

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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Fort Wainwright, Alaska

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WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday
Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the evening
Low 0 High 20
Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph



Saturday
Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in a.m.
Low -15 High 10
South winds 10 to 20 mph



Sunday
Mostly cloudy
Low -10 High -5

Forecast courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Command Sgt. Major Todd Wentland to leave the Army on top of his game

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

He got his moose this year, he has accomplished about as much as any Soldier can accomplish and in Jan. 2012, Command Sgt. Major Todd Wentland, Fort Wainwright garrison command sergeant major will begin out-processing from the United States Army.

Wentland joined the Army in 1985 to help pay for college. "I told the recruiter I want to be the toughest Army guy there is and he hooked me up with a contract to be an Airborne Ranger," he said. "Rangers are the direct action kind of guys all the time."

His early leadership skills and bravery was echoed by Col. Ronald

M. Johnson, commander, Fort Wainwright Army Garrison. Johnson said, "When he (Wentland) was an E-5 Ranger battalion squad leader, he was chosen to be the primary jumpmaster for one of the assault aircraft that invaded Panama (during Operation Just Cause). He was a very junior (noncommissioned officer) and to have been given this extremely critical responsibility was amazing. He executed the mission under hostile fire and after getting all personnel safely out of the aircraft, parachuted himself from 500-feet onto a landing zone held by enemy forces."

"They didn't even wear a reserve



Command Sgt. Major Todd Wentland (File photo)

chute, because there wasn't enough time to activate it at that altitude," Johnson said.

See Wentland on page 5

Deep in the heart of Taliban country

Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler, 1-25th SBCT PAO

Editor's note: This is the first story in a three part series on the actions of Task Force Arctic Wolves to root out Taliban.

Somewhere in the vast terrain between Panjwa'i and Zharay is the birthplace of known Taliban leader Mullah Omar. The area has been a launch pad for insurgent activity and home to Taliban safe houses.

In the western tip of the Horne of Panjwa'i lies Do'ab, where Taliban activity has become a way of life for the villagers and farmers.

"Do'ab is a historic insurgent engagement area. It is the last piece of terrain in the area that allows the enemy freedom of movement," said Maj. Jimmy Kleager, operations officer with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Since the beginning of the war, the area had been under control of the Canadian army, said Kleager, a Scottsbluff, Neb., native. In July, as the Canadians departed, elements of 1-25th



A bucket loader passes a Soldier from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division while working to extend Route Agha through the Horne of Panjwa'i to the village of Do'ab and the new Combat Outpost Lion. (Photo by Pfc. Andrew Geisler/1-25th SBCT PAO)

settled into the area. The Canadians put great effort into building roads within Panjwa'i. The goal was to expand security and boost the economy. However, they did not venture into the tip of the horne or into Do'ab.

Do'ab would be pivotal for two reasons, Kleager explained.

First, by constructing and expanding roads throughout the village, farmers would have a safer, more direct route to larger cities. Villagers have been using rugged trails, only the width of one donkey-led cart, as a way to get to and from Do'ab.

"Building a road through

Do'ab would have a tremendous effect on access to and from the village. It would economically benefit the locals by allowing access to Kandahar, where their crops and produce, like grapes, bring more of a profit," added Kleager.

See ROADS on page 5

Fall back: Daylight saving ends; back to standard



Don't forget, Saturday evening or very early Sunday morning, set clocks back one hour to standard time.

This is also an opportune time to check smoke alarm batteries.

The official time for setting back clocks is 2 a.m. local time, Sunday.

Leadership lecture



Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum talks to Soldiers in the Taji Warrior Resiliency Campus movie theater about turning a disadvantage into an advantage. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth/eCAB, 1st Inf. Div. PAO)

A free leadership lecture and hands-on training session focusing on an Army-endorsed holistic program will be led by the director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, M.D., Ph.D. The program, slated for 10 a.m. at in the Bureau of Land Management Building 1541 on Nov. 15, can give everyone the knowledge, thinking skills and behaviors to optimize their ability to "thrive" in their lives, as well as their capacity to successfully cope with life's challenges and adversity.

Medical Department Activity - Alaska

Appointment changes at Bassett

Col. George Appenzeller,
MEDDAC-AK commander



Bassett Army Community Hospital is committed to delivering high quality, patient-centered care, which includes listening to your input through our patient advocate, Army Provider Performance Level Satisfaction mailout surveys and the Interactive Customer Evaluation system. The three most common frustrations you have shared with us about your primary care has been the multiple confusing appointment types, not seeing the same provider at each visit and not having enough time during your appointments.

Approximately three months ago we piloted a change to our appointment system, going to only two main types of appointments. Based on your feedback we have requested an exception from MEDCOM policy to make this permanent. Additionally, over the last six months, we have begun the institution of the primary care patient centered medical home process.

With the initial phase of implementation, our first goal was to have you see your primary care provider and medical team during your visits to Bassett. I am happy to report that we are achieving this goal with more than half of all visits being with your primary care provider and over 95 percent with your medical team. Now, as we continue to work to enhance your medical experience, we are striving to increase the amount of time you have with your medical team during your visits.

In mid-November we will implement the next phase of our medical home process. During this phase, we will expand the amount of time you spend with your care team at each medical encounter to approximately 35 minutes. When you arrive at your appointed time, you will spend the first 15 minutes with a member of your medical team. During this time, your team will get to know you better as a patient

through an enhanced review of your medical history and needs. Trained members of your regular care team will review the reason for your current visit and will document any recent laboratory or radiological results.

The intent of these changes is to facilitate a more effective use of your time with your medical provider. This allows for a more detailed review of any individual problem, the ability to address multiple problems per visit, and more time for individualized education regarding your current health and medical conditions. In order to ensure the maximum success of this program, it is important that you arrive no later than your scheduled appointment time.

As always, we strive to provide you with the best care possible. We appreciate any feedback, both positive and constructive, about how we can improve our service to you and your family.

Afghan EOD train to secure area one IED at a time

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Kibler, 1-25th SBCT PAO

TALUKAN, Afghanistan - There are no Hollywood actors, flashing lights or movie scripts for the explosive ordnance disposal technicians at Combat Outpost Talukan in southern Afghanistan. Each time they receive a call, it's the real deal.

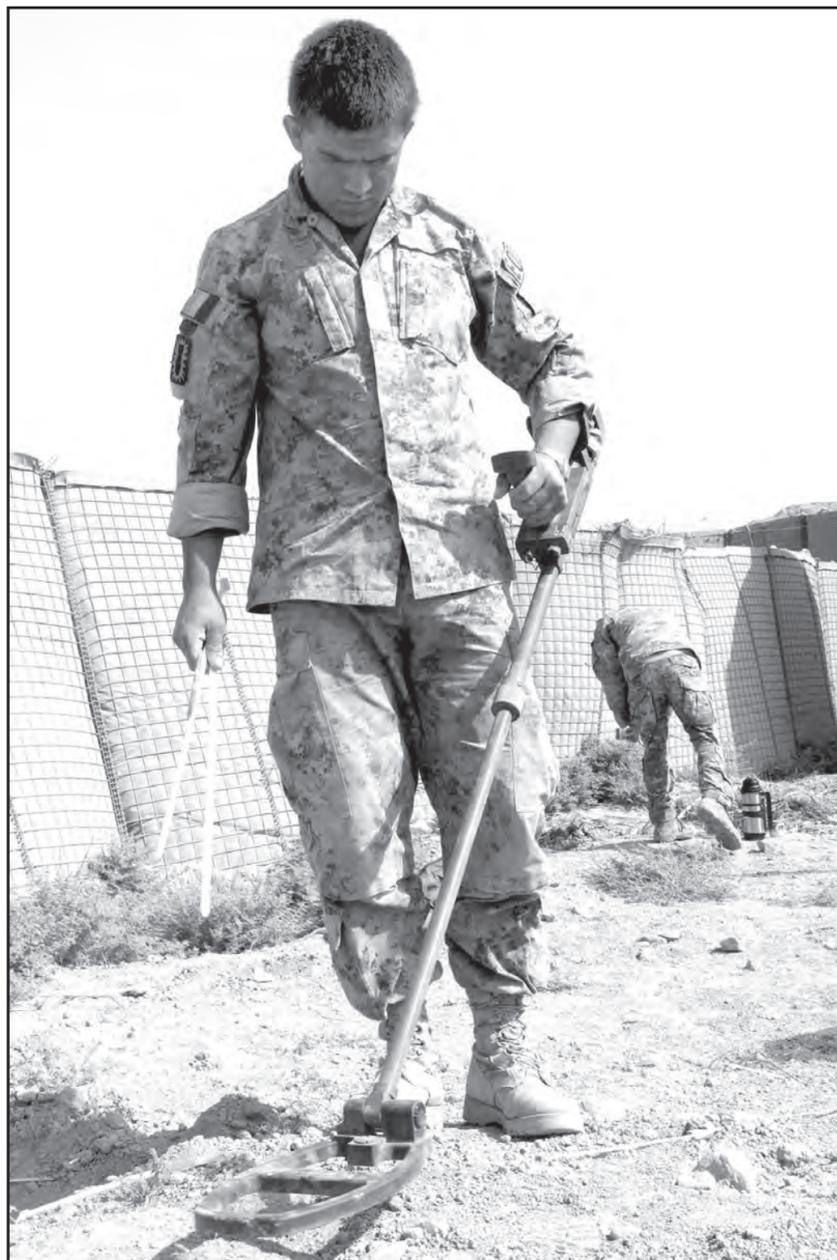
The only way to be prepared for that call is to train for anything and everything, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brandon Chism, an EOD technician with the 466th Air Expeditionary Squadron, serving with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division "Arctic Wolves."

EOD technicians in every branch of the U.S. military receive more than a year's worth of training at Eglin Air Force Base, in Florida. Their Afghan National Civil Order Police do not. "Originally, the ANCOP EOD guys were taught by the British techs that were out here. The same concepts are there, but the approach is different between us and the Brits, so we've had to teach them some different techniques," said Chism, a Villa Rica, Ga., native.

To bridge the gap, Chism and his team continue to share their knowledge and experience with their ANCOP counterparts. The teams conduct partnered operations so the ANCOP technicians are able to gain real-life experience as well, Chism explained.

"We are working to get the guys validated as techs and as a team. We do that through weekly mentoring and training," explained Air Force Staff Sgt. James "Fitz" Fitzgerald, EOD team leader, 466th AES.

Using a training lane—an area set up to resemble the terrain they would see outside of the COP—the team is able to plant mock improvised explosive devices and observe as ANCOP technicians detect, mark, extract or blow-in-place each explosive they discover. Explosives



Using a metal detector, Afghan National Civil Order Police explosive ordnance disposal technician, Sgt. Nasrullah Mohammad Sharif, sergeant of engineers, searches for simulated improvised explosive devices during training Oct. 23 at Combat Outpost Talukan, in southern Afghanistan.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kelly Badger, explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 466th Air Expeditionary Squadron, observes Sgt. Nasrullah Mohammad Sharif, Afghan National Civil Order Police EOD technician and sergeant of engineers, as he attempts to locate a buried improvised explosive device during training, Oct. 23. Badger and his team conduct real-world training with the ANCOP at least once a week, in between partnered missions outside of Combat Outpost Talukan, Panjwa'i district, Kandahar province.

in the training lane include command wire IEDs, pressure plate IEDs and jugs of homemade explosives, all commonly found in and around the village of Talukan.

"Each week they show improvement," said Chism. "They show great safety recognition. They are fully aware of all the hazards that would be around you typically in area here in Afghanistan. They follow procedure extremely well, and use good tool comprehension. [Today] they got rid of the IED in a fairly short amount of time, which is what we look for because we don't want to be [in an area] for long."

Not only are they learning and demonstrating technical proficiency during training, they are also gaining confidence.

"We work as a team. We have them train us [so we can] do the job by ourselves. I can do the job. I am ready always," said ANCOP Sgt. Nasrullah "Nas" Mohammad Sharif, team leader and sergeant of the engineers.

Even with his newfound confidence in his team's abilities, Nas knows there is still much to learn.

"In a second, IEDs can take the lives of civilians in the area. There are many different IEDs and we only know a few of them, but the Americans can find the others," said Nas.

While the Afghans learn from the U.S., on occasion, the U.S. have been the students and the ANCOP the teachers.

"Having the training and being in the field, reacting to IEDs, you learn tricks here and there than can help you detect explosives or save you time. We share those with them, but I have also learned a few tricks from them, too," Chism said.

The two EOD teams will continue to work together, conducting partnered missions and training on a weekly basis, in order to get the ANCOP fully validated and capable of being in the lead of securing their country, one IED at time.

For photos reference this story see the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division FLICKR page at http://www.flickr.com/photos/1-25_sbct/sets/72157627995063028/

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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The ALASKA POST - Home of the Arctic Warriors

Terry Wayne Shamblin remembered

Staff Report,
Fort Wainwright Employee Assistance Program

Terry Wayne Shamblin, Fort Wainwright civilian employee, was remembered by loved ones, friends and coworkers during a memorial ceremony on post Wednesday in the Southern Lights Chapel.

Shamblin joined the Army when he was 19 years old. Shamblin's sister, Tammy Shamblin Renie, said he was proud of his service and especially proud that he was the second generation to serve with the 82nd Airborne Division. Terry's father, Shellie Shamblin, served in the Army and was a prisoner of war during WWII. A Vietnam veteran, Terry Shamblin served 20 years in the Army.

His fellow workers said he never quit being a Soldier and was especially dedicated to the Army and to our Soldiers at Fort Wainwright.

Terry Shamblin was an animal lover and recently adopted two dogs named Polly and Fritz. He loved to tinker with vehicles and had an old Corvette, an old pickup he was converting

to high-performance and two motorcycles. He also collected guns but was never interested in hunting as he loved animals too much.

After retiring from the Army in 1991, Terry worked at Fort Wainwright's Directorate of Logistics in the Ammunition Supply Point until 2003 when he went to work at Range Control as a range control technician.

Terry had a soft spot for Soldiers at the firing range, especially for their safety. His co-workers remember Terry as the most knowledgeable person on ammunition and weapons systems they've ever known.

Terry is survived by his sister Tammy Shamblin Renie of Florida, his mother Evelyn Shamblin of Florida and his fiancé Kati Falk of Alaska

For more information or to leave a memory comment, Terry's sister set up a website:

<http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/TerryShamblin/Homepage.aspx>



Terry Shamblin remembered by loved ones, friends and coworkers. (Courtesy photo)

Visit from Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Lisa Murkowski visited Fort Wainwright Oct. 27 for a meet and greet sponsored by the Fort Wainwright Community Spouses Club. She told those in attendance that she doesn't know how to say thank you for their service and what they are providing back home while spouses serve overseas. After brief remarks Murkowski took questions about several issues, including the impact the current budget crisis could have on programs here and on retirement benefits of those already in service. There were also numerous questions about the closure of the Fort Wainwright Post Office. (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Enterprise email migration: Update on sending Personally Identifiable Information

Stacy L. Seppi,
Chief, Installation Security Intelligence Office

Transition to Enterprise email has brought a temporary security concern which users need to be aware of. USARPAC Network Security Violation Policy 06-09 requires all users to email Personally Identifiable Information such as social security numbers, user names and passwords etc. only from one government computer to another government computer. Email that carries such information must be encrypted and digitally signed.

Herein lies the problem; once users transition to the Enterprise email system, they can no longer send encrypted email to those personnel on post who are still using the old email system and vice versa. This is only a temporary issue which occurs when emailing between these two systems. It will be resolved once all

users migrate to Enterprise. In the meantime, here are some workarounds to prevent the unintentional emailing of unencrypted PII and having the subsequent actions being enforced on the violator's computer account which would be disabled for seven days, creating an unnecessary work stoppage.

Until all users are on the new Enterprise email system, when attempting to email encrypted messages between email systems, a dialog box will appear which tells the user there are encryption

problems and asks if the user would like to send the email "Unencrypted" or "Cancel". Always select "Cancel" and send the information to the recipient using another legal option such as fax, telephone or in an unclassified format over SIPR.

This is only a temporary situation which will be resolved once the all email migrations to Enterprise are complete.

Please direct any questions to your Information Management Officer or 507th Signal Company at 353-5949.



IMCOM Heroes



The Directorate of Logistics Personal Property Branch worked together as a cohesive team of professionals providing selfless acts of service and support to approximately 1,500 Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan and their Family members during a three month timeframe prior to actual deployment. The counseling, shipping and storing of personal property and POVs, as well as making countless travel arrangements which changed almost daily, required these employees to give up evenings and weekends to ensure Soldier and Family readiness was completely provided. Members of the Fort Wainwright Alaska Directorate of Logistics, Transportation, Personal Property Team: Bottom row, left to right: Tom McDaniel Jr., Katrina Rankin, Jess Pilkinton, and Patricia Allison Standing, left to right: Danielle Ervin, Amy Shelton, Jennifer Mihal, Donna Plummer, Laurel Johnston, and Richard Cerelli. (Courtesy photo)

Nordic ski club offers opportunities, fun for Wainwright families

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Snow is finally sticking to the ground and winter sports enthusiasts are ready to enjoy every bit of it. One of those groups is the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks. "Registration is open and we would love to spread the word to the Families of Fort Wainwright," said Erica Carroll, NSCF program advisor and program coordinator for the Junior Nordics and adult lessons.

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks offers a wide variety of programs for community members, including Fort Wainwright Soldiers and Families. From classes for children ages 6 to 14, or "Junior Nordics," to adult lessons, biathlon and competitive events, the NSCF aims to lure cross-country skiers – both professionals and novices – off their couches and onto the trails to take advantage of the six-month cross-country ski season here.

But their biggest asset is not their wide variety of lessons and events, according to Carroll, it is the extensive network of groomed trails the club maintains.

"I think this is what our ski club takes the most pride in is that we have these beautifully groomed ski trails – at the Birch Hill Recreation Area," she said. "We have over 30 km of ski trails available and eight of those 30 km are lit at night or early afternoon which is one of the best things about Fairbanks. You can come up here and ski even if it's 3 p.m., Dec. 24 and dark."

Carroll, a captain in the Air Force Reserve and the wife of Capt. Brian Carroll, F-15E pilot and currently an air liaison officer with the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron, moved to Fort Wainwright in October 2009 and jumped into the Fairbanks community with the help of the NSCF. She said her goal is to share all the ski club has to offer with her military community.

"I try to spread the word to so many of my military friends," she said. "I just want to get the word out that there is so much to do here. I think a lot of military folks who move here just want to get out and enjoy the winter and this is a great area to do so."

Use of the trails and facilities at the Birch Hill Recreation Area in Fairbanks is free for cross-country skiers. The NSCF maintains the trails at a cost of \$25,000 per year and seeks donations and club memberships to offset the cost.

"It's free to come up here which is so amazing for military Families to not have to have a pass to ski on groomed trails. It's just wonderful," she said.

Carroll said the services for Nordic skiers represent a fruitful collaboration with the Fairbanks North Star Borough owning the land, the ski club maintaining



Junior Nordic members of the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks frolic in the stadium area on the Jim Whisenant ski trails at the Birch Hill Recreation Area during the Winter Carnival, February 2011. Classes are available to Fort Wainwright Soldiers and Families. The Junior Nordic program is for children 6 to 14. (Courtesy photo)

the trails and Fort Wainwright providing access to the White Bear trail, one of the popular trails in the 30 km network.

"It's really three organizations that work together to bring these amazing trails and facilities to the community," she explained. "It's the borough, DoD and also the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks. It's really a great opportunity."

Cross-country skiing is the only sport allowed on the trails in the winter but in the summer the trails are open for hiking, biking, dog-walking and more. The borough also operates a disc golf course at the Birch Hill Recreation Area during summer months.

Adult cross-country ski lessons are offered in the fall and spring for five weeks each and children's lessons are offered through the Junior Nordic program beginning in November for the entire season.

Carroll said it is best to take lessons early in the season to make the most of the beautiful spring in the Interior. "March is absolutely beautiful here," she said. "The snow is still here and the sun is out – absolutely beautiful."

She also said planning excursions to the trails at the Birch Hill Recreation Area is a fun, family-friendly and economical way to workout. "We have a wonderful lodge that is absolutely beautiful. You can bring your own family lunch and have a picnic and go ski around. The only thing is that there are no amenities – no rental services or snack bar. But (Fort Wainwright's) Outdoor Recreation has amazingly reasonable rentals."

For more information about the NSCF, go to www.nscfairbanks.org or call 457-4435.

New Defense Logistics Agency Document Services office at Fort Wainwright

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

Customers with printing needs and a government purchase card do not have to leave Fort Wainwright to have those needs met. They just have to stop by the Defense Logistics Agency Document Services office, located in the basement of the Welcome Center, Building 3401.

Robyn Zook, who manages the local DAPS office, said the newly renovated space is more customer friendly, with a more open flow to and from the shop for customers who may be struggling with bulky boxes. Her work area has also improved, with brighter lighting, a better layout of machines and improved safety features.

"DPW was fabulous," she said. "We couldn't have done this without them."

Rosalee Clayton from the Anchorage office said Zook got a lot done that wouldn't have been accomplished otherwise.

"DLA was most supportive of us too," she added "as far as 'You would like this? Get it. Do you need it? Get it.'"

What started as a single-print production facility at the Pentagon has grown and now has more than 180 locations in seven countries.

The local facility can print office stationary, notepads, posters, programs, flyers and business cards. They can also do high-quality black and white as well as color copies on various colors and weights of papers.

Zook said the office has done change-of-command programs, menu cards for the Dining Facility holiday meals and can do memorial programs. Most jobs have a one-day turn-around.

Services are not just limited to printing. The shop has a lamination



Robyn Zook, manager of Fort Wainwright's Defence Logistics Agency Document Services office, located in the basement of the Welcome Center, Building 3401 (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)

machine and pages can be bound together using three-hole punch, a spiral bind, staples and other methods.

Decals can be ordered, but cannot be done in house.

Customers from Eielson Air Force Base can use this facility for their needs also.

For more information on the DLA Document Services contact Robyn Zook at 353-1700 or email roberta.zook.ctr@dla.mil. The DLA Document Services website can be accessed at www.documentservices.dla.mil.

Travel the world without ever packing a suitcase

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

Those who attend the new monthly program at the Post Library have the opportunity to travel the world without ever having to pack a suitcase.

"Because Fort Wainwright is so diverse, the library has started a monthly Multicultural Story Hour," said Joy Boyce, public services coordinator for the library.

"Each month the library 'visits' a different country or culture," she said. A story is read in both the language of that country and in English. Then, a 'passport' is provided for the participant to stamp and decorate with images from that country.

A sampling of the culture's cuisine is also provided for everyone to taste and enjoy.

"So far, the library has 'visited' the Spanish language and Mexico in recognition of National Hispanic Awareness Month," Boyce said.

As part of the visit to Mexico, Christabel Suazo wife of Spc Jean Leon 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade (Alaska), read stories in

Spanish and Marie Pagliuso, wife of Sgt. Robert Pagliuso, with 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and her girls Anissa, 14, Adrianna, 13, Lily, 7, and granddaughter Diana, 11, treated the crowd to a traditional "Folklorico" dance presentation.

Helga Polsey who was born and raised in Germany and now works at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center will be reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" for the program Nov. 9.

Library patrons will have the opportunity to learn about Korea Dec. 7, when Yunhwa (Gina) Richardson, the circulation manager for the Post Library, reads a traditional Korean story.

Boyce encouraged everyone to come out and join in the fun. "This is an all-ages event," she said. "Free and open to Soldiers, their Families and all DoD cardholders."

If you are interested in doing a presentation about your culture at the library, call Boyce at 353-4137.



Marie Pagliuso, wife of Sgt. Robert Pagliuso, with 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, speaks to patrons of the post library's Multicultural Story Hour. Pagliuso's girls Anissa, 14, Adrianna, 13, Lily, 7, and granddaughter Diana, 11, treated the crowd to a traditional "Folklorico" dance presentation. (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)

ROADS: Arctic Wolves help make way for villagers

Continued from page 1

In addition, the return on grapes and other produce will provide an alternative to harvesting marijuana.

"The road will allow the farmers to bring crops to the market, and allow them to expand their profits beyond drug crops, providing the area with an agricultural boost," said 1st Sgt. Jeff Peppin, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Infantry Division.

Second, by having a troop presence in the area, the Taliban would face challenges while attempting to place improvised explosive devices.

"By moving into the tip of the Horn of Panjwa'i, the furthest west anyone has been, we can take away the last piece of terrain where the enemy has freedom of movement," said Kleager.

Not only would enemy terrain be taken away, the Soldiers in the area would be able to talk with the local villagers on a regular basis.

Building and establishing a presence would not be easy, though, as the area was laden with IEDs. IEDs pose a threat to local villagers and troops in the



An IED is detonated in front of bulldozers with the 368th Engineer Battalion, Naval Construction Regiment, and U.S. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, clearing Route Agha on the way to the future location of Combat Outpost Lion. (Photo by Pfc. Andrew Geisler, 1-25th SBCT PAO)

area, according to Spc. Joshua Rinker, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment.

"IEDs, in particular pressure plate IEDs, are the biggest threat in Do'ab," said Rinker, a Richmond, Va., native. "When the Taliban moved into this area, they placed them everywhere—not just along the road, but in compounds and orchards throughout the village."

With the fear of the unknown,

villagers were wary of harvesting their crops, Kleager said.

"It got to the point where the locals were actually leaving their homes, their crops and the village altogether because they feared for their lives," said Rinker.

Knowing what they would be up against, the battalion enlisted the help of Afghan National Army in the area and prepared to head into Do'ab. The goal of the combined effort, Kleager said, is to bring

stability to the area and, in turn, boost the economy.

By September, the Gimlets, along with ANA engineers, broke ground and the transformation from Taliban stronghold to an active farming village began.

For photos related to this series see the 1-25th page at www.flickr.com/photos/1-25_sbct/sets/72157627856388923/.

WENTLAND: Making the transition

Continued from page 1

Arlie Nethken and Maurice Fischer, both former sergeants major, said Wentland epitomizes what a command sergeant major should be. "For nearly 20 years I have been directly associated with Fort Wainwright and the leaders, and in all that time have I never met a more confident, competent, selfless-serving, quiet, professional installation command sergeant major than him," said Nethken, training support officer.

"He serves as a role model for all sergeants major. His calm demeanor combined with knowledge and skills make him the catalyst which has made this garrison successfully function," said Fischer, the installation's director of Emergency Services.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at time of challenge and controversy." Wentland has met the challenge on and off the battlefield, and has claimed many victories. He has been instrumental in the recent developments of many facilities and programs. There is a laundry list of accomplishments from the improved Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program,



Command Sgt. Major Todd Wentland, United States Army Garrison Fort Wainwright command sergeant major, surveys the valley during a brown bear hunt in No Tell Um Bay on the Alaska Peninsula. (Courtesy photo)

the completion of the Warrior Transition Unit facility and the construction of the Monterey Lakes Memorial Park. "If I am taxed for being responsible for something, I'm going to take it seriously," Wentland said. As a command sergeant major he enjoys the opportunities to participate, as well as having the ability to give people what they need. "I am the one who can build the bridge to close that gap between a private and a command sergeant major," he said, "I am a resource provider."

An avid outdoorsman, Wentland wanted to study wildlife biology or get into the Forest Service. "I was going to be that guy on horseback with a pack string out in the wilderness

for month at a time," he said. That is one of the many reasons he loves Alaska and has chosen to stay. He, his wife Rose, and their two sons live in North Pole.

Rose, a retired Army first sergeant,

"was a better NCO than I ever was," he said, "She's pretty tough and I'm very proud of her." He said she is always out in front setting standards. The same goes for their boys. Chris, a sophomore at Southern Oregon was one of the best football players in the state and still holds the squat-lifting record at North Pole High School. "I think his maximum weight was 543 pounds," Wentland said. His younger son Mathew is currently a student at North Pole High and is successful in sports as well as being an accomplished musician. He was recently named prep athlete of the week and voted homecoming king. Wentland said, "They're both really good kids. They've stayed out of trouble and have been good role models for their friends and peers."

As some would say, the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree. Wentland himself is well-respected and admired. Melissa Fernandez, executive assistant, United States Army garrison, Fort Wainwright said Wentland personifies integrity. "He is able to look at the pros and cons of any situation objectively, make a decision, and do the right thing for all the right reasons," she said.

"The command sergeant major is one of the greatest men I've ever met," said Michael Campbell, Commercial Sponsor and Advertising manager, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and

Recreation. "His dedication and willingness to support his team (has) grown many Army civilian careers, including my own," he said. "I've learned more about the Army and myself because of his mentoring, even if he didn't know it."

As witnessed by the sentiments, Wentland has had a positive impact on and off the post. Althea St. Martin, special assistant to Senator Lisa Murkowski said, "Todd has been an outstanding member of the Fairbanks community while doing even more on his side of the gate. Todd is always the one at the meeting that says he will take care of something and you know it will get done," she said. "His leadership on the Monterey Lakes Memorial Park has been inspirational."

Wentland has been extremely active in the Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright communities serving on numerous boards and committees. Lisa Herbert, executive director, Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, has worked with him on a number of military and community events since 2006. "Everything from the Army Community Covenant to the Military Appreciation Banquet to the North Pole Summer Festival," she said. "He has worked diligently at making sure that the community on the outside of the gates of Fort Wainwright has every opportunity to show their support for our military neighbors."

Many agreed that Wentland is a great leader and always looks out for the best interest of Soldiers and Families. He said he has been fortunate to experience and be part of some of the best programs in the Army and appreciates the people he has had an opportunity to work with. The command sergeant major is proud of being able to "see both sides." "Communication had always been critical to me," Wentland said. "I've tried to be a friend and an ally to help work through the tough issues."

The Wentland family plans to stay in the area, "but my wife says I can't retire, I have to transition," he said. "We'll just see how jobs work out."

Both Herbert and St. Martin said they are delighted he and his family will remain in the community. "While his departure means that he will be leaving the Army community of Fort Wainwright, the Fairbanks Community will be gaining another great leader," Herbert said.



Rose, left, wife of Command Sgt. Major Todd Wentland, Fort Wainwright garrison command sergeant major, and sons Matthew and Chris, right, enjoy a successful day of Northern pike fishing at Deadman Lake near Manley Hot Springs. (Courtesy photo)

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

find it here!

Friday- 4th

KARAOKE FRIDAYS, 8 p.m. to midnight, Nugget Lanes Bowling Center Gold Rush Lounge, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

OPEN ICE SKATING, 5:30 to 7:45 p.m., Physical Fitness Center-Ice Rink, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

FIRST FRIDAYS ART BASH, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 2727. Call 353-7520.

Saturday- 5th

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

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

OPEN ICE SKATING, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Physical Fitness Center-Ice Rink, Building 3709. Call 353-7294.

Sunday- 6th

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

QUILTING BASICS, 2 to 5 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Cost is \$65 and includes all materials for 4-week workshop. Open to participants ages 16 and older. Call 353-7520.

GOSPEL BOWLING, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

Monday – 7th

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

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

Tuesday – 8th

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

CHILD FIND SCREENINGS, 8:30 a.m. (appointments) and 1 p.m. (walk-ins), Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Screening includes vision and hearing. For Children from birth through 36 months of age. Call 456-4003 ext 0.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT, 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. Register and pay by November 1. Cost is \$12 per child. Call 361-7713.

Wednesday- 9th

NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-4227.

MULTI-CULTURAL STORY HOUR, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

HOMEMADE BABY FOOD CLASS, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Call 361-7713 or 361-7372.

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

SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP MEETING, 6 to 8 p.m., Building 3451, Mihiel Loop. Call 353-4004.

Thursday – 10th

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 11 and younger. No cost. Call 353-4137.

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

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

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

CHENA HOT SPRINGS DINNER, 6 to 10 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050. \$45 per person. Call 361-6349.

Veterans Day observances

Commentary by **Linda Douglass**, Fort Wainwright PAO

Each year the community of Fairbanks gathers to pay tribute to our nation's veterans of past conflicts as well as veterans from the current conflicts taking place globally.

The annual Veterans Day observance recognizes veterans of conflicts from World War II, Korea and VietNam through Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The observance also honors those who served in peacetime.

Men and women of all ages and races, stand proudly at attention when the colors are posted and when their service anthem is played by the 9th Army "Arctic Warrior" Band. Some of them are bent with age and require help. Some of them have visible scars, others have scars we can't see. But they still stand and render honors.

I also see Soldiers, some of them wounded warriors, and their young children in the group, talking with the older veterans and humbly accepting the thanks and recognition of those around them. Their children watch quietly, seeing they are not the only ones who view their parents as heroes.

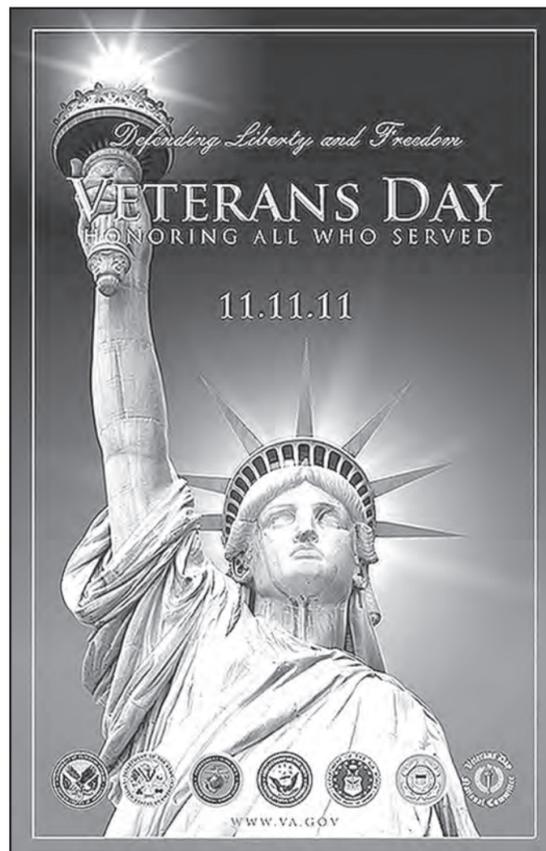
Veterans Day is not a holiday for gift exchanges, or stuffing ourselves with great food or barbecues at the beach. It is a day to stop and reflect and thank veterans for all they have given in service to our country.

Fighting in World War I ceased at 11 a.m. Nov. 11, 1918, – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day. The original concept was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

Once included in the holidays that are observed on Monday to allow three-day weekends for federal employees, Veterans Day was dropped from that group and continues to be observed Nov. 11, regardless of what day of the week it falls. This preserves the historical significance of the date, and helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day – to recognize and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

We salute those who made self-sacrifice to protect the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans. We also know that the sacrifice made does not just lie on the shoulders of the Soldier or other service member; his family also shares the responsibility.

As the Fairbanks community gathers next Friday to honor all veterans from all branches



of the armed services, I encourage you and your Family to come out as well to share in the patriotism and appreciation of this city, and to meet and talk with and shake the hands of heroes. I hope you will find it as great a privilege as I do.

The Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Cushman Street between 7th and 8th avenues, at 11 a.m., Nov. 11.

More Veterans Day events

More than 20 military veterans from around Fairbanks will display their art at the Fairbanks Veterans Center this month, beginning with the First Friday event from 5 to 7 p.m. today. The Veterans Center chose the theme in honor of Veterans Day. The Fairbanks Veterans Center is located downtown at 540 Fourth Avenue. The event is open to the public.

The Community Spouses' Club will honor all who served during their Veterans Day luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday in the Last Frontier Community Activity Center ballroom. Nancy Baker, WWII-era pilot will be the guest speaker. Baker served as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots. In April 2010, Baker was one of two Alaskan recipients of the bronze medal replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress. Nonmembers are eligible to attend one meeting as a guest. Potential members need not be spouses to join. For more information or to sign up for the luncheon, visit the CSC online at www.wainwrightcsc.org.

Admission for open recreational ice skating



Individual daily fees

4 years and younger, free

Ages 5 to 17, \$2.50

Adults, \$3.50

Family of four or more, \$8

Skate rental, \$1.50

Physical Fitness Center

353-7294.

For your information

PWOC FIRST FRIDAY THEME

PWOC First Fridays "Boot Scootin' Boogie," tonight, 6:30 p.m., at Northern Lights Chapel. Join women in the Fort Wainwright community for a night of line dancing, country karaoke, fried chicken and all the fixins, door prizes, free childcare and fun! Kindergartners and older school-age children may be dropped off at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center at 6 p.m. for this month's event and preschool and nursery programming will be at Northern Lights Chapel. Please contact PWOC at wainwright@pwoc.org for more information.

CASTING CALL

The Army in Alaska announced an upcoming television documentary series focused on highlighting Army spouses of Alaska. Emmy and Peabody Award winning 44 Blue Productions is looking for Army spouses to feature in a documentary series for a major cable network putting faces to the names of unsung heroes like yourselves at home. If interested in being part of "Army Wives of Alaska," contact militaryprojectcasting@yahoo.com for more information. The production company will be meeting spouses in person in Alaska the week of Nov. 28.

CHILD FIND SCREENINGS

The 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 and the child is up to 36 months of age, we encourage you to attend. Screenings include vision and hearing and are scheduled for Tuesday 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. Call the AEIP at 456-4003, extension 0 to schedule an appointment and information. The next screening will take place again March 6, 2012.

REQUEST FOR HOLIDAY CARDS

The First Lady is asking military children from around the globe for some personal contributions to the finishing touches on the White House decorations this holiday season. If your Garrison wishes to participate, the request is for military children to submit 5-by-8 inch handmade holiday cards with words of appreciation for their military parents, as well as pictures and drawings. The White House will display as many of the cards as possible. Participants are asked to send holiday cards to the following address along with information from where they are sending it by Nov. 16.

Reservation 1, Attn: Social Office, PO Box 8070, Washington DC, 20032

FOOD IS FREE

The Fort Wainwright chaplains and volunteer team continue to offer the twice-monthly Feeding Our Outstanding Dependents program. FOOD will be offered Sunday, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Southern Lights Chapel. The free dinners are for soon-to-deploy Soldiers and Families of deployed Soldiers. All ages are welcome and take-out is available. FOOD will again be offered Nov. 20 during Military Family Appreciation week. For more information, call 353-9825.

DUELING PIANOS

Accomplished pianists, entertainers and "funnymen" Chris Combs and Terry Conry will be dueling it out for musical superiority in this lively, Vegas-style stage show that encourages audience participation. Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Gold Rush Lounge at Nugget Lanes Bowling Center. For more information call 353-6043.

EMERGENCY SYSTEM TEST

The Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will conduct the first-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System Wednesday at 10 a.m. At that time, an announcement will come on every TV and radio channel indicating that there is an emergency. This is only a test. Please do not be alarmed when you see this test. You do not need to take any action.

The scariest part of football was in the stands: That's what I'm talking about

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Fans of the National Football League don't need Halloween weekend as an excuse to dress in costume. Many choose some way special to represent their team every time they go to the ballpark. You can always find a scurvy dog sporting the skull and crossbones at a Raider or Buccaneer game and a group of cheeseheads cheering on the Packers. In Cleveland there's a designated section made up of cigar-chomping bull-dog-mask-wearing fanatics who "woof" anytime the Browns do something good. There are usually some over-zealous fans in every city that don wigs, paint their faces or wear something that symbolizes support for their team. But this past weekend they took it to a whole new level, providing as much entertainment in the stands as on the field.

The "Star Wars" Wookies were in Tennessee to cheer on the Titans;

the "Chucky" doll was supporting the Seahawks and Super girl was waving pom-poms for the Ravens, while Elvis' insane clowns, a variety of cat people and zombies, invaded every stadium in the country. Oh yeah, there was football and that's what I'm talking about.

The biggest story of the week happened in St. Louis. Besides the Major League Baseball Cardinals coming back to win game six against the Texas Rangers, then winning it all in game seven, the NFL Rams beat the New Orleans Saints 31-21.

The Green Bay Packers had a bye-week and remain the only undefeated team at 7 and 0, but there are plenty of clubs nudging for that number two spot. Many say it still belongs to the New Orleans Saints although they lost to a previously winless team. Some say it's the 49ers, while others pick

the Giants, Lions or the Eagles. I say there is plenty of football left and there are a lot of teams in the hunt. It's good for the game, it's great for the fan and that's always what I'm talking about.

As for the other games, the Ravens outlasted the Cardinals 30-27; Minnesota squeaked past the Panthers with a late-game field goal to win 24-21 and the New York Giants kept the Dolphins winless beating them 20-17. Houston defeated Jacksonville 24-14; the Titans forced several turnovers to beat the winless Colts 27-10 and the Buffalo Bills hammered Washington 23-zip.

Detroit added to the win column downing Denver 45-10; the Pittsburgh Steelers beat New England 25-17 and the Cincinnati Bengals feasted on the Seahawks 34-12. San Francisco beat Cleveland 20-10; the Philadelphia

Eagles picked apart the Dallas Cowboys 34-7 and the Chiefs shocked the San Diego Chargers in Kansas City 23-20 with an overtime field goal by Ryan Succop on Monday night.

It was a scary week for the A-Team with only seven wins. The Brain and Jones Bros posted eight, while Bear and Tate each had nine. Urbi starting climbing out of the cellar with 10 wins while BrowBrose Salsa mixed it up nicely to post eleven victories.

The Bear still leads the Fort Wainwright pickers with BrowBrose nipping at his heels. The Brain barely drops to the third spot while Jones Bros, Tate and A-Team are within one game of each other. Urbi remains in the last spot, but a great week has him back in the race. That's what I'm talking about.

Week 9 in the Alaska Post football series



Bear

82 Wins / 34 Losses

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



BrowBrose Salsa

74 Wins / 42 Losses

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



Brain

73 Wins / 43 Losses

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



Jones Bros

72 Wins / 44 Losses

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



Steve Tate

71 Wins / 45 Losses

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



A - Team

70 Wins / 46 Losses

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



Ed Urbi

67 Wins / 49 Losses

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

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Partners in security, in the air and on the ground

Capt. Justin Kelly, 40th CAB PAO

Soldiers from the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment recently had the opportunity to affect the future of Iraqi armed reconnaissance and the greater aviation community.

The 6-17th is a scout reconnaissance helicopter squadron from Fort Wainwright. The unit's fast-flying OH-58 Kiowa helicopters have been patrolling the skies of Iraq for much of



Sgt. Thomas Dunham, of the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment trains Iraqi Soldiers on loading 2.75-inch rockets into a Kiowa helicopter rocket pod on the Camp Taji airfield Oct. 23, as Pfc. James Ball, looks on. (Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts/40th CAB PAO)



Iraqi Soldiers receive training on loading armament onto OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopters Oct. 23 on the Camp Taji airfield. Soldiers from the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment conducted a week of training with their Iraqi counterparts who are preparing to take over full responsibility for the security of their country. (Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts/40th CAB PAO)

2011 in support of Operation New Dawn.

During the week of Oct. 17, the squadron conducted training with pilots and ground support personnel from the Iraqi Army's 21st Helicopter Squadron. The training included topics ranging from air-ground integration to rocket loading and safe armament procedures.

This training is expected to better prepare the 21st Squadron for the future as the unit nears full readiness to assume the 6-17th's mission in Iraq. Currently, the mission of the 21st Squadron is training. However, as the drawdown of American forces continues, the Iraqi unit will soon be responsible for armed reconnaissance flown today by U.S. air cavalry assets.

The Iraqi unit is currently using the Bell T-407 training helicopter to train more than 30 pilots. The Iraqi government has purchased 27 AR-407 helicopters armed with 2.75-inch rockets and M3P .50 caliber machine guns for the squadron's use.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason Ganitano and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dan Hill serve as liaisons and interact daily with Iraqi personnel from the 21st Squadron. They asked the 6-17th Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Michael C. McCurry, for assistance, in the belief that the American air cavalry squadron would make a lasting impression on the newly formed Iraqi unit, they said.

"The Iraqis look at Kiowas flying by and wish they could fly them," Hill said. The Kiowa's accomplishments and impact on local security over the years in the region have been enormous and the Iraqi Army holds the community in high regard, he added.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Todd Mitchell, squadron standardization pilot for the 6-17th, presented some of the training classes to the Iraqis of the 21st Squadron. "I am excited to be able to assist the Iraqi Army in taking the next step in their future," Mitchell said.

Armament personnel led by Staff Sgt. Jamey Hermanns instructed ground personnel in handling and loading procedures for the M3P machine gun and aerial rockets. Hermanns stated, "I hope some of the techniques and

procedures we taught will assist them as they develop their own standard operating procedures."

"The training and partnership that we fostered here will have a lasting impact on the Iraqi military and the country of Iraq. Even more than teaching these brave Iraqis techniques and procedures, we have established lasting relationships and a mutual respect that will have a more permanent and strategic impact," McCurry said.

The 6-17th will depart Iraq by the end of the year in accordance with the security agreement of 2008.



Capt. Andrew Eggers, of the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment walks with an Iraqi Soldier on the Camp Taji airfield on Oct. 23. Soldiers from the 6-17th conducted a week of training with their Iraqi counterparts who are preparing to take over the security mission from the unit. (Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts/40th CAB PAO)