

Alaska Army Guardsman earns Expert Infantry Badge

Sgt. Edward Eagerton
Alaska National Guard
Public Affairs

One Alaska Army National Guardsman was awarded the Expert Infantry Badge after successfully completing the EIB course at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska during the Sept. 9 through13 event.

Sgt. Joseph St. Germain, an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, received his EIB after completing the five-day course, hosted by the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

“There were hundreds of active-duty Soldiers testing for their EIB, and eight National Guardsmen participated as well,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dellabalma, an infantryman with C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1st Battalion, 297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Brigade. “Sgt. St. Germain was the only Guardsman to complete the course.

That’s a 12.5 percent pass rate, which is roughly on par with the average pass rate for all participants.”

The testing began with 645 Soldiers attempting to earn the EIB. By the end of the rigorous course, only 67 Soldiers earned the right to wear the coveted badge.

The EIB was created to recognize infantrymen who have demonstrated a mastery of critical tasks that build the core foundation of individual proficiency that allow them to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy through fire and maneuver and repel an enemy assault through fire and close combat, according to the U.S. Army’s official website.

“It’s a lot of attention to detail,” said St. Germain.

The five-day course consisted of a physical fitness test, day and night land navigation, master skills testing stations that tested individuals on their confidence and proficiency on various weapons systems, individual tactical

Sgt. Maj. Michael Grunst, deputy director of military support, Alaska Army National Guard, left, pins the Expert Infantry Badge onto Sgt. Joseph St. Germain, an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, during a ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Sept. 13. Of the 645 Soldiers who tested for EIB, only 67 earned the right to wear the coveted award. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dellabalma, U.S. Army National Guard)

test lanes that tested basic infantry skills and a 12-mile foot march.

During the testing, Soldiers were graded on performance measures. Missing certain performance measures resulted in receiving a no go, and three no go’s resulted in being dropped from the course.

“The biggest thing is being able to talk yourself through all of the performance measures,” St. Germain

See BADGE on page 2



Stryker Soldiers begin annual bilateral training exercise in India

Maj. David Mattox
1-25th SBCT PAO

Soldiers with the U.S. Army’s 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and the Indian army’s 2nd Battalion, 9th Gurkha Rifles stood together in formation on a parade field nestled high in the mountains approximately 200 miles northeast of Dehli, India, as part of the opening ceremony for the annual bilateral training exercise known as

See INDIA on page 3



Soldiers from 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and the 2nd Battalion, 9th Ghurak Regiment of the Indian army take part in the opening ceremonies for exercise Yudh Abhyas 14 at Chaubattia, India, Sept. 17. The exercise is sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and is geared toward enhancing cooperation and coordination through training and cultural exchanges and building skills and relationships necessary during a peacekeeping operation. This year’s exercise takes place Sept. 17-30 at Ranikhet Cantonment, Utterakhand, India. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mylinda DuRousseau, 1-25th SBCT PAO)

Common bond strengthened by cavalry unit’s first impression

Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril
2nd Combat Aviation Brigade

No matter what the occasion, whether it’s a date, job interview, or meeting the in-laws for the first time, there’s an old saying that goes: “First impressions are lasting ones.”

One newly arrived cavalry unit understood the importance of that saying and decided to show their true colors from the get-go.

The 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment based out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska recently joined the

See BOND on page 3



The commander and senior enlisted adviser of 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Lt. Col. Matthew F. Ketchum and Command Sgt. Major Kirk W. Parsons shake the hands of Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers during a welcoming ceremony June 26, at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Cecilia Clark, 2nd CAB UPAR)

It’s about to get real

Winter driving requires proactive participation, not reactive contributions

Commentary by Allen Shaw
Fort Wainwright PAO

Operating a vehicle in Interior Alaska is a challenge and often understated. Once someone sits behind the wheel and turns the key a prudent driver should be ready for anything. Interior Alaska drivers experience road conditions at their worst. A mixture of snow and fluctuating temperatures, along with wind effect the driving surface, triggering a melt and freeze making ruts, bumps and humps often causing the driver to lose their grip sending them skidding out of control. “It requires time and a conscious effort to adjust to the lack of traction and the new driving style vital to cope with snow and ice,” said Robert Tanner, United States Army Garrison Fort Wainwright Safety Office.

It’s coming folks and if you aren’t prepared you are destined for the ditch shortly after the snow sticks. There are already slick spots lurking at intersections and bridges. Just because you were issued a license or have a big nasty four-wheel drive truck doesn’t mean you know how to drive on ice. Unfortunately one of the things they don’t test for is common sense. When driving, don’t answer the phone. On post it will get

you a ticket. It is most likely something that can wait until you can safely find a place to pull over and concentrate on one thing at a time, and by all means don’t text. You’re not fooling anyone and it is so obvious when you’re doing it if you’re glancing at your lap when your eyes should be on the road. It is dangerous, people die and you know it. So just don’t — EVER. Stop the texts, stop the wrecks. Pay attention to the vehicle you are operating. Quit glancing up and down at the stoplight because you will get in trouble. Put the darn thing down, leave your phone alone; end of story.

Alaska has a unique law where you can be cited for driving too fast for conditions. No matter what type of surface or situation you are responsible to move, steer and stop that vehicle in a safe manner. If you are unable to do these things, perhaps you shouldn’t drive in the winter. Tanner said, “Driving in snow and ice requires an increase of three times the braking and following distances necessary for dry pavement.”

In addition, your vehicle should be in good operating order with working headlights, taillights, windshield wipers, proper tires and decent

See WINTER on page 7



Safe winter driving starts with slowing down. Taking extra precautions during commuting to work or traveling throughout the Interior is paramount in making the best of possible accidents. (File photo, Fort Wainwright PAO)

WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday

Mostly sunny and not too cold
Highs around 52
Lows around 29



Saturday

Partly cloudy, rain possible
Highs around 45
Lows around 29



Sunday

Mostly cloudy, a chance of rain
Highs around 45
Lows around 29

BRIEFS

Fort Wainwright community encouraged to conserve

One of the two steam lines providing heat to buildings on North Post ruptured last week as it was activated for the winter season. The 300-foot line cannot be repaired and must be replaced with a temporary line that will return steam delivery to normal levels. The current estimate to install this line is no later than Nov. 1.

See CONSERVE on page 7

MEDDAC Minute

Brandy Ostanik
Medical Department
Activity-Alaska PAO

5-2-1-0 Challenge

To help improve health, try the 5-2-1-0 challenge for a month.

- Eat five servings of fruits and vegetables a day
- Get two hours less 'screen time' every day
- Exercise one hour every day
- Drink zero sweetened beverages, opting for water or low-fat milk instead

Flu Clinic

Medical Department Activity Alaska will be hosting two weeks of flu clinics for beneficiaries from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 14 through 17 and Oct. 20 through 24 at the Education Center, building 4391. Park in the rear of the building and use the entry doors located by the rear courtyard.

Email Access to Health Care Team

Bassett Army Community Hospital beneficiaries can now sign up for Secure Messaging to have email access to their health care team. Sign up at the Primary Care Clinic and have access to prescription refill requests, lab results, appointment requests and more.

Walk-in Clinic

Beneficiaries can utilize the Walk-in Clinic Nurse option when needing to be seen for strep throat screening, urinary tract infection screening, pregnancy testing, blood pressure monitoring, suture removal, wart removal and sexually transmitted disease checks. The clinic is open 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call 361-5833.

Anonymous or Not

Sometimes being anonymous is not a good thing. When filling out Interactive Customer Evaluation forms (ICE) leaving contact information helps us to better serve our beneficiaries. Many times the issue is something we can easily fix, but without contact information we are not able to remedy the situation. Giving us a name and number allows us to contact the beneficiary and correct the problem on the spot.

Garrison Commander's Fire Prevention Week proclamation

During Fire Prevention Week, we reaffirm the importance of fire safety and awareness, and we pay tribute to our firefighters, volunteers, and first responders who put themselves in harm's way to protect our lives, homes, and communities every day.

Every year throughout the United States, fires kill thousands, injure hundreds of thousands, and destroy billions of dollars in property. Each of us can take a few precautions in our homes to safeguard our loved ones from the hazards of fire. Smoke alarms are vital detection devices, and properly installing and maintaining them in the home can help keep our families safe. This year's National Fire Protection Association theme is, "Working Smoke

Alarms Saves Lives", which encourages all military Families and civilians to test their



Col. S. Cape Zemp

smoke alarm to ensure proper operation.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Fire Prevention Week has been

observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's

Library Information Center, Fire Prevention

Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1922.

Parents and caregivers should also take the time to discuss and practice emergency plans with children in the event of a fire. Additionally, around the home, it is important to ensure electronic appliances, machines, and heating units are plugged in and operated properly.

Safely disposing of matches and cigarettes when cooking on grills or building a campfire will help avoid untold numbers of emergencies, injuries, and lives lost to fire and its consequences.

Fire Prevention Week also calls our attention to the lifesaving work our firefighters

perform in our community. These courageous professionals are the first ones on scene during an emergency, fearlessly charging up smoke-filled staircases as people rush down them. Some have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We are profoundly grateful for the dedication and tireless efforts of our firefighters and first responders in their selfless service to our communities.

Now, therefore, I, S. C. Zemp, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright, do hereby proclaim 5-11 October, 2014 as Fire Prevention Week at Fort Wainwright and urge all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, and businesses to invest in the power of prevention and work together to make our community a safer, stronger, more caring community.

Sugar Bears return home



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter is slowly unloaded from the transport plane, Sept. 17, on Ladd Army Airfield, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The CH-47 is one of many that will soon be returning to Fort Wainwright from Afghanistan. The equipment, helicopters and personnel from 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment will begin wrapping up their mission and returning home over the next few weeks. (Photo by Capt. Patrick Sawicki, U.S. Army Alaska PAO)

Badge: Guardsman honored with award

Continued from page 1

said. "The events are timed, but you have to focus on the task at hand and not think about what's next, otherwise you might miss a step. I would just talk out loud as I was going through the motions, that way I wouldn't feel like I was rushing."

Before the events, Soldiers were given the opportunity to train at the various stations, he explained. But with so many people trying to test for the EIB, that training time was limited for each Soldier.

"It helps to be familiar with the weapons systems," St. Germain added. "That's what got a lot of people was the weapons systems. If you have a good idea about them, you'll understand what the cadre are looking for."

After making it through the individual lanes, the remaining Soldiers had to complete the 12-mile foot march. The Soldiers were given three hours to complete the march, at the end of which they had to do a layout

of their gear and disassemble their M4 carbines, reassemble them and perform a functions check. Completing these tasks after the physical exertion was all that stood between failure and receiving the coveted EIB.

"After I did my layout and I knew I had it, it felt good," St. Germain said. "I enjoyed being out in the field, had fun working with the active duty guys, and the Cadre were really good. I'm proud to have earned it."

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

EDITORIAL STAFF

Fort Wainwright

Garrison Commander

Col. S. C. Zemp

Fort Wainwright Acting PAO/Editor

Brian Schlumbohm

Staff writer/Community-

Media Relations Officer

Allen Shaw

Contributors

Sgt. Edward Eagerton, Alaska National Guard PAO

Lisa Ferdinando, Army News Service

Maj. David Mattox, 1-25th SBCT PAO

Brandy Ostanik, Medical Department Activity-Alaska PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade

Staff Report, Fort Wainwright Survivor Outreach Services

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 usarmy.wainwright.imcom-pacific.list.pao@mail.mil

The ALASKA POST – Home of the Arctic Warriors

India: Training abroad

Continued from page 1

Yudh Abhyas, Sept. 17. This U.S. Army Pacific-sponsored exercise is geared toward enhancing cooperation and coordination through training and cultural exchanges which help build the skills and relationships necessary during a peacekeeping operation. This marks the tenth year of this exercise.

The U.S. troops from 5-1 Cavalry and staff members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division traveled from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to meet and work with the Soldiers and officers of the Indian army's 99th Mountain Brigade and 2-9th Gurkha Rifles.

"The intent of this exercise is to become good friends that can think together and solve global issues," said the Indian Army's assistant senior exercise controller.

Yudh Abhyas 14 provides excellent opportunities for professional and cultural exchanges, teamwork, expanding common ground, sharing, learning, training and creating friendships.

Scheduled training includes expert academic exchanges on regional security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and special operations. During the expert academic exchanges, field training and command post exercises will be conducted simultaneously.

Members of the California National Guard as well as civilian observers

from around the world are helping facilitate the exercise. Each element is expected to provide a different perspective to the complex issues of peacekeeping operations today.

For the 1-25th SBCT brigade staff, the exercise is an opportunity to experience a simulated UN peacekeeping mission, something the staff has not seen despite their 12 years of experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I have no experience in UN peace keeping missions and I hope that [my Indian army counterpart] will be able to teach me a lot about UN peace keeping operations and how to use restraint in such operations," said Maj. Adrian Chen, the 1-25th SBCT's effects coordination officer.

"Who has been involved in peace keeping operations?" Indian Army's staff officer responsible for UN operations asked a group of officers and staff members from both nations prior to the combined command post exercise portion of Yudh Abhyas.

Three quarters of the Indian army officers raised their hands while none of the 1-25th SBCT staff had personal experience in U.N. peace keeping missions. The Indian officer went on to explain how the Indian Army has more than 64 years of experience in U.N. peace keeping missions across the globe from Congo to Golan Heights.

With this dynamic, there is ample opportunity for U.S. service members to learn about conducting U.N. operations from their Indian Army counterparts with decades of experience. The exercise will also afford the U.S. Soldiers the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Indian culture which, to many of the 1-25th SBCT Soldiers, is a new experience in itself.

Though the 1-25th SBCT may not have a lot of experience in UN missions, they do have a wealth of experience and knowledge in the military planning and Mission Command processes during combined military operations in a diverse battlefield. The 1-25th SBCT Soldiers have spent the last 12 years deploying and conducting counter insurgency operations as part of a coalition in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 1-25th SBCT is no stranger to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations or humanitarian assistance missions and can provide this useful perspective for the Yudh Abhyas combined exercise.

Following the opening ceremonies at the Ranikhet Cantonment, Soldiers from both nations had tea together and celebrated with music and laughter as they began forming the bonds that help solidify continued peace and stability in the region.

Bond: First impressions

Continued from page 1

2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, as they embarked on a nine month rotational deployment here.

Their first piece of business was made obvious during a welcoming ceremony held in honor of the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the unit.

"Successful execution of the 6-17th Cavalry mission will require teamwork from all of our assigned cavalrymen," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kirk W. Parsons, senior enlisted adviser of 6-17th Cavalry Regiment, and native of Princeton, Texas. "Welcoming new members to the squadron is step number one in building a team."

That team building concept started long ago with the KATUSA program that began during the Korean War as an informal agreement between U.S. forces and the Korean government, allowing Korean soldiers to integrate and train with U.S. Soldiers.

KATUSAs, to this day, continue to work and serve alongside their U.S. counterparts. This combined force maintains the ability to "Fight Tonight" while keeping the Korean phrase "Katchi Kapishida" (We go Together) mantra alive.

That cohesion and relationship is seemingly strengthened by such occasions like the KATUSA welcoming ceremony, making Most U.S. Army units here a well established force. Soldiers and KATUSAs come and go, but they complete their service obligations assigned to these units.

The 6-17th Cavalry Regiment unlike most units in Korea is a rotational asset that was deployed to Korea and will return to the U.S. later, making this a special and unique opportunity for the KATUSAs who are assigned to it.

Upon their arrival, the leadership and Soldiers of 6-17th Cavalry Regiment seized the moment to make a first impression with their Korean counterparts.

"I was surprised at first because this is not a usual thing for KATUSAs to be welcomed in a big ceremony," said Cpl. Hyung Sub Shin, senior KATUSA assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6-17th Cavalry Regiment and native of Seoul, South Korea. "I was really thankful that they [held] this ceremony and gave us a certificate, welcoming us to 6-17th Cavalry. All of us KATUSAs were really impressed by that."

One Soldier felt the

importance and need to welcome her new teammates in such a ceremony.

"It was a good way [for us] to introduce the KATUSAs into the unit and let them know that we care," said Pvt. Shynice L. Zellars, human resource specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6-17th Cavalry Regiment and native of Washington, Georgia. "The ceremony made me feel like we are making a difference by letting the KATUSAs know that they are a part of our family."

Now that these KATUSAs are part of the cavalry family, what can they expect?

"We expect the same from them as any other Soldier," said Parsons. "They must be ready to 'Fight Tonight.' This takes commitment, professionalism, responsibility, disciplined initiative, and of course, cavalry swagger."

Soldiers will have the opportunity to carry out these expectations as 6-17th Cavalry Regiment and their extended family begin joint and combined training ventures across the peninsula. They do so in support of the "Second to None" warrior division's mission to deter aggression and maintain peace.

17506885

FNSB SCHOOL DISTRICT

AP/BEST PROGRAM

3 x 5.25

17506889

NORTH STAR DANCE

AP/SEE'S CANDY SALE

3 x 5.25

13506910

INTERIOR ALASKA BUILDING

AK POST/ALASKA POST

3 x 10.5

Gold Star Mother’s Day and Gold Star Family Day

Staff Report
Fort Wainwright Survivor Outreach Services

Gold Star Mother’s Day and Gold Star Family Day are observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving the United States Armed Forces

The terms Gold Star Family and Gold Star Mothers was derived from the custom of military families who placed a service flag or banner near their front window.

These flags or banners were first flown by families during World War I.

The flag included a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, during a period of war or hostilities in which the United States was engaged. If that loved one died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to know the price that family had paid in the cause of freedom.

On June 23, 1936, a joint congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother’s Day, a holiday that has been observed each



year by a presidential proclamation. Today the nation and the Army continues to remember and honor the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family Members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other

loved one dies in the service to the nation — no one has given more for the nation than the Families of the Fallen. This year Gold Star Mother’s Day and Gold Star Family Day is Sunday, September 28, 2014.

On this day, please take a moment to remember and honor the sacrifices of our Gold Star Mother’s and Families.

For more information, please contact Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator, Rhonda

Carlson at 353-4004 or rhonda.w.carlson.civ@mail.mil.



GOLD STAR MOTHER'S & FAMILIES' DAY
Sunday, September 28th, 2014

REMEMBER
RESPECT & HONOR
SURVIVING MILITARY MOTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
ON THIS SPECIAL DAY.



To learn more about the symbols of honor that Gold Star Mothers and Families wear, visit GoldStarPins.org

13509320
FUSHIMI JAPANESE
FUSION
AK POST/AK POST PU
2 x 4.5
Full, olor

17508587
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR
BORO
ALASKA POST/ALASKA P
3 x 3
Full, olor

40507794
AFC/USAA
Far forward/IO-10939
6 x 10.5
Full, olor

18511941
SEEKINS FORD
AP/SEEKINS AK POST
6 x 21
Full, olor

Conserve: Fort Wainwright community encouraged to take part in heat saving practices

Continued from page 1

Allen Shaw
Fort Wainwright PAO

Although there is another functioning steam line servicing North Post, its capacity is limited and will likely not be able to provide the entire North Post with typical levels of heat for the immediate future. The United States Army Garrison Fort Wainwright is currently determining possi-

ble impacts and is developing precautionary measures to conserve energy.

Col. Cape Zemp, commander, USAG Fort Wainwright said, “Soldier and Family housing is our number one priority.” Larger buildings such as warehouses will be kept at cooler temperatures and staff has been directed to be vigilant with windows, doors and thermostats. “By instituting these measures, the heat being

shared will keep more buildings at a consistent temperature,” Zemp said. Further measures to reduce steam heat consumption on North Post may be required in the near future, potentially affecting workplaces and other large buildings.

Fort Wainwright personnel and Family members living on the North Post should begin conserving heat now. Current measures should include parking vehicles out-

side, turning your garage temperature down to 50 degrees and do not open the garage door. Significantly reduce your thermostat settings when not at home and reduce your settings when at home. Ensure that all windows are locked tight and use only one door for entering and exiting.

Repair work has begun and contractors will be working seven days a week, 12-hours a day once equipment and

supplies are on site.

Residents can call a help line at 353-0184 to report a service outage or for additional guidance. North Haven Communities, Fort Wainwright PAO and Fort Wainwright Current Conditions Facebook pages will be updated with current information and advice on a regular basis.

In the meantime, warm slippers, a snuggle blanket and a nice cup of hot tea should help keep you toasty.

Winter: Be extra careful on the roads

Continued from page 1

brakes. There should not be pieces of the body, trim or bumper flapping in the wind and everything should be attached to the undercarriage so you’re not clanking, dropping debris or spitting sparks as you travel down the road.

Always use extreme caution when coming to an intersection. These are some of the slickest spots on the road. The intersection is where many skid to a stop and then spinout to get moving again. Whenever other drivers are involved watch what you are doing, try to anticipate what everyone else is going to do and what you are going to do if there happens to be someone who isn’t a sensible driver like yourself. There are people who think when a light turns from green to yellow you are supposed to give it more gas, while others think it means slam on the brakes. These are the dweebs fish-tailing or sliding out of control through a red light. Do whatever you can to avoid these people. Watch for them every time you are out there and don’t give them an opportunity to ruin your day.

Learn to stay in your lane. If you can’t or don’t want to stay in your lane, signal, make sure other cars around you are well aware of what you plan to do, then execute the operation with caution. Merging into traffic is another one of these often misinterpreted actions. It is the responsibility of the vehicle who wants to join the traffic flow to blend into the activity that’s already taking place. It always requires a signal, but sometimes it’s necessary to increase or

decrease your speed to merge. The herd does not have to make accommodations for you to join. If someone can safely make it easier for you then so be it. This is another action that requires your full attention, patience and good sense.

Another avoidable road hazard this time of year is often caused by someone just being neighborly. Without the assistance of safety personnel, flares or warning lights roadside assistance is another accident waiting to happen and being fueled by a lack of good judgment. It’s just like everything else written so far, just because you’ve got a big truck and a tow strap doesn’t mean you have a license to ignore the rules of the road and put others in danger while you drag your buddy’s truck out of the ditch. You don’t have the credentials to drive down the opposite side of the road and take up an extra lane of traffic while you find something to hook to. You should only “be nice” when public safety is being protected.

There are awesome, highly trained individuals that know how to do this and do it safely.

Historically, after the first snowfall there are way too many incidents and accidents, and as someone who has been hitting these roads for more than three decades I feel qualified enough to share an opinion on the subject.

For more information on safe winter driving call the garrison Safety Office at 353-7079 or visit www.facebook.com/FortWainwrightSafety.

IN BRIEF

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

This year’s CFC program runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 24. Fort Wainwright’s CFC contact can be reached at 353-7633 for more information.

DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

The Fort Wainwright Army Substance Abuse Program, Directorate of Emergency Services, Bassett Army Community Hospital and Drug Enforcement Administration are teaming up again for this year’s National Pharmaceutical Drug Take-Back Day. This is the ninth National Pharmaceutical Drug Take-Back Day event in the United States and Fort Wainwright has participated in the collections since the beginning. On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., collection boxes will be set up at the Fort Wainwright Post Exchange for anyone to bring their prescriptions or over-the-counter medications for disposal. For more information on Fort Wainwright’s National Prescription Take-Back Day event, call 361-1381.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM TEST

There will be a testing of the Public Address System or ‘Giant Voice’ in the new hangar construction area, located on south side of runway, Monday from 1:30 to 2 p.m. Various voice announcements and alert sounds may be heard during this testing.

ARMY HOCKEY TEAM

An informational

meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, from noon to 2 p.m. in the basement theater of building 1555. All local hockey players from active Army, Reserve and Guard are welcome to participate. An Army hockey team will be created for this year’s tournament against the Air Force. Game day is scheduled for an Army vs. Air Force game on Dec. 12 at the Carlson Center, Fairbanks. Bring pen and paper for notes and practice schedule. For additional information, email bridger.terra@us.army.mil or joshua.g.miller.mil@mail.mil; or call 353-6801 or (907) 888-5490.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The U.S. Army Alaska Aviation Task Force and the Fort Wainwright Equal Opportunity Office is hosting the 2014 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance, slated for Oct. 8, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., at the Fort Wainwright Physical Fitness Center, building 3709. Observance Theme: “Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success.” For more information, email konkista.raustin.mil@mail.mil or paul.d.wayfield.mil@mail.mil.

CAR CARE

The Automotive Skills Center is now offering a summer special for complete winterization of your vehicle. Special includes; installation of heating pads, engine block heater, four way box and coolant adjusted for Alaska’s extreme temperatures. Hours of Operations are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday; 11:30

a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and closed Tuesday through Wednesday. Call 353-7436 for more information or stop by the center at building 3730 on Oak Avenue. Special price offer is valid through Oct. 31.

FLU CLINIC SCHEDULED

Medical Department Activity Alaska will be hosting two weeks of flu clinics for beneficiaries from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 14 through 17 and Oct. 20 through 24 at the Education Center, building 4391. Please park in the rear of the building and use the entry doors located by the rear courtyard.

JOBS ON FORT WAINWRIGHT

Looking for a part time or even fulltime job? There are more than 70 federal employee jobs and nearly 50 nonfederal jobs just waiting to be filled on post right now. Pipefitters, System Administrators, Telecommunications Mechanics, Child and Youth Program Assistants and more. Go to www.usajobs.gov and find out how many different career opportunities there are for you at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

Fort Wainwright Community Spouses’ Club will present the 32nd Annual Holly Days Bazaar, Oct. 17, from 4 to 8 p.m. and Oct. 18th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hangar 5. For more information please contact the Community Spouses’

Club by emailing hollydaysbazaar@gmail.com. The Fort Wainwright Community Spouses’ Club is a non-profit agency. All proceeds are returned to the community through Welfare Grants and scholarships.

HEALTH CLASSES

The Arctic Health Link Center offers classes on: Allergy and Asthma, Cholesterol, Diabetes, Hypertension, Self Care Class (Take Care of Yourself), Tobacco Cessation and specialized programs per request. If interested in a class for you, your unit or for a FRG meeting, please call 361-4148. For more information go to www.alaska.amedd.army.mil/ArcticHealthLink/TCOY_Pamphlet.pdf.

RECREATION ACCESS PERMIT

For summer recreation on U.S. Army training lands this year, be sure to get your Recreation Access Permit Card or RAP card. This required, but free recreational pass is provided by both Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright, allowing access to certain military lands for general outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, hiking and all terrain vehicle use. For more information go online at <https://usartrak.isportsman.net/> or call the Natural Resources offices of Fort Wainwright at 361-9686, or Fort Greely at (907) 873-4381. To see maps of recreational areas go to <https://usartrak.isportsman.net/maps/recmaps>.

11505965
NORTHWIND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ALL ALASKA POST/
2 x 2

17509019
FAIRBANKS CURLING CLUB
AK POST/OPEN HOUSE
2 x 5

17508571
N/ FAIRBANKS ORTHODONTIC GROUP
ALASKA POST/COME SMI
2 x 6

67503297
FAIRBANKS PUBLISHING
AK POST CLASS/ALASKA
6 x 21
Full, olor