

ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR

GERONIMOS AND GIMLETS

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Tax blues? Never fear, MilTax is here

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**
Army News Source

WASHINGTON — Recent changes in tax law mean that many in uniform could see big returns when they file their 2018 taxes.

“This last tax year has been quite exciting with all of the changes that occurred to it,” said Army Lt. Col. David Dulaney, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. “The good news is that most of our service members should see a substantial reduction in their overall federal taxes for 2018.”

One way service members can maximize their tax refund is to log onto Military OneSource and take advantage of MilTax, a free suite of services designed specifically for service members.

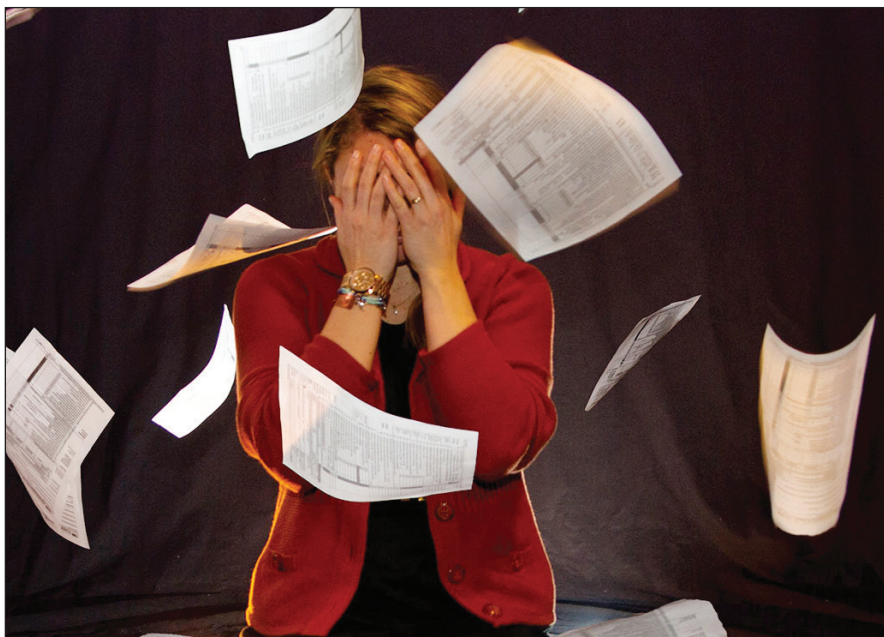
MilTax includes personalized support from tax

consultants and easy-to-use tax preparation and e-filing software.

- MilTax is available to active-duty, Reserve and National Guard service members. Additionally, thanks to new language in the National Defense Authorization Act, “service” has been expanded to included transitioning service members – those who have separated or retired will be able to make use of MilTax for up to a year after leaving the military.

- MilTax is available through www.militaryonesource.mil and includes on-line tax preparation software designed specifically for military personnel and the unique circumstances that surround military life.

- Through Military OneSource and MilTax, service members have access to expert tax consultants specially trained to address tax issues



Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson will not open a Tax Center this year, due to lack of demand. Service members, including National Guard and Reserve members, can use Military OneSource’s MilTax for free. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sheila DeVera)


related to military service. During tax season, consultants are available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. in the Eastern time zone at (800) 342-9647.

- Using MilTax, eligible individuals can file one federal and up to three state tax returns through the Military OneSource website. The service is available now through

Oct. 15, 2019, for extended filers.

- All service members are required to pay taxes. Military service doesn’t mean service members don’t have to pay. Fortunately, MilTax is free to those eligible to use it.

“One of the worst things we can hear is a military service member went out

and paid for tax services that we provide for free through the Department of Defense,” said Erika R. Slaton, program deputy for Military OneSource. “We want to ensure our service members and families know they are supported and we provide the best possible support for them in completing their tax services.” 



SALUTE TO THE FALLEN

Canadian Brigadier-General (retired) M.P. Jorgensen fights back tears as he remembers the crash of a Royal Canadian Air Force C-130 aircraft 30 years ago on Fort Wainwright. Jorgensen, then a captain, was injured in the crash that took the lives of nine Canadian service members who were taking part in the combined exercise Brim Frost on Jan. 29, 1989. Jorgensen returned to Fort Wainwright Feb. 5, 2019, his first visit since the crash, to speak at a ceremony honoring the Canadians at the post’s Alert Holding Area. (U.S. Army photo/John Pennell)

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Sgt. Maj. Jerry H. Byrd Jr.

ARCTIC WARRIOR

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673d CS working on satellite comms

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

Personnel with the 673d Communications Squadron began testing new satellite capabilities during exercise Patriot Grizzly at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California, starting Jan. 15.

“The portable global satellite Internet capability would allow our pilots to have the capabilities to establish initial communications following landing,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Corey Benford, 673d CS radio frequency transmissions technician.

With the system still in the beginning stages, personnel with the 673d CS have tested the satellite at various locations with MCAS Miramar being the first location with a successful start-up.

“Before arriving at Miramar, we’ve worked on

airing out the kinks and troubleshooting to see if this is something that we would be able to do,” Benford said. “We’re working to iron out any problems so that when we do transition pilots into utilizing the equipment, they can do so easily.”

Benford said the goal is for the pilots to have a stand-alone system that they can utilize themselves without the initial support from the communication squadron.

Each system fits into a compact case, weighing 15 to 25 pounds maximum, allowing pilots to easily stow it away with their gear. The mobile satellite would enable personnel to establish a satellite link within 5 to 10 minutes, and be fully operable within an hour.

“Throughout the exercise, we’re working with the 673d CS to do dislocated communication training,” said Air Force Capt. Jared Becker,




Air Force Staff Sgt. Corey Benford, 673d Communication Squadron radio frequency transmissions technician, establishes a secure phone call over a satellite link during in-house exercise Patriot Grizzly at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Jan. 17. The 673d CS tested new satellite capabilities which would enable pilots to establish initial communications following landing. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

525th Fighter Squadron pilot. “We’re testing out capabilities to distribute communication with the satellite. If we [pilots] were in an austere location, would we still be able to communicate with the home base?”

Testing these capabilities during Patriot Grizzly served to validate an innovative way to deliver agile combat support no matter the mission.

“This is one of the first times that we’ve been able to successfully set up this sys-

tem, and coming out here has been a huge stepping stone in the process,” Benford said. “Pilots would be able to land anywhere in the world and be able to establish communication with anyone in the world at any given moment.” 

Air Force eliminates WAPS for senior NCOs

NEWS RELEASE

SECAF Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force announced Feb. 4 it is removing the Weighted Airman Promotion System testing requirement for active-duty promotions to the grades of E-7 through E-9, beginning this fall with the 2019 E-9 promotion cycle.

The memo, signed Jan. 31, removes the phase-one requirement for senior non-commissioned officers to test for promotion, allowing promotion boards to identify the best-qualified Airmen to promote into the senior non-commissioned officer corps.

Prior to the policy change, promotions were conducted through a two-phase process. Phase one consisted of a Promotion Fitness Exam and Specialty Knowledge Test,

while phase two consisted of a central evaluation board.

“We continue to transform talent management across the force,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “This adjustment focuses on performance being the driving factor we consider when selecting our senior noncommissioned officers. It also continues our work toward increasing transparency and making our processes simple.”

The Air Force will use a promotion board process similar to the board process used by officers.

“We trust this board process will continue to give senior leaders and commanders the greatest level of confidence that the right individuals are being selected for promotion to the top enlisted




The Air Force is removing testing requirements for active-duty promotions to E-7 through E-9 beginning this fall. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Austin Prisbey)

ranks,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright. “We found that removing the testing portion will eliminate any possibility that Airmen without the strongest leadership potential might test into promotion, while also ensuring that our strongest performers contin-

ue to earn the promotion they deserve.”

Promotion boards will continue to score records using the current scoring process as well as reviewing the last five years of evaluations and all awards and decorations. Decoration points will no longer be utilized because

the board will be considering all decorations during its review and scoring records accordingly.

Additional guidance will be published in an upcoming Air Force memorandum or revised Air Force instruction after the last evaluation board is completed. 



OUT OF THE NORM

Soldiers assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, clear snow while setting up a tent at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 2. The ‘Gimlets’ visited Alaska to hone their ability to survive, operate and fight in a cold climate. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Peña)
BELOW LEFT: Paratroopers assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, assault an objective Feb. 2, acting as opposition forces for visiting Soldiers of C Co., 1-21 Inf. Regt.



ABOVE: ‘Gimlet’ Soldiers of C Co., 1-21 Infantry set up a cold-weather tent Feb. 2 during training at JBER. The Soldiers, based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, visited Alaska to hone cold-weather skills. They were mentored by paratroopers of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, in cold-weather tasks. For the field training portion, however, the Geronimo paratroopers became the enemy, attacking with blank rounds and the multiple integrated laser engagement system and the multiple integrated laser engagement system or MILES gear. MILES – essentially a high-tech laser-tag training device – indicates when a Soldier or vehicle has been “hit,” making training more realistic and effective.
The skirmish provided the 1-21 Infantry Soldiers an opportunity to not only set up tents and other life-support necessities in a real-world cold-weather scenario, but a chance to take the training they received with the Geronimos and put it into practice.

Friday

ASL Class

Join the Library for this class which teaches elementary school-aged children the basics of sign language from 2 to 3 p.m. It's an excellent opportunity for home schoolers. For information, call 384-1640.

Alcohol inks class

Have a relaxing evening with friends at the Arts and Crafts Center creating your own art with alcohol inks from 6 to 8 p.m., open to ages 18 and older. For information, call 384-3717.

Saturday

Cornhole tournament

Toss your way to victory at the Warrior Zone and enter the drawing for a set of cornhole boards starting at 2 p.m. There are prizes for the top three places. For more information or to register, call 384-9006.

Valentine's date night

Make your valentine feel special with this date-night deal at the Polar Bowl from 6 p.m. to midnight, with neon bowling. For information, call 753-7467.

Retro day at Hillberg

Dress in your favorite '80s gear and get a discount on a lift or tubing ticket at Hillberg from 4 to 8 p.m. DJs will be spinning '80s tunes all day. For information, call 552-4838.

Sunday

Snowmachine ride

Sign up now for this snow-machine journey around Petersville from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. open to service members and dependents 16 and older. For information call 552-2023.

Monday

Scotch Doubles

Head to the Polar Bowl and sign up by 4 p.m. for this tournament in which teams play alternate shots throughout the game. For more information, all 752-7467.

Tuesday - Wednesday Career Exploration

Move over to Building 7153 for this workshop both days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and focus on identifying your interests, skills, aptitudes and values to find the best career path. For information, call 552-6619.

Wednesday

Ladies' night at the range

Women in the Wilderness hosts this event at the Skeet and Trap Range; learn the basics of shotgun handling and shooting from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For information, call 552-2023.

Thursday

Alcohol inks class

Join the Arts and Crafts Center and create your own art with alcohol inks from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; class is open to ages 10 and older. For information, call 384-3717.

Valentine's Day at Hillberg

Head to Hillberg from 4 to 8 p.m. and get two lift tickets for the price of one. For information, call 552-4838.

Ongoing

Winter reading challenge

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

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 Eagleglen Fitness Park is open every day except federal holidays. Bring your own gear or check out free equipment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 552-2023.

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. Tuesdays and 1 p.m. Saturdays 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](https://www.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.

A command visit



Air Force 1st Lt. Casey Peloquin, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron installation management flight deputy, briefs Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom Bussiere, commander of the Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command and 11th Air Force, during his visit to the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron snow barn at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 29. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Valdes Montijo)

Showing love for others year round

By **ARMY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) GREG THOGMARTIN**
Deputy Installation Chaplain

Valentine’s Day is right around the corner. Hopefully you have your plan in place for making the day special for someone special in your life – your spouse or significant other or perhaps your children, parents, your grandparents, etc. You get the picture. It’s a day for letting others know that they mean a lot to you.

If by chance you don’t have your plan put together then I have a little good news; there is still time. Time to buy a card and get it in the mail to your mom. Time to get something special for the one you love.

And here’s some more good news: little things do mean a lot.

Valentine’s remembrances don’t have to be expensive to be significant. – although if they are expensive most recipients won’t be upset.

The theme of loving others and doing something to express or demonstrate that love or affection or esteem is a key thought for this holiday.

Valentine’s Day is not just a day for married people.

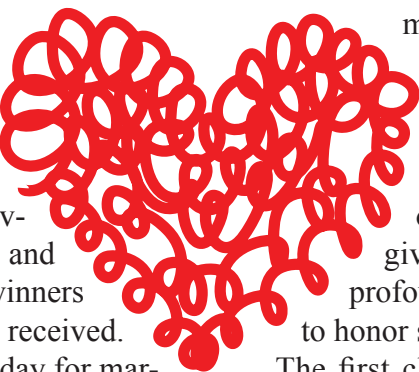
In the United States the majority of Valentine cards are given by school children, and teachers are the big winners in the volume of cards received.

While not solely a day for married people it is, at the same time, a day that reminds us of an important theme about love that finds expression in weddings and marriage.

In traditional wedding vows, promises are made. In my opinion, they are some of the most beautiful words ever written.

With some minor variation from one tradition to another they go something like this:

“I have chosen you alone from all the world to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God’s holy law and thereto I pledge you



my faithfulness.”

That is the vow I made to my wife nearly 34 years ago. And the vow or promise itself gives me a couple of profound clues as to how to honor someone we love.

The first clue is to remember that love is a choice. While there are certainly elements of “chemistry” involved in relationships, the larger part of loving is based on a choice made, a decision lived out. So the vow begins with the declaration of “I have chosen you alone.”

The second clue is found in the language of “to love and cherish.” To cherish something is to consider it valuable and probably of ever-increasing value.

Cherished possessions are typically well cared for and safeguarded. A cherished person deserves to know that they are valued. Hopefully we find ways to express that they are valued and their worth is ever-increasing in our eyes.


To find ways to express value for others is good for all of our relationships. Spouse to spouse, parent to child, sibling to sibling, and friend to friend.

We may express value through speaking or writing affirming and encouraging words. We may demonstrate value by giving gifts or cards. Certainly, we can show that value another by taking time to be with them and to focus on them – which means focused attention and focused listening.

If we are good at cherishing, then I think the other person or persons will know they are appreciating in our eyes over time – that is to say, their value in our hearts is ever increasing.

I hope that this Valentine’s Day you will find some creative ways to let others know you value them.

May you also be on the receiving end of that kind of cherishing and appreciation.

And may all of us realize that showing love and demonstrating care for others is a good choice all year long. 

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.

Air Force offers Civilian Developmental Education

By **MARISSA ALIA-NOVOBILSKI**
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The application cycle for 2020 Civilian Development Education opens March 1.

“The Air Force is making a dedicated effort to develop the entire workforce and all of our future leaders,” said Patricia Young, Air Force Materiel Command executive director. “We are making an investment in them and giving them skills, education and training so they can continue to lead and make us the best Air Force in the world.”

The CDE is a portfolio of courses and training designed to address the needs of the civilian workforce at all levels. Programs help civilians to achieve short- or long-term goals at a level appropriate to their needs and desired path.

“At any point in their career, a civilian can access the education, coaching, training

and mentoring they need at the appropriate level. This is our commitment to the workforce to ensure they are ready for that next step in their personal development,” said Young.

The portfolio has programs suitable for a person at every stage of their career, including opportunities to attain associate through advanced degrees in Air Force institutions and spots in military professional education programs such as the Air War College and Squadron Officer School. Fellowships at the RAND Research Institute, Education with Industry and the Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program are among many other offerings.

This year, programs are divided into five categories: the Professional Military Education series, which includes basic, intermediate, and senior developmental education; academic programs and fellowships; and leadership courses, which

are primarily one-week seminars. The Air Force Personnel Center made this change to clarify the programs that meet the Professional Military Education requirement, which is one of the critical factors in determining program eligibility.

“Taking the right course, seminar or training at the right time is key. Getting feedback as a person develops an application package from a mentor or other leader can help ensure you are on the right track,” said Young.

Marketta Peel, a 711th Human Performance Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory management analyst, completed her master’s degree through the Air Command and Staff College online.

“I was prior military and assumed I knew everything there was to know regarding our military and government, but this course took my knowledge to the next level,” said Peel. “I applied to finish my degree and con-

tinue on the road to success in my career. I was in classes with military and civilians much younger than me, and I succeeded.”

Craig Smith, an Air Force Life Cycle Management Center human resources chief of engineering, has participated in multiple CDE programs, including the Air Force Civilian Acculturation Leadership Program and more recently, Squadron Officer School. As a career civilian, Smith said CDE provided him with exposure to military culture and training that will help him to succeed as a future leader.

“I knew if I wanted to become a leader in the Air Force, I would need to learn every aspect of the Air Force culture,” said Smith. “I also wanted to be challenged physically and mentally in order to continue my individual developmental process.”


“I can honestly say that the relationships that I developed with my (Squadron Officer School) flight are the

greatest experiences in my Air Force career. I learned from every individual, and I believe they all learned something from me as well,” he said. “I changed their view of civilians in the Air Force, and they changed my view of uniformed members.”

The application window is open March 1 through May 1. Those interested are encouraged to review details on the myPers website and to speak with a supervisor or mentor to discuss program options.

Though an individual does not have to opt in and participate in CDE, the career impact can be significant, Young said.

“Those who opt in and want to continue their personal and professional development might be more competitive for jobs in the future,” Young said. “We think we have created such a valuable program that it can benefit everyone.”

For more, visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xEB8v>. 

<p>Jan. 3</p> <p>A son, Samuel Anderson, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces at 3:17 a.m. to Rachel Lee Anderson and Airman 1st Class Coultor Steele Anderson of the 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.</p>	<p>Humphrey, was born 20 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces at 7:15 p.m. to Katie Humphrey and Army Capt. Robert Humphrey of the 2nd Training Support Battalion, 196th Infantry Regiment.</p>	<p>Jan. 13</p> <p>A son, Cayde Joseph Graham, was born 205 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 6:01 p.m. to Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyla Marie Graham of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron and Jonathan Michael Graham.</p>	<p>Jan. 22</p> <p>A son, Maverick Reed Trujillo, was born 17.5 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 3 ounces at 8:03 a.m. to Rebecca Shea Trujillo and Spc. Brent Michael Trujillo of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.</p>	<p>Jane Knigge, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces at 8:54 p.m. to Courtney Marie Knigge and Sgt. Dylan Tyler Knigge of the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.</p>
<p>A daughter, Lorelei Faye Clark, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 10:36 p.m. to Air Force staff sergeants Shawna Marie Clark and Peter F. Clark, both of the 3rd Munitions Squadron.</p>	<p>Jan. 6</p> <p>A daughter, Brekkan Wachlarowicz VonDran, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds at 12:41 p.m. to Marissa Marie Wachlarowicz and Air Force Maj. Emanuel J. VonDran of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron.</p>	<p>A son, Owen Luke Shacklett, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 11:54 p.m. to Kendra Marie Shacklett and Air Force Capt. Andrew Garret Shacklett of the 673d Medical Group.</p>	<p>Jan. 23</p> <p>A daughter, Eleanor Claire Jones, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce at 9:38 p.m. to Mary Hannah Jones and Senior Airman Sean Neal Jones of the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron.</p>	<p>A daughter, Priscilla Faith Zachrich, was born 19 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 10 ounces at 12:09 p.m. to Emily Ann Zachrich and Sgt. Preston Allen Zachrich of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.</p>
<p>Jan. 4</p> <p>A son, Noah Michael Rose, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces at 5:26 p.m. to Anastasia Kathleen Rose and Air Force Staff Sgt. Paul Dean Rose Jr. of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.</p>	<p>Jan. 8</p> <p>A son, Matthew Edward Bland, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces at 5:32 a.m. to Senior Master Sgt. Sarah Bland of the 673d Medical Operations Squadron and Brent Bland.</p>	<p>Jan. 17</p> <p>A daughter, Gracelyn Elizabeth Turner, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces at 11 p.m. to Taylor Elizabeth Turner and Army 1st Lt. Nathan William Turner of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.</p>	<p>A daughter, Kaitlyn Grace Nocera, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces at 2:20 p.m., and a daughter, Kinsley Noel Nocera, was born 18 inches long and weighing 5 pounds, 4 ounces at 2:25 p.m., to Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Lynn Nocera of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and 1st Sgt. Anthony Joseph Nocera of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.</p>	<p>Jan. 27</p> <p>A daughter, Jolina Rose Lang, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 5 ounces at 12:54 a.m. to Vivian Lang and Airman 1st Class Philip David Lang of the 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.</p>
<p>A son, Hatcher Grayling Summers, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 8:55 p.m. to Sarah Winter Summers and Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Wayne Summers of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.</p>	<p>Jan. 9</p> <p>A daughter, Emily Claire Laack, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 8:07 p.m. to Air Force Maj. Jennifer Jones Laack of the 673d Aerospace Medical Squadron and Todd Anthony Laack.</p>	<p>A son, Gideon Levi White, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 6:32 a.m. to Ashley Nicole Turrieta and Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Allen White of the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment.</p>	<p>Jan. 25</p> <p>A daughter, Cameryn</p>	<p>Jan. 29</p> <p>A son, Andrew James Thompson, was born 19 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces at 11:37 a.m. to Megan Thompson and Army Capt. Brian Lee Thompson of C Company, 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).</p>
<p>Jan. 5</p> <p>A son, Benjamin Scott</p>				

CE Airmen inspect buildings after quake

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

It was an unusually warm September week in 2018 when Sophia Lee, a 673d Civil Engineer Squadron structural engineer, attended a local seminar titled, “ATC-20-1 Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings.”

Although Lee, like most attendees, was already prepared to carry out rapid assessments, this seminar, sponsored by the Applied Technology Council, included the latest knowledge in industry-accepted standards for buildings and structures.

“At the time, I knew it was a good idea for me to have this in-depth training, considering how often earthquakes happen and given our area’s seismic history,” Lee said. “Of course, I never would have guessed I’d be putting those very lessons and preparations into action the morning of Nov. 30.”

After the magnitude 7.0 earthquake, centered less than 10 miles north of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Airmen and Soldiers immediately began assessing personnel and structures.

“Shortly after we began the rapid assessments, we knew it would be impossible for one or two people to accomplish so it was decided that Scott Adams of the 673d CES, and I would train more than 20 of our CE Airmen to also be inspectors for level-four facilities,” Lee said. “Although the training was a condensed version of what I went through, the Airmen were receptive to learning the material. Between all of us and the manpower supplied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more than 800 facilities have received evaluations.”

According to the ATC-20 field manual, evaluations of buildings and facilities should be determined based on how essential they are.

For JBER, level-one priorities directly relate to mission capability, level-two is facilities that are heavily used, a level-three is general offices, and level-four is for facilities used seasonally or infrequently.

“During our initial evaluations, we post green, yellow and red signs at every entrance of a facility in an effort to communicate with whoever might need access,” Lee said. “It is important for individuals to read the information provided on the plaques to safeguard themselves



Air Force Master Sgt. David Ballew, 673d CES project manager, performs a post-earthquake inspection of a facility at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 31. Since the Nov. 30, 2018 earthquake more than 20 CES Airmen have been trained in the ATC-20-1 Post-earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings to maintain and improve agile support capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Crystal A. Jenkins)

RIGHT: Air Force Staff Sgt. Courtney Kohnke, 673d Civil Engineer Squadron construction inspector, looks at a map of facilities at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan. 31. Since the large earthquake Nov. 30, civil engineer Airmen have been inspecting all facilities on JBER to ensure safety and make plans for needed repairs.



from hazards.”

Red signifies the structure has been inspected and found to be seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy. Yellow is labeled ‘Restricted Use’ and specifies the structure has been inspected and found to have damage. Green indicates the structure has been inspected and no apparent structural hazard has been found.

“Once a yellow facility has been identified, it is then handed off to the Air Force Contract Augmentation Program, from Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, to provide analysis and recommendations,” Lee said. “Our hope is to find a solution, based on the type of damages, and apply the same type of fixes throughout the


installation. Of course we are also trying to look at what has the least impact on the users of the facilities as well.”

More than 70 percent of facility inspections have been accomplished since the event two months ago with all level one and two assessments complete. Almost all level-three buildings have been assessed, which leaves only the level-four inspections.

Although the snow and cold weather conditions have caused some inspections to be delayed, the Airmen have learned extremely valuable skills in a short amount of time, Lee said.

“Despite the challenging circum-

stances the earthquake provided, our Airmen at every level were given an opportunity to apply their leadership abilities by getting the inspections done,” said Air Force Lt. Gerald Mora, 673d CES officer in charge of construction management. “In many ways it has equipped them with the knowledge of what to look for as they see a building going up. Now, they can identify possible weak areas and are armed with an extra tool in their tool belt, so to speak.”

One of my hopes, going forward, is to have all of our facility managers trained in the ATC-20-1 methods to further increase our abilities and remain agile,” Mora said. 

AER: No Soldier left behind financially

By **SUSAN MERKNER**
IMCOM Public Affairs

The Army Creed of leaving no Soldier behind also applies to helping others in the Army family with their finances when needed, according to Army Emergency Relief.

AER, the Army's own nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance to active and retired Soldiers and their families, is reaching out to all Army personnel with dual messages: the organization is available to help during a financial challenge, and donations are appreciated when times are good.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, director of AER, said financial stability boosts resiliency.

"If a Soldier is distracted by money issues, then he or she is not fully focused on their training, their unit mission, and if they are deployed into combat that distraction could be a danger to themselves and their buddies on their left and the right," Mason said. "We want Soldiers to be laser focused in combat, execute their mission and come home safely

to their loved ones. So AER is really all about combat readiness."

AER helps Soldiers and families through interest-free loans, grants and scholarships when monetary needs arise, and also provides budgeting and financial counseling.

In 2017, AER provided \$69.7 million in total assistance to 43,734 Soldiers and families.

AER's Quick Assist Program empowers company commanders and first sergeants to respond quickly to Soldiers' short-term financial needs by allowing them to approve certain types of short-term assistance within specific guidelines, said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Durr Jr., AER chief of assistance.

"Soldiers are encouraged to contact their company commander or first sergeant first when a need arises," Durr said. "Their command team can respond quickly, addressing the need at the local level."

Other options are Army Community Service offices at local installations, other military aid societies, or the American Red Cross if the Soldier lives 50 miles or more away from a

military installation.

AER leaders say the most frequent needs are money for car repairs, housing deposits and monthly rent, homeowners or renters insurance, minor home repairs and many more. Another common situation involves the death of a family member, which may necessitate extra funds for travel, rental car, hotel and food.

Durr said that when Soldiers die while on active duty or a retired Soldier passes away their survivors may need a "bridging strategy" to help them financially until they can apply for and receive benefits.

Mason said near-constant deployments in the past two decades and the economic downturn of 2008-09 generated requests for assistance, as did the 35-day government shutdown.

The organization made several changes to its program guidelines, including assistance on dental care for dependents, grants for cranial helmets, children's car seats, and other equipment, and raised the cap on funerals for dependent spouses.

Scholarships for spouses and dependent children also are available.

Its goal is to inform all Soldiers about AER programs and benefits, and offer Soldiers the opportunity to join the legacy of "Soldiers Helping Soldiers." Mason stated, "It's not the dollar amount a Soldier donates, it's about the Soldier's awareness of AER and helping their teammates."

Mason said less than 10 percent of the Army contributes to AER for various reasons. "Our Army has been very busy over the past 18 years of combat. ...The current generation of Soldiers grew up with multiple deployments, frequently serving with units that were not part of their home station chain of command. All this churn had the unintended consequence of 'breaking' the bonds and knowledge of Soldier and family programs like AER."

The organization also encourages Army leaders to communicate with their troops about available financial resiliency training.

"AER is there for you," Mason said. "So when you're in good shape financially, I encourage you to donate ... you're directly helping your battle buddies." 