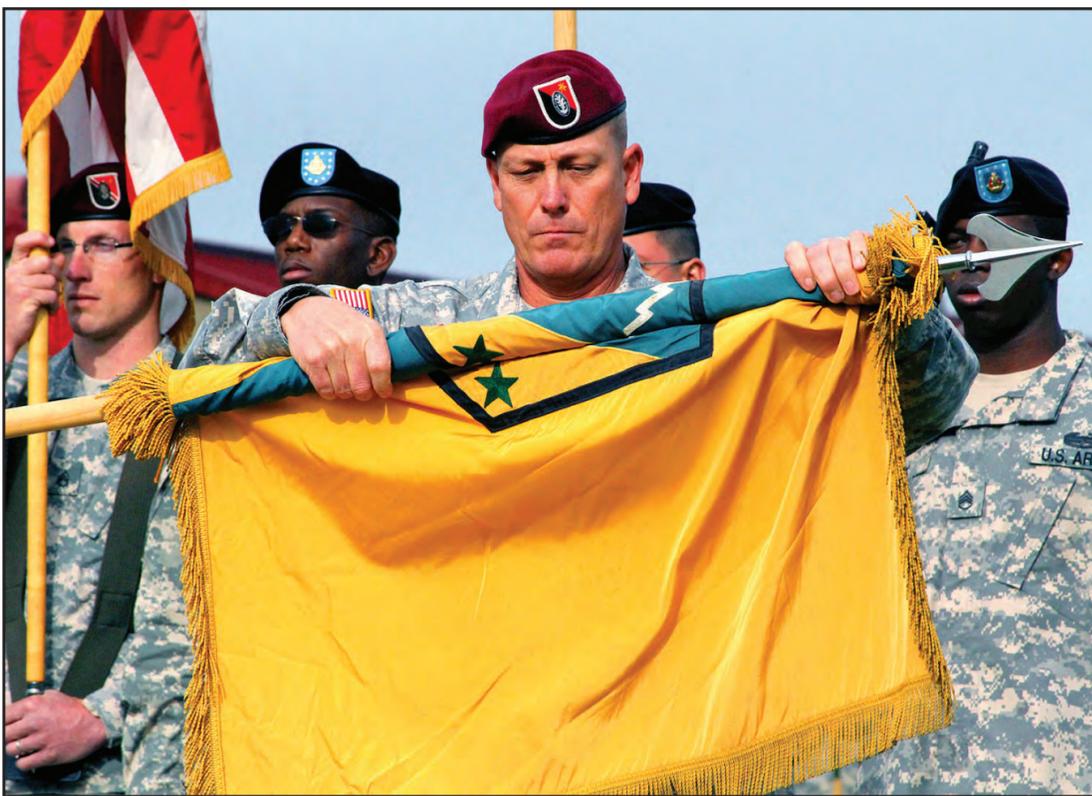
In remarks, Maj. Gen. Palumbo highlighted the brigade's new role.

"The Army has been transforming lately," Palumbo said. "Especially, since 9/11. We had to change. We had to change because the enemies changed and we had to meet the new challenges that the enemies presented us around the world. That's why we had to introduce this engineer brigade into our Army formation, to bring yet another capability that we need on the battlefields."

The engineer brigade is a modular deployable headquarters able to function as a higher headquarters for several subordinate engineer units. It could potentially function as a joint headquarters including Army, Navy, Air-Force or Marine components.

"The 2nd Engineer Brigade becomes the sixth of its kind in the Army," Palumbo said. "It's capable of planning and controlling diverse missions associated with assuring mobility, enhancing protection by building things, enabling logistics and developing infrastructure."

Palumbo thanked the troops and their families. "Today an engineer brigade is reborn and proudly begins a new chapter in an already long and illustrious history," Palumbo said.



Command Sgt. Maj. James Dickens of the 2nd Engineer Brigade, furls the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's colors, signaling the 3rd MEB's inactivation Sept. 21 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (Photo by 2nd Engineer Public Affairs Office)

very special to me. You represent without question the greatest generation our nation has produced and having had a chance to speak with you, you truly embody the importance of history, of lineage, of tradition within our profession of arms. I'm also very happy to have Mr. Edwin Leard the 3rd, again the grandson of Edwin Leard, a Soldier in a coxswain, in the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, who died during one of the amphibious operations the unit was involved in at Lae Papua, New Guinea, on the 6th

engineer brigades in the Army. The engineer brigade headquarters will actively train and prepare to serve the nation's needs. We stand dedicated to leading, training, preparing our subordinate commands to do likewise."

The 2nd Engineer Brigade traces its lineage to the 2nd Engineer Amphibian Brigade which was activated at Camp Edwards, Mass., on June 20, 1942. The brigade was part of the U.S. Army Engineer Amphibian Command, which developed doctrine to sustain amphibious operations. Its principal units consisted of a brigade headquarters, three engineer boat and shore regiments, a boat maintenance battalion, a medical battalion and numerous support companies.

The brigade was redesignated as the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade on April 17, 1943. It conducted 82 combat landings and landed with 15 different assault divisions, including one Marine division and three Australian divisions and functioned under Navy and Army command.

It was the first unit to employ amphibious trucks and barrage rockets in the Pacific Theater and invented and perfected anti-aircraft defenses in landing craft boats, downing no less than 50 Japanese aircraft. Units of the brigade participated in five official campaigns in the East Indies, Northern Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Bismarck Archipelago and Luzon. Eight units received the Presidential Unit Citation, and one Soldier, Pvt. Van Noy, received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The 2nd Engineer Special Brigade returned to the United States in December 1945. It was redesignated the 2nd Amphibious Support Brigade in 1947.

Units of the 2nd Amphibious Support Brigade were stationed at Fort Worden, Wash., until the beginning of the Korean War when the brigade moved to Yokohama, Japan, from which it supported the initial amphibious invasion at Inchon on Sept. 15, 1950. The brigade was subsequently cited for highly successful operation of the Ports of Suyong and Ulsan, from July, 31 1953 to December 15, 1953.

The brigade relocated to Camp McGill, Chigasaki, Japan, in December 1953 and was inactivated in August 1955.

The 2nd Engineer Brigade was officially reactivated Sept. 16 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and has adopted the motto: "Arctic Trailblazers."



Col. Thomas J. Roth, commander of the 2nd Engineer Brigade, unfurls the newly activated brigade's colors with help from U.S. Army Alaska Commander Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo Sept. 21 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (Photo by 2nd Engineer Public Affairs Office)

Roth acknowledged the good weather, which belied the rainy forecast, in his remarks.

"I couldn't ask for a better day," Roth said. "The sun wasn't going to show up, but here it is. I think that's an indicator."

"I'm very excited to welcome Mr. Jack Reed," Roth said. "As General Palumbo addressed, he is a World War II veteran of the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, having traveled from San Diego, Calif., to spend time with us. Sir, your presence today is

of September 1943, when a Japanese Zero strafed his landing craft."

Leard donated several 2nd Engineer Brigade historical artifacts to the brigade.

Roth reviewed the accomplishments of the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

"All I can say is what a great privilege for me to have commanded this brigade for over two months," he said, "but I'm equally honored to open the next chapter on the 2nd Engineer Brigade, the Arctic Trailblazers, which again is one of six war-fighting active

50386548  
ALASKA FUN CENTER SALES  
AK POST/STV 9/25  
3 x 3.0  
RED

11386317  
LOOSE MOOSE CAFE  
AK POST/MOOSE BUCK  
2 x 3.0

18386371  
ALASKA DOLLAR PLUS  
AK POST/NEW AD - AK  
1 x 1.0

11387713  
PERFECT PARTY, THE  
AK POST/AK POST  
1 x 2.0