

ARCTIC WARRIOR

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON'S SOURCE FOR NEWS

THE FIRE IN THE NIGHT

**B/1-501st Infantry
shoots in the dark**

Page 2

MARCH 8, 2019 • VOLUME 11 • NO. 9

GET FIT

**Alaska Army National
Guard starts program
for new ACFT**

Page 9

RONDY ROUNDUP

**Iditarod kickoff,
swearing-in mark end**

Page 5

ECRWS / PRST-STD
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NIGHT MOVES

Sgt. Michael Cascio, top, directs Sgt. Trenton Fussell's fire during M240L machine gun during live-fire training at Grezelka Range on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 4. Using the M249 light machine gun and M240L machine gun, Spartan paratroopers assigned to Blackfoot Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, honed their marksmanship skills by engaging multiple targets at varying distances. (U.S. Air Force photos/Alejandro Peña) BELOW: Cascio signals his gunner is ready to begin firing the M240L during training. The paratroopers worked on shooting in varying light conditions and at different distances.



A paratrooper assigned to Blackfoot Company collects spent brass casings and links after conducting M240L machine gun live-fire training at Grezelka Range March 4.

A paratrooper assigned to Blackfoot Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment fires the M249 light machine gun at night during live-fire training at Grezelka Range March 4.



ON THE COVER: Soldiers of Blackfoot Company fire tracer rounds under a backdrop of snowy mountains and stars March 4. The M240L, in limited service since 2010, reduces the weight of the M240B by 5.5 pounds, using titanium construction and alternative manufacturing methods. This reduces the Soldier's combat load and allows easier handling. The M240L may eventually replace the M240B in Army service because of its reduced weight and shorter barrel. It still has a maximum effective range of 1,100 meters and a cyclic rate of fire of 550 to 600 rounds per minute.



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ARCTIC WARRIOR

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MWD retires after almost 8 years' service

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ADRIANA BARRIENTOS**
JBER Public Affairs

A Belgian Malinois military working dog assigned to the 673d Security Forces Squadron retired from military service March 1.

Military Working Dog Kimba has been at JBER since August 3, 2011, after her initial training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, certifying her in patrol and narcotic detection.

“She definitely deserves to retire – she put in a hard 10 years in the service, and by far, has proven the test of time,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Bennett, 673d SFS MWD handler. “She never quit, even when you can tell she was physically exhausted; she wanted to keep going.”

Bennett, who worked with Kimba, said she is the best dog he has ever worked with, and called her the best friend

he’s had.

The 673d SFS commander, Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Zeigler, also said that Kimba is his favorite.

“She’s going to a good home,” Zeigler said. “Now she can get up on the couch and have a blast.”

Kimba will live out her retirement with a familiar face, Air Force Capt. Luke Restad, who is also assigned to the 673d SFS.

Kimba has been assigned to seven handlers during her career and has yielded over 32 narcotic finds. Her duties included base-wide foot patrols, narcotics detection, theft deterrence, escorting funds, demonstrations, and facilitating training for her assigned handlers.

Working dogs serve about 10 years before retiring. When a dog retires, it goes through a test to see if it is eligible for adoption. If the dog passes, it is adopted by someone suitable to take care



Air Force Capt. Luke Restad of the 673d Security Forces Squadron poses for a photo with Military Working Dog Kimba during her retirement ceremony March 1. Kimba has been at JBER since August of 2011, and will now go home with Restad to enjoy retirement. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Adriana Barrientos)


of it.

While SFS handlers have the option to adopt their former canine partners, some are available to the general public. Those who choose to adopt eligible military

working dogs must sign an agreement stating they will be responsible for all future medical, food and shelter costs.

“I had some openings in the house and lot of big

backyard, so I just wanted to be able to give back to Kimba for what she’s given to the Air Force,” Restad said.

For more on adopting a former MWD, email MWD.Adoptions@us.af.mil. 

Army Emergency Relief campaign kicks off

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
AUSTIN JOHNSON-HARPER**
JBER Public Affairs

The Army Emergency Relief campaign kicks off starting March 1.

The campaign offers personnel the opportunity to donate and educates service members about the program.

The collected funds are available to commanders to provide financial assistance to Soldiers in need.

On Feb. 5, 1942, Army Emergency Relief was incorporated as a private nonprofit organization within the Army structure to help relieve financial distress of Soldiers and families during World War II.

Today's military carries on this 77-year legacy of Soldier's caring for Soldiers through personal donations during the annual fundraiser. Active and retired service members make up a vast majority of donations.

"It's service members giving to service members," said Michael Baty, Army Emergency Relief specialist. "One hundred percent of your

donation goes directly to the service member in need."

With more than \$200,000 raised last year in Alaska alone, organizers are hoping to keep up the momentum.

Nationwide, the program has seen significant growth. From 1942 to 2001, around \$900 million was provided to Soldiers and family members. Over the last 18 years, that total has jumped to \$1.1 billion.

Soldiers and family members in Alaska received \$350,000 in assistance during 2018, in the form of scholarships, grants, and loans.

AER looks to provide Soldiers an option that is truly looking to assist them, not take advantage of them.

Some of the program's benefits include the fact that all assistance

is provided as non-interest loans, grants, or combinations of the two.

While AER is always there to rapidly assist Soldiers with finan-

cial emergencies, they partner with Army Community Service financial counselors to ensure Soldiers are receiving long-term support and education as well, Baty said.

Three out of four Soldiers report having using a predatory lender at some point in their military career; AER aims to increase awareness and avoidance of these methods.

"We want to provide Soldiers a better option that is truly looking to assist them, not take advantage of them," Baty said.

"The goal for the AER campaign is to ensure that we reach every Soldier on JBER Richardson and ensure they are aware of the service that Army Emergency Relief provides them. We want to be the first place they turn when faced with a financial emergency."

The AER campaign is scheduled to end May 15. 



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

The ground is snowy and it's still cold, but Fur Rondy and the Iditarod mean winter's back is broken



TOP: Richie Beattie, wearing Iditarod bib #50, takes a passenger for a ride with his team March 2 during the ceremonial start of the race in downtown Anchorage. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

ABOVE LEFT: Musher #31, Charley Bejna, high-fives a spectator during the ceremonial run through downtown. The Iditarod start is the culmination of the Fur Rondy festivities, and when the last musher makes it to Nome - winning the "Red Lantern" award - the star on the side of Mount Gordon Lyon above Anchorage will go dark until Thanksgiving. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alejandro Pena)

ABOVE: Army Maj. Hilary C. Camphouse, Military Entrance and Processing Station commander, conducts a public swearing-in ceremony for military recruits at the Fur Rendezvous March 2. The Delayed Entry Program is for recruits who have decided to enlist in the military and are waiting for their departure date for basic training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Valdes Montijo)

LEFT: Reinder prepare for the Running of the Reindeer downtown, a highlight of the Fur Rondy, before a swearing-in ceremony for military recruits in the Delayed Entry Program. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Valdes Montijo)

Friday

IditaZoo

Celebrate all things mushing at the Alaska Zoo. Meet a musher and dogs, race through zoo grounds, get hands-on with a craft station, and much more from noon to 4 p.m.

For information, visit alaskazoo.org.

**Monday – Friday
Spring break STEM**

Sign up your school-age children for this science, technology, engineering and mat workshop daily from 2 to 3 p.m. at the JBER Library.

For information, call 384-1640.

Wednesday

Ladies Night at the Range

Show off your skills or learn a new one at the Skeet and Trap Range with this course on shotguns, safety and shooting.

For information or to register, call 552-2023.

**Wednesday – March 23
ASAA basketball tourney**

Alaska's best boys and girls high school basketball teams crown new multiple champions at the Alaska Airlines Center Wednesdays through Saturdays.

Game times vary; for information, visit asaa.org.

March 16

Spring Meltdown

End the winter skiing season with a bang at Hillberg Ski Area. The annual meltdown features an uphill-downhill race, a terrain park contest, and the famous Slush Cup. Registration starts at 11 a.m. and events kick off at 1 p.m.

For more information or to register, call 552-4838.

Shamrock Shuffle

It's the 8th Annual Shamrock Shuffle, an Anchorage 5K race celebrating St. Patrick's Day. For information, visit skinnyraven.com.

Nighttime photography

Spring is coming, but there's still time to get great photos of the aurora. Head to the Eagle River Nature Center and learn how to properly expose the night sky with this class from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; bring your camera, tripod, and warm clothes. For more information, visit ernc.org.

March 23

SKAN24

Got the Nordic skiing bug? Ski Kincaid Park all night solo or as a relay with this 24-hour lap-format race. If that's too daunting, try a 12- or 6-hour version. The race starts at 10 a.m. Saturday; for information, visit anchoragenordicski.com.

March 24

Nike Site Summit

Learn about the human and natural history on Mount Gordon Lyon – including the former Cold War missile base with this class at the Eagle River Nature Center starting at 2 p.m. For information, visit ernc.org.

Ongoing

Night at the Fights

The Egan Center hosts Thursday night boxing and mixed martial arts fights at 7:30 p.m. For more, visit thursdaynightfights.com.

Evening hikes

Alaska Outdoors hosts weekly hikes Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday hikes are easy, 3.5 to 4.5 miles

and perfect for beginners or families with kids. Thursday hikes are moderate difficulty. For information, visit alaska-outdoors.org.

Winter reading challenge

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

Fit to Fight skiing

Cross-country skiing at Eagle Glen 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, call 350-7951.

Thursday science club

Youth are invited to the JBER Library to 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 Wednesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m., and all-ages story time 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 host an open house every third Saturday through April.

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.

Dodging damage



Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson members race to retrieve a ball during a dodgeball tournament at Elmendorf Fitness Center Feb. 22. The tournament featured eight teams in a total of seven matches. Team "Reserves" placed 1st and Team "Warriors" placed 2nd in the tournament. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell)

Ministry of moments: Helping in tough times

By **ARMY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) GREG THOGMARTIN**

In his book “Crisis Pastoral Care: A Police Chaplain’s Perspective,” Dr. Tom Shane wrote about encounters with folks in hard times in what he calls “the ministry of moments” – the phrase he uses to describe the importance of who we are, how we are, and what we do those fleeting moments where we interact with people in crisis.

A way to think about those fleeting moments is found in Bill and Gloria Gaither’s song “We Have This Moment Today.” The chorus says: “We have this moment to hold in our hands and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand; yesterday’s gone and tomorrow may never come, but we have this moment today.”

Part of what drives my train in writing this article is the recent experience of a family friend in the Lower 48. My friend’s sister-in-law committed suicide; she was married and the mother of three sons. Caring extended family flooded into be with the bereaved. Their well-intentioned

presence had an unintended consequence – they ended up creating more work and stress for the husband and sons. No one caught onto the fact that feeding and cleaning up after an extra 20 people is a lot of work. And in the awkwardness of the painful silence, one of the things that they seemed bent on doing was filling up the time with all those cliché statements – the ones most of us, when grieving, don’t find to be very helpful.

So, here is a thought about the ideas to hold in tension when we desire to be there for others in tough times. One thought is “don’t just sit there; do something.” The other is “don’t just do something; sit there.”

Our responses to others in many cases may need to swing back and forth between those two. Let’s call one “practical assistance” and the other “supportive presence.” Sometimes we are doing both in how we respond to the hurting individuals and at other times we may lean more toward one pole or the other.

Holding those two poles in tension, then consider these brief guidelines call the “Three Hs.”


H Number 1: Hugs. Hurting people typically need some affirmation that comes through touch – meaningful touch. It should also be a respectful touch. It might be a hug; it might be a handshake that communicates that we are really here with you and for you, it might be a hand on a shoulder. The key feature is that it needs to be touch that is meaningful to the hurting. So, if a person is not hugger, then don’t force them to hug. If you know they have abuse in their past, then letting them set the boundaries for these touches in critical. Touch can be a critical part of “supportive presence.”

H Number 2: Hush. In the early hours and even days of a crisis, hurting individuals and families may be more blessed by our quiet presence than by our conversation. In part, what I mean is it is OK to be with people and not feel the burden of filling up the silence. Respond to their questions as best you can. Responding to some questions will mean that you gave permission to ask them without responding with judgement. A lot of “why” questions

just need to be voiced, but we don’t have to succumb to the pressure to answer them – more than likely we don’t have a clue about the answer in that moment. The willingness to be with them in the midst of awkward silences is part of “supportive presence” too.

H Number 3: Help. This leans to the “practical assistance” pole. Be prepared to ask some simple questions about how you can help. Maybe you offer a couple of initial suggestions of things that you can do and then give the hurting person freedom to say what they think that they need. This gets a little awkward; sometimes we find ourselves assuming that we know what they need most in the moment. Let the person or family you want to show concern for have a say, and don’t take offense if they have a different idea than you do.

Sooner or later, we will all face tough times.

May God grant that those who care for us will be compassionate and thoughtful. And may God grant we treat others likewise as we engage in “the ministry of moments.” 

Hospital Family Day hours

The 673d Medical Group is 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 on a limited basis. For information, call 580-2778.

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, 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 rec-

reate 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. 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. 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 materials. They design, print and distribute business cards, letterhead, invitations and programs, and provide devices to print, scan, copy and fax, and provides 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 [document-services.dla.mil](https://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.

ASYMCA Bargain shop

The ASYMCA Bargain Shop, 8515 Saville Ave. on JBER-E, is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 753-6134.

Richardson Thrift Shop

The JBER-Richardson Thrift Shop, Building 724 Quartermaster Drive, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m., and first and third Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 384-7000.

Army Guard hosts GetFit program for ACFT

By **ARMY 1ST LT. MARISA LINDSAY**
AKNG Public Affairs

As the Army transitions to the Army Combat Fitness Test to assess Soldier fitness levels, the Alaska Army National Guard’s master fitness trainers have implemented a new group fitness program to assist Soldiers preparing.

The Army’s current physical fitness test has three main events – two-minutes of sit-ups, two-minutes of push-ups and a two-mile run. Each Soldier is scored based upon their gender and age group.

The ACFT, set to unveil in 2021, is an annual six-event test. Unlike the current test, a Soldier’s score is neither age- or gender-based. The events must be completed in 50 minutes: strength deadlift; standing power throw; hand release push-up; sprint, drag and carry; leg tuck; and a timed two-mile run.

The ACFT preparation program, dubbed GetFit, is

a voluntary program facilitated by certified Soldiers to coach functional fitness and nutrition with a focus on overall health, wellness and resilience. It provides a holistic approach to help Soldiers adjust to the new standards.

“I began attending GetFit because of its convenience, plus I was tired of being out of shape and having low energy,” said Sgt. Joshua Peer, the automations non-commissioned officer for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. “I also wanted to be able to crush my physical fitness test and not allow it to hold the weight of fear over me prior to taking them.”

GetFit is offered during lunch three days a week at the Alaska Army National Guard’s Armory drill hall floor. Instructors include Staff Sgt. Jason McDermitt, who is master fitness trained and creates the fitness programs for the classes.


“Ultimately, we are supporting Soldiers by giving



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adam Tucker, aide to the Alaska Army National Guard commander and fitness instructor for GetFit, explains the correct way to perform an air squat prior to the GetFit workout at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 27. The Army Combat Fitness Test preparation program, dubbed GetFit, is facilitated by fitness-certified Soldiers to help AKARNG Soldiers adjust to the new standards. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/1st Lt. Marisa Lindsay)

them trained cadre at a convenient time and location,” said McDermitt. “We train to improve all facets of fitness through high-intensity functional movements scaled to the Soldier’s abilities and limitations, setting the Soldiers up for success as stan-

dards change.” McDermitt said the program has been well received. Plans have been set in motion to purchase additional equipment in order to resemble the new PT test movements more closely, and to train more Soldiers as master fitness

trainer instructors. “The coaching is professional and informative; they explain why we’re doing certain warm-ups and how the stretches and workouts will help us in the long run,” said Peer. “They push me to my limit every time.” 

Knowles pins star, takes command of Army Guard

By **SGT. DAVID BEDARD**
134th PAD

Alaska Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Charles Lee Knowles was promoted during a March 1 ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Knowles is the Alaska Army National Guard Land Component commander and was selected as the Alaska Army National Guard commander.

Alaska Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Torrence W. Saxe, adjutant general for Alaska, presided over the ceremony and spoke about how far Knowles has come since commissioning in 1995.

To illustrate his point, Saxe asked Army officers representing every rank between second lieutenant and colonel to line up while the general explained their increasing responsibility and scope of command.

Saxe said Knowles made the most of every rank's charge, holding every officer leadership position from

platoon leader to brigade commander.

Knowles recalled how he began his career as an enlisted Guard Soldier with help from his wife, Tonya.

"It was a rainy day in June 1987, when we climbed in your Toyota Corolla, and you drove me to Anchorage International Airport from Wasilla, so I could go to Basic (Combat) Training," Knowles said, directly addressing his wife. "You were there at the beginning, and – almost 32 years later – you're still here with me carrying that heavy rucksack that spouses always seem to bear and somehow finding ways to make mine a little bit lighter."

Knowles thanked a number of noncommissioned officers and commissioned officers who mentored him through the years, and he thanked Alaska National Guard and state leadership for rewarding his work and potential.

"Thank you for trusting me with the opportunity to lead, and I'm honored by that




Jessica and Tonya Knowles, daughter and wife respectively of Alaska Army National Guard Col. Charles Lee Knowles, Alaska Army National Guard Land Component commander, pin on Knowles' new brigadier general rank insignia during a March 1 promotion ceremony at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Knowles was selected as the next Alaska Army National Guard commander. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Sgt. David Bedard)

trust," he said.

Knowles addressed Soldiers of all ranks in attendance at the ceremony, thanking them for their service and

continued dedication to the mission.

"You all kept coming to work every day with a purpose beyond the mission," he

said. "I am grateful for your willingness to share your ideas, counsel and trust, and I will do my best to care for you and our units." 

Feb. 2
A daughter, Amarie Ivy Allen, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 8:35 p.m. to Odette Kimberly Allen.

Feb. 3
A daughter, Leighton Rae Rittenhouse, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 3 ounces at 5 p.m. to Shawnee Rae Rittenhouse and Pvt. James Edward Rittenhouse of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

Feb. 4
A daughter, Evelyn May Vanderhoof, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at 7:01 p.m. to Joy Vanderhoof and Army Capt. Andrew John Vanderhoof of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Team (Airborne).

Feb. 6
A daughter, Magnolia Grace Andrews, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at 2:25 p.m. to Allison M. Andrews and Army Capt. Jeffrey R. Andrews, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Team (Airborne).

A daughter, Liyah Michelle Erdek, was born 20 inches long and weighing 18 pounds, 11 ounces at 7:02 a.m. to Celeice Michelle Erdek and Sgt. Ryan Michael Erdek of of Headquarters

and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Team (Airborne).

Feb. 7
A son, Atreus Alexander Jackson, was born 20.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces at 5:13 p.m. to Destiny Michelle Anne Jackson and Airman 1st Class Kyunnie Kishun Jackson of the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron.

Feb. 8
A daughter, Violet Bella Correa-Chatman, was born 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 8:03 a.m. to Jasmine Iris Correa-Chatman and Airman 1st Class Damian Lamonte Chatman of the 3rd Operations Support Squadron.

A son, Dalton John Roberts, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 2:51 a.m. to Harmony Lei Roberts and Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Earl Roberts Jr. of the 673d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

A daughter, Penelope Hope Poppe, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces at 12:03 p.m. to Danielle Nicole Poppe and Army Capt. Edward Henry Poppe of the 17th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade.

Feb. 9
A son, Bennett Joseph Bryan, was born 20 inches

long and weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces at 7:44 p.m. to Senior Airman Amber Renee Mason of the 673d Dental Squadron and Spc. James Patrick Bryan of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A daughter, Madalyn Rose Gates, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces at 5:04 p.m. to Dusty Jean Gates and Tech. Sgt. Nathan Scott Gates of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

Feb. 10
A son, August Shay Keister, was born 21 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at 5:08 a.m. to Sarah Elizabeth Keister and Airman 1st Class Jaedyn Issac Keister of the 773d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Feb. 13
A daughter, Ava Renee Smith, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds at 11:35 a.m. to Makalia Caroline Smith and Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Wade Smith of the 732nd Air Mobility Squadron.

Feb. 14
A son, Finnley Elijah Clark, was born 20 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces at 6:22 a.m. to Pfc. Jacqueline Kae Vermillion and Spc. Marcelino Reyeyes Clark, both of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne).

A daughter, Dorothea May Emery, was born 22 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 4 ounces at 11:57 a.m. to Chelsea Virginia Emery and Sgt. Steven Charles Emery.

Feb. 16
A son, Lucas Greyson Martinez, was born 19.25 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces at 7:34 a.m. to Lesslie Arely Martinez and Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Anthony Martinez of the Alaska Recruiting Company.

A daughter, EllaMae Elizabeth Norris, was born 19 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces at 2:32 p.m. to Spc. Kirsten E. Norris and Spc. Michael A. Norris, both of the 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne).

Feb. 18
A son, Connor Miles Matrese, was born 21 inches long and weighing 10 pounds, 4 ounces at 5:13 a.m. to RaeDawn Matrese and Airman 1st Class Kyle Brandon Matrese of the 3rd Maintenance Squadron.

Feb. 21
A son, Robert Michael Dommer, was born 21.5 inches long and weighing 9 pounds at 11:17 p.m. to Air Force 1st Lt. Allison Meredith O’Leary and Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Randal Dommer, both of the 673d Inpatient Squadron.

Feb. 23
A daughter, Mai’ana Lee McClarren Cruz, was born 19.5 inches long and weighing 6 pounds, 3 ounces at 9:39 p.m. to Angela Marie Cruz and Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Anthony Agnon Cruz of the 673d Communications Squadron.

A son, Theodore Leonard Hodge, was born 22 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces at 1:48 p.m. to Nicole Marie Hodge and Sgt. Blake Justin Hodge of the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Feb. 26
A son, Lawrence Baker Hammer, was born 22 inches long and weighing 9 pounds, 11 ounces at 4:19 p.m. to Stacy Dell Clari Hammer and Spc. Dakota Alan Hammer of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

A daughter, Anastasia Marie Newman, was born 22 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces at 2:18 p.m. to Adrienne Marie Newman and Army Capt. Brett Michael Newman of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Feb. 27
A daughter, Oaklee Rae Morrison, was born 21 inches long and weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces at 8:06 a.m. to Erica Sharken Morrison and Airman 1st Class Joseph Byer Morrison of the 773d Civil Engineer Squadron.

Sunday spring forward – and check your batteries


By **TANIA DOSECK**
JBER Fire Inspector

Today’s home fires burn faster than ever.
In a typical home fire, you may have only a few minutes to safely escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds.
Smoke alarms give you that early warning to make it out safely.
Twice each year, when the time changes in Alaska, is a great time to change your smoke alarm batteries.
Sunday we spring forward an hour – and it’s a good reminder to check your smoke alarm.

If your smoke alarm is a sealed type without a means to change batteries, check the manufacture date.
Those sealed alarms are good for 10 years from the date of manufacture. You may choose to replace your home alarms with these long-lived versions.
Whichever kind you have, you’ll also want to make sure that the de-



tector is clean; if necessary, use canned air or dust it to remove buildup.
Lastly, you’ll want to test your smoke alarm. To do so, just hold the test button until it sounds.
According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2012 and 2016, 40 percent of fire-related deaths in the home were due to having no smoke alarms, and 17

percent were due to inoperational alarms.
In fires where the smoke alarms were present but didn’t sound, 43 percent had missing or disconnected batteries, and 25 percent had dead batteries.
Your chances of surviving a house fire more than doubles if you have working smoke alarms.
So remember, when you change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries. While you’re at it, check your fire extinguishers – make sure they’re properly pressurized and accessible. It’s a simple thing to help keep you and your family safe. 

USACE, BLM approve natural gas pipeline

By **JOHN BUDNIK**
USACE Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Land Management signed a joint record of decision for the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement March 4, the last regulatory milestone before the Corps and BLM can exercise their federal authorities.

The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, an independent corporation of the State of Alaska, is proposing the ASAP project.

The project is to construct and operate a 733-mile long natural gas pipeline system from Prudhoe Bay to the ENSTAR Distribution System near Big Lake, and a 30-mile long lateral line to Fairbanks, to provide an affordable and reliable source of natural gas from the North Slope to

Fairbanks, Anchorage and other communities along the route.

“This is another example of the Corps collaborating with its federal, state and tribal stakeholders to ensure we are delivering for the country and allowing appropriate development that will contribute to energy independence for the nation,” said R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

“This project exemplifies the secretary’s priorities of sustainable energy development and establishing infrastructure,” said Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management for the Department of the Interior. “Clean-burning natural gas is an important energy source for heating, and it would be especially helpful in the interior of Alaska.”

The Corps published a final EIS for the project in

October 2012. In July 2014, the Corps received a revised Department of the Army permit application from AGDC that identified locations for material sites, access roads, supporting infrastructure and proposed revisions to the project increasing efficiency; enabling gas to be more accessible and affordable; and a reduction of environmental impacts.

The Corps prepared a draft and final SEIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The final SEIS was published June 22, 2018.

“I am thankful for the federal team’s dedication to teamwork in Alaska to complete another vigorous environmental review in accordance with our applicable laws, regulations and authorities,” said David Hobbie, Chief of the Alaska District’s Regulatory Division. “Government agencies effi-

ciently working together to make decisions on complex projects eases the burden on taxpayers.”

A Department of the Army permit will be issued to AGDC for the discharge of dredged and fill materials into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, and the construction of the project in and under navigable waters. The Corps has determined compensatory mitigation is required to offset losses of certain aquatic resources, including impacts within disturbed watersheds and those adjacent to anadromous waterbodies.

Authorized by the BLM, the project requires a 299-mile right-of-way through federal lands, mostly along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor in northern Alaska.

Construction could begin as early as 2019, employ up to 6,000 workers and take approximately three

to four years to complete. Once operational, the project could employ up to 240 full-time employees.

“The BLM is proud to work with our partners in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” said Ted Murphy, BLM Alaska acting state director. “Our people work hard to make sure development can proceed in a timely and responsible fashion, being careful to address potential concerns about environmental and cultural impacts while remaining sensitive to the State’s energy needs.”

The Corps’ regulatory program evaluates permit applications for most construction activities in wetlands and waterways of the U.S.

The agency is committed to maintaining and restoring the nation’s aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. 