



Press Release

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Operation Santa Claus Kicks off Holiday Season

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska – The holidays got a jump start Wednesday when elves started preparing for the 2009 Operation Santa Claus season at the annual gift wrapping party.

Operation Santa Claus visits several villages and hundreds of children each holiday season, and the wrapping party is a way to get everyone in the holiday spirit while getting all those presents prepared to leave the workshop.

This year marks the 53rd anniversary of Operation Santa Claus, an Alaska National Guard program that delivers school supplies, presents, and Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to rural villages across the state.

“Guardsmen and community volunteers come together every year to make Operation Santa Claus a huge success and the gift wrapping party is a great event that kicks off the season and gets us all in the holiday spirit,” said Brig. Gen. Thomas Katkus, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

This year Operation Santa Claus will be visiting Koyuk, St. George, Gambell, Pedro Bay, Non Dalton, Kasigluk and Klukwan.

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Photo Cutlines:

KatkusLynn

Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and Rep. Bob Lynn share a laugh while wrapping presents at the 2009 Operation Santa Claus gift wrapping party. This year marks the 53rd anniversary of Operation Santa Claus, an Alaska National Guard program that delivers school supplies, presents, and Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to rural villages across the state. (Photo by Major Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard public affairs)

Littlehelper

Michael McShane helps out Santa by stacking wrapped presents during the 2009 Operation Santa Claus gift wrapping party. Michael was one of many volunteers who helped wrap presents Wednesday night at Santa’s workshop on Camp Carroll. (Photo by Major Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard public affairs)

Santa

Santa watches over his helpers as they wrap presents during the 2009 Operation Santa Claus gift wrapping party. (Photo by Major Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard public affairs)

Santashelper

One of Santa's dedicated elves, Charles Feaster, wraps gifts to be handed out to children during this year's Operation Santa Claus. This year Operation Santa Claus will be visiting Koyuk, St. George, Gambell, Pedro Bay, Non Dalton, Kasigluk and Klukwan. (Photo by Major Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard public affairs)

Wrappingpresents

Justin DeHaas and Col. Andrew J. Mamrol wrap presents during the annual Operation Santa Claus gift wrapping party. Operation Santa Claus visits several villages and hundreds of children each holiday season, and the wrapping party is a way to get everyone in the holiday spirit while getting all those presents prepared to leave the workshop. (Photo by Major Guy Hayes, Alaska National Guard public affairs)