



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ELEMENT, JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS
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JOINT BASE ELMENDORF - RICHARDSON AK 99505-0800

NGAK-TAG

1 December 2015

Message to the Force #1

SUBJECT: Joint Staff Capabilities and Announcement of Selection, Director of Joint Staff

1. Joint staff capability is critical to the success of the Alaska National Guard (AKNG). A joint staff has many key roles, to include advising me and the Assistant Adjutants General on Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) and Security Cooperation, as well as emergency/disaster preparation and response. A joint staff also develops, maintains, and executes plans such as CONPLAN 3500, hazard annexes, DSCA exercises, AKNG Strategic Plan, Innovative Readiness Training, the State Partnership and Security Cooperation programs, the Civil Support Team, and the Counterdrug Program. Additionally, a joint staff serves as the AKNG primary liaison to many outside divisions and agencies, and engages externally in support of our mission and vision. A joint staff also provides initial staffing (the "warm start") and sets conditions for success of the Joint Operations Center in exercises and real world operations. We are in the process of standing up a viable joint staff and investing in the processes that maximize its capabilities.

2. The Director of Joint Staff is a key Drill Status Guardsman/M-Day position. I have selected Brigadier General Brent Feick as interim Director of the Joint Staff. Brig Gen Feick joins the AKNG from the West Virginia National Guard (WVANG). He has deep experience in joint planning and operations to include as National Guard Bureau's Chief of Future Operations (J35) and Deputy Director of Operations (J3). Additionally, Brig Gen Feick has acted as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs; NGB Joint Staff on the Quadrennial Defense Review; and as Director of Air Staff for the WVANG. We welcome Brig Gen Feick and look forward to his leadership in enhancing joint capability within our force.

3. I have selected Colonel Blake Gettys, AKANG, as Brig Gen's Feick's successor. The Director of the Joint Staff position will transition o/a 30 September 2016.


LAUREL J. HUMMEL
Brigadier General (AK), AKNG
The Adjutant General