



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS – ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

PO BOX 5800

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF - RICHARDSON AK 99505-0800

NGAK-TAG

11 January 2017

Message to the Force #9

SUBJECT: Alaska National Guard in the news

1. As some of you may know, a former member of the Alaska Army National Guard, PFC Esteban Santiago, was involved in an active shooter incident at the Fort Lauderdale, FL airport. I would like to express my deepest concerns and regret for this tragedy. While it does not diminish this tragic event in any way, I believe it is important for everyone in the department to understand that PFC Santiago was not a participating member here. He joined our unit, attended one drill period of one drill weekend, and then did not participate from that point forward. Every effort was made to reach him, via letter to current and previous homes of record, email, social media, and phone calls, and he was unreachable. I do wish that we had been afforded the opportunity to share the moral and ethical practices of our organization, which could have influenced PFC Santiago in a positive manner.
2. While his contact with our organization was minimal, I understand that we may have service members or family members who may struggle in this difficult time as we all react to the fact that this horrible incident took place. If you would like to talk to someone about your concerns, you or family members may contact one of our outstanding chaplains at (907) 428-6904 or our wonderful Family Programs Office for assistance at (907) 428-6680. If you have any information that may be pertinent to the ongoing investigations about the incident that occurred, please contact our Provost Marshal, MAJ Brian Fuchs at (907) 428-6417.
3. I want to assure all of you that our organization did everything in accordance with regulations and laws concerning our interactions with PFC Santiago. His separation went through the standard procedure we use for all non-participating Soldiers. After the incident, our leadership and staff sections responded to myriad requests appropriately and correctly by using sound process based on applicable regulations. As the aftermath of the event continues, we will continue to support the law enforcement community and the media to the best of our abilities.
4. If you receive any requests from the media asking questions about this incident or PFC Santiago, please refer the caller to our Public Affairs Office at (907) 428-6031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Laurel J. Hummel", is positioned above the typed name.

LAUREL J. HUMMEL
Major General, AKNG
The Adjutant General