

ALASKA POST

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an edition of the
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The Interior Military News Connection

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Vol. 9, No. 46

Fort Wainwright, Alaska

November 9, 2018

Final allied offensive of World War I decided fate of Europe

David Vergun
Defense Media Activity

By mid-September 1918, the French and U.S. armies, under the command of Gen. John J. Pershing, had achieved victory in a critical campaign, driving back the Germans from the Saint-Mihiel salient.

With that area secured, about 600,000 Americans, along with some 220,000 French and Italian troops, moved 40 miles to the northwest along the bank of the Meuse River in the Meuse-Argonne region of France.

This movement of forces took about two weeks, and was confined to the hours of darkness to maintain secrecy, said Brian F. Neumann, a historian who authored the Center of Military History pamphlet: "The U.S. Army in the World War I Era."

The transfer of forces took place



U.S. Soldiers from the 23rd Infantry attack German positions during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918. (Photo by U.S. Army Signal Corps)

without a serious setback, he said. This was largely attributable to the careful supervision of a young staff officer from Pershing's First Army, Col. George C. Marshall. Marshall would later become the Army's chief of staff during World War II.

That large-scale operation, known as the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, lasted right up to the armistice, Nov. 11, 1918. A total of 220 allied divisions participated in the offensive, 42 of which belonged to the American Expeditionary Forces.

IMPOSING DEFENSES

On the east side of the American sector was the unfordable Meuse River with the dense Argonne Forest on the west. The Argonne was on high ground, from which the Germans rained artillery fire on U.S. forces, Neumann said.

See WWI on page 3

None shall pass: 100th Missile Defense Brigade marks 15 years of homeland missile defense



Alaska National Guard members of Bravo Crew, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, operate the ground-based mid-course defense portion of the Ballistic Missile Defense System, May 5, 2007, at Fort Greely, Alaska. The system has been manned 24/7 since achieving limited defensive capability in 2004. (U.S. Army photo)

Staff Sgt. Zachary Sheely
U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense
Command/Army Forces Strategic Command
Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade are the nation's ground-based mid-course missile defense experts, and have provided America's safeguard from intercontinental ballistic missile attack since 2003.

But the unit was born of modest beginnings. For many years, the United States recognized the need for a dynamic ballistic missile defense system. However, the idea of intercepting an enemy warhead in space – a practice many have described as hitting a bullet with a bullet – pre-dated the technology by decades.

Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the George W. Bush administration withdrew the United States from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Later in 2002, the White House issued National Security Presidential Directive 23, ordering the deployment of an initial limited homeland defense capability by 2004.

President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative vision was realized and the concept of a defense system to defeat enemy missiles outside of the earth's atmosphere became a reality.

On Oct. 16, 2003, the Department of Defense activated the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, then known as the Colorado Army National Guard Missile Defense Brigade, under the flag of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

See 100TH MDB on page 7

Wainwright team earns NAYS 2018 Excellence in Youth Sports Award



(From left to right) John Engh, National Alliance for Youth Sports executive director; Roberto "Chico" Medina, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Child and Youth Services chief; Lindsey Lancaster, USAG Alaska Youth Sports and Fitness director; Lisa Licata, NAYS senior director, professional administrators; Bailey Crowe, USAG Alaska Youth Sports and Fitness assistant director; John Seat, USAG Alaska Youth Sports and Fitness assistant director, accept the 2018 Excellence in Youth Sports Award on Nov. 7 in New Orleans. Fort Wainwright's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation director, Allison Long, stated that the team has strong leaders who are innovative, encouraging, supporting and focused. She added that the team forged the way for some incredible opportunities for the youth within the USAG Alaska footprint while providing adults a great opportunity to volunteer and be a part of such a great program. (Courtesy photo)

UAF/CTC PARTNERSHIP



Michael Campbell (top middle), Fort Wainwright school liaison officer, and Trina Good (right), Youth Center director, promoted the reciprocal training partnership with Patty Meritt (left) and Kelly Peissner (bottom middle) from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical College's Early Childhood Education Program at the Fort Wainwright Education Center's Education Fair on Nov. 1. To impact recruitment and retention efforts for Child and Youth Services, the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the UAF/CTC have established a reciprocal training relationship where on-the-job training is accepted as 13 transfer credits towards the Early Childhood Education and Human Services programs. ECE and HUMS programs can be completed via distance education to support staff who transition from Alaska. For additional information, call 455-2842 or 353-9545. Employee engagement and innovative development opportunities demonstrates DFMWRs commitment to excellence, in enabling readiness for the warfighter and their Families. (Courtesy photo)

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



Snow showers, with a high of 14 degrees and a low of 11.

Saturday



Partly cloudy, with a high of 19 degrees and a low of 14.

Sunday



Snow showers, with a high of 23 degrees and a low of 18.

VETERANS DAY

Nov. 11th is commemorated each year as Veterans Day, a celebration of the patriotism, service and sacrifice of all those who serve or have served in the U.S. military. The public is invited to a Veterans Day observance Nov. 11, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel, 813 Noble Street. The free event in the Northern Latitudes room is hosted by Festival Fairbanks to thank service members and recognize the sacrifices of veterans of all eras.

Nutrition Corner: Nutrition 101

Brandy Ostanik
Medical Department Activity –
Alaska, Public Affairs

Most food-related holiday warnings focus on avoiding unwanted weight gain and maintaining a balanced lifestyle throughout the season. What often gets left out of the discussion are the health hazards presented by holiday feasts. The Center for Disease Control estimates that 48 million Americans get sick from food borne illnesses every year, of which 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die.

There are several simple precautions you can take this season to keep you and your loved ones safe and satisfied during your special meal. Do not defrost your turkey at room temperature – this can cause portions of your bird to sit in the temperature

danger zone (40 to 100 degrees F) too long, promoting the rapid growth of bacteria. As an alternative, you can defrost it in the refrigerator, but note it does take a few days depending on the size of your turkey.

Before touching anything in the kitchen (utensils, equipment, other ingredients, etc.), wash your hands for 20 seconds in warm, soapy water after touching raw meat and poultry, this helps to prevent cross-contamination.

Another important step to preventing cross-contamination is to use clean utensils, cutting boards and food preparation surfaces. Don't let juices from raw meat, poultry and eggs near food that will not be cooked (salads for example). Do not use anything that raw meat, eggs or poultry has touched until it is clean. Try using separate cutting boards and areas of the kitchen for raw animal products and for food

that won't be cooked. There is no need to rinse meat and poultry in the sink before cooking, in fact the Food and Drug Administration advises against it. The water splashes spread bacteria around the sink, increasing the likelihood that your raw meat will contaminate something clean. During cooking, do not use color as an indicator to determine if a food is done. Always use a food thermometer. For stuffed turkey, the stuffing must reach 165 degrees F, not just the meat.

Featured Recipe -Wild Rice Stuffing

- 2 cups hot water
- 4 cubes chicken bouillon
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell peppers
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1 package seasoned croutons
- 2 teaspoons poultry seasoning

1) Dissolve 3 cubes bouillon in 1 cup hot water. In a medium saucepan, combine wild rice with bouillon water, then fill with just enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

2) Mix remaining bouillon cube in 1 cup hot water. Heat butter in a medium skillet over medium heat. Stir in celery, onions and green pepper; cook until tender. Mix in remaining bouillon water. Pour skillet contents into a large bowl. Stir together cooked rice, croutons and poultry seasoning.

3) Stuff turkey loosely, and cook turkey as directed. Or put stuffing into a well-greased baking dish, cover and bake 20 minutes in a preheated oven at 325 degrees F.

MEDDAC Minute

Brandy Ostanik
Medical Department Activity – Alaska, Public Affairs

PERFORMANCE TRIAD TIP

When dining out in a group setting, start a conversation about what the healthier options are on the menu. Share with the group what you are going to order – they are now more likely to order something healthier! This is called anchoring. Help others anchor to healthy choices.

BILLING QUESTIONS

The Uniform Business Office located at Bassett Army Community Hospital is here to assist you with any billing questions you may have. UBO bills patients and insurance accompanies for medical and dental services provided. To ensure your private sector insurance is properly billed, please ensure your information is correct in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and submit your insurance information at your next appointment. For questions regarding billing, call 361-5343.

IDENTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENTS

When checking in for appointments, Family members and retirees are required to show a military dependent identification card. Department of Defense common access cards will no longer be accepted.

THANKSGIVING MEAL

The Nutrition Care Division will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving meal from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 19 featuring roast turkey, glazed ham and prime rib as main dishes. Tickets can be purchased at the Bassett ACH Dining Facility prior to the event. E4 and below: \$6.80, E5 and above/Civilians: \$9.10. Meal cards will not be accepted for this event.

ANONYMOUS OR NOT

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

TEXT REMINDERS

Never forget another appointment. Beneficiaries who have their cell phone number in their TRICARE Online profile will receive text message reminders 48 hours and two hours prior to their appointment.

DISPOSE OF UNWANTED PRESCRIPTIONS

Bassett ACH will be hosting a Drug Take-Back day Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fort Wainwright Post Exchange. This is an opportunity for individuals with unwanted, unused and expired medications to dispose of them safely.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 911
24 Hour Nurse Advice Line:
1-800-874-2273 Opt. 1
Appointment Line: 361-4000
Behavioral Health: 361-6059
Benefits Advisor: 361-5656
Immunizations: 361-5456
Information Desk: 361-5172
Patient Advocate: 361-5291
Pharmacy Refills: 361-5803
Referral Center: 361-1810
Tricare On-Line:
www.tricareonline.com
Health Net Federal Services:
www.tricare-west.com
1-844-866-9378

Fort Wainwright Soldiers Against Drunk Driving program needs your help

Spc. Austin Mooney

Fort Wainwright Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

Fort Wainwright's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers' volunteer operated, free-ride program, Soldiers Against Drunk Driving, remains committed to the prevention of drunk driving incidents for all DOD cardholders, including dependent Family members.

SADD is operated on Friday and Saturday nights from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., to included training and federal holidays.

As the BOSS program vice president for U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, Fort Wainwright, Spc. Austin Mooney serves as the volunteer coordinator, which includes ensuring the SADD program has adequate volunteer support.

The SADD program has been around for more than five years and provides an average of 664 pickups per fiscal year. Last year, FY18, SADD picked up 924 service members, providing them a free ride home with 179 volunteers giving a combined total of 2,888 volunteer hours.

The BOSS program utilizes up to six volunteers plus a SADD coordinator per shift to operate effectively. However, there have only been four volunteers including the SADD coordinators who have worked the 10 shifts in October. During these shifts, there have been 21 pickups from various locations throughout Fairbanks.

The SADD program, and BOSS, cannot work effectively without volunteers, so they are asking anyone who is available on weekends to assist with the SADD program. You do not have to be BOSS eligible to participate in BOSS sponsored volunteer activities, including SADD.

If you would like to volunteer, sign up for a shift on the sheet outside of the BOSS office located in Murphy Hall, building 1045.

For further information about volunteering with BOSS or SADD, call (907) 353-7648 or the SADD phone number at (907) 353-4145. All upcoming events and opportunities are also located on our website, <https://wainwright.armymwr.com/programs/boss>.

SADD

Weekly Financial Tips: Winter Gear

Ryki Carlson
Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, Americans now spend almost as much money on winter sports as they do accessing the Internet. The one downside to the rising popularity of winter and snow sports is that the prices of gear are rising too. It's always important to save as much as you can when stocking up on your equipment, so whether you have never skied before or you're an expert, look for avenues to save money.

Don't buy new equipment. If you live near a popular snow sports area, try looking for local deals on Craigslist, or other websites that list things for sale in the local area. Check out eBay or Amazon for deals, however, make sure you research the gear and cost including shipping prior to purchasing. Consider looking at thrift stores, consignment stores, yard sales or end of season sales to find great deals.

Check out ski swaps and ski shows. Fall ski swaps and shows are a great way to compare deals and find discounts on new and used equipment. Most are held at retail shops, and if not, there is one online called Swappow. This site has boots, outerwear, snowboards, goggles and more for all snow sports.

Find lift ticket discounts. Buying a season pass early can help you save money. Also check daily deal sites like Groupon, or LivingSocial, and even local radio stations for discount offers. You're also likely to find bargains on third-party websites such as Liftopia. Another option is to go to the mountain at a less expensive time, like weekdays and evening.

Ask for a military, student, AAA or other discount. Quite often these are available for the asking.

Saving on other costs. There is no need to dress in the most fashionable sporting gear on the market when you are exercising – especially when you are skiing, snowboarding, sledding or snow machining. Buy middle-of-the-road, quality apparel and skip the unneeded extras.

Reduce travel expenses. There are plenty of ways to save on travel expenses. For the best airline deals, make your reservations early in the week. Consider flying on a Tuesday or Wednesday, which will reduce your ticket costs. If you are driving to your destination, see if you can carpool by posting an ad on Craigslist or listing your trip on a website like eRideShare.

Consider renting gear. You can save money on ski and snowboard rentals by planning ahead and reserving your equipment online. You can save even more money by renting your equipment at a rental shop that is located off the mountain. If there is a local college nearby, their outdoor recreation department may rent gear at low cost. Additionally, check out the MWR outdoor recreation center at the local military base for savings.

Take lessons. You will progress faster and have more fun with professional instructions. Lessons are a smart investment, and there are often first-timer deals. Quite often there are deals for both children and adult beginners, which include rentals and lift tickets.

Take snacks. You'll have more energy and fun if you refuel throughout the day. Load up with portable power like cheese sticks, granola bars, dried fruit or nuts. If your ski resort has a picnic area, take your lunch.

CID LOOKOUT

CRIME TIPS

Anonymously report crime, suspicious activity or threats to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command with the CID Crime Tips app

WWW.CID.ARMY.MIL

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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The ALASKA POST – The Interior Military News Connection

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The Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Fritts
Fort Greely

I worry about the moose surviving the winter. Even though we've now lived on Fort Greely for almost six months, Karen and I remain constantly fascinated by the moose that freely graze in our yard and in the common areas of our neighborhood. Over time, we've begun to recognize individual animals that we see frequently. It's fun to visit with our neighbors who also recognize the same moose. "Did you see the momma and her twins grazing over by the school? The two young males put on quite a jousting show in the circle last night. Oh, I snapped a great picture of big daddy moose in our yard!" You see, the moose have become familiar. I worry because I'd miss them if they weren't around.

"Worrying" about the moose, of course, is silly. The moose survived Alaskan winters long before I arrived, and they will survive Alaskan winters long after I've gone. Rationally,

I know this. Nevertheless, having experienced the beginning of winter at Fort Greely with single digit temperatures and double digit wind gusts, the survival challenges all living things here must face are obvious. Watching momma moose and her twin calves foraging in the cold, wind and snow makes me wonder, how do they find enough to eat? How do they find unfrozen water to drink? How do they stay warm?

Even though I'm not an outdoor enthusiast, I could make educated guesses about how the moose and other wildlife survive. The point is not the particulars of what and how the moose eat and drink, but that their continued survival is all a part of God's plan. In Matthew 6:25-26, Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father

feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Name any specific anxiety or fear that you have and then begin asking yourself, "Why am I afraid of that?" Peel away enough layers, and you will probably end up with some version of "I don't want me, or the ones I love, to die." For example, are you anxious about the economy? The health of the economy affects your employment, which affects your ability to pay the bills and buy food, which directly impacts your survival. Granted, individual circumstances are often more complex and nuanced than my little example implies. And yet, somehow, our continued survival is all a part of God's plan.

Has winter come both to your body and soul, causing you to feel anxious and afraid? As much as God cares for momma moose and her twins, God cares even more for you.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Fritts

The Fort Greely Chapel community is open and accessible to everyone in the Delta Junction/Fort Greely community – even non-military. We are a traditional, protestant Army chapel service meeting on Sundays at 10 a.m., with a weekly Communion observance. Interested?

Please call 907-873-4397 to arrange for gate access. "Like" our chapel Facebook page by searching "Fort Greely Chapel" or use your web browser to go to <https://www.facebook.com/FGAChapel>.

For God and Country,
Chaplain Fritts

WWI

Continued from page 1

Since the Germans had occupied the area for several years, they had developed an elaborate defensive system of four fortified lines featuring a dense network of wire entanglements, machine-gun positions with interlocking fires and concrete fighting positions. In between the trench lines, the Germans had developed a series of intermediate strong points in the numerous woods and knolls. The defensive system was about 15 miles deep, with five divisions on line and another seven in reserve, Neumann said.

Against this imposing defense, the American First Army's 600,000 men would attack with nine divisions on line and another five in reserve, with III Corps on the east flank, V Corps in the center, and I Corps on the west flank. A total of 2,700 pieces of artillery, 189 tanks, and 821 aircraft supported the American infantrymen, Neumann said.

INITIAL ASSAULT

At 5:30 a.m., Sept. 26, after a three-hour artillery bombardment, the three corps launched their attacks. Despite a heavy fog, the rugged terrain and the network of barbed wire, the weight of the American onslaught quickly overran the Germans' forward positions. On both flanks, the corps made good progress, he said.

In the center, however, the V Corps experienced problems, but nonetheless seized their objective on the following day, he said.

Throughout the remainder of September, First Army slowly plodded forward. Heavy rains on Sept. 27 and 28 bogged down the few tanks that had not already succumbed to mechanical failure. The rains also interfered with the forward movement of the supporting artillery and the resupply efforts as the already congested roads became muddy, he noted.

Moreover, the Germans had used the delay to rush in their reserves, Neumann said. The American advance had become a continuous series of bloody, hard-fought engagements.

FOG OF WAR

Not all of First Army's difficulties came from the enemy or the weather, Neumann said. Of the nine divisions in the initial assault, only three, the 4th, 28th, and 77th, had significant combat experience. The 79th Division, which had the critical mission to take the town of Montfaucon, had been in France for only seven weeks. The heavy fog and rain and the broken terrain exacerbated the situation for the inexperienced troops.

Many divisions suffered from a lack of coordination among their own units and liaison with adjoining and higher units, he continued. Teamwork between the infantry and their artillery often proved awkward and ineffective, especially in those divisions that had to rely on artillery brigades from other divisions because their own brigades were unavailable.

Overcoming these problems, the First Army advanced eight miles into the German lines by the end of September. Remarkably, it had fought through some of the strongest positions on the Western Front and captured 9,000 prisoners and a large amount of war supplies, including 100 guns, Neumann said. With the severity of the fighting and the intermingling of units in the twisted terrain, Pershing had little choice but to pause to reorganize.

Elsewhere on the Western Front, French and British forces had also slowed and then paused to improve their interior lines of communications, Neumann said.

During the first days of October, Pershing took advantage of the pause to rotate three battle-hardened divisions, the 3rd, 32nd and 1st, into the line, relieving some of the less experienced, the 37th, 79th and 35th. As First Army reorganized its line, the Germans also strengthened their position with six new divisions brought into the area, for a total of 11. The numerical odds were beginning to even.

At 5:30 a.m., Oct. 4, First Army renewed its attack, but progress was slow and severe, Neumann said.

As new American divisions were rotated into line, the Germans continued their reinforcement efforts as well. By Oct. 6, the Germans had 27 divisions in the area.

On Oct. 14, First Army launched a general assault all along the German lines. By the third week in October, First Army had reached most of the objectives of the first phase of the campaign: penetration of the third German line and clearing of the Argonne Forest, Neumann said.

NORTHERN LINES

With the divisions of First Army fighting in the Meuse-Argonne region, other American divisions were providing crucial assistance to the French and British advances, Neumann said. To the north, two divisions of II Corps continued to support the British advance. The 2nd Division

was operating with the French Fourth Army on the First Army's western flank.

On Oct. 10, the 36th Division relieved the 2nd Division and advanced to the Aisne River by Oct. 13, which brought the French Fourth Army on line with the American First Army, Neumann said.

DECENTRALIZED COMMAND

By mid-October, Pershing realized that too much of the operational and tactical direction of the war was concentrated in his hands. As AEF commander, he was the American theater commander responsible for the administration, training and supplying of the American troops in France, as well as coordination with the other national commanders. In addition, he was the field commander for three corps consisting of 14 divisions in a desperate fight over rough terrain.

In order to better distribute leadership, Pershing assigned corps commanders, Neumann said. Pershing could now focus his attention on the larger strategic issues of theater command.

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

Over the remainder of October and early November, the Americans made substantial progress, and by Nov. 4, First Army had elements along the heights overlooking the Meuse River, Neumann said. The Americans had achieved their objective.

Infantry and artillery coordination was superb. Troops pushed through and around German strong points, while special assault troops reduced them. Improved staff work and coordination afforded First Army the flexibility to bypass German defenses. Unlike former attacks that made strong first-day gains followed by smaller ones, this attack was different. The American units had finally developed into a well-trained, well-organized fighting force, Neumann said.

The Germans had, had enough. The fighting ended at the eleventh hour of Nov. 11, 1918, the time the armistice went into effect, ending the Great War.

The Meuse-Argonne Campaign was the greatest battle that the U.S. Army had fought in its history, Neumann concluded. Almost 1.25 million American troops had participated during the course of the 47-day campaign. American casualties were high – over 117,000 – but the results were impressive.

For example, First Army had driven 43 German divisions back about 30 miles over some of the most difficult terrain and most heavily fortified positions on the Western Front. It had inflicted over 120,000 casualties on the Germans and captured 468 guns.

ESTATE NOTICE

Spc. James M. Guckavan passed away in Fairbanks on Oct. 26, 2018. Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Spc. James Guckavan, of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, may contact 2nd Lt. Jeramy A. LaBoy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/5 IN, 1/25 SBCT, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703, phone (907) 353-2509 or email jeramy.a.laboy@mail.mil.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Fort Wainwright Family & MWR

Weekly Events

November 9 – 16

12 **Grow and Giggle**
November 12
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Play and learn with your little one during Grow and Giggle! With developmental activities for kids ages 0-5, you and your child will have a stronger bond than ever before.

Last Frontier Community Activity Center, building 1044
Call 353-7755

13 **B.O.S.S. Fat Tire Biking to Hoodoo Brewery**
November 13
5:30 p.m.

Cruise the frozen ground from the Outdoor Recreation Center to Hoodoo Brewery on fat bikes! Then, let us give you a ride back to the start. This trip is open to all B.O.S.S. eligible Service Members. Must be 21+ years of age to participate.

B.O.S.S., building 1045, suite 31
Call 353-7648, registration required

14 **Welcome to Winter**
November 14
6 to 8 p.m.

Are you wondering how you're going to survive the upcoming Alaskan winter? Get prepared! We are here to help you make sure that you are confident in your journey towards the frozen months. Learn how to care for your car, your pet, your house, and your health during this informative talk.

Last Frontier Community Activity Center, building 1044
Call 353-7755

15 **Spouse to Spouse**
November 15
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Meet Military Spouses currently living in and around Fort Wainwright. Learn what makes this military community special, ask questions, receive advice, and network with similar individuals.

North Haven Community Center, building 4286
Call 353-4332

16 **Thanksgiving Craft Night**
November 16
5 to 7 p.m.

Gobble, gobble! Bring the family to the Last Frontier Community Activity Center for a night of crafts, games, and family traditions! This free event is open to all ages.

Last Frontier Community Activity Center, building 1044
Call 353-7755

Please be aware that the upcoming holiday may effect Wainwright MWR operating hours. Please check the website for a complete list of holiday weekend hours.

Cosmic Bowl with a Thanksgiving twist!

COSMIC TURKEY EXPERIENCE

NOVEMBER 17, 9 P.M. - MIDNIGHT

X One strike in the 10th frame Win a can of yams*
XX Two strikes in the 10th frame Win a pie*
XXX Three strikes in the 10th frame Win a turkey*

*Limit one prize per customer

\$15 per person, includes shoe rental

MWR

Bldg 3702 Santiago Avenue, (907) 353-2654
www.wainwright.armymwr.com
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightBowl



Have you been naughty or nice? Write Santa and find out! Find out more at www.wainwright.armymwr.com

welcome to

WINTER

DISCOVER WHAT'S IN STORE IN THE LAST FRONTIER
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR ALL ALASKAN WINTERS HAVE TO OFFER

- Learn how to properly "winterize" your vehicle
- Discover what to wear in the bitter cold
- Know how to drive on ice
- Learn how to care for your pets in extreme conditions
- Find coping mechanisms for the long, dark days

6-8 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 27
OCTOBER 11
NOVEMBER 14
DECEMBER 13

LAST FRONTIER COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER
BUILDING 1044 APPLE STREET

Parents DAYS & NIGHTS OUT

BECAUSE PARENTS DESERVE FREE TIME

FRIDAY, OCT 26 // 6:30 - 10:30 PM
FRIDAY, NOV 16 // 6:30 - 10:30 PM
SATURDAY, DEC 15 // 10 AM - 2 PM

\$70 per child gets 4 hours of premium childcare, filled with creative activities and playtime

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S OYS REGISTRATION IS UP TO DATE PRIOR TO THIS EVENT. REGISTRATION ENDS 1 WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT DATE.

NOVEMBER 21
5 - 7 P.M.

TURKEY BURN

2-HR FITNESS CLASS

COME TORCH THOSE CALORIES IN PREP OF THANKSGIVING DAY!
\$6 OR 2 PUNCHES // REGISTER AT THE PFC

REGISTER NOW!
Physical Fitness Center (907) 353-7223
www.wainwright.armymwr.com
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightFitness

Soldiers who immortalized Vietnam valor on film return to Pentagon

David Vergun
Defense Media Activity

Much of the excellent photography and motion pictures of the Vietnam War were captured by the troops themselves, not just by the civilian news media, said former Army Capt. William D. San Hamel.

Teams of two servicemen – a still photographer and a cinematographer – were given wide latitude to tell the stories of the Soldiers, and that usually meant going to where the fighting was most intense, said Hamel. He was in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969, at the Department of the Army Special Photographic Office, where he acted as a producer and director for the Soldiers of DASPO.

Hamel and other Soldiers assigned to DASPO spoke about their Vietnam experiences Nov. 2 at the Pentagon and displayed some of their work.

The Soldiers were not just given a lot of freedom to tell their stories through pictures, they also were allowed to go wherever they wanted and had priority seating on military aircraft, vehicles and boats as well, Hamel said.

“We were highly mobile, unencumbered by red tape, had top secret clearances, special passports, the best equipment and top-notch personnel,” he said.

ELITE GROUP BORN

Hamel explained how DASPO came into being.

In 1962, Vietnam was just a blip on President John F. Kennedy’s radar screen, he said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Curtis LeMay used to go to Joint Chiefs of Staff meetings with the president armed with slides and film footage of Vietnam, impressing and dazzling him and everyone, Hamel said.



Pfc. Fred L. Greenleaf leads from the front at Cat Lai, South Vietnam in 1967. (Photo by Spc. 4 Robert C. Lafoon)

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George H. Decker didn’t have such visuals and he didn’t like to be outshone by LeMay, so he put the plan in place to create DASPO and to fill it with an elite group of professional Soldiers.

DASPO lasted throughout most of the rest of the war, its colors furled in 1974.

GREAT RISK, NO CREDIT

While DASPO was created to gather photographic intelligence for Army commanders and senior leaders, a great deal of the pictures and films also found their way to the civilian news media and elsewhere, Hamel said.

The Army would actually hold auctions where the news media would bid on the photos and footage, he said. Unfortunately, the Soldiers who risked their lives to produce it usually received no credit and sometimes the media took the credit themselves.

And risk their lives they did. Two of them, Spc. 4 Kermit Yoho and Sgt. Charles “Rick” Rein, were killed in

action, Hamel said.

Former Spc. 5 Carl C. Hanson, who served in Vietnam in 1967, said “we’d go into ... territory until we ran out of film or until the battle was over.”

Hanson said that the Soldiers of DASPO never knew where their products might show up, and are still surprised today to suddenly see their work appear, in his case, as the covers of two books and in three national museums.

FILMING VALOR

Former Spc. 5 Theodore “Ted” Acheson arrived in Vietnam on Feb. 11, 1968, just days after the Tet Offensive began. He was wounded during a firefight near the city of Hue.

A cinematographer, Acheson said he shot 16mm film in 10- to 12-second segments. That was standard practice.

To operate the camera required him to expose his upper body from whatever cover and concealment he could find. “As I filmed the action, I could hear bullets whizzing past me,” he said. “That happened a lot.”

On May 6, 1968, during a firefight near La Chu, Acheson filmed a squad of Soldiers destroying a series of enemy bunkers.

One of the Soldiers he filmed, Spc. 4 Robert Martin Patterson, received a Medal of Honor for his actions that day. It was probably one of the only films that documented the fighting that resulted in a Soldier receiving the nation’s highest award for valor, he said.

The film also shows other acts of valor that resulted in two Silver Stars and five Bronze Star medals, he noted.



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How overseas COLA is calculated

Overseas Cost of Living Allowances

Overseas COLA is intended to equalize purchasing power so that members can purchase the same level of goods and services overseas as they could if they were stationed in Contiguous United States. Overseas COLA is calculated by comparing the prices of goods and services overseas with average prices for equivalent goods and services in CONUS.

The result of this price comparison is an index that reflects a cost of living. Members will only receive a COLA if the costs are higher in an overseas location. If prices in CONUS are rising at a greater rate than those overseas, a member’s Overseas COLA will decrease, and vice versa. However, if prices rise or fall at the same rate, a member’s Overseas COLA will stay the same.

Two surveys determine the relative cost of living overseas compared with CONUS:

- Living Pattern Survey - asks service members where (what outlets) they shop and what percentage of goods they purchase locally, at the Commissary/Exchange, and from the internet. Service members can have a direct impact on Overseas COLA indexes by participating in the LPS
- Retail Price Schedule or Market Basket Survey) - annually captures prices of approximately 120 goods and services based on outlets identified in the Living Pattern Survey.

Find out more, at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/cola.cfm

Native American Heritage Month

Headquarters, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-1

What is it?

November is National Native American Heritage Month, honoring American Indians and Alaska Natives. This year’s theme is Sovereignty, Trust, Resilience. Native Americans have profoundly shaped the character and cultural heritage of the nation. During this month, the Army will recognize the contributions of Native American Soldiers who have served in the U.S. Army with great honor, dedication and distinction, building a legacy of courage, professionalism and selfless service that will inspire future generations.

What has the Army done/is doing?

During Native American Heritage Month, Army leadership encourages the entire Army family to recognize and express appreciation for the past and present contributions of Native American Soldiers, veterans, Civilians and Family members. In celebrating National Native American Indian Heritage Month, the Army recognizes there is great strength in diversity.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned?

In celebrating Native American Heritage Month, Army recognizes not only the significance of individual contributions, but also the value of diversity and an inclusive environment. The Army is dedicated to leveraging the strength of its diverse force and ensuring equality for all its members. Army leaders will continue to work to ensure that all Soldiers and Civilians are given the opportunity to maximize their unique talents and potential.

Why is this important to the Army?

Throughout history, Native Americans have served in this nation’s military with great courage and distinction. Historically, American Indians have the highest record of military service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. Today more than 9,000 Native Americans serve in the total force, and are all critical members of the Army team.

Embracing and celebrating diversity makes the Army stronger, and the Army is dedicated to ensuring equality for all the Soldiers, civilians and Family members.

100TH MDB

Continued from page 1

“It began as a collection of people who really didn’t know much about missile defense,” said Brig. Gen. Gregory Bowen, deputy director, Global Operations (DJ3), Global Operations Directorate, United States Strategic Command and former brigade commander. “We were brought in from a number of different places and formed into a unit that became the 100th Brigade.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Russell Hamilton has served in many roles with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, including as the brigade’s command sergeant major from 2010 to 2014, and said the unit’s early days were exciting.

“There was so much mystery, so much unknown about this thing that people called GMD,” said Hamilton, who now serves as the Colorado Army National Guard command sergeant major. “Nobody knew what it was. Everybody had their visions of the movie ‘War Games,’ or ‘Star Wars,’ or something like that.”

Although the brigade was activated, it took several months to become operational. Fort Greely, located in the heart of the Alaska interior, was selected as the tactical site for the GMD system. Soldiers were needed to operate the system and guard the Missile Defense Complex there, and so the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska National Guard stood up in January 2004.

Bowen said that much has changed at Fort Greely since then.

“Fort Greely was an interesting place to begin with as it had been closed due to Base Realignment and Closure,” said Bowen, who served as the original commander of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, 2003 to 2006, and later as the commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, 2009 to 2012. “They brought it out of BRAC for missile defense. When I arrived in the spring of 2003, what is now the Missile Defense Complex was just a huge construction site. Fort Greely, the garrison itself, was nothing like it is today.”

As Fort Greely was restored and rebuilt, ground-based interceptors – the bullets of the GMD system – were placed there.

By the summer of 2006, the system was armed and ready. The timing was apt, as North Korea launched a series of test missiles in July 2006. One such missile,

the Taepodong-2, featured an estimated range of nearly 6,000 miles.

Although it failed shortly after launch, that test, and a North Korean underground nuclear test that October, set the tone for brigade operations for years to come.

“The training got more rigorous,” Hamilton said. “There was a lot that wasn’t known about the system or the program as we first came in. So a lot of us, both on the instructor side, on the evaluator side and the operators themselves, were all learning together as we went through some of these things.”

24/7/365 operations became the norm for the entire brigade, according to retired Col. Michael Yowell, who served as the second brigade commander, 2006 to 2009. As the unit matured and the Soldiers refined their tactics, techniques and procedures, the system was continuously developing and becoming more advanced. This included adding a small detachment of Soldiers and additional ground-based interceptors at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

“The brigade is ever-evolving,” Yowell said. “Unlike when you have a normal weapons system that takes months and years to develop and test and prototype and finally field, we were fielding and updating software and equipment on a constant basis in concert with our partners with the Missile Defense Agency.”

The system and materiel in place today are the products of countless hours of research, development and evaluation. William Spriggs, a ground-based mid-course defense instructor with the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center, said this includes several missile flight tests, which have demonstrated increasing success.

“This is a very complicated weapons system – one of the most complicated things we’ve ever done as a nation is missile defense,” Spriggs said. “You expect some failures. That’s how science works. You fail, you fix it and you make it better.”

On May 30, 2017, the Soldiers of a 100th Missile Defense crew showcased the capabilities of the system, launching an interceptor from Vandenberg that collided with and destroyed its target – launched from the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific, nearly 5,000 miles away – in space.

Flight Test Ground-based Interceptor 15, or simply FTG-15, was the first successful exoatmospheric intercept of an intercontinental ballistic missile-class target in human history.

The current 100th Missile Defense Brigade

commander, Col. Kevin Kick, said that the success of FTG-15 proved that the system works against the threat it was intended to fight.

That threat was on display throughout 2017 as North Korea conducted another underground nuclear test and launched a number of long-range missile tests that were deemed capable of hitting the United States mainland.

The term ICBM became globally recognized. Hamilton said that during this time of heightened tension, he wanted to be back alongside the Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

“This is where you want to be when something like that is going on in the world,” Hamilton said. “But knowing the Soldiers and leadership team that we have in the 100th, I had absolute confidence we’ll be able to deal with whatever challenge came our way.”

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade is perhaps the most unique unit in the United States military because it is the only missile defense brigade in the Department of Defense, and because it is mainly composed of National Guard Soldiers, who are deployed in place and fighting an enemy threat from abroad.

Spriggs – who was a member of the first crew to operate the GMD system – said when he looks at his National Guard retirement statue at home, it makes him think of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade’s Soldiers and mission.

“It’s the Minuteman with a plow and a musket,” said Spriggs, describing the statue. “I kind of look at GMD the same way. We’re guarding the homeland. The threat has obviously changed since 1636, but the mission is still the same. We’re just a bunch of folks with regular, normal lives that come in every day and stand watch, and I think it’s appropriate that the National Guard does that, because we are defending the homeland.”

The Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade have helped revolutionize homeland missile defense for the last 15 years. Whatever the future may hold, Hamilton said the 100th Missile Defense Brigade will be ready.

“Is it the likely course of action where we have to launch an interceptor? Probably not,” Hamilton said. “But on America’s worst day where something goes wrong in the world and America is threatened, we’ve got to be ready. Adversaries only have to get it right one time to create something catastrophic. We have to get it right every single time.”

YOU'RE INVITED!

USAG Alaska Storm Water Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2018
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Building 3023 DPW Environmental Conference Room
Conference call-in number (907) 384-5964

Goals:

- Minimize pollution to the storm water system and Chena River
- Provide input on storm water program
- Cooperate in storm water management activities

We want to hear from YOU!

Activities:

- Household hazardous waste recycling initiative
- Educational booth at Earth Day celebration
- Develop training video

Future Meetings:

- 15 January 2019
- 10 April 2019
- 10 July 2019

The Storm Water Steering Committee is a requirement of Fort Wainwright’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. Public Involvement and Outreach is a key component of the effort to keep USAG Alaska’s water systems clean and healthy!

For more information, visit:
<https://www.wainwright.army.mil/index.php/about/environmental/compliance/storm-water>
Or contact the DPW Environmental Water Program at 907-361-6220.



Military Family Month

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management

What is it?

Military Family Month was established by the Armed Services YMCA, and is observed every November. This observance provides an opportunity for the U.S. Army to honor the extraordinary commitment, contributions and daily sacrifices of Army Families.

What has the Army done/is doing?

The Army’s number one priority is the readiness of Soldiers, civilians and their Families. Decades of research demonstrate that Army Family readiness impacts strategic Army outcomes, including resilience, retention and readiness.

Military Families continually demonstrate their dedication, service and willingness to make great sacrifices to Soldiers. Army Families endure unique challenges related to military life – the long separations from loved ones, the uncertainty and demands of multiple deployments, school and job transfers, and frequent moves.

The Army is thankful for the selfless sacrifices of Army Families who serve alongside their Soldiers, enduring hardships and providing unconditional love and support. The Army commemorates and honors the roles and contributions of Army Families as they too serve a vital role in the defense of the country.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned?

Soldier and Family programs are an investment in the Army’s most valuable asset – people. Providing Soldiers, Families and Civilians the best quality of life is important to recruiting and retaining the all-volunteer Army. The Army continues to provide essential Family services and support such as family advocacy, spouse employment and financial readiness.

Army Garrisons often host local events and activities to commemorate Military Family Month. Army public affairs offices may assist in raising Military Family Month awareness through communication products to reach targeted internal and external audiences – Soldiers, Army Civilians, retirees, survivors, Families and the general public.

Why is this important to the Army?

The Army recognizes and honors military Families for their numerous contributions, steadfast commitment and daily sacrifices to the Army mission and to the nation. Army Families are an integral link between Soldiers and the Army’s ability to maintain ready and responsive forces.

Army Families are vitally important, as the strength of the Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families. Approximately 78 percent of Soldiers are from Families who have served in the military, and 60 percent of all Soldiers have a spouse or dependents, in addition to parents, siblings and others.