176th Wing • Alaska Air National Guard
eGuardian **July 31, 2023**

August 2023 Quarterly Drill

ARCTIC GUARDIAN FAMILY DAY *August 6*

Join the wing family Sunday, Aug. 6 at Hangar 18's East Bay for Family Day from noon to 4 p.m. Make sure to get a raffle ticket at the door for a shot at more than $2,500 in prizes to the winners of the corn hole tournament, 5K Fun run and door prizes. Take full advantage of signing you and your family members up in these events as everything is free.

FAMILY DAY ATTRACTIONS:
Axe Throwing Cages
Pony Wheel
Bounce House
30' Bounce Obstacle Course
Balloon Twisting
Face Painting
Crazy Hair
Caricature Drawing
Corn Hole Tournament (Please text Master Sgt. Barry Fairbanks (907-727-2223) to secure your teams spot)
Selfie Photo Booth
Magician
5K Fun Run
Active Duty SFS K9 Demonstration
F-22 Raptor Flight Simulators
Prizes, Food, Drinks, Cotton Candy and Tastee Freeze Ice Cream!

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TRAINING *Cancelled for August drill*

EO/POSH training is cancelled for August. The next scheduled class will be in October. To request an earlier training date, contact Capt. Kimberly Westfall at kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil

MARIJUANA, CBD, CANNABIS QUESTIONS ANSWERED

By Kelly Walter
176th Wing program manager, Drug Demand Reduction Program

- **THE BIG QUESTION**: **Can military members use items derived from marijuana; THC, Delta 8, Delta 9, CBD, or Cannabis? NO—the answer is always No!** Regardless of the legal status of marijuana in Alaska (or any state), the answer is still "NO" for all DoD members.

- **MARIJUANA vs HEMP:** A cannabis plant can be classified as marijuana or hemp depending on its level of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). It is considered marijuana if more than 0.3% THC content. It is considered Hemp if 0.3% or less THC content.

- **CANNABIDIOL (CBD):** CBD can be derived from either marijuana or hemp. **The use of CBD products, including those derived from hemp, could lead to a positive urinalysis for THC.** CBD is not well regulated, the Food and Drug Administration does not certify THC levels in products, and CBD products may omit or inaccurately represent their THC content.

- **LEGALITY OF MARIJUANA:** Knowing use, possession or distribution of marijuana and any product derived from or containing marijuana, including CBD, is illegal for all military members under Article 112a, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The UCMJ applies at all times and in all places to active duty military members.

- **LEGALITY OF HEMP:** Each service has prohibited the use of hemp or hemp-derived products, including CBD. A knowing violation of these prohibitions is an offense under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Air Force refer to *AFMAN 44-197, para 1.2.2.1* / Army refer to *AR600-85, sect 4-2p* / Navy & Marines refer to *ALNAV 057/19, para 3* / Coast Guard refer to *COMDTINST M1000.10A, chap 5, sect D.1*

- **FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES** did you know?: **Use of marijuana and its derivatives, including CBD, is illegal for federal civilian employees.** While it is not currently illegal for civilians to use hemp-derived CBD products, use of these products is risky and could lead to a positive urinalysis for THC. If a civilian employee tests positive for THC, use of hemp-derived DBD would not qualify as a valid excuse for the

positive urinalysis.

- **CBD BOTTOM LINE: It is illegal for military members to ingest (smoking, vaping, eating, transdermal patches, etc.) CBD in ANY form!** For federal civilian employees it is illegal to use marijuana and its derivatives, including CBD, and risky to use hemp-derived CBD!

WING NEWS

CUMMINGS SUCCEEDS SOTO AS 176TH MAINTENANCE GROUP COMMANDER

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- Alaska Air National Guard Col. Michael Cummings succeeded Col. Edward Soto as the 176th Maintenance Group commander during a July 7 ceremony here.

The group maintains C-17A Globemaster III airlift aircraft, HC-130J Combat King II combat search and rescue fixed-wing aircraft, and HH-60G Pave Hawk combat search and rescue helicopters.

Soto highlighted how the group partnered with the 176th Operations Group to generate aircraft in support of rescue and airlift missions in Alaska and around the world.

"Your [rescue] aircraft have saved countless lives with four real-world missions in the last week alone," Soto said. "You generate the combined rotor- and fixed-wing fleet over and above recommended [Air Force] commit rates regularly and went on to win the coveted Jolly Green Award with our operations brothers and sisters."

Soto highlighted how rescue maintainers deployed overseas three times with their associated operations units during his tenure. With ongoing long-haul airlift missions in the Pacific and the world, Soto said C-17 maintainers were equally engaged in supporting contingency operations.

"On the airlift side, you have essentially been deployed in place since inception moving cargo worldwide, standing presidential alerts and saving the lives of Afghans in the final moments of our presence there," he said. "As

the only Air National Guard unit equipped C-17 total force enterprise, you have reached significant milestones and continue to do so today."

Soto will soon retire after 26 years of service.

Cummings said he will continue working to improve the group.

"Colonel Soto apologized to me for things he didn't get to finish," he said. "My reply to him was 'Thanks for trying, but there is no finish.' As this ceremony symbolizes, the next commander picks up where the last commander leaves off. I am humbled and honored to take the banner of this amazing group and continue [Soto's and the group's] great work."

176TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON KICKS OFF IRT PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF SHEPARD POINT OIL SPILL RESPONSE SITE

By Robert DeBerry | Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- When the Exxon Valdez grounded on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989, more than 11 million gallons of heavy crude oil spilled into the sound. The spill spread over a vast area, impacting around 1,300 miles of coastline. Response efforts did not arrive onsite until 14 hours after the spill, and it took another 21 hours to place booms around the oil.

The incident prompted changes in oil spill prevention, response regulations and practices. It led to the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 in the United States, spurred advancements in spill response technology and techniques and helped pass the Alyeska Consent Decree, which mandated the construction of three oil response facilities around the Prince William Sound: Chenega, Tatitlek, and Cordova. Of the three facilities, Cordova is the last to be built.

More than three decades later, construction on the Shepard Point Marine Tribal Transportation Oil Spill & Marine Casualty Response Facility is set to begin. The Native Village of Eyak has taken the lead on the project with partial funding coming from a $45.7 million federal transportation grant with some in-kind donation from the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

For Chief Master Sgt. Mike Keegan, senior enlisted leader of the 176th Civil Engineering Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, DoD's involvement through the IRT program is a training opportunity they would not normally

have. While he has been involved with numerous IRT projects in past years, he is particularly proud to have his unit lead off the first phase of this community-focused project.

"This one has a good feel to it. To be the first one on the ground to kick it off means a lot," he said.

Keegan said the Guard brings a lot of value to the project from the military aircraft used to transport the 13-person team, the amount of time working, and the equipment being used, all of which contribute significantly to the project's efficiency and success.

During the unit's two-week annual training, the Guardsmen from Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson will use everything from large excavation machines and skid steers to chain saws and hand tools to clear a 5.5-acre staging area near the oil spill response site for equipment and building materials.

Keegan said the deep-water port project meets key domestic operations training objectives and gives his team some real-world skills in the event of an emergency.

"We're getting two solid weeks of hands-on experience felling trees, pulling stumps and stacking logs," he said. "In the event of an emergency, we will have some skilled people ready to respond."

"We may just be clearing five acres, but it adds another $800,000 or $1 million to the project in the form of a grant, so we're pretty excited to be able to help," he said.

Senior Master Sgt. Blake Varnell with the 176th CES said for the team on the ground the training provides the opportunities they would not normally get.

"On the civil engineers front I've got plumbers and I've got HVAC out here. I've got all these different career fields and this project is more of a vertical structures type of career field," said Varnell as he prepared to stack trees using a large excavator. "These IRT projects are a game changer for the Guard. It's not often we get to do this type of training."

Maj. Timothy Golden with the AKARNG 208th Construction Management Team said projects like this bring a couple different opportunities to the Guard.

He said getting the hands-on training while having to simultaneously overcome the various logistical challenges and complex operating environment

allowed the team members to build new skills and gain the confidence to tackle these complex tasks.

"Secondly, it's been great opportunity for our joint capability," he said. "We worked with the Air Force, the Coast Guard and originally, this was a Navy project, so there has been a lot of joint opportunities."

He said projects like Shepard Point provide training value as well as positive community engagement which really is the core of the IRT program.

The IRT program is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Defense that leverages the skills and capabilities of military personnel to support civil-military cooperation, humanitarian missions, and community development.

Through the IRT program, military units, including the National Guard and Reserve components, collaborate with federal, state, tribal, and local government entities, as well as nonprofit organizations and community leaders. Together, they identify and prioritize projects that align with military training objectives while addressing specific community needs.

According to Col. George Koklanaris, deputy director, Civil-Military Engagement, IRT Program, the Shepard Point project will provide a great training opportunity for the 176th CES.

"Our piece of the project is pretty solid," said Koklanaris as he toured the site nearly five miles outside Cordova. "I've been involved with this for a couple years. It is a lot of engineering and construction and from a training standpoint we will get some good training here for the Alaska National Guard."

The IRT coordinator for the Alaska National Guard, Maj. James Goddard, said the Shepard Point project is a "win, win" for the Guard and the community.

He said the National Guard IRT Training program will bring significant benefits to Shepard Point by providing enhanced training, collaboration opportunities, community engagement, and valuable insight, which is beneficial for both the Guard and the community.

"With our two weeks of annual training, the 176th civil engineers are going to use their training dollars to do this project, which is in our backyard. The C-17s and Chinooks are going to do this in our backyards. They are all using their training dollars," said Goddard. "The Alaska National Guard gets the training, and the community gets help with a large project."

Goddard said the spill response center has an additional benefit to the military and the state of Alaska in the event of a large-scale disaster. If the Anchorage-area airports became unusable, Cordova's all-weather air strip can be used to fly in equipment and supplies. Those supplies can be loaded onto boats at the oil response deep-water port and then transported to Whittier for further transport to Anchorage.

The IRT portion of the project is fairly small compared to the overall project, but it is also the first step in getting dirt turned and the project started. Construction was set to begin in early 2022 but funding, permitting and right-of-way acquisition took longer than expected.

"This site was to be constructed quite some time ago when the oil spill took place," said Kraig Hughes, senior structural and civil engineer with Bristol Engineering Services Company. It's just taken so long with permitting and funding that now we are finally ready to go."

Hughes said with Cordova having a small boat harbor there is the capability to respond right now to an oil spill, but the response capabilities are going to be limited. He said having a deep-water dock and dedicated space makes it more appealing for larger operations to lease space. Combined with the fact this is the only response site that has a direct connection with an all-weather airport gives this site an "immediate advantage."

"We are in negotiations with some large oil spill response companies right now," said Hughes. "Leasing the space will make the project more viable."

There will be a 364-foot-long deep water, all-tide dock, uplands facilities, and a 4.32-mile access road connecting the facility to the all-weather Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport in Cordova, which is a critical factor when it comes to transporting essential materials and personnel in the event of an incident. A wharf, mooring dolphins and trestle extending the dock to 635-foot long. A small boat launch and z-shaped interlocking steel sheet pile sea wall.

Goddard said the building and completion of this third and final site serves as a reminder of the importance of environmental stewardship, oil spill prevention, and effective response measures to mitigate the impact of such incidents on ecosystems and communities.

"Having the Alaska National Guard and the IRT program as a part of the process helps build trust, foster positive relationships, and facilitate a strong connection between the Guard and the local community," he said.

MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD JOIN MONGOLIAN COUNTERPARTS, DISCUSS FUTURE AIR FORCE ENGAGEMENTS

By Maj. Chelsea Aspelund and David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- In late May, the Pacific Air Forces' headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, welcomed airmen from the Mongolian Armed Forces Air Force Command, the U.S. Air Force and the Alaska National Guard for the third Airman-to-Airman talks.

This mutual exchange provided an avenue for relationship building, best practices sharing, and collaborative planning for future engagements between Mongolian and U.S. air forces.

"We share a common purpose: to protect our countries and promote global security and stability," said Alaska Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Ken Radford, director of the Joint Staff for the AKNG and co-chair of the A2AT. "Our militaries work together on a regular basis, and the Airmen-to-Airmen talk is another example of the strong bond that exists between our two nations."

Throughout the event, attendees divided into four working groups: operations, exercises and engagements, logistics, medical, and professionalization and education. Subject matter experts within the groups evaluated the effectiveness of previous engagements, identified goals for future collaboration, and developed strategic, long-term plans.

Five members of the AKANG participated in the engagement, providing expertise in airlift and rescue aviation, Arctic and expeditionary medical, and airfield logistics.

"It was a very fulfilling mentoring conference as I got to understand what challenges [the MAF AFC] are facing and what we can do to help them progress," said Air National Guard Maj. Paul Padilla, 176th Medical Group clinic nurse. "The representatives were gracious and friendly, and have an earnest desire to grow. I look forward to any further opportunities to work with them in the future."

During the medical sessions, Padilla discussed modernization of flight and operational medical programs with a medical representative from the Mongolian Armed Forces and an international health specialist from JBPHH, offering regional expertise in high-altitude, cold-weather medical operations.

2023 also marks a special year for the relationship between the Alaska National Guard and the Mongolian Armed Forces as they celebrate 20 years of

bilateral relations through the State Partnership Program. This partnership emphasizes deep continuity and long-term relationships as military and emergency management personnel in both nations can participate in engagements multiple times throughout their career.

"Alaska and Mongolia have a rich partnership due to a whole-of-society relationship spanning interagency ties and similarities in cold climate and dispersed populations," Radford said. "The real work is ongoing as we continue to improve our air forces, our capabilities and our partnership to build alliances and bonds to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region."

Looking to the future, the MAF AFC and the AKANG left the A2AT with an actionable framework spanning the next five to ten years of exercise participation, academic opportunities and continued force development.

ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD RAPIDLY DEPLOYS FOR EXERCISE ORCA 23

By Balinda O'Neal | Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- About 530 miles northwest of Anchorage, two survey team members from the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team monitor handheld detectors scanning for radiation and nerve, blister and blood agents as they prepare to enter a notional biological weapons lab at the Nome Fire Training Center as part of Exercise ORCA 2023.

ORCA is a biennial exercise to maintain readiness, validate response procedures, and collaborate with first response agencies across the state. This year's exercise took place in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Nome and Kotzebue June 12-15.

Brightly colored, full-body suits and FBI field jackets might be out of place in the Bering Sea's Norton Sound community, but they are essential to training for the 103rd WMD-CST and the FBI's hazardous evidence response team.

"When we got here, we immediately grounded our gear and were ready to go," said Warrant Officer Candidate Fabiana Kirtley, a 103rd WMD-CST survey team chief, explaining how a strike team flyaway package operates. "Our mission was to respond, mitigate and assess the hazard."

After receiving same-day notification of a potential notional hazard, the Guardsmen and their emergency response reconnaissance vehicle rapidly

deployed from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to Nome via an Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III from the 176th Wing's 144th Airlift Squadron.

Members of FBI Anchorage and Homeland Security Investigation accompanied the CST team to the scene, a small, confined area on the second floor of a dark, dilapidated building. Extensive testing during the exercise confirmed the presence of botulism toxin and Bacillus anthracis used to make biological weapons.

"If the antigen for the specific bacteria is present, it creates an antigen-to-antibody connection and creates two lines almost like what you would see in a COVID or pregnancy test," Kirtley said. "We complete the HHA (test) three times to rule out false positives and negatives."

In a real incident, the samples from the field would likely be mailed back to the state lab in Anchorage for further testing and verification.

"The state lab gave us a category A sampling kit and we were able to practice packing samples to ship," said Kirtley. "Air loading and sampling are all perishable tasks, and we need to recreate and repeat basic tasks to effectively respond to communities within our state."

ORCA 23 brought a range of agencies together, including National Guard units from Alaska, Washington, Nebraska, Mississippi, Kansas, Ohio, Hawaii and Kentucky, eight local and state entities, three federal agencies and community partners.

Ohio National Guard Lt. Col. Katie Enochs, commander of the 52nd CST, said her team, operating in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough, integrated quickly with other military and civilian response teams.

"We were able to work together as a team and do joint entry," said Enochs. "That is what is really great about doing these large-scale training exercises is working with those teammates."

Enochs said all CST members complete a two-month course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to learn how to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. However, CST units employ different strategies and procedures.

In addition to refining interagency coordination during the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive exercise, Enochs said bonding through the 36-hour scenario benefited her team.

Kirtley agreed that relationships built during the exercise were vital to real-world responses.

"The training opportunity here in Nome gave us the opportunity to create those connections with personnel who are on-site in these remote areas," said Kirtley. "Every time we work with the local fire department and first responders, we enhance our response capabilities.

176TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON FIREFIGHTERS SMOKE THE COMPETITION DURING READINESS CHALLENGE IX

By Senior Airman Emily Batchelor | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- One of 176th Wing's own 176th Civil Engineer Squadron fire truck crews was selected to represent the Air National Guard at Readiness Challenge IX.

The eight teams were organized by major commands and included Airmen from all components of the Air Force. Participants from around the globe were tasked with performing more than a dozen exercises to test the expeditionary skills and readiness to perform the base engineer mission in a contested environment.

Multi-Capable Airmen, capable of performing tasks outside their primary job specialty, were needed in almost every event. Teams performed multiple, complex tasks to include aircraft in-flight emergency, vehicle fire, fiberglass reinforced polymer matting for expedient airfield damage repair, tent and landing zone construction and aircraft arresting system setup. Joining a hybrid team of 39 Engineers from 10 civil engineer squadrons, the Alaska team consisted of Master Sgt. Michael Knecht, Staff Sgt. Ryan Pickett, Staff Sgt. Zachary Tupper-Wilson, Senior Airman Joshua Fleming, Airman Sam Neff and Airman Jody Doyon.

Readiness Challenge was established in 1986 for Air Force Civil Engineers to test their readiness to perform the full spectrum of Integrated Base Response and Recovery operations. After a 20-year pause, it's back. This year's competition came down to the final event to determine the winner.

"This is not the end," said Brig. Gen. William Kale, Air Force Civil Engineer Center commander, during his closing remarks. "This is actually, the beginning. What we're doing here today is preparing you for what you might see in the future. Readiness Challenge is the most realistic training our Airmen

will get in preparation for combat operations."

Doyon was named the Top Performer for Team ANG, and he received a coin from Kale. Knecht was recognized for his electric leadership and motivation. He was coined by Col. James Oaksford, National Guard Bureau Readiness Division chief.

Overall, the ANG took second place by a narrow margin to the engineers from Air Combat Command. 176th CES firefighters took first place in most fire and rescue exercises they competed in.

FROM MCCARTHY TO MCARTHUR: ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD RESCUES 10 DURING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND

By Maj. Chelsea Aspelund | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- Rescue crews from the Alaska Air and Army National Guard navigated across 1,850 miles of south-central, southwest and northeast Alaska, saving 10 people in four civil search and rescue missions and one medical evacuation mission.

The first call for assistance came to the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center from Alaska State Troopers Friday, June 30. A hiker had used a satellite communication device to call for help after experiencing a significant leg injury on Winner Creek Trail near Girdwood.

Heavy clouds and low visibility precluded attempts by a civilian air ambulance to reach the hiker, so the AKRCC coordinated with the 176th Operations Group search and rescue duty officer to dispatch a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter with a 212th Rescue Squadron Guardian Angel team of pararescuemen on board.

The AKRCC controller on duty passed a phone number through the Alaska State Troopers to the survivor allowing communication directly with the AKRCC, said Alaska Air National Guard Master Sgt. Mark Roberts, AKRCC search and rescue controller. The injured hiker provided medical condition, weather updates and positional guidance for the Pave Hawk.

Once overhead, the HH-60G special missions aviator lowered the GA team to the patient where they performed field care and prepared the patient for hoist into the hovering helicopter and transport to Providence Alaska Medical Center.

On July 2, the AKRCC received a 406 Emergency Locator Transmitter beacon signaling a distressed aircraft near a popular landing strip alongside McArthur River in southcentral Alaska. The ELT was registered with up-to-date information, allowing the AKRCC to initiate emergency calls reaching a listed emergency contact who had received a satellite phone call from the pilot reporting a crash landing in bad weather.

A Pave Hawk with a GA team on board located the aircraft and safely transported four uninjured persons to the Wasilla Airport; two from the crash and an additional two who were stranded due to weather.

"The registration information coupled with the coordinates provided from the satellite phone enabled aircrew to navigate directly to the site," Roberts said. "When we use only ELT coordinates, we have to set up a search area which can delay critical rescue timelines."

Roberts' statement was further emphasized July 4, when a second general aviation aircraft crash landed on a similar landing strip along McArthur River. The aircraft did not emit an ELT distress signal, so the AKRCC was not initially aware. The uninjured pilot carried a satellite communication device and contacted the AKRCC directly to report the crash.

The Army National Guard accepted the aircraft crash mission and responded with a 207th Aviation Regiment UH-60 Black Hawk. The aircrew quickly located the site using the satellite communication device coordinates and transported three uninjured persons safely to Anchorage.

Also on July 4, Air National Guard rescue assets were dispatched north of McCarthy, when the National Park Service requested hoist-capable rescue for a hiker experiencing a severe allergic reaction impacting eyesight on challenging, glacial terrain.

"The hiking party, like the other rescues this week, carried a two-way communication device, which helped us identify the right rescue assets and expedited their pick-up," Roberts said.

Meanwhile, the AKRCC coordinated the dispatch of a 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130J Combat King II to provide helicopter air-to-air refueling for the Pave Hawk enroute to McCarthy. Once on scene, pararescumen provided field medical care and safely hoisted the juvenile hiker and mother into the helicopter for transport to Providence Alaska Medical Center.

The refueling capability provided to the Pave Hawk by the Combat King significantly reduces time enroute as the helicopter would otherwise have to

ground-refuel, which could make the route of flight less direct. Additionally, the Combat King provides weather reconnaissance and terrain navigation for the Pave Hawk, as was demonstrated in a medical evacuation mission to Chignik Bay earlier in the week.

"Over the past week, we dispatched seven aircraft with aircrew, Guardian Angels and Army medics standing ready for the call" Roberts said. "The civil search and rescue capability provided by the Alaska Air and Army National Guard is unparalleled as Guardsmen navigate inclement weather, perform life-saving field and enroute medical care, and safely transport approximately 100 patients each year."

AFJROTC CADETS EXPERIENCE 176TH WING MISSION DURING JBER VISIT

By Airman 1st Class J. Michael Peña | JBER Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- As part of a week-long camp, Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets from three local high schools toured multiple aircraft and Alaska Air National Guard facilities, and flew in an HC-130J Combat King II assigned to the 176th Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, June 6, 2023.

Nearly a hundred cadets from South Anchorage, West Anchorage, and Eagle River High Schools came to JBER for their Cadet Leadership Course, a program that aims to prepare cadets for leadership roles in their units, schools, and local communities. Thanks to the 176th Wing, the cadets were given hands-on experience with some of the tools, land vehicles, and aircraft used during the wing's missions.

"This camp is an opportunity to take high school students and introduce them to an entirely unique lifestyle that is the military," said Keith Coulter, a retired Air Force master sergeant and the JROTC instructor for South Anchorage High School. "It's a great opportunity for them to test their leadership skills and help them become better citizens."

The cadets were split into three groups; each taking turns visiting the static displays of an HC-130J Combat King II, a C-17 Globemaster III, and an HH-60G Pave Hawk. They learned key details about the aircraft and the types of jobs centered around them from some of the loadmasters, crew chiefs, and aviators of the Alaska Air National Guard and 3rd Wing.

Parker Johnston, a JROTC cadet from South Anchorage High School, had the

opportunity to see the flight decks of all three aircraft.

"If I'm going big planes, C-17s all day," said Johnson when asked about his favorite aircraft. "I love how big it is. It fits an entire tank inside. It can do so many things you can't even imagine."

After a lunch break and a quick safety brief, the cadets made their way back to the flight line. They donned hearing protection and boarded an HC-130J Combat King II for a familiarization flight through the skies of Alaska, an opportunity most Airmen don't get to experience their entire career. After takeoff, cadets peered from the large windows towards the rear of the jet and took turns moving up to the flight deck to see the pilots in action.

"Usually, I don't like turbulence on airplanes, but it was fun," said Hally Milette, a first-year cadet from South Anchorage High School. "They took the Denali route and flew over the glaciers. The views were beautiful."

Following their return from the flight, the cadets were reorganized and led to the 176th Wing headquarters for the last portion of their visit. On arrival, they were separated again for a tour around the facility led by pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron. From smoke canisters and all-terrain vehicles to parachutes and night-vision equipment, cadets could see first-hand the tools the 212th and its sister squadrons use to save hundreds of lives in and around Alaska every year.

Cadets attending the camp not only got the opportunity to experience the mission of the 176th Wing, but got to make new friendships along the way. Aryanna Sparks, a JROTC cadet from West Anchorage High School, was appointed to the element leader position, putting her in charge of a small number of cadets within her group. Sparks thanked the camp for giving her invaluable leadership experience, helping her overcome her shyness, and encouraging her to make new friends, such as Cadet Johnston, one of the individuals in her element.

"I feel like I'm out of my shell when I'm in ROTC compared to any other environment," said Sparks. "I'm pretty quiet at school and in my sports, but with ROTC, it feels like I can be loud and no one really judges because you're accepted and in the group. If you're struggling with anything, you can talk to anyone here and they'll support you and understand you."

After bidding the 176th Wing goodbye, the cadets were bused back to their campsite on base, sleeping in tents at night for the duration of the leadership course. They will continue to practice drills and conduct physical training throughout the week, even facing off against each other in paintball towards

the end of camp.

There are thousands of JROTC programs across the United States, teaching young men and women the skills they need to navigate the challenges of adulthood successfully. Not only do they host camps like this one, they also provide opportunities for community service, participation in nationwide competitions, and even a path to higher education through scholarships to nearly 260 different colleges. For more information about the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, visit https://www.defense.gov/Contact/Help-Center/Article/Article/2742332/junior-reserve-officers-training-corps/

EVENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERGRADUATE NAVIGATOR TRAINING (CSO) APPLICATION INFORMATION

Package deadline: Sept. 1, 2023

Board Date: Oct. 2-5, 2023

Board Location: JBER

The 211th Rescue Squadron will host a Combat Systems Officer (CSO) selection board in October 2023. Undergraduate Navigator Training (UNT) application packages must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2023, or hand-delivered to this office by close of business on September 1, 2023. Late and/or incomplete packages will not be considered. The board will convene at 17470 Airlifter Drive (Hangar 18) on JBER in Anchorage, Alaska. Please note, if you are selected for an interview all expenses including travel and meals are the responsibility of the applicant. Base access/escort will be provided.

For application instructions, visit www.176wg.ang.af.mil/Units/176OG/UPT-UNT-Programs/UNT-Application-Information/

CHILD CARE AWARE OF AMERICA

Child Care Aware of America is a Department of the Air Force childcare fee assistance program available to all Air Force Active Duty, Guard/Reserve Active Duty, or Dual Status Reserve Technicians. It supplements the cost of

off-base child care so members only pay what they would at the base Child Development Center.

More Information: https://www.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespite/military-families/air-force/fee-assistance/

ONGOING FREE COUNSELING SERVICES

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) provide short term non-medical solution-focused counseling to support military families with the challenges of deployments, reintegration, parenting, relationship issues, conflict resolution, anger management and other life issues. They provide free, confidential services on and off military installations, flexible service delivery in non-traditional settings and times. With the exception of child abuse, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, and duty to warn situations, services are confidential.

In response to COVID-19, MFLCs are providing services via secure, encrypted video teleconference.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Husch Hathorne-Cantil at 907-382-1407. Appointments are available within 24-48 hours.

SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONNEL ACTION DELAYS

176th Force Support Squadron is currently experiencing significant delays in the processing of actions across a majority of programs at the Air Reserve Personnel Center and National Guard Bureau level.

The FSS has received an influx of questions and inquiries regarding pending actions for the various programs they coordinate. These include separations, retirements, evaluations, accessions, bonuses and more. Please know that the FSS is continuing to use all available resources and contacts in order to elevate and follow-up on actions that have been pending longer than anticipated.

In order to best continue supporting your needs, please allow for and expect extended processing times as ARPC continues to work through their monumental backlog from all 90 wings.

Should you have an urgent or immediate issue, please elevate any concerns to the FSS operations officer, Capt. Maria Settanni (maria.settanni.3@us.af.mil).

The squadron appreciates your support and patience as they work through these delays and all learn to navigate the new myFSS platform transition.

MILITARY ONESOURCE RESOURCES

Did you know that Military OneSource is bigger than a 24/7/365 toll free number? The program offers more than just free non-medical counseling. It also provides assistance for the deployment readiness cycle. Military OneSource is a Department of Defense funded program that aids eligible service and family members with building resiliency; both within the military culture and on the homefront. To help strengthen one's resiliency skillset, Military OneSource offers many activities that you and your family members can partake in. For example:

MWR Digital Library:

- Ancestry.com Library Edition - unlock the story of your family using more than 8,000 resources.

- Consumer Reports – are you looking to make a purchase? Use this online library to access 1,000+ ratings, reviews, expert buying advice, product comparisons, consumer user reviews and product video clips.

- EBSCO Audiobooks - more than 2,000 audiobooks in different subjects and categories available for free download.

- Mango Languages - check out this digital language learning program for learners of all levels, with courses in more than 70 different foreign languages, 21 English language courses, and 44 specialty courses.

- Morningstar Investment Research Center - find information and advice on mutual funds, stocks, exchange-traded funds and market returns. Track investments, access daily market news and commentary, view snapshots on investments and interact on the research center forums.

- PressReader Digital Newspapers - unlimited digital access to more than 7,000 newspapers from 120 countries in more than 60 different languages. These newspapers are provided in full-color, full-page

format, and appear on your screen exactly as they appear on the news stand, many providing instant translation and audio.

- Stingray Qello Concerts - enjoy more than 1700 live moments in music history with the world's largest collection of full-length concerts and music documentaries streamed on-demand to just about any digital device. From the 1920s to today's hottest artists, Qello Concerts spans more than 30 genres, from classical to rock, reggae to country.

- Small Business Builder - helps patrons interested in planning and optimizing their businesses or nonprofits. Built for aspiring entrepreneurs and those with existing small businesses, providing a step-by-step process supported by a variety of recognized tools that enable users to produce complete business plans and other documents essential for gaining access to capital and growing their enterprise.

- Universal Class - over 500 online courses to aid with personal and professional interests: including FREE CEUs, plus online books, movies and music for all ages. Over 40 different references to use.

- Weiss Financial Ratings - Enjoy access to financial literacy tools on retirement planning, home and mortgage, insurance strategies, and saving for your child's education.

- Chill Drills: An overview of four simple drills to help reverse the symptoms of stress. These drills can help slow your heart rate, lower your blood pressure and reduce the level of stress hormones in your body. By doing these drills regularly, you can lower your baseline stress level and be better prepared to deal with stress in the future. Order yours online (free shipping) or download to your smartphone.

- MilTax - free tax services, which provides easy-to-use software that is designed specifically for the military community and is available mid-January through mid-October. MilTax also offers free consultations with experts trained to help military members and their families take command of their taxes.

Many other resources are located online with just a click of the mouse or online chat with a trained consultant to provide more guidance with your ideal topic. See: www.militaryonesource.mil.

AIRMAN SAFETY APP

If there was a way to anonymously and quickly make safety reports on your phone, would you use it? There's an app for that. The Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) a voluntary, identity-protected means of reporting safety issues that increase the risk to Aviation, Occupational, or Weapons Safety. The goal of the program is to prevent future mishaps and strengthen a culture of safe, effective mission accomplishment. The two ways to submit an ASAP report are on the website (https://asap.safety.af.mil) or the smartphone app "Airmen Safety App." Contact: your friendly safety office (551-7604, 176wg.se.176wg@us.af.mil)

UPCOMING AWS DAYS

The 176th Wing is essentially shut down for business on the upcoming Alternate Work Schedule days. RDs (rescheduled drills) and AT days should not be scheduled for these times. The full AWS calendar can be found on the new Wing SharePoint in the Resource Library.

August: 11, 25
September: 1, 15
October: 6, 13, 27

RSD SCHEDULE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED DRILL WEEKENDS

September: No scheduled drill
October: 21, 22
November: 4, 5

WEEKEND DINING FACILITY HOURS

Normal Hours:
BREAKFAST: 0630-0830L
GRAB-N-GO: 0900-1030L

LUNCH: 1030-1330L
GRAB-N-GO: 1330-1630L
DINNER: 1630-1830L
MIDNIGHT: 2300-0100L

GATE HOURS

For latest gate hours, visit https://www.jber.jb.mil/Units/673abw/673SFS/

POINTS OF INTEREST

176th Wing
Website: http://www.176wg.ang.af.mil/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/176thWing
Instagram: http://www.instagram.com/176thwing
Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/176wg/
DVIDs: https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/176WPA
SharePoint (requires CAC):
https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12468/Pages/176%20Wing.aspx

Alaska National Guard
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AKNationalGuard
Instagram: http://www.instagram.com/alaskanationalguard
Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard
Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/user/NationalGuardAlaska
Twitter: http://twitter.com/AKNationalGuard

JBER
Website: http://www.jber.jb.mil/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/JBERAK
Newspaper: http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/397/arctic-warrior

Fulltime Job Opportunities:
http://dmva.alaska.gov/employment.htm

HRO – Alaska National Guard:
http://dmva.alaska.gov/HRO

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