



ID system update to enhance base security

By Master Sgt. Mark Centeno
673rd Security Forces

By January, all Department of Defense identification cardholders must register with a new system to access Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) is a Department of Defense program instituted across the Air Force to enhance force protection through an expanded information-sharing network and access-credential verification.

The registration system creates an authorized persons list and denies access to all others for better installation security.

DBIDS is a proven system, having been successfully applied at bases in Korea before coming to Alaska.

To register, ID cardholders will bring their ID card or cards to one of the designated locations where a base access technician will scan both barcodes on the card and take two fingerprints of its owner.

The fingerprints are used to verify identity by comparing the fingerprints already on file with Defense Enrollment Eligibility Retirement System (DEERS). The office can process 15 people per hour, and the procedure takes about two minutes.

Update schedule

July 18

7:30-10 a.m.—Support Staff
10-11 a.m.—Real Estate
11a.m.-Noon—RM
Noon-1 p.m.—Office of Counsel
1-2 p.m.—ACE-IT
2- 4 p.m.—Contracting

July 19

7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.—Engineering

July 20

7:30-9 a.m.—Engineering
9 a.m.- 4 p.m.—PM

July 21

7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.—Construction
Operations and Regulatory

July 22

7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.—Anybody
unable to register at the designated
time

As a convenience, July 18-22 has been scheduled for district employees with registration time periods for each division at the People Center Base Access Office, Bldg. 8517, Room 100.

Those who don't register at these times can do so at these locations:

- Bldg. 600, Welcome Center, Room B239 2nd Floor ID card section, weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Bldg. 8517, People Center Base Access Office, Room 100, weekdays 8

a.m.-4 p.m.

- JBER-Richardson Visitor Control Center, Bldg. 47303, open all the time.

- JBER-Elmendorf Boniface Visitor Control Center, Bldg. 3715, open all the time.

People possessing multiple DoD identification cards are encouraged to register all their credentials so that any card can be used to authorize access to JBER.

ID cards will need to be registered in DBIDS any time they have to be replaced.

All cards that are reported lost or stolen in DEERS are also identified as lost or stolen in DBIDS and will be seized by gate guards.

DBIDS registration at JBER is required even if the card was registered at another base. Later versions will combine all databases for a one-time registration enabling entry at all installations.

For non-DoD ID cardholders, the same process will take place, but a DBIDS card will be created for entry onto the installation.

Registration for DBIDS here began in January and will continue through the year for contractors without a common access card and workers who support JBER but do not possess base access credentials.

Pacific Ocean Division changes command

By Terri Kojima
Pacific Ocean Division Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Pacific Ocean Division held a change of command ceremony here at historic Palm Circle June 30.

Col. Edward Kertis relinquished command to Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens with the passing of the ceremonial flag at the event symbolizing the official change of command.

Stevens now leads nearly 1,800 military and Department of the Army civilian engineers, technicians and other

professionals in the annual execution of a \$2 billion program. He is responsible for managing a mission that includes engineering design, construction and real estate management for the Army in Hawaii, Army and Air Force in Alaska, and for all Department of Defense agencies in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"I am exceptionally proud to be taking charge of a division that is justifiably regarded as one of the most professional and well-respected public engineering enterprises in the world," said Stevens. "I am honored."

Stevens previously served in multiple assignments within the Department of the Army headquarters at the Pentagon, culminating with his most recent assignment as the executive officer to the 36th Army Chief of Staff.

Stevens hails from Vincennes, Ind., and received his commission as an engineer officer upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1982. He has held a variety of command and staff positions around the world, including operations in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen. Merdith W. B. (Bo)
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Command

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Temple, acting commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, hosted the ceremony and expressed his confidence in Stevens' leadership.

"Your leadership, technical savvy and ability to build productive partnership will absolutely ensure the success of the Pacific Ocean Division," Temple said.

Temple thanked Kertis for his leadership.

"Pacific Ocean Division's efforts and leadership are an important and positive component of our national strategy in this increasingly vital part of the world," said Temple. "Certainly we are grateful for the leadership of Col. Ed Kertis. He stepped into command in this position and never missed a beat."

Kertis expertly directed a full range of engineering capabilities throughout the U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility, Temple said.

In the face of enormous natural, political and fiscal challenges, Kertis directed the two largest host-nation military construction projects in the history of the Corps of Engineers—the \$10.4 billion Korea Transformation Program, which will relocate U.S. troops from various bases in Korea to an expanded U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys in the Republic of Korea, and a \$15 billion defense policy review initiative in Japan.

Kertis led the division in executing 100 percent of its civil works, and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects, which helped put local contractors to work in Hawaii and Alaska.

During his tenure, Kertis emphasized the Corps' growing execution of the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Army Pacific's theater security cooperation initiatives. The division has completed more than 130 humanitarian assistance projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia, totaling \$36 million.

For his exceptional service from July 2010 to June 2011, Kertis received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Kertis will deploy to Afghanistan and step into his new role as the Corps of Engineers assistant division commander for operations of the Transatlantic Division.

The change of command ceremony dates back to the passing of the scepter (a symbol of authority) from the old caesar to the new, in the progression of the Roman Empire.

The Army adopted the custom of passing the colors from the British, and instituted it in the 18th century when Gen. George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army in Boston on July 3, 1775.



Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens



Photo by Dino Buchanan

Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens (right) receives the Army colors from Maj. Gen. Meredith W. B. (Bo) Temple (middle), during a change of command ceremony at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, on Palm Circle June 30. Col. Edward Kertis (left) relinquished command of the Pacific Ocean Division to Stevens, who became the 30th commander.

GOLD NUGGETS

Commander

Col. Reinhard W. Koenig

Deputy Commander

Lt. Col. James R. "Bobby" Stone

Director of Programs and Project Management

Dr. Larry D. McCallister

Chief of Public Affairs

Tom Findtner

Media Relations Specialist

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Northern Rail Extension Phase 1 permit issued

By Pat Richardson
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District issued a Department of the Army permit to the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) to construct Phase 1 of the Northern Rail Extension project June 3.

The entire Northern Rail Extension project is intended to provide freight and passenger rail service to the region south of North Pole, including Tanana Flats, Donnelly training areas and the Delta Junction area, according to the ARRC.

The corporation expressed a need to provide a safe, reliable and efficient transportation alternative to the Richardson Highway for freight and passenger service as well as the need for reliable, year-round access to training areas used by the U.S. military.

Phase 1 consists of construction of a bridge, approach road and levee associated with crossing the Tanana River near Salcha and would result in

construction of 2.6 miles of the proposed 80-mile-long project to construct a new rail line from Eielson Air Force base to Fort Greely.

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, found that there are no less environmentally-damaging, practicable alternatives available to the ARRC for construction of Phase 1.

The Army permit is issued under authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which regulates the placement of structures and work in navigable waters of the United States.

It's also issued under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates placing dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands.

The Phase 1 project includes an access road and bridge over Piledriver Slough; rail embankment and construction staging area; materiel site; 3,300-foot-long bridge across the navigable Tanana River; 11,042-foot-long levee along the east bank of the Tanana River; access road and rail embankment with two rail

and two road bridges over Boundary and Beebee sloughs; spur dikes for rail embankment protection; and ancillary support facilities, including a guard shack, gate and utilities.

This phase of the project results in permanent filling of 6.2 acres of wetlands, and permanent filling of 26.4 acres and separation of 10.9 acres of the Tanana River from the main channel. Temporary impacts to waters and wetlands of 15.6 acres are unauthorized under this permit until a temporary construction plan for all proposed temporary construction impacts is approved by the Corps.

The permit requires compensatory mitigation—including in-lieu fees—for direct, indirect and secondary impacts to waters and wetlands.

The permit contains special conditions to avoid and minimize potential adverse impacts, compensate for unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem and ensure that the project would not be contrary to the public interest.



Photo by Julie Anderson

Dredged

The clamshell dredge "Njord," operated by Manson Construction Co., fills a barge with sediment on the north end of the Port of Anchorage June 7. The Alaska District manages the annual maintenance dredging, this year at a cost of about \$8 million, to allow a safe berth for ships using the facility. Last year, 611,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed and placed in an offshore disposal area of Cook Inlet.



Formed, stored

Pacific Pile & Marine of Seattle finished casting and forming nine of 14 concrete modules that will be used to build two floating breakwaters to protect the Carl E. Moses Harbor in Unalaska.

After inspection in Tacoma, Wash., June 30, the 98-foot-long sections were placed into storage. The remaining five modules will be cast this summer.

Next spring, all modules are scheduled to be towed under their own buoyancy 1,502 nautical miles across the Gulf of Alaska to the project site in the Aleutian Islands.

The floating breakwaters will be moored using a stud-link anchor chain and large concrete blocks.

The Alaska District awarded the \$12.5 million contract to construct and install two floating breakwaters Sept. 21, 2010. The project received more than \$11 million in federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. (Courtesy photo)

Barracks first to achieve LEED gold status

The military police barracks on Fort Wainwright is Alaska District's first project to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold status as determined by the U.S. Green Building Council Feb. 11.

The \$17.4 million contract to design and build the barracks was awarded to Watterson Construction Co. Feb. 28, 2008, and the completed project was accepted by the customer on July 1, 2010.

The barracks houses up to 94 enlisted soldiers from the 472nd Military Police Company and 28th Military Police Detachment on Fort Wainwright.

The council's LEED certification system is recognized as the standard for measuring building sustainability. It promotes design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings as well as improving occupant health and well-being.

Credits are earned in the categories of innovation in design, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, sustainable sites and indoor environmental quality. The barracks project achieved a gold rating by scoring 40 out of a possible 69 points.



Photo by Ken Graham

The military police barracks on Fort Wainwright is Alaska District's first project to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold status.



Photo by Doug Hart



Photo by Curt Biberdorf



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Picnic parties

Staff and family members from Alaska District's Northern Area Office attended their annual picnic at the new Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project Office under mostly sunny skies June 17. The event included food and games for children and adults. Down south, the district picnic at Cottonwood Park on JBER-Richardson June 23 brought extra activities, including the pie-in-the-face fundraiser.

(Counterclockwise from upper right)

Natalia Soto, district librarian, after taking a whipped-cream pie in the face runs past Stasia Wierzbicki, Internal Review accountant, after smearing her. The Social Activities Committee earned \$1,018 for the pie-in-the-face fundraiser. It was full of crosses, double crosses and even triple crosses, but everyone seemed to have fun.

Dan Volsky, 15, son of Mike Volsky, quality assurance representative in the Wainwright Resident Office and Reyna Volsky, project assistant at the Chena Project Office, and Deandre Ward, 3, grandson of Sandra Ward, quality assurance representative in the Wainwright Office, take a seat on Bucky the Moose and Bucklet outside the Chena Project Office June 17.

Magician Kevin January entertains children and adults with his illusions during a performance at Cottonwood Park.

Brad Leavitt, contract specialist, taps the volleyball over the net during a game at Cottonwood Park.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Around the district

Safety manager joins district



Harry "Buster" Godwin has joined the Alaska District as the new Safety and Occupational Health Office chief. Originally from Alabama, Godwin has lived in Alaska for 22 years. He was previously safety director for U.S. Army Garrison Baden Wuerttemberg and U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim in Germany.

He retired from the Air Force with 23 years of service and has more than 25 years experience in the occupational safety and health career field, including nearly 14 years with private industry.

Employees of 3rd Quarter named

Employees of the 3rd Quarter were announced and will be recognized in a ceremony in the headquarters atrium July 18.

Outstanding Engineer/Scientist GS-05-12: Craig Lance

Outstanding Engineer/Scientist GS-13-15: Monica Velasco

Outstanding Support GS-02-10: Annette Crerend

Outstanding Support GS-11-15: Tricia Ropka

Outstanding Managerial/Supervisory/Team Leader: Lorraine Cordova

Celebrate Safety Individual Award: William Davis

Outstanding External Team, NAAO Warrior in Transition: Michael Volsky, David Obermeyer, Capt. Jesse Anderson, Heather McBride and Ellen Lyons

Outstanding Internal Team, Office of Counsel, United Planning Group: Anne Burman, Sara Gray, Debra McGinnis and Phillip Santerre

Outstanding Safety Team, Safety Office: Marvin Ballard, David Case, Gregory Vernon, David Prado and Douglas Wootten

ULDP class members selected

The following individuals have been selected to participate in the next class of the USACE Leadership Development Program Level 2:

Richard Ragle, Environmental and Special Programs; Reynaldo Singson, 62nd Engineer Detachment; Katie McCafferty, Regulatory Division; Stephen Curren, Resource Management; Michelle Harris, Office of Counsel; Marion Dawaq, Engineering Division; Yolanda Ikner, Contracting Division; and Scott Olson, Construction Operations Division.

Alaska wins district safety award

Alaska District took top honors for the district-level 2010 Chief of Engineers Safe Performance Award of Excellence. In FY2010, Alaska District slashed its civilian accident rate to zero and reduced its contractors' rate by more than 57 percent.

Project completed

JBER-Elmendorf F-22 Field Training Detachment Facility—This project achieved beneficial occupancy May 20. The project constructed a nearly 13,000-square-foot training facility to support the beddown of the F-22A fighter aircraft. The facility includes secure and unsecure offices, classrooms and two high-bay maintenance training areas.

Contracts awarded

Eielson AFB Repair Central Heat and Power Plant Boilers Phase I and II—Alaska District awarded these design-build projects to Haskell Corp. June 2 for \$53,962,264. These projects will replace boilers No. 6 and No. 5 with new 120,000 pounds per hour spreader stoker boilers.

JBER-Richardson Multipurpose Machine Gun Range—Alaska District awarded this design-bid-build project to Tunista Construction, LLC June 7 for \$10,271,752. The project will construct a standard design multipurpose machine gun range consisting of six lanes. The project has a scheduled completion date of July 29, 2012.

Cooperative agreement awarded

Under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program, the district awarded a cooperative agreement with the Native Village of Savoonga for \$514,206. Tasks include removal of debris piles and partially collapsed structures at the Native Village of Northeast Cape.

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Photo by Pat Riley

Recruiting timeout

Marines celebrate the Alaska Aces' East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) championship by hoisting the Kelly Cup at the recruiting station in Anchorage's Dimond Center June 30. As the executive agent for the Department of Defense recruiting and domestic lease program, the Alaska District's Real Estate Division manages leases for 21 recruitment facilities within the state for the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. The Aces claimed the title by defeating the Kalamazoo Wings 5-3 in Michigan May 23. The ECHL is a professional developmental league comprising 20 teams from across the country.

Retirements



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents a certificate of retirement to Trish Opheen, Engineering Division chief, during a ceremony at district headquarters June 1. Opheen was chief from January 2007 to June 2011, her last position in a 33-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents a certificate of retirement to Mike Redmond, Construction Operations Division deputy chief, during a ceremony at district headquarters June 1. Redmond was deputy chief from January 2002 to June 2011, his final position in a 23-year career in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo by Luis Menendez

Lt. Col. Bobby Stone, deputy district commander, presents the Army Superior Civilian Service Award to Marvin Ballard, Safety and Occupational Health Office chief, during a retirement ceremony at district headquarters June 27. Ballard departs with 43 years of federal service, including the last seven with the Alaska District.

Upcoming events

- July 18** Quarterly awards ceremony
- July 18-22** Common Access Card registration
- July 25-29** Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko visit
- Aug. 9-12** ASA (CW) Jo-Ellen Darcy visit
- Aug. 10** Chena Project office grand opening
- Aug. 16** 62nd Engineer Det. change of command
- Aug. 17-19** ISO 9001 surveillance visit
- Aug. 23-26** Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens visit
- Aug. 26** Alaska District golf tournament
- Aug. 26** Women's Equality Day

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Harbor study finished, design begins

The Seldovia Harbor Improvements Study was completed on time and under budget with about \$14,000 returned to the Denali Commission. The project's objective was to develop alternatives for improving the harbor that could be used by the City of Seldovia and Denali Commission to assist in prioritizing improvements.

Upon completion of this study, the commission authorized the district to begin designing the harbor improvement project, which includes replacing the main floats and harbor floats for aircraft.

Golf tournament planned

The 2011 Alaska District Golf Tournament is scheduled for Eagleleg Golf Course on JBER-Elmendorf Aug. 26. All players must check in by 6:45 a.m. for the 7 a.m. shotgun start. Contact Faith Martineau, Joe Williams, Herschel Deaton or district Web site for an entry form, which will be accepted first-come, first-served.

Entry forms must be accompanied with the entry fee of \$75 for DoD civilian and military, and \$100 for civilian teams. Entry fees cover meals, beverages, prizes, tees, sleeve of balls, golf carts and green fees. Entry forms may be faxed or mailed. Mail to Herschel Deaton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, P.O. Box 6898, 2204 3rd Street, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-0898.

Drinking water report released

Required annual testing of regulated drinking water contaminants in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson water systems revealed that all substances found were present in quantities lower than the Environmental Protection Agency's limits for safe drinking water.

Samples were measured quarterly in 2010. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To view a complete listing of test results, call Jennifer Glanville at 384-7790 or Kathleen Hook at 455-1540.

Submit your photos

High-resolution photos of employees participating in

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any of the various recreational activities or hobbies in Alaska, such as hunting, camping, fishing, skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, snowmachining, curling, golfing, boating, flying, taking a scenic cruise, riding the Alaska railroad, riding ATVs, playing a team sport, sightseeing at a national park, visiting a museum, are needed to create the "Active in Alaska" photo page in the Arctic Engineer magazine. Send your photos to Curt Biberdorf.

Deployments

Iraq—Ron Jackson, Sheldon Longnecker, Robert Weakland

Afghanistan—Warren Colburn, Leanna Dagley, Lt. Col. Matthew Dooley, Roger Green, Scott Haan, Sterlin Hill, John Keys, Patricia Lora, Heather Moncrief, Daniel Nordstrom, David Purdy, Carmon Roy, A'leisha Sorenson, Gary Weiler, Jim Wolfe

Returned—Anthony Garigliano



Courtesy photo

Anthony Garigliano, Construction Operations Division, receives the Army Achievement Award, Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Department of Defense Medal and NATO Medal during an award ceremony held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan District-North at the Qalaa House Compound June 5. Garigliano served as a project engineer in Afghanistan from June 13, 2010 to June 5, 2011. He performed as the project engineer for capital improvement projects at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, valued at about \$42 million. The Bagram Area Office upgrades and repair projects have improved the efficiency of the area office and in turn the entire mission at Bagram Airfield.

Accolades



Photo by Satoshi Oka

CAMP ZAMA, Japan – Lance Overstreet (left), civil engineer; Jesse Parker, geologist; and Jacob Sweet, environmental engineer, of Alaska District are honored with Japan Engineer District's Kintai Bridge award for their support of the ongoing Iwakuni Defense Policy Review Initiative program this spring and summer. Overstreet served from April 11 to May 28, Sweet from April 11 to June 3, and Parker from May 23 to July 5.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Length-of-service awardees renew their federal civilian oath of office administered by Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, in front of the district headquarters building June 23. Employees are honored upon reaching each five-year segment of service with a certificate during the ceremony.



On parade

Alaska District's Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project earned the Mayor's Choice Award for its parade float during the North Pole Summer Festival July 4. Kat Joel (right), Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project camp host volunteer, displays the trophy presented by Mayor Doug Isaacson (left). The winning entry, "Water Safety is No Bull," featured Bucky the Moose and his young protégé, Bucklet, wearing life vests.

Steve Stoyer, Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project volunteer, helps publicize the project's annual moose hunt for paralyzed veterans in the July 4 parade with an air cannon dubbed the "Bullwinkle Special." (Courtesy photos)



Small raven flock noisy neighbor by district headquarters

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

Moose along with other critters occasionally roam around the Alaska District headquarters, but the flock of ravens squawking this spring brought a vibrant wildlife presence around the building.

As many as eight of the large blackbirds have inhabited the area, perching on nearby trees and atop the buildings, including right

above the main entrance. That brought some exciting and filthy moments.

"The lawn crew had some uncomfortable low-flying passes made at them on a few occasions," said Rusty Rubeck, facilities manager, who has never seen anything like it in his 37 years here.

They've also made a mess, creating extra work to remove droppings and food scraps along the sidewalk, steps and benches along the walkway.

Still, their presence is probably nothing abnormal as bird populations and habitats fluctuate over the years, said Heather Boyer, a biologist and project manager in the Regulatory Division.

"(It) could be that a group of younger ravens just happened to pick the woods

by the office to hang out this summer," Boyer said. "Who knows, maybe there's a new food source nearby, like an open dumpster."

Like many species of birds, they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Even taking raven feathers found on the ground is unlawful.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

A flock of ravens resting high on a tree near the district headquarters building communicate with a pair of ravens flying over the area June 10.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

A lone raven flies over the district headquarters main entryway during a busy day for the flock. As many as eight ravens created a noisy distraction for weeks this spring.