

ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

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Winter Fury, Patriot Grizzly

By **CAITLIN RUSSELL**
JBER Public Affairs

Active duty and Air Force Reserve Airmen from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 15 to conduct in-house and joint training, until Feb. 13.

Aircrew and pilots with the 525th Fighter Squadron, 90th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Maintenance Group and 477th Fighter Group, are continuing to perform flying operations with in-house exercise Patriot Grizzly, and completed joint exercise Winter Fury on Jan. 23. Winter Fury involved both Marine F/A-18C Hornets, and Navy F-35C Lightning IIs, partnering with F-22s to perform air-to-air combat, while protecting ground assets.

Although Winter Fury has ended, F-22s will continue to work with Marine F/A-18C Hornets throughout their in-house training.

“Patriot Grizzly is unique for us [JBER] because we brought both active-duty and reserve personnel on the temporary duty to increase readiness through consistent flying,” said Air Force Capt. Jared Becker, 525th Fighter Squadron pilot. “The integration with our personnel, and then also with the Marines and Navy, has established cross-talk that is important to the exercise and the mission as a whole.”

Both exercises allowed JBER aircrew and pilots to practice standardized tactics across the services and adjust to different flying procedures and communication. This



An Air Force F-22 Raptor flies over Marine Corps F/A-18C Hornets preparing to taxi on the runway during joint exercise Winter Fury at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 16. Winter Fury involved both Marine F/A-18C Hornets, and Navy F-35C Lightning IIs, partnering with Air Force F-22 Raptors to perform air-to-air combat, while protecting ground assets. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

LEFT: Senior Airman James Klein, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crewchief, searches for flight equipment during in-house exercise Patriot Grizzly at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 15. Patriot Grizzly involved both active-duty and Reserve Airmen from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, integrating with other branches of service to increase readiness through consistent flying operations.

was the first time JBER active-duty and reserves participated in a TDY together.


“This exercise has really allowed us to think outside of the box,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Donovan Hall, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit dedicated crew chief. “Because we’re on a Marine Air

Station, there are a lot of variables that we have to adjust to and be able to make quick decisions. It’s been good for the teamwork aspect because we’re working with a lot of different organizations, and focusing on the whole joint warfighter mentality.”

Air Force Lt. Col. John-

son, 302nd Fighter Squadron deployed director of operations, attested to focusing on joint interoperability. “While operating from a Marine Corps Air Station does have its challenges, such as different flying operations, we’re working through all of those issues and making it happen.

All of our interactions with the personnel at Miramar have been top notch, we’ve received a lot of support.”

Exercise Patriot Grizzly and Winter Fury allow JBER personnel, both active-duty and Reserve, to increase their total force integration across the services. 

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**Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/
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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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AFE shop participates in Patriot Grizzly

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
CAITLIN RUSSELL**
JBER Public Affairs

Airmen with the 3d Operations Support Squadron and the 477th Operations Support Flight aircrew flight equipment shops are participating in exercise Patriot Grizzly at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., from Jan. 15 to Feb. 13.

“Pilots depend on the AFE team to guarantee their equipment is working properly for any mission,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Justin Woolverton, 477th OSF aircrew flight equipment superintendent. “Our mission while we’re here is to support our pilots.”

Throughout the exercise, personnel performed duties similar to the JBER mission – maintaining, inspecting and servicing all the equipment aircrew require.

Helmets, masks, harnesses, anti-gravity force suits

and communication equipment are all under the AFE team’s responsibility.

“When performing a pre-flight inspection, we work with the pilot to ensure all their gear is operable,” Woolverton said. “We hook them up to the Joint Close Air Support system where they test oxygen levels, pressure and leakage, and communication. Following the flight, we do an even more intricate inspection where we clean the gear, check the communication and ensure nothing looks out of place. We also perform 30-day inspections where we tear everything apart, thoroughly clean it and look for any fraying or tearing. Once the gear checks out, we put it all back together and it’s good for another 30 days.”

Every piece of equipment used by aircrew has requirements for how often it needs to be inspected, and the servicing schedule creates the



An F-22 Raptor pilot tests his helmet using the Joint Close Air Support system during exercises Patriot Grizzly and Winter Fury at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 17. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

workflow.


“Each day, we look over the flying schedule to make sure we know when everyone is stepping to their jets and figure out what gear needs to be inspected,” said Senior Airman Thomas McCormack, 477th OSF AFE journeyman.

From maintaining hel-

metts to sewing vests, AFE Airman stay focused on the mission, ensuring attention to safeguard the integrity of the flight gear.

“The gear we service is vital to aircrew safety,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Darius Clarke, 3rd Operations Support Squadron AFE assistant noncommissioned officer in

charge. “While the majority of pilots will never experience the need for their flight and survival equipment, it is still the number one priority that it work every time.”

Whether on temporary duty or at JBER, the AFE mission remains the same – ensuring equipment safety for all aircrew. 

Civil engineer Airmen use drone to assess airfields

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CRYSTAL JENKINS**
JBER Public Affairs

For more than nine days, 12 civil engineer Airmen from several Pacific Air Forces bases recently participated in an operator training course of the new Rapid Airfield Damage Assessment System at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

RADAS, one of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's latest research and development projects, significantly reduces hazardous exposure Airmen might encounter and reduces the duration of airfield recovery and assessment.

"In the Air Force, our warfighting platform is the airfield. Our job is to be able to recover one quickly with great efficiency, so we are leveraging the newest tech-

nology to be able to do that," said Air Force Maj. Nicholas Nabors, AFCEC Chief of Expeditionary Engineering and Modernization. "As part of the RADAS fielding effort, we are training Airmen to become skilled sensor operators as opposed to just drone pilots. In a very short time we are able to take our civil engineers, who are already trained to rapidly assess airfield damage, and give them an incredibly useful tool with advanced capabilities."

This innovative technology, currently adopted by the Pacific Command and fielded through PACAF, cultivates the region's long-term capabilities of competing, deterring, and winning, saving lives and cutting flight line recovery times drastically.

Throughout the first week of training the Airmen focus on learning to fly the Aeryon



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jesse Johnson, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron, operates a Small Unmanned Aircraft System at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 23. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Crystal Jenkins)

SkyRanger Small Unmanned Aircraft System. During the second week they learn to fly the RADAS mission while using the SUAS systems.


"Coming from a civil engineer background, we are used to challenges; learning how to use the SUAS was no different," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Holmes, 51st CES engineer apprentice

stationed at Osan Air Base, South Korea. "We did everything from pre-flight inspections to written and practical qualification tests. I think the advancements we are making in airfield assessment keep us fresh and ready for the fight tonight and tomorrow."

The SUAS is capable of quickly deploying and locating airfield damage as well

as unexploded ordnance, left after an attack. The real-time view gives both engineers and base leadership the ability to have a stitched-together mosaic of images instantly, in addition to the rewind and zoom controls during an assessment.

"Under the legacy style of airfield assessment, a team of four or more Airmen physically go and assess," Nabors said. "RADAS not only reduces the number of our Airmen [exposed to hazards] down to just one or two, but gives leadership a near-immediate ability to prioritize mission capabilities sooner through its networking capabilities. Through these types of advancements we remain ready for the future."

Operators proved the SUAS operates well in and demanding conditions, Nabors said. 

Safety office hosts OSHA general class

By **SENIOR AIRMAN RICHY HAYES**
JBER Public Affairs

The 673d Air Base Wing Ground Safety Office held a beginner-level Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-Hour General Industry class at the Education Center at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 24 and 25.

The course is the first of its kind at JBER.

Instructors from the Anchorage OSHA office taught general industry regulations and standards materials to the service members and civilians who attended.

“The 10-Hour is a great introduction to what OSHA is all about,” said Michael Lundvall, 673d ABW occupational safety lead. “Because of the relationship that we have with the OSHA office downtown, three of their instructors taught on Thursday and a couple on Friday. One of them happened to be the director of the Alaska federal OSHA department, and she was very excited about coming on base.”

Registration was limited to 25 people, and anyone on the installation was allowed to sign up.

While the Air Force already follows workplace safety standards outlined in Air Force Manual 91-203, “Air Force Occupational Safety, Fire and Health Standards,” the OSHA general industry standards and regulations are a bit more comprehensive.

“We posted the registration link on Jan. 16, and it was full less than a week later,” said Lundvall. “We will probably hold another OSHA 10-Hour course within the next few months because of how rapidly this class filled.”

The curriculum covered topics such as exit routes, emergency action plans, fire prevention, personal protective equipment, hazard communication and much more.

Upon completion, students received an OSHA general industries regulations and standards certification that is good for a lifetime.

“To meet the certification requirements, the instructors needed to teach seven and a half hours’ worth of required training, and two and a half hours of ‘electives,’” Lundvall said. “For the electives, we picked courses that are important to leadership, such as fall protection, and other typical safety violations.”

The class wasn’t specific to any



Arlene Lamont, Anchorage federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration area director, teaches an introduction to workplace personal protective equipment at the Education Center at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 24. The 673d Air Base Wing Ground Safety Office hosted an OSHA 10-Hour General Industry class, open to all service members and civilians on the installation. The class gave an overview of what OSHA is all about, and how it can positively affect work centers on JBER. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Richy Hayes Jr.)

career field, and was designed to benefit anyone who signed up.

Whether they work in an office, on the flight line or out on the firing range, the skills taught encompass all workplace safety concerns.

“We learned a general overview of OSHA,” said Tech. Sgt. Jessica Brown, 673d ABW Safety Office weapons safety manager. “I’m getting more familiar with OSHA, and I’m hoping to apply the material by identifying hazards and passing along information to young Airmen.”

The materials taught by the OSHA instructors weren’t specifically tailored to the military, but are relevant to the military in a number of ways due to the increased hazards service

members face on a daily basis.


“The students interacted very well and responded to many of the topics,” said Arlene Lamont, area director for the Anchorage federal OSHA office. “It doesn’t matter if you’re active-duty military or work in manufacturing, the hazards are there so they need to be addressed and corrected. It’s really about hazard recognition.”

Lundvall said he hopes the students will use what they learned to make an impact outside the classroom.

“I’m looking forward to the reviews afterward,” said Lundvall. “I would like for the students to go back to their supervisors and commanders

and say, ‘It was a valuable class, and when they put it on again, you should have someone else attend too.’”

More in-depth OSHA classes such as this one could lead to a reduction in workplace safety violations, so while they take a bit of planning and preparation for the Wing Safety Office, they should pay dividends in the long term.

“I hope to see that when we go out and do our inspections, we see the results out in the workforce and the facilities,” said Lundvall. “Our goal is to see a reduction in trends with the write-ups we typically find – like the surge protectors daisy-chained, or the electrical write-ups with ungrounded extension cords.” 

Friday
Member appreciation
The PermaFrost Pub offers great food and fun starting at 3:30 p.m., free for members. For information, call 552-3669.

Open swim
Paradise pool at Buckner Physical Fitness Center is open from 4 to 8 p.m. for free family swimming. For information, call 384-1369.

Blind date with a book
Check out a wrapped book at the JBER Library through Feb. 28 and see if you've met the match of your dreams – and write a review. For information, call 384-1640.

Winter reading challenge
Adults can register to win prizes in this JBER Library challenge through March 15. For information, call 384-1640.

Saturday
Cross-country lessons
Learn the basics of cross-country skiing at Eagleleglen Fitness Park for free from 10 to 11:30 a.m., open to ages 3 and up. Bring equipment or check some out free. For information, call 552-2023.

Snowmachine ride
Singles can snowmachine at Willow or Spencer Glacier with this ride from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. open to all service members and dependents. For information call 552-2023.

Sunday
Ice climbing
Scale a frozen waterfall and experience the awe of Alaska with this trip for ages 16 and older from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call

552-2023.
Big game party
Head to the Polar Bowl or the Warrior Zone to watch the game with specials, prizes, jersey giveaways, trivia contests, and more. Doors open at 1 p.m. For information, call 384-9006.

Tuesday
Snowmachine safety
Women in the Wilderness hosts this class at Hillberg Ski Area from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for all women to learn the basics of safe snowmachine operation. For information, call 522-2023.

Wednesday
Snowshoe trip
Take an unforgettable trip on snowshoes through a winter wonderland from 5 to 9 p.m. with the Outdoor Adventure Program. For information, call 552-2023.

Indoor rock climbing
Scale the wall at the Outdoor Adventure Program from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and get a belay certificate to use at Buckner Physical Fitness Center. For information, call 552-2023.

Thursday
Women's ski/snowboard
Women in the Wilderness hosts this event from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for women to ski or snowboard. For information, call 552-2023.

Ongoing
Family skate series
Skate with Anchorage at the Westchester Lagoon every Saturday through the end of February. There are warming barrels, free hot chocolate, and music from 3 to 5 p.m.

Fit to Fight skiing
Cross-country skiing at Eagleleglen Fitness Park is open every day except federal holidays. Bring gear or check out free equipment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 552-2023.

Zoo Lights
Check out the lighted parade of animals at the Alaska Zoo Thursday through Sunday nights from 5 to 8 p.m. through Jan. 31. For more information, visit alaskazoo.org.

Civil Air Patrol
Adult members of the Civil Air Patrol meet at the Aero Club Hangar the first and third Tuesdays of each month; cadets meet Saturdays. For more information or to join the CAP, call 350-7951.

Thursday science club
Youth are invited to the JBER Library to conduct

experiment and think about science from 6:30 to 7 p.m. For information, call 384-1640.

Library story times
The JBER Library hosts preschool story times Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.
Toddler Tales is Wednesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m.
All-ages story time is Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7 p.m.
For more information, call 384-1640.

Model railroading
The Military Society of Model Railroad Engineers meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday and 1 p.m. Saturday in the basement of Matanuska Hall.
They also host an open house every third Saturday through April; everyone is invited.
For more information, call 552-5234, e-mail msmrre@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/msmrre.

Chapel services

Catholic Mass

Sunday
9 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Monday and Wednesday
11:40 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Tuesday
Noon – JBER Hospital Chapel
Friday
Noon – JBER Hospital Chapel

Confession

Confessions are available anytime by appointment or after any mass. Call 552-5762.

Protestant Sunday worship services

Gospel
9:30 a.m. – Midnight Sun Chapel
Contemporary
11 a.m. – Arctic Warrior Chapel
Traditional
11 a.m. – Heritage Chapel

Religious Education

For schedules, call the Religious Operations Center at 552-5762.

Exercise, exercise, exercise



Senior Airman Jordan Cate, an ambulance driver with the 673d Medical Group, participates in the Mission Assurance Exercise Jan. 24. Medical, explosive ordnance disposal, and other emergency personnel ensured readiness to respond to contingencies. (U.S. Air Force photo/Dana Rosso)

Finding Hope in Alaska’s deep winter

By **ARMY CHAPLAIN (CAPT.)**
JEFF GLOVER
59th Signal Bn. Chaplain

Early February can be one of the hardest times to live in Alaska. The holidays are over, all those eagerly made resolutions have failed, it’s still dark, it’s still cold, and those orders to Hawaii haven’t come through.

Deep winter tempts us to hibernate, binge on Netflix shows, eat too much, and stay isolated. It’s hard to go outside when the air makes your face hurt and the sky is dark at all hours of the day.

But staying healthy during these months means being proactive with your spiritual, mental, and physical care. Eating another bag of Doritos might seem like a good idea at 6 p.m. on a Tuesday, but it won’t do much to help you feel good about your life.

Here’s what will.

- Get outside, even if it’s just for a few minutes each day. Walk along a frozen river or notice how still the woods can be in the winter. It’s amazing how small your problems can seem when you are surrounded

by something bigger than yourself.

- Try something new. Stimulate those stagnant brain cells (and those lethargic muscles) by taking a class at the gym. Stop by the arts and crafts center and learn how to make pottery or paint. Check out all the outdoor adventures offered to service members and family and sign up for something you’ve never done. You may just discover a hidden talent or new hobby.

- Read a book. You might not be able to escape to a tropical island, but reading can take you there. Honest! Audio books count, too, so head to the library and choose your literary vacation destination, free of charge.

- Explore. Alaska is a big state, and many of us have only seen a fraction of it. Have you been to Willow? Homer? Seward? Fairbanks? Most of these places are gas-tank getaways, meaning, you can get there and back on a tank of gas. The roads are well-maintained, and exploring them in the winter can be just the reset you need.

- Go old-school. When was the last time you got together with




Getting ‘out’ in Alaska’s winter can be a road trip to Seward, a skiing outing, or even escaping in a book. (Courtesy photo/John Pennell)

friends and played board games? Shut off the electronics, get out the Uno cards, and find out how great it can be to spend a few hours trying to pulverize your buddies in friendly competition. Prefer something more active? Grab a basketball or those dusty ping pong paddles and see who’s got the skills.

- Check out local events. Facebook is full of them, and if you can’t find what you want, ask! Alaska doesn’t sleep in the winter, so it’s easy to find something going on

off-post.

- Local churches often have events in the evenings or weekends to accommodate working schedules, so if you’re thinking winter might be a great time to reconnect with your faith, you are right. Reach out to your chaplain to get information about upcoming Strong Bonds or spiritual fitness events. You’ll be glad you did.

February might be a hard time to live in Alaska, but you don’t just have to survive it. Try one of these things and you’ll thrive. 

Hospital Family Day hours

The 673d Medical Group will be open on Pacific Air Forces family days to ensure patients have access to acute care and several other services. Specialty care, surgical services, the laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be open. For more information, call 580-2778.

Disposition of effects

Army Capt. Paul Dolan, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Sgt. Andrew Washington, HHT, 1-40th Cav. Regt., as stated in Army Regulation 638-2.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Dolan at (907) 903-6756.

Firewood permits

Firewood is \$35 per cord or \$17.50 per half-cord. To receive a permit, an iSportsman permit is required. For

information, visit <https://jber.isportsman.net>.

Main Pharmacy hours

The main JBER pharmacy, on the first floor of the JBER hospital near the Bear entrance, is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The pharmacy at the Exchange is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays for civilian prescriptions and refills, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for refills only.

iSportsman enrollment

Anyone choosing to recreate in JBER training areas must obtain an iSportsman permit and sign in and out using the iSportsman system prior to recreating. A pass costs \$10; \$5 for those 60 and older and disabled persons. Passholders may also need an installation access pass. For information, visit [isportsman.jber.net](https://jber.isportsman.net) or call 552-8609 or 384-6224.

Reserve ‘Scroll’

Officers wanting to transition to the Air Force Reserve

must have their commission transferred to a list called “the Scroll” and approved by the Secretary of Defense.

The process averages 120 days, but can take longer, and must be approved before participating in the Reserve, which may mean a break in service. Even if you’re unsure about transitioning to the Air Force Reserve, the process can be initiated. For information, call 552-3595.

Pothole repair

The 773d Civil Engineer Squadron encourages all Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson personnel to report potholes. For holes in housing areas, contact Aurora Housing at 753-1051. Other requests are tracked by 773d CES. Note the location, including cross-streets or building numbers. Then email 773ces.ceoh.potholerepair@us.af.mil or call 552-2994 or 552-2995. Include contact information for crews.

U-Fix-It Store

The U-Fix-It stores, open

to all Aurora Military Housing tenants, issue home maintenance items. Availability is subject to change and limits; some items may have a cost.

U-Fix-It allows occupants to make minor improvements and repairs.

The JBER-E location, at 6350 Arctic Warrior Drive, is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, closed from 1 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

The JBER-R office is at 338 Hoonah Ave., open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed from 1 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch.

A blind-cleaning machine is available at the JBER-E location; priority goes to those PCSing. For information, call 375-5540.

DLA Document Services

Defense Logistics Agency Document Services duplicates and prints documents, including color, large-format photos, engineering drawings, sensitive materials, manuals and training mate-

rials. They design, print and distribute business cards, letterhead, invitations and programs, and provide devices to print, scan, copy and fax while providing maintenance and ink cartridges. They offer document automation and content services for building digital libraries.

To register, go to <https://www.dso.documentservices.dla.mil>. For information, visit documentservices.dla.mil or call (808) 473-1699 or (315) 473-1699.

OTC pharmacy counter

The pharmacy at the JBER hospital has over-the-counter medication for DoD beneficiaries from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. Flyers and those on personnel reliability program status, pregnant, or under the age of 2 are not eligible.

The clinic offers pain relievers; cough, cold and allergy medications; ointments; constipation and diarrhea medications, and others. For information, visit JBERPharmacy on Facebook.

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS

Hawaii Soldiers visit JBER, train in chillier weather



A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, tightens the straps on his snowshoes during cold-weather training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 27. Paratroopers with 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, provided the cold-weather training. (U.S. Army photos/Sgt. Alex Skripnichuk)
LEFT: A Soldier stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, experiments with towing an Akhio sled full of cold-weather survival gear during training at JBER Jan. 26. A battalion of Soldiers visited JBER to practice cold-weather training, though JBER's weather was milder than usual.

Hummel retires after 40 years of service

By **DAVID BEDARD**
AKNG Public Affairs

Former Alaska National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Laurie J. Hummel retired during a ceremony at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 26.

The ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty, adjutant general of the Washington National Guard, with whom Hummel worked periodically as a fellow adjutant general.

“She’s had an incredible adventure,” Daugherty said. “That’s something to be celebrated – not mourned because it’s coming to an end.”

Hummel, originally from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, commissioned as a Military Intelligence officer in 1982 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

She holds graduate degrees from the University of Colorado, Penn State, the Army War College and the University of Alaska Anchorage.

She served 30 years in the regular Army, including tours in Korea and Alaska, retiring in 2012. During her military career, she deployed on several missions in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

“I am so very proud since 1978 to have been able to say ‘I am in the Army,’” Hummel said.

During deployments, she served in many roles, including as an advisor for a program using social and environmental science to aid commanders in the field and advising the Afghan National Army’s leaders of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan.

After her regular Army career, she taught West Point cadets and led faculty in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering.

“She’s left a legacy at the United States Military Academy at West Point after helping to educate the future leaders of the United States Army,” Daugherty said.

Hummel also served as a consultant to the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and other organizations.

In May of 2015, then-governor Bill Walker recalled her from military retirement to serve as the adjutant general of Alaska and the commissioner of the Alaskan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

As the adjutant general, Hummel was the senior military advisor to the governor of Alaska and commander of the Alaska Organized Militia,



Chief Master Sgt. Winfield Hinkley, senior enlisted leader of the Alaska National Guard, presents Maj. Gen. Laurie Hummel, former adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, with a replica of the organizational colors Jan. 26. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Spc. Michael Risinger)

and was responsible for overseeing the training and readiness of 4,100 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians of the agencies she commanded.


“Members of the Alaska National Guard, Naval Militia, State Defense Force, and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs: we became colleagues in a troubled time, and we worked arm-in-arm to create and strengthen a high-performing organization we, and all of Alaska, could be proud of,” Hummel said.

She also oversaw Alaska’s homeland security and emergency management and the Alaska Military Youth Academy.

Hummel served as the state’s official liaison to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and all of the Regular and Reserve military forces in Alaska.

At the end of her retirement ceremony, Hummel said goodbye to her fellow service members for her second and last time.

“It has been the greatest honor of my life to be your colleague,” she said. “And please know that you will forever inspire me.”

Hummel will go on to teach at Penn State in their Master’s program in Homeland Security. 

Schell takes reins of Guard's 297th RSC

By **SGT. DAVID BEDARD**
AKNG Public Affairs

Alaska Army National Guard Lt. Col. Matthew Schell assumed command of the 297th Regional Support Group during a Jan. 25 ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Schell succeeded Col. Peter Mondelli, who couldn't be at the ceremony due to conflicts with his civilian job.

Presiding officer, Brig. Gen. Joseph Streff, Alaska Army National Guard commander, said Mondelli served with distinction as the commander during the past two years.

"He was the first commander of this brigade and created the conditions for the successful unit that it is today," Streff said.

During Mondelli's tenure, most of the group's Soldiers deployed to locations around the world, including Afghanistan, Mongolia, Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Colonel Mondelli implemented an aggressive plan to increase the readiness of the units in the RSG," Streff said. "It is clear by looking at the metrics that every subordinate unit in the RSG formation has made gains in their preparation to deploy to a theater of war or respond to a state emergency."

Streff said Schell is well-suited to command the group.

"Lieutenant Colonel Schell comes to the unit with a considerable range of experience, which will complement the various missions of the RSG," Streff said.

Schell was commissioned in the Regular Army as an aviation officer after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1994.

After attending the U.S. Army Aviation Officer Basic Course, Schell flew the EH-60 Quickfix heliborne electronic warfare helicopter, serving as an EH-60 platoon leader and UH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation maintenance platoon leader.

Transitioning to the Alaska Army National Guard in 2004, Schell commanded E Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, before eventually commanding 1-207th Aviation.

During his regular Army and National Guard service, he deployed to Bosnia in 1998 for Operation Joint Forge, Iraq in 2007 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kosovo in



Alaska Army National Guard Lt. Col. Matthew Schell accepts the 297th Regional Support Group colors from Brig. Gen. Joseph Streff, Alaska Army National Guard commander, during the group's Jan. 26 assumption-of-command ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. Schell succeeded Col. Peter Mondelli during the ceremony. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. David Bedard)

2009 for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Schell's last job before taking command of the 297th RSG was Alaska Army National Guard deputy G-3.

During his remarks, Schell outlined his top three priorities as challenging training, discipline and fitness.

In terms of challenging training, Schell said units will best grow through examining mistakes made during realistic exercises.

"We won't aim low and hit every time," he said. "We'll aim high, and miss and learn."

In addition to ensuring a culture of safety, Schell said discipline undergirds the Army Values.

"Discipline is required for us to live our values," he said. "The discipline to live your values is called integrity, and it's essential in an organization built on character."

Schell said holistic fitness includes rest, nutrition, physical fitness, spiritual fitness and healthy relationships.

"Individual fitness gives us the stamina to meet the unpredictable worldwide demands of our profession," he said.

Schell summarized the organizational investment of pursuing his priorities.


"Here's the magic: these three things don't cost anything," he said. "They don't require genius or more resources or more hours in the day.

They just require our commitment, and I believe they are the building blocks of a solid foundation of readiness."

Streff expressed his trust in Schell's leadership.

"Lieutenant Colonel Schell has built strong and capable teams wherever he was assigned, and I have no doubt he will bring great ideas and enthusiasm to the RSG," Streff said. "All of the Soldiers in the unit can feel confident that they're getting an outstanding new commander."

Schell concluded by sharing his feelings about taking command.

"I'm proud to be part of this team, and I look forward to learning, growing and engaging the mission with each of you," he said. 

A VIEW FROM WAY ABOVE THE TOP



Anchorage is visible in the distance behind paratroopers with 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry History, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, as they descend through a cross-country ski route during training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 24. JBER training grounds include relatively flat terrain as well as mountains - ideal for the biathlon-style event which included cross-country skiing and shooting at targets. Relatively mild temperatures made the the event less frosty than it might have been. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Alex Skripnichuk)

