

APVR-GC

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes for 25 February 2004 United States Army Alaska (USARAK) Transformation-People Quarterly Review, and Analysis Committee Meeting

1. The meeting of USARAK Transformation-People Committee was held on 25 February 2004 at Fort Richardson, Alaska (FRA). COL Donna Boltz, USAG-AK Garrison Commander welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 1035.

COL Boltz stated we are changing the format of the People Q R & A for this quarter shifting the focus from reporting on unit risk behaviors to installation wide risk reduction trends, installation Well-Being priorities, and initiatives. Our goal is to utilize the holistic approach the Well-Being program provides to identify issues, develop community solutions and provide Commanders with tools and programs. Today's report will include a briefing from Mr. Lambert on ICE and other Well-Being initiatives. LTC Prescott will address the handling by Commanders of drug and alcohol violations. Review of the Q R & A reports for each installation focusing on trends, priorities and programs and Mr. Curry will brief on the Homecoming Alaska program, a professional symposium in April. This will be a model for the Army in what we do for deployment and family reintegration.

2. In attendance at the meeting were:

MG Brown	COL Boltz
COL Wood	COL Hamilton
CSM Beam	COL Palsha
CSM Allen	COL Gamble
LTC Shutt	COL Hunter
Mr. Peet	Mr. Mauer
LTC Prescott	Mr. Curry
USARAK Chaplain	Mr. Lambert
203 rd PSB CDR	

3. Well-Being update: (Mr. Lambert)

a. ICE quarterly report. Mr. Lambert provided a synopsis on the ICE activity for the period December-February for Richardson and Wainwright. He stated that at first, the submission of comment cards was very slow but the weekly rate of submission is on the rise since early February. He also added that the satisfaction rate is in the high amber.

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MG Brown remarked that given the larger population at Wainwright, the number of cards submitted ought to be double that of Richardson. COL Boltz asked if we have kiosk capability. Mr. Lambert stated the plan is to have a kiosk in building 600 and DPW is working on having a dedicated computer in the housing office at Wainwright. MG Brown commented that as ICE grows it will prove to be a useful tool in identifying issues early on.

b. Corporate assessment. Mr. Lambert explained the survey process and the tool that was administered to 100 172nd SIB officers and senior NCOs to rate the DPW and DOL support services. Mr. Lambert added the results will be briefed to the USAG-AK Deputy GC and the USAG-AK office will work with the directorates, where applicable, to develop a corrective action plan. COL Palsha indicated the results do not reflect the official view of the 172nd SIB but rather the collective opinion of a group of officers and NCOs belonging to the Brigade.

c. Well-Being functions surveys. Mr. Lambert indicated the W-B functional surveys (Relocation support, Family housing, Child care, and Barrack complexes) will remain posted on the web site through February and that we have received more than 500 completed surveys so far. Mr. Lambert stated mobilization-deployment support will be the next function posted in March on the Well-Being site. Mr. Lambert stated he will have total results of all surveys for the next quarterly review meeting. MG Brown commented he will look forward to the survey results to cross check the feedback he is getting directly from soldiers and officers.

4. Drug/Alcohol-Related Discharge Processing: (LTC Prescott)

a. LTC Prescott gave his report to the group on the procedure for processing of soldiers with one drug offense and two-time alcohol failures. LTC Prescott stated we have been reviewing data from CID, and we need to adopt a more proactive approach. SJA has developed a checklist for company and battery commanders for required information needed for administrative separation of soldiers and the prosecutors will review the blotter daily to determine those eligible for separation.

b. LTC Prescott stated we have met with battery and company commanders concerning administration of military justice. MG Brown questioned the effectiveness of this effort. LTC Prescott replied he has not received any negative feedback and received some positive feedback on courses other than the Pre Command Course. LTC Prescott mentioned he would welcome any feedback from group members and commanders. MG Brown stated this process is a result of feedback that he received from company and battalion level commanders on SJA support to commanders on

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administrative procedures. MG Brown thanked LTC Prescott's team on their efforts to present information to commanders on making decisions related to military justice.

5. FWA report: (Mr. Mauer)

a. FWA Tasker Status. Mr. Mauer reported the status for Fort Wainwright taskers. MG Brown asked for an explanation on standardized school zone traffic. Mr. Mauer stated the speed limits are standardized now at Richardson and Wainwright. COL Boltz stated speeding in school zones at Richardson and Wainwright was an issue for our communities because we do not have crossing guards and relied on volunteers. COL Boltz thanked LTC Prescott for his help in standardizing enforcement response at the installations. MG Brown asked if we have conducted an assessment to find out why we fall below the community expectation on crossing guards. He asked if we have looked at alternative solutions. COL Boltz replied she has the garrison operation officer contacting garrisons nationwide getting feedback on how they are handling this problem. MG Brown mentioned other means of controlling school crossings include railroad crossing signals and walking bridges. MG Brown stated that with increased deployment taskings we won't be able to depend on volunteers and we need to look at alternative solutions.

b. Risk reduction trends. Mr. Mauer reported the alcohol offenses are increasing at Fort Wainwright. MG Brown stated he asked for an analysis of what was being reported to 11th Air Force from Eielson. Their trends of underage drinking and DWI's are the opposite of ours. MG Brown indicated Eielson has apparently reduced their trend over the last year and we need to explore what they are doing.

172nd SIB CDR expressed frustration about alcohol-related problems and will accept any ideas. Mr. Mauer talked about the success of the BOSS program. 172nd CDR stated underage drinkers are now using taxi cabs to avoid detection. Mr. Mauer indicated the increase in drug offenses is tied to the increase in the availability of drugs. MG Brown asked what makes us believe there is an increase in the availability. He had seen a report about six months ago that indicated the price of illegal drugs in Alaska was steady signaling a shortage. A drug detection dog will be periodically sent to Fort Wainwright from Fort Richardson next week to help with their health and welfare program until a long-term solution is found. A military working dog and handler has been requested through USARPAC. MG Brown asked the Wainwright group about looking at data of repeat drug offenders to see if it is increasing or decreasing.

c. Well-Being priority functions. Next, Mr. Mauer commented on the FWA Well-Being Action Council and the ten top issues they identified during the first meeting. The issues include: Customer service, family housing wear & tear standards, 24 hour

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shoppette, child care issues, post community center and post shuttle. Small committees will be appointed to work on the issues and report at the bi-monthly Well-Being Action Council meeting.

d. Show case Family Advocacy Program. Mr. Mauer presented the showcase data on spouse abuse. Incidents have been decreasing for the past three years due to proactive Command education, the New Parent Support Program and the efforts of the victim advocates working with Social Work Services. While below the DOD bench mark, Wainwright is still above the Army average. MG Brown questioned the process for getting the numbers. He stated that spouse abuse and child abuse go hand in hand. Mr. Lambert indicated that the numbers are based on the number of children enrolled in DEERS.

6. FRA report (LTC Shutt)

a. FRA Tasker Status. LTC Shutt stated that blotter reports for Jul 03 to Jan 04, there was only one underage drinking incident, which is misleading as not all are captured on the blotter. Many NCO's bring a soldier in who has been drinking and take care of it back at the unit. LTC Shutt talked about the alcohol incidents at Fort Richardson. He stated that despite the downward trend, we are still above the Army rate and the contributing cause remains the environment of Alaska. Possible solutions are random breath testing. Breathalyzers are available through ASAP and they are available for unit testing. LTC Shutt stated there are other alternatives such as promoting athletics, and the BOSS program.

LTC Shutt stated there is a strong correlation between alcohol and DV. LTC Shutt stated 80 percent of crimes against persons are DV related. DV prevention strategies include the Homecoming Alaska program, DV Stand Down Day and BSRF. LTC Shutt stated that crimes against property involve unsecured POV's and gym theft. LTC Shutt stated doing a check of the gym he discovered many unsecured lockers. LTC Shutt mentioned the gym does have free locks for users. MG Brown stated that FWA does not have free locks and there are never more than two gym lockers available for daily use. MG Brown stated gym participants are leaving their things in the locker room and hand carrying them to areas of the gym where they are working out contributing to theft. MG Brown also stated he has collected items in the gym at FRA and turned them in to the front desk. He suggested collecting items and giving some type of penalty for folks leaving their items unsecured. SJA previously advised against doing this for liability reasons.

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b. Risk reduction trends. LTC Shutt stated spouse abuse is on the rise. LTC Shutt gave an example of nine cases in 04 where the spouse was the abuser. MG Brown emphasized the need to ensure consistency of data.

c. Well-Being priority functions. In spite of available small scholarships, LTC Shutt stated Tuition Assistance for spouses continues to be an issue. MG Brown suggested we elevate this to DA in a different way. MG Brown asked if the decision to exclude spouses was an Army one. He also asked about what are they doing in the Air Force. MG Brown's guidance included ensuring that we make it clear that army spouses are being treated differently than the other services.

d. Showcase. LTC Shutt briefed three successful programs that are helping the command and the community: Building Strong and Ready Families, Interactive Counseling Center and Family Child Care. LTC Shutt stated the importance of the high school exit exam is being emphasized at Fort Richardson. FRA had a strong percentage of Army children taking the test. MG Brown stated we need to know if our students are having problems taking the exit exam compared to children off post. MG Brown stated at least 1/3 of high school seniors will graduate with only a partial diploma and we do not know how many are military high school students.

7. USAG-AK DMWR report (Mr. Curry)

a. "Home Coming Alaska – Partners in Prevention"
Mr. Curry briefed the group on the Homecoming Alaska symposium scheduled for April to include the intent, which is to help services assist returning soldiers to adjust back to their communities.

b. Domestic Violence Stand Downs - 2004 April Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Mr. Curry briefed the group on Domestic Violence Stand Downs also scheduled for April. Mr. Curry stated the intent of the program is to confront DV in the community. MG Brown directed that the DV Stand Down program be in line with Command objectives.

8. TASKINGS:

a. A letter to the appropriate agency to address the fact that Army spouses are the only spouses not receiving spouse tuition assistance like their counterparts in the Air Force (USAG-AK CDR/ DMWR Director).

b. Include unit commanders in determining DV Stand Down Day objectives (USAG-AK CDR/DMWR Director).

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- c. Research and possibly implement Eielson's program to prevent under age drinking and overall drinking incidence (USAG-AK CSM).
- d. Research alternatives to the use of volunteers to implement school crossing program (USAG-AK OPS).
- e. Determine how the drug multiple-offender rate contributes to the overall rates (FWA GC).
- f. Determine how military students are scoring in the high school exit exam (FRA/FWA GCs).
- g. Confirm or deny the rise in the availability of drugs in the Fairbanks area (FWA GC).
- h. Provide locks at the FWA fitness centers (FWA GC).

9. Minutes prepared by Mr. Pascal Lambert, USARAK Well-Being Coordinator.

Encl

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//
DONNA G. BOLTZ
COL, MP
Commanding

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