



TEAM GREELY

INTERCEPTOR

ALWAYS ON GUARD DEFENDING FREEDOM

November 2009

Command of IMCOM changes hands

by Alex McVeigh
Army News Service

Installation Management Command said farewell to its first commanding general, Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, Nov. 2 and welcomed Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch as its new commander.

In a ceremony held at Fort Myer's Conny Hall, Wilson said farewell to the command he had presided over since its inception in October 2006, and passed the reins to a commander who is ready to take on the challenges of "the Army's home."

Along with being IMCOM commander, Lynch also takes the title of the Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, or ACSIM.

Soldiers from the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" played a brief pre-ceremony concert, featuring "Army Strong" by Mark Isham and "Black Jack" by F.K. Huffer, among others.

Soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), including the Commander in Chief's Guard, the Continental Color Guard and The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, also participated in the ceremony.

After the units sounded off and fixed bayonets, Col. David Anders, Regimental Commander of The Old Guard and Commander of Troops for the ceremony, es-



Photo by Adam Skoczylas

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch takes the Installation Management Command guidon during the IMCOM Change of Command Ceremony at Conny Hall on Fort Myer, Va., Nov. 2.

corted Wilson on his final inspection of the troops.

After Pershing's Own played the National Anthem, command was officially changed, with Lynch and Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola receiving the IMCOM guidon from Wilson and outgoing IMCOM

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gaines.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. served as host for the event. He took the podium first to thank Wilson for his almost four decades of service, and to welcome Lynch to the position.

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Fort Greely holiday events kick off the season

Activities will include a Chapel Service, Tree Lighting, Family Celebration, Gala

Fort Greely will kick off the holiday season in grand style with several events Dec. 4-5.

A special holiday service is slated to begin at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Fort Greely

Chapel. A Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will follow the Chapel service at 5 p.m. at the roundabout near the main entrance. A bus will be available to take those who attend the

Chapel service to the tree lighting.

The evening will wrap up with a Family Holiday Celebration beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Gabriel Auditorium.

The 9th Army Band from Fort Wainwright will perform and Santa Claus will make an appearance!

On Dec. 5 an adult Holiday Gala will take place in Gabriel Auditorium from 6 to 11 p.m. There will be entertainment and the event will be catered. Dress for the Gala is holiday attire.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at Family Morale Welfare and Recreation.

Command Corner

Message from the Garrison Commander

Happy Holidays Team Greely! This is a great time of year to live in the “winter wonderland” of Interior Alaska.

We plan to kick off the season in grand style with a special Chapel service, Tree Lighting Ceremony, and a Family Holiday Celebration on Dec. 4, as well as an adult Holiday Gala on Dec. 5. More details about these events are in this month’s issue of the Interceptor. Enjoy the festivities. This is the time of year to take the time to spend with family and friends and recharge your batteries. An exciting and challenging new year is just around the corner.

This is also a good time to reflect on those in harm’s way. Right now our comrades in arms are fighting in two wars in very distant lands – and they are away from their families and our nation. Our thoughts, prayers and support need to go out to all the military members serving around the globe who are fighting the war on terrorism. Take the time to send a Soldier a holiday package – those of you who have been deployed to combat know what a package from a total stranger can mean during the holidays.

I would like to update you on some recent events:

Last week, Installation Management Command said farewell to Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson - our first Commanding General - and we welcomed Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch as the new IMCOM Commander. Please take time to review the new IMCOM Commander’s Intent on page 3.

As all of you know, the Federal government, including the U.S. Army, is operating under tight budget constraints. However, I want to assure Fort Greely members that one of our most important morale, welfare and recreation project is still moving forward. The Community Activi-

ties Center, which will be located at the current Parade Field (behind the Fire Department), is on track to begin construction this Spring and to be completed in 2011 – I confirmed this personally while at the recent IMCOM Garrison Commander’s Conference. The 36,000 square foot CAC will include a snack bar, pub, an eight-lane bowling center, a video game room, and meeting/conference/ ballroom spaces.

The Residential Communities Initiative is also moving forward. Work on walkways, landscaping, and pavilion amenities began in September. Our partner, Actus Lend Lease, is committed to completing design work through the Winter. This affords them the opportunity to go out for bid immediately following the financial close, which is anticipated late this year or early in 2010. Construction of homes should begin in Summer or Fall of 2010.

As many of you are aware, the contract for Army Education Centers worldwide has been protested, not once - but twice! Until this matter is resolved, Ed Centers across the Army are closed or operating with skeleton crews. Members of Fort Greely’s Army Community Service are manning the FGA Education Center to allow members of the post community to utilize the Ed Center computer lab.

We want to thank everyone for the tremendous support of our ethnic and special observances at Fort Greely. We ask that you continue supporting these great events put on by our Equal Opportunity Council. The next event is the National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month



Lt. Col. Chris Chronis
Garrison Commander

Celebration at 1 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the Gabriel Auditorium. The event will celebrate the rich ancestry of American Indians and Alaska Natives and recognize their many contributions to the United States. Alaska Native dancers will perform and ethnic food samples will be offered.

Missile Defense Agency – Operations Support Group Alaska will be conducting a Post Missile Launch Consequence Management Exercise on Nov. 19. The exercise is designed to exercise procedures and capabilities in the event of a missile launch operation. The exercise will include the use of the MDC Explosive Facility Area Warning System, The Garrison Giant Voice as well as testing shelter in place measures in our Cantonment Area. Col. George Bond will give a post missile launch safety presentation at a 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Nov. 18 in the Fort Greely Chapel. He will discuss safety issues including shelter in place procedures to prepare the post populace for the exercise.

Many of you are aware the Installation Theater is temporarily closed due to renovation and construction projects. The construction crews are working hard to complete their projects as soon as possible. The theater should re-open to by the end of November and AAFES will begin showing movies once again.

Finally, I want to thank you for the many sacrifices you and your families make every day. Our mission here is critical and we serve in the most rugged and austere non-combat assignment in the Army. Please get outside and enjoy nature and the outstanding Winter recreation that Alaska offers. Keep safety in mind as you travel and remember not to drink and drive - there is no excuse. We want everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season!

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
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NEW COMMANDER, from Page 1

“At some point in your career, that profession changes into a passion. A passion to prepare for and execute our nation’s wars in defense of our nation’s freedom, and a passion to truly take care of our Soldiers and their families.” - Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

“Rick is a proven leader, and he has the vision and the drive to continue the transformation of our installations, so that they best support our Army,” Casey said.

When Lynch took the stage, he spoke of the Army as not just a job, not just a profession, but a passion.

“At some point in your career, that profession changes into a passion. A passion to prepare for and execute our nation’s wars in defense of our nation’s freedom, and a passion to truly take care of our Soldiers and their families,” Lynch said.

He also credited Wilson for going

above and beyond in his briefings about the position, saying, “I had all the right briefings, I had all the right conversations ... I’m [very] thankful for that.”

Lynch comes to IMCOM after commanding III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas. He has also served as commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, deputy chief of staff for Operations at Allied Joint Force Command-Naples, and deputy chief of staff for Strategic Effects for Multi-National Force-Iraq.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak

Leaf Cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

(Alex McVeigh writes for the Pentagon newspaper at Fort Myer, Va.)

IMCOM COMMANDER'S INTENT

Soldier and Family Readiness

- A Deployable Mindset Across the Enterprise
- Responsive Services that Meet Fluid ARFORGEN Requirements
- Advanced Technology that Supports the Army's Evolving Training Requirements
- Pre-Deployment and Deployment Support that Delivers Readiness
- Effective Family Readiness Groups and Rear Detachments

Soldier and Family Well Being

- Active and Visible Leaders
- The Army Family Covenant Delivered
- Safe and Secure Installations (24/7)
- Resiliency and Balance—Mind, Body, and Spirit
- Strong Sense of Community and Pride
- High Quality of Life for Soldiers and Families that is Equitable and Predictable Across Installations
- Facilities and Programs that Enrich Soldier and Family Life
- Soldiers and Families Needs Met Throughout the Entire Deployment Cycle
- Quality Housing and Barracks

Leader and Workforce Development

- Multi-Skilled and Adaptive Leaders
- Constant Communication
- Teamwork in All Endeavors
- Professionalism and Selfless Service in All Things
- Adherence to Standards
- Clear and Consistent Feedback
- Healthy and Efficient Work Environments
- A Culture of Safety and Sustainability
- Continuing Education and Training Opportunities
- Sustainable, Empowered Workforce Focused on Collaboration and Innovation

Installation Readiness

- Sustainable Infrastructure that Supports Senior Commander Requirements
- Sustainable Army Communities of Excellence
- Installation Footprint Streamlined and Transformed
- Enhanced Capabilities Through Partnerships
- The Army's Infrastructure Modernized and Sustainable
 - Energy Efficiency and Security
 - Environmental Stewardship

The Sustainable Army Community of Excellence

Allen Army Airfield

Round the clock team keeps us from being grounded



Photo by Josiah Holbrook

Merrill Elkins operates a John Deere loader with a snow blower attachment at the airfield.

by **Deborah Ward**
Public Affairs Specialist

Fernando Elkins, Fort Greely's Flight Operations Supervisor for Allen Army Airfield, enters his office each work day morning with the aroma of freshly made coffee and the scent of diesel lingering in the hanger.

Elkins loves his dream job working in aviation with his six Flight Operations team members: Merrill Elkins, Marvin Ford, Josiah Holbrook, Jeremy Markham, Mike Ferguson and Abbie Cottle. To Elkins and his crew Allen Army Airfield is their second home.

First on the list each morning is to meet and greet his co-workers.

Each member has their place.

Merrill Elkins, Fernando's brother, and Ford specialize in electrical maintenance while Holbrook specializes in maintenance and operations. Cottle and Markham oversee the Aviation Administration Operation with Ferguson handling the logistics and maintenance.

They sit down together in the uncluttered and brightly lit VIP lounge and discuss the day's priorities and what equipment is due for maintenance and the status of each piece.

With a total team of seven members these meetings are quick and to the point there's no time for lackadaisical conversations.

"We just don't have the time to sit around and do nothing. We're constantly moving here," said Elkins.

Each morning two members from the crew conduct an air-

field inspection. When the Runway Condition Report comes back they plan their next move.

With a scale of seven to 25 for favorable runway conditions Allen AAF often sees six or less on the RCR, which means a long and arduous day for the Flight Operations crew.

"Every time the weather changes or when the airstrip is plowed clear we go out and test the runway again. Some days it's a real battle to keep that runway operational," Elkins said.

With several pieces of equipment that can be used individually or to complement one another, the plow trucks, sweepster, loader and crew strive to keep Allen Army Airfield ready for training and potential medevac flights.

When the snow that clings to the runway is dry and light the

Flight Operations crew can get by with using the sweepster. The sweepster is an immense machine with a stiff rolling bristle brush that is pulled along by another good-sized tractor that runs at a top speed of 15 miles per hour.

"Fifteen miles an hour for that sweepster is tough so a lot of the time we go much slower. Fifteen is just too hard on that machine," said Elkins.

The brush churns up the loose snow and debris and the blower that sits behind the brush blows the snow out to the side well clear of the runway at a rate greater than 300 miles per hour.

If the snow is wet, heavy or has been crusted with a layer of ice the sweepster cannot handle the job of clearing the runway alone.

The plow truck is a monster of a machine with a 20-foot wide blade attached to a 12-yard dump truck and as large as that sounds it still takes the truck four passes to clear the smallest runway (the new air assault strip) with a width of 90 feet.

Once the snow has been removed and thrown off to the side of the runways and taxiways the sweepster comes out to clean up anything left behind and any FOD that may have been kicked out from the plow blade passing over the edge of the runway.

At four passes with a top speed of 15 miles per hour and a length of 3,500 feet that's roughly four hours of runway clearing for the sweepster alone.

The mounds of snow that are collected at the ends and sides

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Allen Army Airfield

AAAF, from Page 4

of the runways are then removed with a blower and loader.

Unlike Eielson Air Force Base and their runway crew of 67 for a single air strip, Elkins and his crew of six are responsible for three runways, four taxiways and one ramp.

This same dedicated crew is also on “stand by” status from midnight until 7 a.m. and twenty-four hours on weekends.

One of those missions that Elkins is referring to is the assault landing training, which until recently, cost the Air Force more than \$100,000 for each successful landing.

With the new assault landing strip that cost is cut down considerably.

The majority of Fort Greely’s population is aware of the need for the assault landing training exercises and the possible lives, missions and equipment that will be saved due to this training.

Since the September 2009 ribbon cutting ceremony Allen Army Airfield has seen three C-17s perform assault landings on the new airstrip.

“Those planes have a maximum weight of 585,000 pounds, they come in and plummet toward the ground at max speed,

land within 500 yards – see those four panels they have to land in between those – then they slam on the brakes to quickly unload and drop mission essential cargo, turn around and then they are back up in the air again. The idea is to spend minimal time in danger on the ground,” he explained.

Here at Fort Greely this type of training continues year round. Due to the frozen ground there is no weight limit for the airstrip during the winter months.

The only circumstances that may temporarily delay training are extremely strong winds and low visibility.

Allen Army Airfield is equally equipped for other traffic as well, both fixed wing and helicopters are able to fly in and out of the air field.

For example, he explained that medical evacuations are in and out of the airfield all of the time. They vary in frequency and intensity.

Elkins’ crew can see as little as one flight to upwards of one hundred flights a month or more.

The medevacs are another reason Elkins and his crew are so dedicated to their jobs.

With no emergency care and no large

medical facilities within 100 miles, the community of Fort Greely, Delta Junction and its outlying areas depend on fast and reliable medical transportation in life threatening conditions.

Every vehicle operator, to include the emergency ground transportation like ambulances and police vehicles, is required to take a test in order to drive out on to the airstrips. It requires a special license and additional training.

Elkins’ crew ensures the standards are met and that safety is their top priority for everyone involved.

During his ongoing tenure, which began in May 2005, not a single accident has befallen Allen AAF.

If there is ever a problem Elkins and his crew can handle it.

“We come in each day, keeping safety as our focus and proficiently and effectively complete our tasks whatever they may be,” said Cottle.

Just as the warmth returns to their faces a call comes in over the radio, so with a cheerful goodbye and a genuine offer to stop by any time, Elkins and his team head back out into the cold to assist the first medevac arrival for the day.

Flight Ops Team

Top row, from left: Fernando Elkins, Merrill Elkins and Josiah Holbrook. Bottom row, from left: Abbie Cottle, Mike Ferguson, Jeremy Markham and Marvin Ford.



Photos by Josiah Holbrook



What do all those crazy lights mean?

- Red lights—End of runway
- Blue lights—Taxiways
- Clear lights—Runway edge lights
- Yellow—Runway edge lights that mark the last 2,000 feet of runway
- Papi lights—A row of lights that indicate to the pilot whether the plane is too high or too low
- Turning beacon—Two white lights and a green indicate a military airfield while a single white light and a green denotes a civilian airfield.



Crossing Rivers

CRTC members ford waters to expand test capabilities

by Clara Zachgo
Cold Regions Test Center

People who live in the Interior of Alaska frequently ford rivers, streams, and creeks to hunt and trap. It becomes a routine event to many.

Members of the U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center are also becoming familiar with fording water as a way to expand test capabilities.

The vast land west of the Delta River provides larger ranges than available on the east side of the River. The challenge is getting to the other side of the Delta River since there is no permanent bridge crossing it.

CRTC has found ways around this obstacle with low water crossings, helicopter trips, sling load operations, and ice bridges.

John Viggato, the test officer for the Non-Line of Sight Launch System, was one of the first test officers in recent years to expand test capabilities to the west of the Delta River.

“We’ve expanded the capability of the test center, and hope to continue to have a presence west of the Delta River in coming years,” said Viggato. “It’s essential to our customers as system needs grow and more space is needed to accommodate the mission.”

On Oct. 26, the first low water crossing of the test season took place.

Last winter, CRTC reestablished the Arkansas Winter Trail Crossing, a point in the Delta River where employees constructed an ice bridge in order to move materials and equipment across the River for the NLOS-LS test. In the



Photos courtesy of Mike Kingston, CRTC

spring, at the same location, vehicles forded the Delta River to bring remaining equipment and supplies back across the River. With the return of NLOS-LS for a second winter, there will be more operations west of the Delta River and the need to get supplies across the River.

With numerous helicopter trips and sling load missions already taking supplies to the different test sites, Viggato was waiting for the right time to begin taking vehicles across the Delta River.

This fall, the conditions at the Arkansas Winter Trail Crossing were ideal for fording during the last week of October. The glaciers had stopped melting and the ground water was frozen.

In addition, the temperatures had been warm enough to keep an ice dam from forming downstream from the Arkansas Winter Trail Crossing, resulting in a low water level.

Viggato decided to take advantage of this opportunity to get supplies and vehicles across the Delta River. “We operate over 50 miles of roads and

trails west of the Delta River,” Viggato said. “The only infrastructure in the area is what we bring with us or what we’ve emplaced.”

Six Small Unit Support Vehicles were loaded with supplies and personnel and drove to the Arkansas Winter Trail Crossing.

An M113 would be the first vehicle to cross, checking river conditions as it went. Once across, it would remain on the far bank to lead the returning SUSVs back at the end of the day.

The M113, driven by Viggato and Todd Zachgo, maintenance lead, crossed the Delta River, measuring the water flow and depth as they went to ensure safe conditions. Once personnel in the M113 confirmed safe conditions and were on the west bank, the SUSVs began crossing.

After all the SUSVs were safely across, they began the 20-mile, two-hour trip across rough terrain to Observation Point 26.

OP 26 is the base location for NLOS-LS operations west of the Delta River. OP 26 houses personnel, equipment, and will serve as command and control center during testing. Crews had to work fast in order to return before dark, since



CRTC personnel check river conditions while crossing in an M113.

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Crossing Rivers

CRTC, from Page 6

“It was a very successful trip. We managed to stage the majority of the equipment and supplies we’ll need for remote operations for the next month.”

-John Viggato

daylight hours are quickly diminishing in Alaska this time of year.

There is an average of only nine hours of daylight in October and November.

After personnel completed everything they set out to do, the crew loaded up three SUSVs and began heading back. Test crews will use the remaining SUSVs while traveling among the 50 miles of trails in the area to complete test set-up.

The three SUSVs made it back to the Delta River just before dark, where the M113 was waiting.

Once again, Viggato and Zachgo crossed

in the M113 to ensure conditions were still safe. Once the M113 was across, the three SUSVs forded the River without any trouble.

“It was a very successful trip. We man-

aged to stage the majority of the equipment and supplies we’ll need for remote operations for the next month,” Viggato said.

Even though this was a one-day trip, it was integral to the successful test set-up of NLOS-LS. Without the SUSVs across the Delta River at OP 26, there would be no easy way for crews to travel back and forth over the rough terrain to the different test sites.

When temperatures drop enough for the Delta River to freeze, the 6th Engineers from Fort Richardson, Alaska, will travel to CRTC to construct an ice bridge at the Arkansas Winter Trail Crossing. The ice bridge will allow vehicle access to NLOS-LS test sites throughout the winter.

With the success of this crossing, there were plans for another the following Monday, but in one short week River conditions changed drastically. The water level was now higher and a thin layer of ice had formed. The combination of high water and ice prevented another crossing, but Viggato said he will continue to monitor the Delta River conditions for another opportunity to cross.



Members of CRTC use Small Unit Support Vehicles, or SUSVs, to cross the Delta River.



CRTC used Small Unit Support Vehicles, or SUSVs, to cross the Delta River in October.

Exercise, Exercise

Spec. Julio Velez, Military Police Officer, provides cover for the search of a simulated "hostile person" on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska, during the recent force protection exercise. Members of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion participated in the four-day exercise developing teamwork, unit cohesion, and mission readiness.



Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson

MDA launch presentation Nov. 18

Col. George Bond, of the Missile Defense Agency-Alaska, will give a missile launch safety presentation at a special Town Hall Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fort Greely Chapel. He will discuss safety issues including shelter in place procedures to prepare the Fort Greely populace for a Missile Defense Agency Missile Launch Exercise scheduled for Nov. 19.

The exercise is designed to evaluate procedures and capabilities in the event of a missile launch operation. The exercise will include the use of the Explosive Facility Area Warning System, as well as testing evacuation and shelter in place measures. The event will include voice announcements and sirens. While the voice responses and sirens may be somewhat loud, there is neither threat nor danger to any of the local populous and/or their property.

These types of exercises and tests help ensure the safety of the personnel who work on Fort Greely and the Missile Defense Complex.

Fort Greely members are highly encouraged to attend the Town Hall briefing to learn more about the upcoming exercise and procedures required in the event of an actual missile launch operation.

For more information, call Kent Cummins, Fort Greely's Public Affairs Officer, at 873-5023, or Ralph Scott, Missile Defense Agency - Alaska Public Affairs Officer, at 552-1687.

How will I be warned of an "actual" or "exercise" missile launch?

- ♦ Klaxon (warning siren) followed by announcement (giant voice system) of pending launch and instruction to go indoors and close all windows

- ♦ DA police driving through neighborhoods announcing the need to go indoors and close all windows

- ♦ Loud rumbling noise lasting 15-45 seconds

"Shelter in place" is the most effective response

- ♦ Do not look toward missile defense complex

- ♦ Go indoors, preferably to an interior, above-ground room without windows

- ♦ Close all windows and doors

- ♦ Turn off air conditioning, HVAC units, and any fans that draw outside air

- ♦ Remain inside for at least 30 minutes, or until an all-clear is given by Fort Greely authorities

National American Indian Alaska Native Heritage celebration Nov. 19

Fort Greely's National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month celebration is set for 1 p.m. Nov. 19 at Gabriel Auditorium.

The celebration will include Alaska Native dancers, ethnic food samplings and displays.

What began at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose.

In 1990 President George Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.

National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native people.