Firefighters carry out snowmachine rescue

Fort Greely FD responds to many emergencies in Delta

by Kent Cummins
Garrison Public Affairs

On a recent frigid Delta Junction day the Fort Greely Fire Department received a call for help from the Delta Rescue Squad... this was not a typical request.

The Oct. 25 call for assistance was for snowmachines to reach a patient who was not accessible by ambulance north of Tanana River Bridge.

Within minutes Assistant Fire Chief Sheldon Longnecker and Firefighters Matthew Misquez and Joshua Merrill responded.

The emergency responders loaded two snowmobiles and a rescue sled on a transport trailer and headed to the scene.

Upon arrival, the firefighters used the snowmobiles and rescue sled to reach the patient’s home located about one-and-a-half miles off the main road.

According to the fire department’s report, “the road was snow covered, narrow and very rough in places making it impossible to drive an ambulance down.”

Delta Rescue cared for the patient and Fort Greely firefighters used the snowmobiles and rescue sled to transport the patient and rescue personnel back to the ambulance.

The patient survived and is back home after a stay in the Fairbanks hospital.

“The rescue went pretty smooth,” said Fort Greely Firefighter Joshua Merrill.

“Two snowmobiles plus the medic sled,” said Chronis.

Garrison leadership catch glimpse of the future

Garrison leadership recently got a glimpse of the future for Fort Greely and the Army from a hilltop near Delta Junction, Alaska.

Lt. Col. Chris Chronis, Fort Greely Garrison Commander, and Command Sgt. Major Carolyn Reynolds, attended a special ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the site of a 120-foot tall wind turbine just a few miles from Delta Junction and Fort Greely.

The wind turbine was placed on the remote summit by Alaska Environmental Power, the first independent green energy producer to have a power purchase agreement with the local electric company.

The structure’s 62-foot propeller takes advantage of the windy conditions the Delta area is known for and is a symbol of things to come for Fort Greely.

“Alternative energy is where Fort Greely and the Army are heading,” said Chronis. “I wanted to be a part of this historical ceremony.”

Eventually, another 19 turbines could dot the landscape of the 300-acre ridge line.

“This is exciting news for the local community and Fort Greely,” said Chronis. “We live in a place that gets a lot of sun in the summer and wind year-round. We are researching...”
Command Corner

Fort Greely Welcomes New CSM

Command Sgt. Major Carolyn M. Reynolds is a native of Glasgow, Va. She entered active duty Oct. 1, 1986. She completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., as a Unit Supply Specialist.

Reynolds’ previous assignments include: Supply Specialist, 1/39th Infantry Battalion, Fort Dix, N.J., Supply Sergeant, 1st Staff and Faculty, Ft Eustis, Va., Supply Sergeant, 122nd Main Support Battalion, Hanau, Germany, Property Book NCOIC, HHC DISCOM Camp Casey, Korea, Platoon Sergeant, 47th Field Hospital, Fort Sill, Okla., Detachment Sergeant, 221st Base Support Battalion, Wiesbaden, Germany, Battalion Supply Sergeant, 5th Brigade 87th Division, Fort Jackson, S.C., First Sergeant, HHC 120th Reception Battalion, Fort Jackson, and the Support Operations Sgt. Major, 3D Sustainment Brigade, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Reynolds has attended a variety of professional and civilian schools during her career including Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Course, First Sergeant Course, and the Sergeant Major Academy. She holds a bachelor’s in resource management from St Leo University.

Her awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (1 Silver OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 Silver OLC), Good Conduct Medal (7th award), National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (#4), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (#3), Outstanding Volunteer Service Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal (3 bronze stars), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the IRAQI Campaign Medal.

Reynolds’ deployments include: Operation Desert Storm/Shield/Provide Comfort, Operation IRAQI Freedom I and Operation IRAQI Freedom 07-09.

ICE

Customer Corner

Crossroads Family Dentistry

Comment: Courteous, friendly staff. I like the “small office” feel.

Auto Craft Shop

Comment: It has been a while now; I’ve been waiting for the lift to be reinstalled in the Auto Craft Shop. I love to work on my own car, especially since I can save $80 an hour for shop rates and it was a pleasure to have someone with more knowledge than I to help me when I got stumped. Please put the lifts back in the shop. I need to change a CV boot. No need for a response just action in the shop.
Response: Due to an OSHA inspection that found the lift to be placed in a bay that was too small for adequate safety, the lift had to be re-removed.

Fort Greely Safety Office

Comment: I wish to thank the members of the Fort Greely Safety Office, J. Hull and C. Pugh, for their efforts in presenting the Cold Weather Training. The use of experienced and knowledgeable instructors such as Bill Pugh and Jim Verney enhanced the experience for all attendees. Thanks for a Job Well Done by all!

Human Resources

Comment: I had a new Ft Greely Privilege card made up for a family member. I called on short notice and Tammy Powers gave me an appointment right away. Her service was good and in a very timely manner. She did her job well … thanks.

AAFES Retail Store

Comment: Why is it that as a civilian DoD employee I can use the facilities at the sports bar but not be able to purchase alcohol at the AAFES. Can this be corrected on my privilege card?
Response: The sports bar is run by FMWR not AAFES. Your privilege card excludes alcohol and tobacco purchases at AAFES and cannot be changed due to regulation AR 60-20/AFR 147-14 and DODI 1330.21 encl 6.

When entering an ICE comment, remember you are commenting on the services you were provided. ICE is not an outlet for employees to disclose perceived mishandling within their organization. Avenues such as Chain of Command, an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaint or an Inspector General (IG) inquiry would be the appropriate conduit.

NEW SERVICE PROVIDERS you can comment on - The Delta Junction Family Medical Center and Crossroad Dentistry.

To submit an ICE comment visit http://www.greely.army.mil and click on the ICE logo. To submit a paper comment card inquire to the service provider where their ICE box is located. All services should have an ICE box for you to submit a comment.

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Commanding Officer ..............................................................Lt. Col. Chris Chronis
Deputy Commander .............................................................Louis Roach
Public Affairs Officer ............................................................Kent Cummins
Here are a few tips for people new to Alaska and new to the Interior. It’s going to be getting colder outside so if you leave for Fairbanks or any other destination you need to let someone know when you leave, when you arrive at your destination, when your headed back home and when you are home.

Always leave early and drive slowly. Speed limits are set for certain conditions and the slower you drive, the faster and easier you can stop if you need to. At slower speeds, you are also more likely to notice icy patches, obstacles and animals (especially moose)! You also will have time to maneuver or brake before you get to them.

Keep your distance from other cars. Stay at least three times as far away as you would if you had good road conditions. This will give you plenty of time to slow down or brake, and be cautious when you come up on snowplows and gravel trucks. Make sure your headlights are on. Even when your visibility is fine, lights will allow other drivers to see you.

Stay on main roads, as they are plowed first and are patrolled more often by Alaska State Troopers. In an emergency, if you find yourself stranded in your car, don’t leave unless you know help is on the way. Display flags or set flares. Turn your car on for 10 minutes every hour and run the heater, but make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow or other obstruction to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Do minor exercises like clapping or moving your arms and legs to get your blood moving. Don’t stay in one position for too long. Open a window slightly and make sure it is downwind. If there is more than one person in the car, you can huddle together to keep each other warm and also take turns sleeping.

Here are some of the things you can keep in your car:

- Emergency candles and matches.
- Emergency blankets, extra cloths and even sleeping bags.
- Water, and high energy foods, but you have to try keeping the water warm because it will freeze.
- First Aid Kit.
- Brightly colored cloths (for emergency signaling).
- Broom or ice scraper.
- Small shovel in case you need to dig out and also a rubber mat or kitty litter can all help if you get stuck.
- Flashlights, the kind that are self charging when you shake them are good. The batteries will freeze in a regular flashlight.
- And it’s really a good idea to have a cell phone.

For more information, call the Garrison Safety Office at 873-5239 or 5031.
and a crew of four were able to retrieve the patient from a cabin not really accessible by normal means. The equipment did its job and the rescue personnel from Delta Junction and we worked well together.”

The Fort Greely Fire Department is well-equipped to respond to the challenges of the unique Interior Alaska environment.

Besides the snowmobiles, the department has two six-wheeled all-terrain vehicles and two rescue sleds that are capable of being outfitted with skis or wheels.

“This makes us capable of traveling most anywhere within our response area in the summer or winter, assisting injured personnel who are using their ATV’s or just enjoying the outdoors,” said Fort Greely Fire Chief Jim Degnan.

“The rescue sleds are capable of carrying patients who are back-boarded and an EMT with additional medical equipment,” said Degnan. “The sleds have covers that keep the patient out of the weather and we have special Burrito blankets to help keep the patient warm.”

Assisting the local community with emergency responders is an important part of the Fort Greely Fire Department’s mission.

Through mutual aid agreements with local volunteer fire departments, Fort Greely firefighters have responded to more than 20 emergencies over the past year including structural fires, wildland fires and motor vehicle accidents.

Leaders of the local volunteer departments are grateful.

“The first question sent to our dispatcher after we receive a tone out for a structure fire or a rescue call is has ‘Fort Greely been called,’” said Ted Hamilton, chief of the Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department.

“Fort Greely Fire Department is greatly appreciated, we work well as a team and without them, especially during the day when most of the firefighters are at work, and the response time to a call would increase to an unacceptable level.”

Chief of the Delta Junction Volunteer Fire Department Carin “Bear” Bjorn von Letzendorf agrees.

“We are very, very grateful and are dependent on Greely for that capability,” she explained. “It’s vital to be able to accomplish rescue work, save peoples’ property and prevent loss of the structure.”

As chief of a volunteer department she is also very thankful for the quick response time provided by the Fort Greely Fire Department.

“Time is crucial and the speed with which they respond is very precious.”

**Red Ribbon Winners!**

Fort Greely wrapped up a week chock full of Red Ribbon activities Oct. 31 by announcing the winners of a special “Red Ribbon” office competition. Congratulations to all and remember the real winners of Red Ribbon Week are those who choose to stay drug free. Living healthy, drug-free lives sets a precedent of excellence.
ways to harness these natural forces to supply the power needs of our installation.”

The good news concerning the use of wind power in Interior Alaska, is that “turbines can operate at temperatures at minus 100-degrees Fahrenheit with winds up to 120 miles per hour,” said Morgan Benson, Fort Greely’s Installation Energy Coordinator.

According to the garrison commander “wind power” is just the first step for the installation.

“My goal is for Fort Greely to help lead the way in the energy-conservation arena,” said Chronis. “We already have an outstanding recycling program here but we need to look hard at where we can use solar power, alternative fuels or biomass waste-to-energy. We need to be innovative and aggressive in our energy security and conservation efforts here.”

Energy conservation is an Army priority. “We spend over $3 billion every year on energy and the majority of it is spent on our installations. We can significantly reduce our energy consumption by partnering within government and with the private sector to capitalize on the great strides in proven technology that have been developed and implemented across the country,” said Secretary of the Army Pete Geren.

“The Army plans to increase efficiency and serve as a model for the military and the nation when it comes to the operation of our housing, buildings, and forward operating bases. By making greater use of alternative and renewable energy, Army initiatives will bring energy savings and security to the Army, reducing the risk of power disruption,” said Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment Keith Eastin.

Some of the Army’s pilot projects around the country include:

■ The Army will partner with the private sector to construct a 500 megawatt solar thermal plant at Fort Irwin, Calif, in the Mojave Desert, that will provide renewable power on the grid and provide the sprawling Army post with added energy security against disruption of power supply.

■ The Army is pursuing the purchase of 4,000 small Neighborhood Electric Vehicles to replace gasoline-powered vehicles traditionally used by maintenance and operations staff for use on its posts.

■ Six Army posts have been selected as sites for biomass to fuel demonstrations through a contract with the Defense Logistics Agency. Also the Army is working with the private sector and with the Navy to develop a major geothermal project at Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev., with the capability of producing 30 megawatts of clean power.

■ The Army will enter into a pilot energy savings performance contract with the private sector on an installation to serve as a model for monitoring and reducing energy consumption. The savings will be shared by the Army and the civilian contractor.

The large windmill on the Delta Junction landscape is just a sign of things to come to the local area, Fort Greely and the U.S. Army.
Halloween Fun at the Fort

Team Greely recently wrapped up several days of Halloween festivities. Fort Greely children were treated to a Fall Festival at Gabriel Auditorium Oct. 30 followed by a night of Trick or Treating in housing Oct. 31. The adults got a chance for some fun at a Halloween party Oct. 31 at the new BOSS Warrior Zone in Bldg. 653.

Lt. Col. Steve Carroll, 49th Missile Defense Battalion commander, guards the candy dish at the BOSS Warrior Zone Halloween party.

Sgt. Damien Tucker’s Swiss Miss Girl outfit caused some laughs at the BOSS Halloween Party.

Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chris Chronis and Garrison Command Sgt. Major Carolyn Reynolds have fun at the BOSS Warrior Zone Halloween Party.

Phoebe Holmes and Nico Knedler enjoy a snack at the Children’s Fall Festival in Gabriel Auditorium.

Logan Zarones is decked out in his skunk outfit at the Children’s Fall Festival.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Seymore and his son, Wesley, enjoy the Fall Festival.

Children enjoy a “scary” hayride at Fort Greely Fall Festival.
Fort Greely PBO leads the way

Fort Greely is leading the way in Alaska in the automated property book system called PBUSE, or Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced. Jose Alonzo became the Fort Greely property book officer in October and started to network with his prior property book team at the 90th Regional Readiness Command, Little Rock, Ark., to assist Fort Greely and train the property book team here.

Alonzo’s former teammates from the 90th RRC helped conduct a PBUSE workshop at Fort Greely in October to equip the local property book team with web tools and new knowledge to perform property book function more efficiently.

“We built a new structure for the Fort Greely property book program,” said Alonzo. “We consolidated 60 hand receipts into 13 manageable hand receipts using the Unit Identifier Code, or UIC, Tree. The result increased the Property Book Table of Distribution and Allowances, or TDA, efficiency from 20 to 100 percent. The structure completion allows data to be managed effectively which improves the process and creates efficiencies.”

The local team’s work has garnered attention. Alonzo said based on the improvements gained here, he was asked to assist Fort Wainwright with its program.

The 90th RRC will return in April to provide continuing process improvement for the Fort Greely program, he said.

The Fort Greely property book team consists of Alonzo; Ann M. Rasmussen, Property Book Office Lead; Chugach/Alutiiq JV; and Teresa Wehunt, TDA Clerk, Chugach/Alutiiq JV.

Vigilant Shield Exercise

Fort Greely will conduct its annual installation wide antiterrorism/force protection exercise, Vigilant Shield 09, Nov. 12-18. During this time expect an increase in movement of personnel and vehicles, delays at the installation access control point (front gate), heightened security procedures and use of pyrotechnics. Fort Greely residents will hear exercise messages on the Giant Voice. Exercise messages may also appear on the post marquee, Command Channel, website and via email. The majority of activity will take place Nov. 14-17. For more information contact Public Affairs at 873-5023.

Concert

The “Red Crayon” Gospel/Rock Concert is slated for 6 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Fort Greely Chapel.

Am. Indian/Alaska Native

November is American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month. In celebration, the Fort Greely community will sponsor an event at Gabriel Auditorium Nov. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Native food samples will be shared, singing and dancing will be performed, crafts and distinctive dress will be displayed. A guest speaker will share insights and acknowledge the contributions Natives make to the American experience. To participate in this event or if you have crafts to display, call Alice Gerhart at 873-4306.

Thanksgiving Service

Thanksgiving Worship Service and Designated Offering for Project Christmas is 4 p.m. Nov. 26 at the Fort Greely Chapel.

Tree Lighting

Fort Greely’s Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony is set for 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26 at the intersection of Big Delta Ave and Robin Road. There will be a special reception and events at Gabriel Auditorium following the tree lighting. Santa and the Army Band Jazz Quartet will be on hand!
Around the World
IN 8 DAYS

Mayra Veronica
Edwin San Juan
Chuck Liddell
Ying Yang Twins
Gabriel Iglesias

No audio or video recording permitted.

Date: Nov. 10, 2008  Time: 12:30-2 p.m.  Place: Gabriel Auditorium!

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