



TEAM GREELY

INTERCEPTOR

ALWAYS ON GUARD DEFENDING FREEDOM

March 2009

Fort Greely Pioneers 'Sustainability'

Veronica Cannady
Logistics Specialist, DOL

Fort Greely became the first Alaska Installation to lead the Army's nationwide Sustainability Initiative with its Strategic Sustainability Goal Setting Conference held here Feb. 18-20.

The purpose of the conference was to incorporate sustainable practices into Fort Greely's vision for the future.

According to the U.S. Army Sustainability website, the *Army Strategy for the Environment: Sustain the Mission – Secure*

the Future establishes a long-range vision that enables the Army to meet its mission today and into the future. Sustainability is the foundation for this Strategy and a paradigm that focuses our thinking to address both present and future needs while strengthening community partnerships that improve our ability to organize, equip, train, and deploy our Soldiers as part of the joint force.

The Fort Greely conference opened with remarks from Lt. Col. Chris Chronis, Garrison Commander, followed by keynote speakers Drs. CP Price and Richard Wies

from University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The speakers shared their experience in sustainability, providing examples of the nation's current energy consumption and how sustainable practices are transforming an energy crisis into an opportunity.

The conference encompassed the garrison, tenant organizations, participants from Fort Wainwright, Delta Junction, Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling and various members of the Delta Junction community.

Over the course of two and a half days, garrison directors and appointed

See *SUSTAINABILITY*, Page 4

Swallows sign of spring

Fort Greely
Environmental Office

A sure sign of warmer weather in Alaska is the arrival of swallows in April.

"No swallow nest may be disturbed between April 30 and July 30 ..."

After completing incredible journeys from as far as South America, several species of swallows spend their summers in the Fort Greely area. These species include the Tree,

Violet-Green, Bank, and Cliff Swallows.

Swallows are amazing birds that spend most of their time zipping about in search of food. Their flying abilities are crucial, because they dine on the hordes of insects (including mosquitoes!) that also thrive during our Alaskan summers.

Swallows are generally quite tolerant of human activity nearby and will happily go about their business in full view of their human neighbors. Watching swallows make their nests and catch bugs can be extremely entertaining and

See *SWALLOWS*, Page 5



Photo Courtesy CRTC

On the move

A moose cow and her calf march through the snow-covered softball fields at Fort Greely.

Greely Tax Assistance Center offers free service

The Fort Greely Tax Assistance Center can help active duty, National Guard, Reservists, and military retirees with their taxes.

The tax assistance center is located in Post Headquarters, Bldg. 501, Room 107.

The service is free and available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through April 15.

To schedule an appointment and for information about what documentation to bring, call 873-5034.

A few items your should bring to the appointment are your social security card, W-2s and 1099s, Form 1098 for mortgage interest and taxes paid, prior year's tax return, and documentation of charitable contributions.

Command Corner: *Change, good news 'in the air'*

Alaska "Spring" is just around the corner and it is a month of transition for us here in the Interior.

The good news is we start gaining light at a rapid pace ... from the beginning of the month to the end of the month you can expect more than 3 more hours of daylight! Temperatures are also on the rise. The average high temperature at the beginning of March is 18 degrees but by month's end the average climbs to near 30 degrees.

As a reminder, Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8. It's time to "Spring Forward" this weekend, so set your clocks forward an hour Saturday night. I want to share a few "good news" highlights with Team Greely this month.

Stimulus Dollars

I was recently notified that Fort Greely is receiving more than \$12 million for Quality of Life, Energy, SRM and paving projects. Approximately \$4.6 million will be spent on various energy conservation projects, including the emplacement of two meteorology towers to monitor weather conditions to determine the effectiveness of harnessing wind power on the garrison. Energy funds will also be used to upgrade windows, build new roofs and install External Insulation Finishing Systems, or EFIS, on several buildings. Approximately \$3 million has been allotted for re-paving cantonment area roads and parking lots. These areas have not been re-paved since the 1970s. Nearly \$3 million of Community Support funding will be used to repair the Fitness Center swimming pool, upgrade the Outdoor Recreation rental facility and office, improve Gabriel Auditorium and enhance the Recreational Lodging building. Finally, \$1.8 million in Sustainment, Repair and Maintenance funds will be spread across 11

different projects identified in the Garrison Spend Plan.

Sustainability Conference

Fort Greely recently wrapped up a successful "Strategic Sustainability Goal Setting Conference" in February. Conference participants discussed the future of Fort Greely and identified major long-term goals and numerous minor goals that are achievable within the near future. You can read more about the conference and results in this edition of the Interceptor. A follow-on Goal Planning Workshop is slated for May 18-22.

Privatized Housing

Another Town Hall concerning Fort Greely privatized housing is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 24 at the Post Theater. Representatives from North Haven Communities will be on hand to brief and answer questions. Residents will also have the opportunity to sign leases after the Town Hall. Remember, leases must be signed before April 1. All residents living in Garrison housing (military and civilians - families and unaccompanied) must sign a lease. Construction on the first of 126 new homes will begin this summer and the entire project will be complete by 2015. Privatized housing will improve the Quality of Life for Soldiers and Family Members at Fort Greely by providing safe, quality, affordable and well-maintained housing.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. The Fort Greely Equal Opportunity Celebration will take place at 11 a.m. March 26 in Gabriel Auditorium. Carol Gold of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Women's Studies Department will be the guest speaker. Fort Greely Woman of the Year

awards will be presented during the observance. I encourage you to come out and support this important event.



Lt. Col. Chris Chronis
Garrison Commander

Pool Update

As you are aware the Fort Greely swimming pool had to be closed in December as part of the nationwide shutdown of swimming pools required under the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The good news is that the required drain covers and heat exchanger have been installed and the pool should re-open by mid-March.

Recreation

The summer recreation season will be here before you know it! The Family Morale Welfare and Recreation staff are gearing up to offer plenty of activities, so get out and enjoy one of the most beautiful places on Earth ... Alaska! I expect the Valdez Campground will get plenty of visitors this season so make plans early. It's time to dust off your fishing equipment and get ready to enjoy a great Spring and Summer!

Thank You

Finally, I just want to say thanks for all you do. Fort Greely is fast becoming a "model" Post. We are leading the way in many areas and many of our programs are becoming benchmarks for others to follow. I can tell you that Army leadership has taken notice of this small installation with a big mission! Thanks for your dedication and hard work. Your efforts are having a positive impact. Keep up the good work.

The **INTERCEPTOR** is an authorized unofficial publication for military and civilian members of Fort Greely. The **INTERCEPTOR** is published monthly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Greely Garrison. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. While contributions are welcome, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials, make corrections, changes, or deletions to conform with the policies of this paper. Articles and photos submitted by the 20th of each month will be considered for publication in the next issue of the **INTERCEPTOR**. Submit via email to fgapao@greely.army.mil, or mail to: Garrison Commander, ATTN: Newsletter, PO Box 31269, Fort Greely, AK 99731.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Chris Chronis
Deputy Commander Louis Roach
Public Affairs Officer Kent Cummins

Suicide prevention: Everyone's business

Vince Cepeda
Chaplain

Once again, the topic of suicide must be addressed. The Army recently announced that in the month of January alone, 24 Soldiers committed suicide.

Despite the ongoing emphasis on and training regarding suicide prevention and intervention in our military, the suicide rate among our Soldiers continues to increase.

The Army has taken this suicide matter seriously and has mandated a Service-wide *stand-down* from Feb. 15 to March 15 during which commanders and other leadership within the Army are training their Soldiers to identify and recognize suicide behaviors and to intervene at a buddy-system level. Following the stand-down, a second phase from March 15 to June 15 will involve a chain-teaching training program implemented by company commanders and NCOs which focuses on suicide prevention.

It is our desire to increase awareness of the risk factors and warning signs for suicide, to promote the prevention of suicide, and to take suicide-intervention actions to ensure the safety of all our Soldiers and Family members both on- and off-Post.

Is Your Buddy in Crisis?

Get local immediate help!

♦Emergency (911)

♦Police (873-COPS)

♦Garrison Aid Station 873-4977

♦Army Community Services 873-4346

♦Chaplain: Chapel 873-9827,
Cell (907) 854-1924

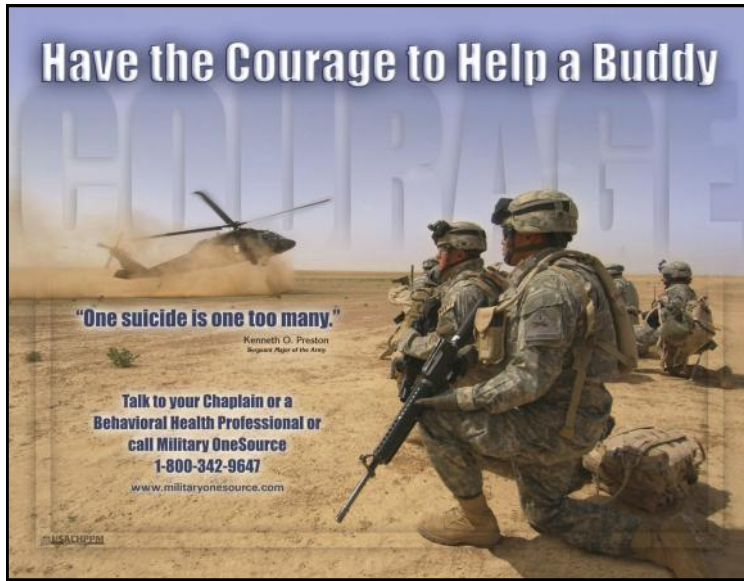
♦Military Family Life Consultant
(907) 803-3563

♦Alcohol Substance Abuse Program
(907) 873-3353

♦Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.com

♦National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-TALK

♦National Suicide Prevention Hotline:
1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)



Warning Signs

Here are some of the warning signs and risk factors:

- Talk of suicide or killing someone else
- Withdrawal from friends and activities
- Problems with girlfriend (boyfriend) or spouse
- Soldiers experiencing financial problems
- Talking or hint-

Suicide Prevention

Suicide has a damaging effect on the moral fiber of our lives. Imagine the devastating effects and pain if a suicide were to occur within our Fort Greely family. Many questions go unanswered when a suicide takes place.

Suicide prevention should be and must be everyone's business. It is the responsibility of every one of us. We should have a common understanding that our fellow Soldiers, friends, or neighbors may be experiencing a difficult, depressing situation that could potentially compel them to contemplate taking their own life. We must take responsibility for ourselves and be proactive in our involvement with those we know are hurting. Our role is to take every step necessary to keep our Family Community safe.

Courage to Care

Courage must be demonstrated on both sides: by the one seeking help, and by the those intervening by involving themselves in the life of a person who has exhibited the risk factors and warning signs of one who might be contemplating suicide. We must aggressively eliminate the stigma that a person who comes forward for help is showing a sign of weakness.

It is a courageous moment when someone comes forward for help. We must create a caring and compassionate environment for those who need assistance and comfort.

ing about suicide

- Having a desire to die
- Themes of death in letters and notes
- Finalizing personal affairs
- Giving away personal possessions
- Acting bizarre or unusual (based on your knowledge of the person)
- Soldiers in trouble for misconduct (Art-15, UCMJ, etc.)
- Formulating a plan to include acquiring the means to kill oneself
- Soldiers who have lost their job at home (Reservists)
- Soldiers leaving the Service (retirements, ETSs, etc.)
- Obsession with death (music, poetry, artwork)
- Giving away property or disregard for what happens to one's Property

Suicide Affects Us All

Suicide affects us all. Losing one person to suicide would be a tremendous blow and tragedy for our Fort Greely Family. God forbid that this should take place.

We must realize that suicide is ultimately everyone's business. We must all be involved, be vigilant, be aware, and be alert when it comes to suicide. You and I can make a tremendous difference in the lives of others.

Let's take the initiative to have an active role in watching and caring for one another, for we are our "Brother's (and Sister's) Keeper." By doing so, we remain *on course* with our God and with others.

SUSTAINABILITY, from Page 1

representatives broke into Quality of Life, Infrastructure, Workforce, and Logistics groups to develop strategic goals for the garrison's 25-year vision.

Facilitators from all regions of the United States traveled to Fort Greely to help guide conference attendees and launch Fort Greely's 5- to 25-year strategic plan. They were: Michael La Duc, David Zuckerman, Melissa Iwamuro, Dr. S. Lynn Odom, Gwen DiPietro and Jayme Peterson.

The conference resulted in the following Fort Greely final strategic goals:



Photo by Veronica Cannady

Drs. CP Price and Richard Wies (seated) address attendees of Fort Greely's Sustainability Conference.

Infrastructure

Goal 1: Our strategic planning will be the benchmark for integrated garrison planning and programming which meets the needs of current and future users.

Goal 2: Arctic benchmark for modernized infrastructure and utilities that provide for current and future mission requirements to attain energy efficiency and self sufficiency while ensuring environmental stewardship. (Mentor local community for sustainable cold climate facilities, provide for sustainable logistics facilities and Go Green).

Quality of Life

Goal 1: Sustainable housing meets community needs.

Goal 2: Community Partnerships Forged.

Goal 3: Communities Go "Green."

Goal 5: New State of the Art Medical Facility Available.

Goal 6: Cyber-space technology enhances work and education.

Goal 7: Strategic Plan lays foundation for the future.

Goal 8: "TEAM" Greely Launched.

Logistics

Goal 1: A Budgeting and Programming system that fully supports Fort Greely's requirements.

Goal 2: Efficient, secure, environmentally friendly Logistics facilities to support the

Fort Greely mission.

Goal 3: Effective, cost-efficient Logistics processes/procedures to support the Fort Greely mission that exceed Installation Management Command and Army standards.

Goal 4: A secure, efficient and environmentally friendly transportation system to support the Fort Greely mission.

Goal 5: The capability to store and deliver fuel to support the Fort Greely mission under all conditions.

Workforce

Goal 1: Achieve and maintain a minimum 80 percent staffing objectives.

Goal 2: Offer professional development and experience opportunities which can lead to career enhancement in accordance with individual development plans.

Goal 3: To attract potential employees to Fort Greely and provide a positive perception of Fort Greely's physical and work environments through proactive recruitment and marketing programs.

Goal 4: To obtain exceptions when existing policies restrict hiring qualified personnel for mission requirements.

Goal 5: Maintain employees for a minimum of 36 months by providing OCONUS-type benefits/incentives (packages, such as airfare, home leave, R&R, pack).

Goal 6: Enhance career counseling meth-

ods and cross-leveling of positions. Educational and training development programs, mentorship programs, IDPs, developmental assignments within garrison, effective transfer of institutional knowledge.

Guest speaker Jack Hebert, member of the International Sustainability community and pioneer of Cold Climate Sustainable Housing Research Center located on the University of Alaska Fairbank's campus, wrapped up the conference.

As leadership in energy and environmental design principles become a priority for the Army's and Fort Greely's expansion, Hebert's presentation provided proven examples of cost-effective, sustainable practices that accommodate Alaska's unique climate challenges.

"I want to thank all who participated in making Fort Greely's Sustainability Conference an outstanding success," said Chronis. "I'm proud of Fort Greely and Delta Junction for charging ahead with this initiative. It's very important to have long-term strategies to ensure Fort Greely and Delta Junction thrive and that we meet the Army missions of the future."

The next workshop "Fort Greely's Action Planning" will be held May 18-22. In this workshop the four groups will map an action plan how to achieve our strategic goals.



Customer Corner

Chugach Work Orders

I put a work order in to fix my washer and dryer because they were not running properly.

Gabe Winters and John Brown replaced my washer with a refurbished washer and fixed my dryer. Not only did they fix my appliances but were also kind enough to shovel our side walk (wind blew all the snow in front of our door).

They were quick to respond to the service call and were very polite.

They both did a great job - thanks!
Signed-Jen Mich

Fort Greely Fire and Emergency Services

I did not know about this site until today. I just wanted to thank the Fort Greely fire-

fighters for responding to my house fire in Delta. My whole family is grateful!

Visitor Access Control Center

Good attitudes and work performance.

Alcohol Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)

Elias Barnes did a good job on the alcohol abuse presentation, it was informational and interesting.

FMWR Auto Craft Shop

The guys at the auto shop were very helpful and accommodating.

I received excellent service and they all had great attitudes.

Thanks for all your help.

CYS (Child Development Center)

Sonia and Julie are great teachers for the MAII class.

My daughter, Juliana, at the age of 2, can say her ABC's and can count to 12. I am thankful for the two of them.

DOL Logistic Support

I participated in the recent Sustainability Conference.

The support provided by the DOL staff in support of this event was extraordinary.

I want to specifically thank Hanni Marchuk and Veronica Cannady for all their hard work.

This is a program that is driven by a passionate leader in Bill Pugh.

Thank you for a job well done!

'Housing' Town Hall slated for March 24

A Town Hall concerning Fort Greely privatized housing is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 24 at the Post Theater.

Representatives from North Haven Communities will be on hand to brief and answer questions. Residents will also have the opportunity to sign leases after the Town Hall.

Leases must be signed before April 1. All residents living in Garrison housing (military and civilians - families and unaccompanied) must sign a lease.

Construction on the first of 126 new homes will begin this summer and the entire project will be complete by 2015. Privatized housing will improve the Quality of Life for Soldiers and Family Members at Fort Greely by providing safe, quality, affordable and well-maintained housing.

For more information, residents can contact North Haven Communities at (907) 687-8086 or stop by their office at Bldg. 707B on First Street.

North Haven Communities website is at www.nhcalaska.com and their toll-free number is (866) 370-9623.

Detailed information about Fort Greely's Residential Communities Initiative is also available on the web at www.greely.army.mil.

Just click on RCI at the top of the page.

SWALLOWS, from Page 1

educational.

Despite their sociable nature, swallows are not always welcome. Cliff Swallows normally nest on cliffs, canyon walls and vertical banks close to their food and water.

However, due to habitat loss and increased human development, they are now nesting more frequently on manmade structures. Cliff Swallows prefer to live close together in colonies and can end up making a mess of mud and droppings on the ground below.

Swallows are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and Fort Greely also has strict policies to protect swallows, their nests, eggs, and chicks.

No swallow nest may be disturbed between April 30 and July 30 and the bottom line is swallows may not be



“harassed” at any time during their stay in Alaska. Please be aware that clearing vegetation and undertaking other construction site preparation and activities may also result in destroying active nests of other bird species. Empty swallow nests may be removed at other times of the year only with the approval and oversight of the FGA environmental office.

please contact the Environmental Office at 873-4664. The Environmental Office also has information on how to discourage Cliff Swallows from building nests where you don't want them, as well as on how to build nest boxes where you can safely enjoy viewing Tree and Violet-Green Swallows.

Now is the time to take preventative measures against their nest building.

For more information regarding swallows, or to report any activity resulting in harm to adult birds, nests or eggs are here to stay.

Don't rely on 'Luck of the Irish'

Designate a Sober Driver Before the Party Begins

March 17 marks a day of celebration for many, but St. Patrick's Day is also a time for people to keep the streets safe by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before heading to local celebrations.

"St. Patrick's Day is supposed to be a time to celebrate Irish heritage and gather with friends, but it can quickly end in tragedy due to impaired driving," said Elias Barnes, Fort Greely's Alcohol and Drug Control Officer. "If you plan on drinking, don't rely on luck to keep you safe or to keep you out of trouble. Be responsible and take appropriate precautions."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over the past five years, 851 people have lost their lives in motor vehicles

crashes during the St. Patrick's Day holiday. Out of that number, 327 were killed in crashes that involved a drunk driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

The following tips will help Team Greely have a safe holiday:

- ◆ Plan a safe way home before the celebrations begin.

- ◆ If the plan is to get a ride home with someone else, designate a sober driver before any drinking begins.

- ◆ If a person is impaired, they should use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation to get home safely.

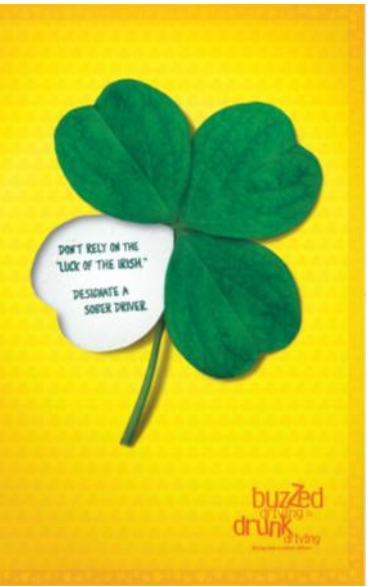
- ◆ Consider using the community's Sober Rides program by calling 873-COPS. If someone observes a drunk driver on the road, they shouldn't hesitate to

contact local law enforcement.

If you see someone who is about to drive or ride their motorcycle while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

According to the NHTSA, impaired driving remains one of America's deadliest problems. In 2007, 41,059 people nationwide were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Out of that number 12,998 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider (operator) with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

"Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is an extremely risky thing to do," said Lt. Col. Chris Chro-



nis, Garrison Commander. "If you plan on using alcohol, plan ahead and look out for your friends too ... friends don't let friends drive drunk."

To learn more, contact the Fort Greely Army Substance Abuse Program office at 873-3353. (Courtesy of ASAP office)

Vehicle accidents 'up' ... remain cautious

Chris Graves
Chief of Police

The past few months have shown an increase in vehicle accidents on Fort Greely. All the accidents have resulted in damage to vehicles (government and private) or property, with no injuries. Most of the accidents were involving improper backing skills. Be aware of what is around your vehicle, do a walk around. Try to park so that you don't have to back up, but if you have to back up use a ground guide.

To help prevent accidents here are some other driving safety tips courtesy of the The Weather Channel website.

Driving safely on icy roads ...

- Decrease your speed and

leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front.

- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

- Keep your lights and windshield clean.

- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.

- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.

- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if conditions are wet, you may

encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed areas like bridges.

- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. Drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your rear wheels skid ...

- Take your foot off the accelerator.

- Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.

- If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you re-

cover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.

- If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.

- If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

If your front wheels skid ...

- Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately. As the wheels skid sideways, they will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

March marks Women's History Month

Fort Greely celebration set for 11 a.m. March 26 at the Gabriel

Every year, during the month of March, hundreds of thousands of events are held throughout the country to acknowledge and recognize the amazing accomplishments of women.

Fort Greely's Women's History Month celebration is set for 11 a.m. March 26 at the Gabriel Auditorium.

This national celebration and recognition of women's historic achievements began in 1980 when National Women's History Week was proclaimed by Presidential Proclamation. In 1987, this national celebration was expanded by Congressional Resolution to an entire month by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

National Women's History Month provides an opportunity

to educate the general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society. Establishing this focal celebration has encouraged schools to introduce new curriculum, and communities to recognize women who have been pivotal in their own communities.

The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

Each March, to unify the observance of National Women's History Month, a special theme is created. Women whose lives and extraordinary work exemplify the theme are selected as

Honorees.

The theme for 2009 is "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet." This theme is timely in a year when the world is discussing the problems and repercussions of dramatic climate change and the recognition of diminishing natural resources. If you think these ecological problems may be insurmountable, you will be encouraged and inspired by the dramatic actions of the 2009 Honorees.

The 2009 Honorees are women whose courageous, pioneering, and innovative leadership are helping to save our planet. There are over one hundred Honorees and their achievements and accomplishments span three centuries and seven generations. For each acknowledged NWHM Hon-



oree, there are tens of thousands of other women who are equally committed and currently working in their own communities, states, and countries.

For information about National Women's History Month or for full list of the National Women's History Month Honorees, visit www.nwhp.org.

CertiChecks 'gift certificate program' ceases operations

Kevin L. Robinson
DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

CertiChecks, Inc., the third-party provider that has provided commissary gift certificates for use by authorized customers since 2002, has ceased operations. As a result, all sales of CertiChecks have halted and customers possessing them cannot use them in commissaries at this time.

The company Web site, www.certifichecks.com, announced effective Feb. 26 that it will "no longer administer gift certificate programs" and further advised customers with CertiChecks to "submit for potential reimbursement" to the following address: **CertiChecks, Inc., Attn: Redemption Dept., 1435 Shoup Mill Road, Dayton, Ohio, 45414.**

"What has happened to CertiChecks is similar to what is going on today with many businesses being adversely affected by the current economic downturn," said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA's director and chief executive officer.

"Unfortunately, in this case the situation directly affects commissary customers.

"I regret the impact this is likely to have on our customers," he added. "However, as an appropriated fund entity, in accordance with federal law we can no longer accept these certificates at this time. We are, however, looking for an alternative solution to fulfill our customers' requests for commissary gift certificates."

DeCA entered into a business agreement with CertiChecks, Inc., in September 2002 to provide gift certificates redeemable in commissaries in denominations ranging from \$5 to \$100. Anyone could purchase the certificate but only authorized customers could use them. Purchasers could obtain them in commissaries, by phone, or online for a fee of \$4.95 that went to CertiChecks for the cost of printing, mailing and handling of up to 20 certificates per order. DeCA received no income from its agreement with CertiChecks, Inc.

From the start, DeCA's use of gift certificates became a popular way for the fami-

lies and friends of service members to give them "the gift of groceries." Since 2002, more than \$17.5 million in gift certificates have been purchased for authorized customers. Over the past few years, popularity of the gift certificates had increased steadily from combined in-store and online sales that totaled \$3.4 million in fiscal 2006 to more than \$3.9 million in fiscal 2008.

The gift certificate program became a prominent method for military and civilian aid organizations, such as installation chaplains funds, the Air Force Aid Society, the USO, Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence, and the Fisher House Foundation, to extend donations to military families in need. The certificates also became a major part of commissary vendor giveaways at store grand openings and other customer outreach events.

CertiChecks, Inc., headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, was established in April 1999, according to its Web site. It processed customized gift certificates for about 450 merchants and associations across the nation.

Coming Soon



Friday, March 6
7 p.m. **Doubt** (PG-13)

Saturday, March 7
7 p.m. **The Unborn** (PG-13)

Sunday, March 8
7 p.m. **The Spirit** (PG-13)

Friday, March 13
7 p.m. **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button** (PG-13)

Saturday, March 14
1 p.m. **Horton Hears a Who** (G)
7 p.m. **Not Easily Broken** (PG-13)

Sunday, March 15
7 p.m. **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button** (PG-13)

Friday, March 20
7 p.m. **Grand Torino**

Saturday, March 21
7 p.m. **My Bloody Valentine**

Sunday, March 22
7 p.m. **Frost Nixon**

Friday, March 27
7 p.m. **Inkheart** (PG)

Saturday, March 28
7 p.m. **Hotel for Dogs** (PG)

Sunday, March 29
7 p.m. **Last Chance Harvey** (PG-13)



Black History

(Above) Members of the University of Alaska World Beat Drum Ensemble perform during Fort Greely's African American History Month observance Feb. 26. (Right) Retired Command Sgt. Major Robert Sawyer, State of Alaska Human Rights Commissioner, addresses the audience of approximately 140 people during the event which also included performances by the Fort Greely Middle School Choir and food samplings.



Photos by Kent Cummins

News Notes

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8.

It's time to "Spring Forward" this weekend.

Set clocks forward an hour Saturday night.

Privatized Housing Office

North Haven Communities new office is located in the housing area in Bldg. 707B on First Street.

Housing residents can stop by and sign their leases at the new office. Leases need to be signed by April 1.

For more information, please call (907) 687-8077/8086/8073.

St. Patrick's Day Party

A St. Patrick's Day Party is set for 8 p.m. March 14 at the BOSS Warrior Zone in the basement of Bldg. 653. Cover Charge is \$1 if you're wearing 50 percent visible green and \$3 if you're in plain clothes.

VBS Meeting

Chaplain Vince Cepeda is hosting a Vacation Bible School meeting at 12:30 p.m. March 15 in the Fort Greely Chapel Annex.

Delta/Greely Ice Rink

The Delta Greely Ice Rink is open every Sunday. Open Skating is from 1 to 3 p.m. Recreation Hockey (Hockey gear required) is from 3 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$3 per

person. Skate Rental Prices are: Hockey skates, \$2 and figure skates, \$2.

Borealis Brass Concert

America's Arctic Brass Ensemble will perform at 7 p.m. March 28 in the Fort Greely Chapel.

Indoor Playground

The Preschool Clubhouse Climber is now set-up in the Indoor Playground (Bldg. 650). Suggested age range for this toy is 2-8 years.

PALS Playgroup

Parents and Littles Playgroup. Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Located in the basement of the Chapel Annex. All parents of children 5 and under welcome!