

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Alaska Department of
Military & Veterans Affairs





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Mr. McHugh Pierre
DMVA Director of Communications

Ms. Kalei Brooks
Managing Editor/DMVA Public Affairs

Contributors

- Captain Guy Hayes**
- Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton**
- Sergeant Karima Turner**
- Specialist Margaret Moonin**
DMVA Public Affairs

Office of Governor Sarah Palin



8537 Corbin Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 562-9300
(866) 562-9300

- Bob Ulin**
Publisher
- Susan Harrington**
Editor
- Gloria Schein**
Art Director
- Darrell George**
Advertising Sales

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DMVA 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Governor Sarah Palin thanks Captain Wayne Mitchell, a member of the Alaska Army National Guard, for his sacrifices, and the sacrifices of his family, following an event proclaiming May 1 as Silver Star Day – a day to honor the nation's wounded veterans from all wars.

Reports:

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CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait – (July 25, 2007) Alaska Governor Sarah Palin shakes hands with members of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, during her visit to Camp Virginia, Kuwait, July 25. The Governor concluded her two-day trip with a tour and lunch at the camp as well as a tour of the Life Support Area-Kuwait Rapid Fielding Initiative facility.

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HOW TO REACH US:

The DMVA Annual Report
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Office of Public Affairs
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali
Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-0800
(907) 428-6031 / Fax 428-6949

Ready to Serve

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For the People

Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



A Year of Change and Success

It has been an honor and a joy working with the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to successfully accomplish the multiple missions and groundbreaking transformations required to keep Alaska abreast with the nation while staying within the budget needs over the 2007 calendar year.

This has been a remarkable year for the DMVA, consisting of a wide array of missions across the world, meeting the concerns and safety requirements of all Alaskans through their quick response and initial recovery of major disasters, to the continued deployment of our men and women in uniform in support of the Global War on Terrorism and national defense missions.

Our National Guard units continue to undergo changes and transformations to become a more modern and viable force to call on in times of need.

The Army Guard's 207th Infantry Group continues to transform from a Scout Unit into the 207th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, allowing our Soldiers to stay trained to the newest United States Army standards.

To help insure that our troops stay on the cutting edge we have brought in the Mobile Air Assault Team to train many of our Soldiers here at home. We have also worked jointly with the active branch to prepare our Soldiers for deployment without leaving Alaska.

With the new mission of the C-17, the Air Guard continues to stay up-to-date with the needs of the United States Air Force and provide quick response to the continued rescue missions across Alaska.

The combined efforts and sacrifices made by the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management have been extraordinary towards the safety of all Alaskans.

I highly respect the efforts of every member of the DMVA, whether civilian employee or service member, for the amazing job you accomplished during the many devastating natural disasters and rescue missions you faced this year.

The health and well being of our Alaskan veterans will remain a top priority and has been addressed through the joint efforts of state and federal agencies to meet the needs of our increasing veteran population throughout all our Alaskan communities.

We hope to show our respect for the service and commitment of our veterans through the remodel of some of our veterans memorials. We will also continue our quest to recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms with the presentation of the Alaska Medal of Honor.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's ChalleNGe Program, the STARBASE Alaska program and the new Adventure Ropes Course for teens created by the Guards' Drug Demand Reduction Program change the lives and future of every youth involved in a positive way. These programs give all our struggling Alaskan youth who have had the opportunity to participate in one of your many programs the chance to create the future of their dreams.

The DMVA has gone above and beyond to transform itself into an organization that all Alaskans can be proud of. The divisions within the DMVA have accomplished a substantial task over the last year, all the while meeting my budget criteria for a smaller, more efficient government. Every component is essential to the work and accomplishments made by the massive team know as the DMVA. I applauded them for their service, patriotism and devotion to protect not only their own families but the families of all Alaskans alike.



My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



Change to Meet the Needs of Alaskans

This has been a year of change and of success within the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. We have hosted nationwide events and exercises and have once again proved Alaska is the best state in the union.

Governor Palin started the year by helping the leadership of the department change and grow into the team that is achieving success today. Craig Christensen and Dr. James Jones have taken the director and deputy director positions at the Alaska Military Youth Academy. These two men are looking at ways to get more skills into the hands of our graduating Cadets. Partnerships with the Alaska Department of Labor and local skilled trade organizations will give Cadets military discipline as well as immediately employable skills to provide a strong future for these teens.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management moved state security from an exercise after-thought to the primary mission of the division. Director John Madden has organized the division into more efficient groups to tackle issues together and achieve results in a timelier manner. When disaster strikes, the first responders are out in the community assessing damages and communicating with headquarters, while folks at headquarters are preparing damages declaration paperwork so affected Alaskans can receive timely help to get them back on their feet.

Alaska Army and Air Guard are under new leadership. Both divisions received commanding generals with an eye on the future. Brigadier General Tom Katkus is putting the finishing touches on the transformation of the Alaska Army National Guard. The Scout configuration of the Cold War era is being put to rest, while the Battlefield Surveillance Brigade of the 21st century is standing up. The change will make Alaska relevant to the United States Army, but at the same time will give more career opportunities to rural Alaskans. There will be an emphasis on military police, engineers and medical professionals. This will give employable skill sets to rural Alaskans and open the door for more female Soldiers to join the Alaska Army National Guard.

Brigadier General Deborah McManus is the first female general in the Alaska National Guard and is the new commander of the Alaska Air National Guard. She is a visionary with strategic development experience with Operation Iraqi Freedom and has a long history in the National Guard, enlisting Airmen three decades ago. Brigadier General McManus is building the future of the Air Guard by recruiting for the new C-17 mission that we received this summer as an associate unit with the United States Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base. She is also leading the finishing touches on moving the 176th Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base onto Elmendorf Air Force Base. The construction has already begun on the new Guard area north of the runway and will consolidate many of the resources Alaska depends on at one secure and modern location.

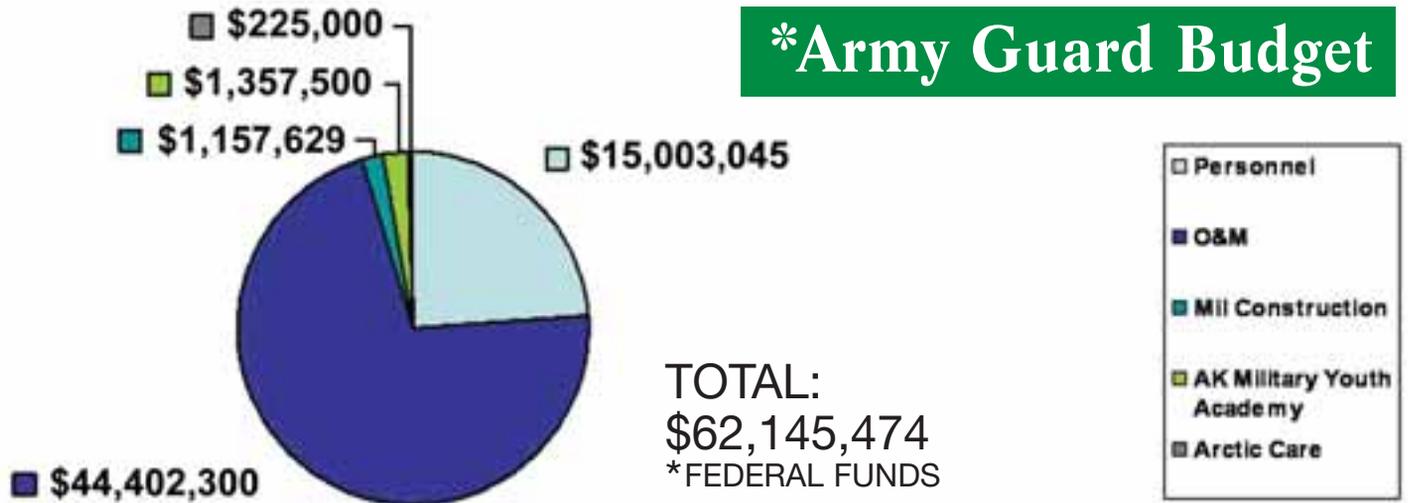
The last year has been a success for veterans across Alaska, especially our elders who were part of the Alaska Territorial Guard. Governor Sarah Palin has encouraged a new approach to getting discharge recognition for their service during World War II and it has been a success. Our Veterans Office Administrator, Jerry Beale, has been working with the Alaska Army National Guard's tribal liaison, Jerry Walton, to reach out through traditional means to have discharge applications filled out by these aging veterans. In the first three years of this program, just 171 discharge certificates were issued. In the calendar year of 2007, 250 discharge certificates have been issued to ATG members.

The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is off and running, accomplishing the mission directed by our Commander in Chief Governor Palin, to secure the state and defend the nation.

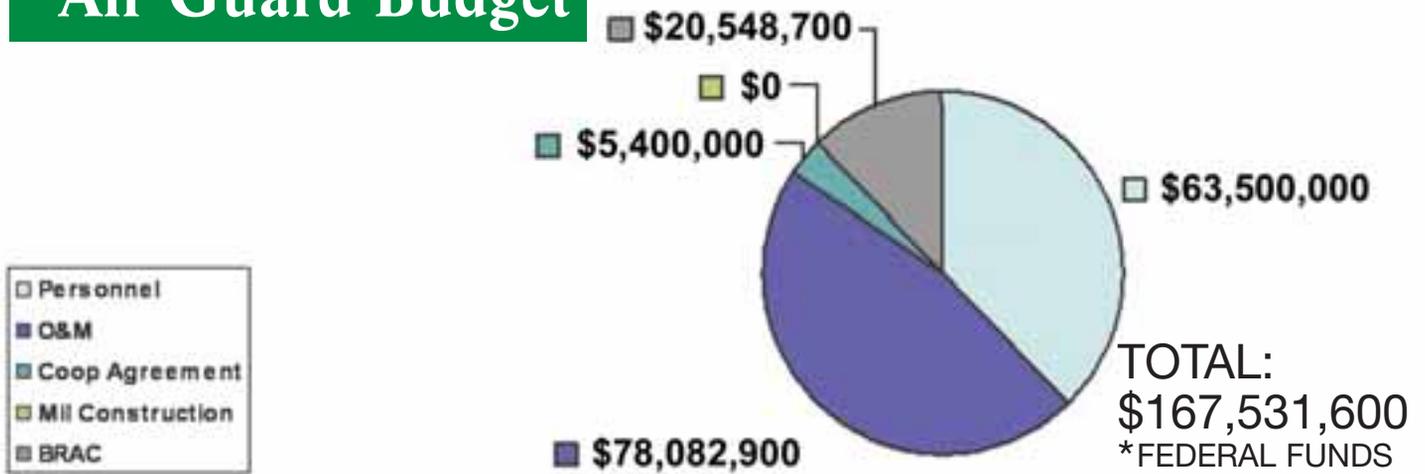
DMVA... By the Numbers

State Funding Important to Federal Support of Alaska National Guard

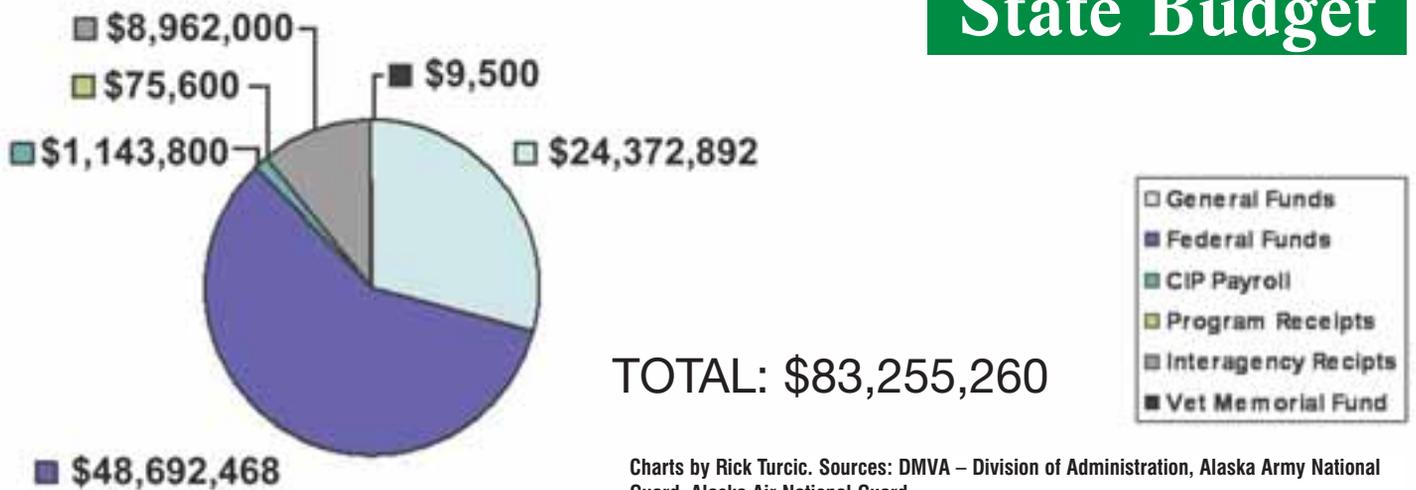
*Army Guard Budget



*Air Guard Budget

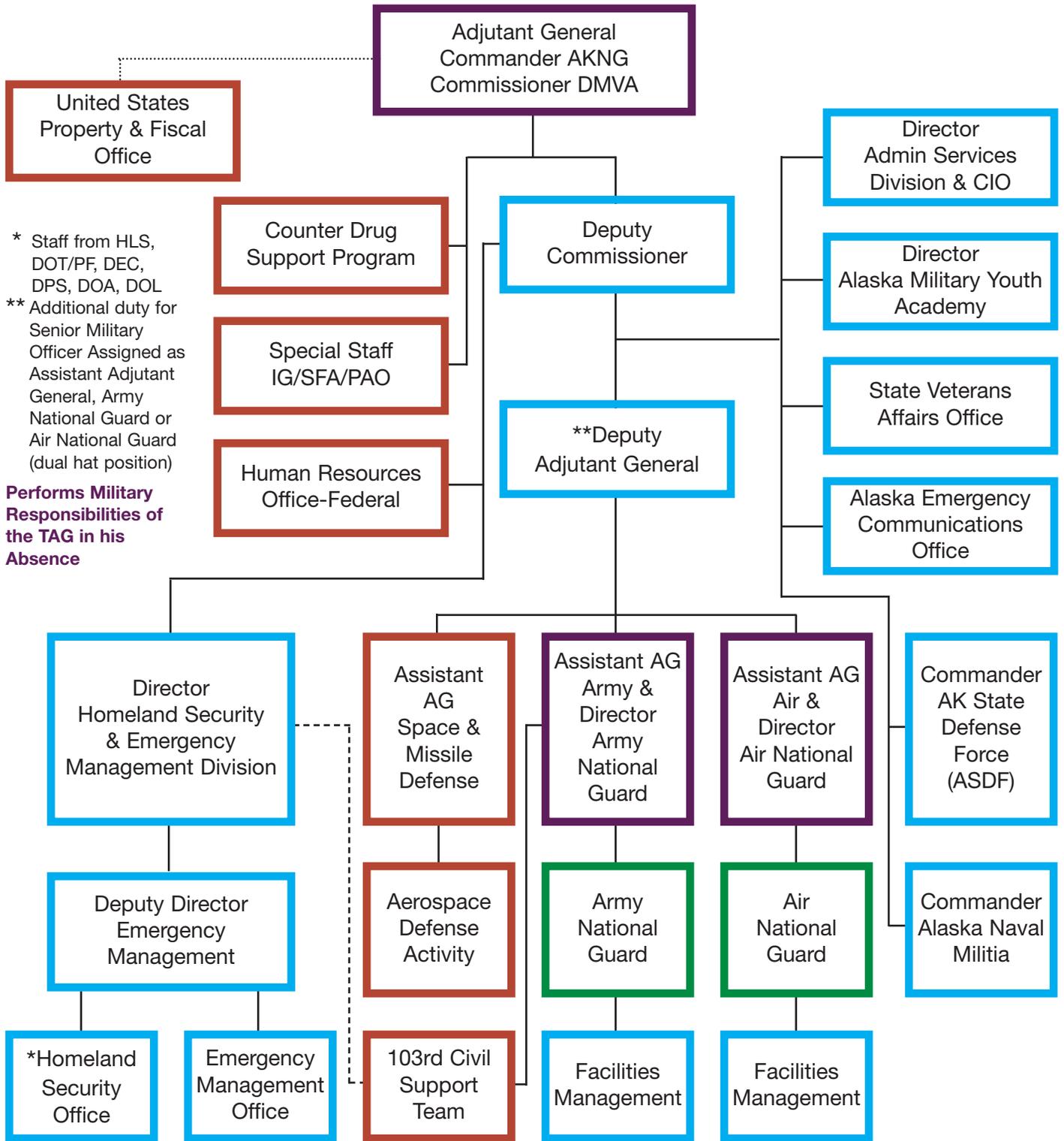


State Budget



Charts by Rick Turcic. Sources: DMVA – Division of Administration, Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Air National Guard.

Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



.....Coordination -----Supervisory Control *(When Designated)*

State
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 Combination State & Federal
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 Paid Federally when in military status,
 unless called to State Active Duty.
 Federally paid but
 may be called to
 State Active Duty

Alaska Army National Guard



Alaska Medical Detachment

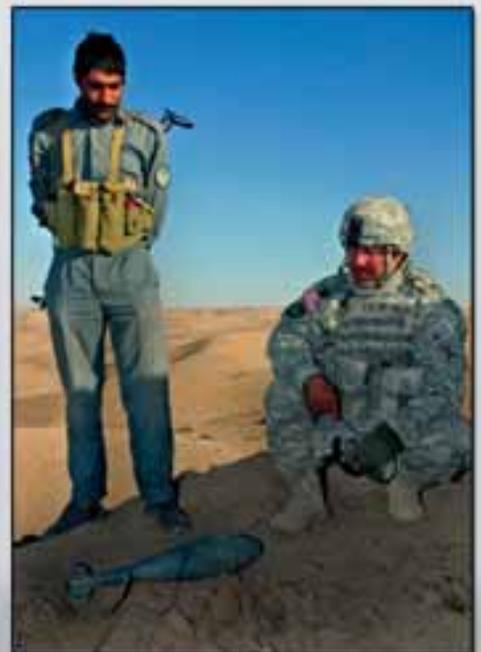
- In Training Year 2007, the Alaska Army National Guard Medical Detachment conducted medical readiness processing for approximately 1,600 Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait, in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Additionally, the detachment continued its day-to-day mission, conducting retention physical exams, flight physicals and medical board actions. Further, the unit played a vital role in more than 544 post-deployment processing actions.
- During the same period, the Medical Detachment deployed personnel to a wide range of theaters in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The detachment also supported USARPAC missions to Mongolia designed to promote security and cooperation. Major Morgan Goring and Master Sergeant Roma Scougal were deployed for OIF. Major Steve Craddick and Sergeant First Class Curtis Stull deployed for OEF. Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Harvey was assigned as Senior National Guard Advisor and Patient Liaison at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, supporting returning casualties from OIF, OEF, Joint Guardian (Balkans) and Horn of Africa missions. The state surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Ray Kelley, was assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit on Fort Richardson where he takes care of follow-on actions for casualties returned to Alaska.

Operations

- **Alaska Shield/Northern Edge.** The Alaska Army National Guard participated in Alaska Shield/Northern Edge '07 (AS/NE). Northern Edge was a U.S. Northern Command Homeland Security exercise. Alaska Shield was the corresponding state of Alaska exercise to train state and local agencies. The Alaska Army National Guard trained on a variety of missions including Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP); Receiving, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI); and casualty evacuation. Nearly 200 Guardsmen deployed to locations in North Pole, Nikiski and Beluga Point via Air National Guard airplanes and Army National Guard helicopters.
- **Mobilizations.** 2007 saw the largest deployment of Alaska Army National Guardsmen since World War II. Nearly 600 Guardsmen from throughout Alaska provided security for bases in Kuwait as well as convoys moving from Kuwait to Iraq. A task force from the 207th Infantry Group (Scout) and the 297th Brigade Support Battalion provided command and control, and logistics support to multinational forces in southcentral Afghanistan.

103rd Civil Support Team

- During the previous year, the 103rd Civil Support Team (CST) provided support to the state of Alaska through numerous exercises and training conferences. The 103rd traveled to Kenai,





Soldotna, Nome, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Palmer, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Cordova and Seward integrating with DoD, Alaska Air and Army Guard, local first responders, FBI, USCG and other agencies to prepare for any WMD contingency.

- During Northern Edge 2007, the team conducted shipboard WMD operations as part of the larger exercise encompassing nearly all aspects of the Alaska National Guard. The 103rd deployed to Fairbanks twice for operational missions.
- The 103rd hosted two training conferences addressing Alaska's unique challenges. In January, we had 50 participants from across the country take part in Cold Weather Chemical Decontamination Training. This unique process was created by the 103rd to address operations at temperatures 50 below. In July, we went to Ketchikan where the United States Coast Guard and the 103rd conducted training on HAZMAT operations while at sea. This maritime focus also enjoyed participation from around the country and culminated in working with Holland America Cruise Lines for an orientation on one of their largest ships.
- The 103rd Civil Support Team ended the year prepared to conduct missions anywhere in support of the state's first responder community and fully integrated with federal, state, and local agencies to protect and defend the citizens of Alaska.

AKNG Counter Drug Program

- The impact of the Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) is significant in reducing drug avail-

ability. It has furthered the education of parents and youth alike, concerning the negative aspects of drug use.

- In the past year, the CDSP touched approximately 8,500 youth through drug awareness/education events with counter drug messages. The Drug Demand Reduction program supported 27 schools and six community based organizations statewide.
- In 2007, the CDSP assisted Alaska law enforcement agencies in more than 160 counter drug interdiction operations. During these activities, law enforcement officers seized:
 - 2,115 cannabis plants
 - 5 pounds of processed marijuana
 - 51 pounds of cocaine
 - 11.5 pounds of methamphetamines
 - 7,266 ecstasy pills
 - \$610,109 in currency
- Law enforcement officers made 247 drug-related arrests. The total value of illegal drugs taken off the streets along with seized vehicles and property was nearly \$7 million. The CDSP assisted in the training of more than 300 peace officers.
- CDSP, with the assistance of the state of Alaska, built a "High-Ropes" course for students in the fall of 2007. It is currently available during the summer to support the Drug Demand Reduction effort. The unit has further set the standard by having initiated a new "Stay on Track" education program as a pilot state. The Drug Demand Reduction program has proven "Stay on Track" is a valuable asset for teaching youth about the dangers of drugs.

49th Space & Missile Defense

In FY 2007, Fort Greely continued to grow and expand to meet its Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) mission requirements. Following are key highlights from the past year.

- The GMD system transitioned to an operational status prior to the North Korean missile launches on July 4, 2006, and has remained operational ever since.



- The Missile Defense Complex capabilities grew in FY 2007 to include 20 Ground Based Interceptors (GBIs) and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) broke ground on a third missile field.
- MDA, the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), and U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Greely hosted 20 national and international media visits with a combined audience of more than 100 million. Media attention on Fort Greely remains high as the U.S. continues to pursue a European GMD site including 10 GBIs in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic.
- All of the Soldiers in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (approximately 200) are full-time Alaska Army National Guard (AKARNG) Soldiers. These Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers make up 43 percent of the AKARNG AGR program.
- Fort Greely has drawn the attention of several of the America's key military leaders including Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey Jr., USNORTHCOM Commander General Victor E. "Gene" Renuart Jr., Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Commanding General Lieutenant General Kevin T. Campbell, and Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Commander, Lieutenant General Robert Wilson. These key leader visits highlight the importance America places on the GMD mission.
- U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Greely continues to expand its quality of life offerings to include the opening of a Youth Center and an on-post movie theater.
- As mission requirements grow, there is an increased demand for

Soldiers in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. To meet this operational requirement, the current Military Police (MP) Company will transform and transition from its current operational configuration to an Army National Guard MP Company, providing additional manpower and equipment to meet the evolving operational mission requirements.

207th Infantry Scout (Group) Transformation (NI)

- The 207th Infantry Group (Scout) will transform into the 207th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Scout) with an infantry company force structure partnership with the state of Texas. When completed, the 207th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Scout) will mirror United States Army force structure for the first time since the inception of the Alaska "Scouts."
- The 1-207th Aviation Battalion transformed in '07 as a part of the Army initiative to modernize and transform all aviation assets and units. The battalion converted from a Combat Support Aviation Battalion to an Air Assault Battalion. The number of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters increased from 24 to 30 aircraft. One company is stationed in Hawaii as a part of the overall plan.
- AKARNG is programmed to receive at least four of the Army's newest fixed wing cargo aircraft. The AKARNG is seeking further initiative that would partner Hawaii and Guam with Alaska to provide up to eight aircraft in the Pacific Theater.



Going to War

- **16 October 2006 – 12 October 2007.** 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry (Scout) mobilized 574 AKARNG Soldiers under Title 10 authority in support of the United State's Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) initiative in Kuwait. The Soldiers operated out of Camp Virginia, Camp Navistar, and Camp Buehring, and provided Battalion Security Force in various locations within northern Kuwait and southern Iraq.
- **17 April 2006 – 29 June 2007.** HHC, 207th Infantry (Scout) and mobilized 75 Soldiers under Title 10 authorities in support of the U.S. GWOT initiative. The Soldiers were attached to the 10th Mountain and 82nd Airborne divisions assigned to Kandahar Airfield responsible for all U.S. Forces in southern Afghanistan.
- **24 March 2007 – 11 November 2007.** Company F, 1-207th Aviation mobilized 36 AKARNG Soldiers under Title 10 authority in support of the U.S. GWOT initiative. The unit flew numerous support missions utilizing C-23 "Sherpa" aircraft through the Iraq theatre of operations.
- **August 2007 – September 2008.** Company B, 297th Support Battalion mobilized 172 Soldiers under Title 10 authority in support of the U.S. GWOT initiative. B Company's mission was to provide a security force near the northern region of Iraq.

Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program

- In September 2003, Alaska and Mongolia became partners under the auspices of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Since that time the relationship has flourished and expanded.
- The Alaska Army National Guard continues to support the Mongolian Infantry Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom with

an embedded advisor team. Stationed in Ad Diwayniya, Iraq, our advisors have assisted the Mongolian soldiers since April 2003, in the fight against insurgents.

- We ended 2006 with a successful joint Alaska Army-Air National Guard deployment to the annual Khaan Quest 2006 exercise in Mongolia. There we trained with eight other Pacific countries in peace keeping operations.
- The first 2007 event was Major General Campbell's senior leader visit to the 186th Motorized Rifle Brigade in Erdenet, Mongolia, where he took the opportunity to spread the State Partnership Program beyond military-to-military events. While there, Major General Campbell, on University of Alaska President Mark R. Hamilton's behalf, presented two University of Alaska full-tuition scholarships to students of Erdenet.
- We hosted the Office of the Secretary of Defense's annual U.S.-Mongolia policy meeting with the Mongolia armed forces general staff this past winter – further demonstrating our special relationship with Mongolia.
- We closed out the year with our program firmly supporting civilian-to-civilian engagements by being graced with a visit by President Nambaryn Enkhbayar. Between a Sister City consummation between Erdenet and Fairbanks, a sister park intent letter signing between Altai Tavaan Bogd and Denali National Park and a doctoral scholarship from the University of Alaska Fairbanks our State Partnership Program is solid and the future looks bright.
- Year 2008 looks promising with another Khaan Quest exercise and other exciting interactions.

207th Regional Training Institute

- Instructed and graduated more than 300 multi-component students from various NCOES courses.
- Developed and implemented a second Zero Phase, Officer Candidate School for Alaska Army National Guardsmen. A second phase decreases the qualification time to produce a second lieutenant and allows us to better support the Global War on Terrorism.
- Graduated six Soldiers from Officer Candidate School during 2007.
- Underwent assessment and accreditation from the United States Sergeant Major's Academy (USASMA).
- Received full accreditation to instruct Non-Commissioned Officer Education System courses.
- Underwent an assessment review from United States Army Training and Doctrine command. The accreditation review will occur in 2008.
- Prepared to send our Instructors to 19D qualification courses in order to support the upcoming transformation of the Alaska Army National Guard's main combat element.



Personnel

- Implemented several new automation tools and improved access of other programs throughout the organization. This includes on-site training for unit personnel to implement at the user level, which allowed for improved customer service to the Soldiers of the AKARNG.
- Conducted four Consolidated Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) events to prepare our Soldiers for deployment. These events included coordinating medical assets, personnel, finance, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Family Programs and the Armed Services YMCA personnel.
- Issued more than 500 DD214s and NGB 22 upon completion of military service. Improved the accountability and timely issuing of this critical document for our Soldiers.
- Continued issue of more than \$350,000 in state issued education benefits to the Soldiers and Airmen of the AKNG.
- Issued nine state level personnel policies to outline processing guidance from advancements to retirements.
- Reduced the Officer Evaluation Report (OER) and Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report (NCOER) overdue rate to as low as 7 percent.
- Reduced the number of Soldiers on the expired ETS roster to an all-time low. Encourage reenlistment and timely processing of documentation to manage the force.

Aviation

- 2007 began as B Company, 1-207th AVN returned from their Iraq deployment and settled back into business in Alaska. Aviation support requirements eased with the departure of 3/297th INF, which was manned with Soldiers from all across Alaska. F Company, 1-207th AVN deployed in support of OIF for six months, beginning in April 2007 and returning in November.
- Optempo increased as the Black Hawk pilots responded to the call to duty on the southern U.S. border in support of Operation Jump Start between January and June.
- Helicopter crews supported fire suppression operations when the Alaska Division of Forestry called upon them to support the Caribou Hill and Trapper Lake fires. The 1-207th AVN and Det 54 supported Arctic Care, Operation Santa Claus and various community events across Alaska.
- Saved 16 lives during 11 missions.

Alaska Army National Guard Facilities

- Federal Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization funds in the amount of approximately \$7.3 million and matched with state funds of approximately \$1.7 million were invested in facilities across the state.
- **Kodiak Armory.** A design-build project that expands and renovates the armory has been initiated. The project is scheduled for construction in 2008, pending funding from the National Guard Bureau.
- **New Bethel Armory.** The site has been prepared for construction of a new armory in Bethel. Construction will immediately commence as federal funding becomes available.



- **New Nome Armory.** Land procured for future construction pending federal and state funding.
- **Bryant Army Airfield.** Major improvements to the airfield are currently underway to promote safer flight operations. This project is fully federally funded and valued at \$3 million. It will be completed in 2008.
- **Civil Support Team (CST).** Design is underway to construct an addition to the CST facilities on Fort Richardson with construction scheduled for spring 2008.
- **Anchorage Armory.** The armory is undergoing a significant modernization. Current improvements include the installation of an air conditioning system, which will be operational for summer 2008; new command suite which will facilitate joint operations; construction of a Joint Operations Center (JOC), which integrates joint military operations with state emergency response activities; renovation of 3,000 square feet for consolidation of state administrative functions; reconstruction of the fire lane promoting a professional, safe and secure frontage; and improvement of the locker room to enable Soldiers to more effectively and securely store their individual tactical equipment.

Alaska Army National Guard Environmental

- Federal environmental funds in the amount of approximately \$2.1 million were invested in facilities and lands across the state.
- Under the direction of the Army Environmental Command, an inventory identifying 189 potential sites in Alaska where military munitions may have been used was completed and provided to the Alaska Army National Guard. Two contracts valued at \$15 million were awarded to local consulting firms by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Completed the Environmental Assessment for the new Nome Armory. This action completes the environmental phase that is a prerequisite for future construction.
- Remediation of fuel contamination completed at former armory sites at Kiana and Noorvik. Armories donated to local communities. Sites brought to “clean closure” with ADEC.
- Completed Subsistence Surveys of 54 communities in Western Alaska, thus providing an important database of research to protect valuable resources for the state. Additional surveys are currently underway for more than 20 communities in Southeast Alaska.



Alaska Air National Guard



Ready, for More Than Half a Century

In 1952, eleven enlisted men and five officers gathered in a Quonset hut on Fourth Avenue in Anchorage, for the first Unit Training Assembly of the Alaska Air National Guard. They had no aircraft, and only a small office above the bus depot. In the following 55 years, the Alaska Air National Guard has grown to a nationally and internationally recognized gold-plated organization. Fourteen different types and models of aircraft have worn the Alaska tail flash; and that small, intrepid band of Citizen Soldiers evolved into an organization more than 2000 strong with eight operational missions.

In June 2006, the newest aircraft to bear the Alaska Air Guard logo arrived at Elmendorf Air Force Base: the C-17 Globemaster. Crews consisting of two pilots and two loadmasters began flying worldwide missions the next month. In all, some 90 Airmen and women will comprise the 249th Airlift Squadron. This squadron will fly and train with the Air Force's 517th Airlift Squadron.

While new weapons systems and mission always generate a buzz, the truly exciting story of the Alaska Air National Guard over the past year centers on its people and the continuous outstanding service they provide the state and nation during extremely turbulent times. Our history of excellence during change continues.

The Home Game

Search and Rescue continues to be the most visible mission we perform, and the one most likely to touch our Alaska citizens' lives, and this year was no exception. The Rescue Coordination Center coordinated 150 rescue missions that saved 94 lives. Many of these missions were flown by the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons – combat veterans who bring their warfighting skills home to Alaska.

Less visible, but vital to our safety are the Homeland Defense missions performed by three of our other squadrons. The 176th Air Control Squadron and 168th Air Refueling Squadron spent much of their year protecting Alaskan skies in response to Russian President Putin's increased probing of the Alaska Air Defense Zone (ADIZ). The 176th ACS directed alert fighter response and coordinated air refueling by 168th ARW tankers. The 168th not only provided hundreds of thousands of gallons to fighters intercepting Russian bombers, it also controlled and maintained large number of Active Air Force KC-135s deployed to Eielson Air Force Base in support of this heavy response.

Looking further over the horizon, the 213th Space Warning Squadron at Clear Air Force Station maintained a watchful eye over numerous ballistic missile events around the world. The unit tracked more than 1.5 million space objects and participated in three actual missile warning events. This squadron successfully completed the transition of the Space Warning and Surveillance mission from the Air Force to the Alaska Air National Guard as the last active Air Force missile warning operators left the installation.

Sweeping nationwide changes in the Air National Guard did not leave Alaska untouched. Manpower restructuring in conjunction with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) committee decisions directly impacted our units. The 206th Combat Communications Squadron will officially close its doors in April 2008, but the unit nearly completed its drawdown this year. The 206th CBCS was an outstanding organization that provided vital

capability to Alaska in the form of robust emergency communications. We will miss the unit, but look forward to having its highly trained members continue service in other work areas.

The BRAC-directed move of the 176th Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Elmendorf Air Force Base also got underway. Nearly \$20 million in capital construction projects were started or contracted for at Elmendorf. This move will take the 176th Wing back to the airfield where it began.

The Away Game

More than 700 Alaska Citizen-Soldiers from all walks of life volunteered to take time away from family, home and work to serve abroad. The 144th Airlift Squadron completed its year-long federal activation and deployment to Afghanistan. While deployed, the squadron flew 5,600 sorties and dropped more than 4 million tons of supplies to coalition forces directly engaged in combat. Alaska unit patches were seen from Iceland to Antarctica and from the sands of the Pacific to the sand dunes of Iraq; 36 locations in all.

Major unit deployments occurred in Norway, Guam, Afghanistan, Manus, Iraq, Germany, the Horn of Africa and Israel. Smaller deployments peppered the Middle East, Kyrgyzstan, Korea and many other locations.

Participation in our federal missions gives members the chance to employ the training they receive during their 12 yearly unit training assemblies and 15 days of annual training. The ability of our organizations to go to war with only 63 scheduled days on training each year is a testament to the quality and dedication of the personnel who work in the Air Guard. The circle is completed when our members return home and are able to use skills honed by deployments and combat to serve Alaskans during disasters and emergencies.

Sustaining Our Core Competencies

The key to the Alaska Air National Guards successes rests in our ability to recruit and retain Alaskans who are motivated to serve. Our biggest challenge has never been taking the fight to the front. Our mission record speaks for itself. Our single challenge in the following years is the same faced by all the military services. This year, our recruiting numbers remained steady. A small cadre of dedicated recruiters continued to work miracles in our major population centers. Generous benefits from the grateful Alaska government help sustain our momentum. Tuition assistance and tuition reimbursement for traditional members attending the University of Alaska schools is a wonderful benefit for our traditional, part-time members. Expanded medical coverage, life insurance and world-class technical training are some of our other valuable member benefits.

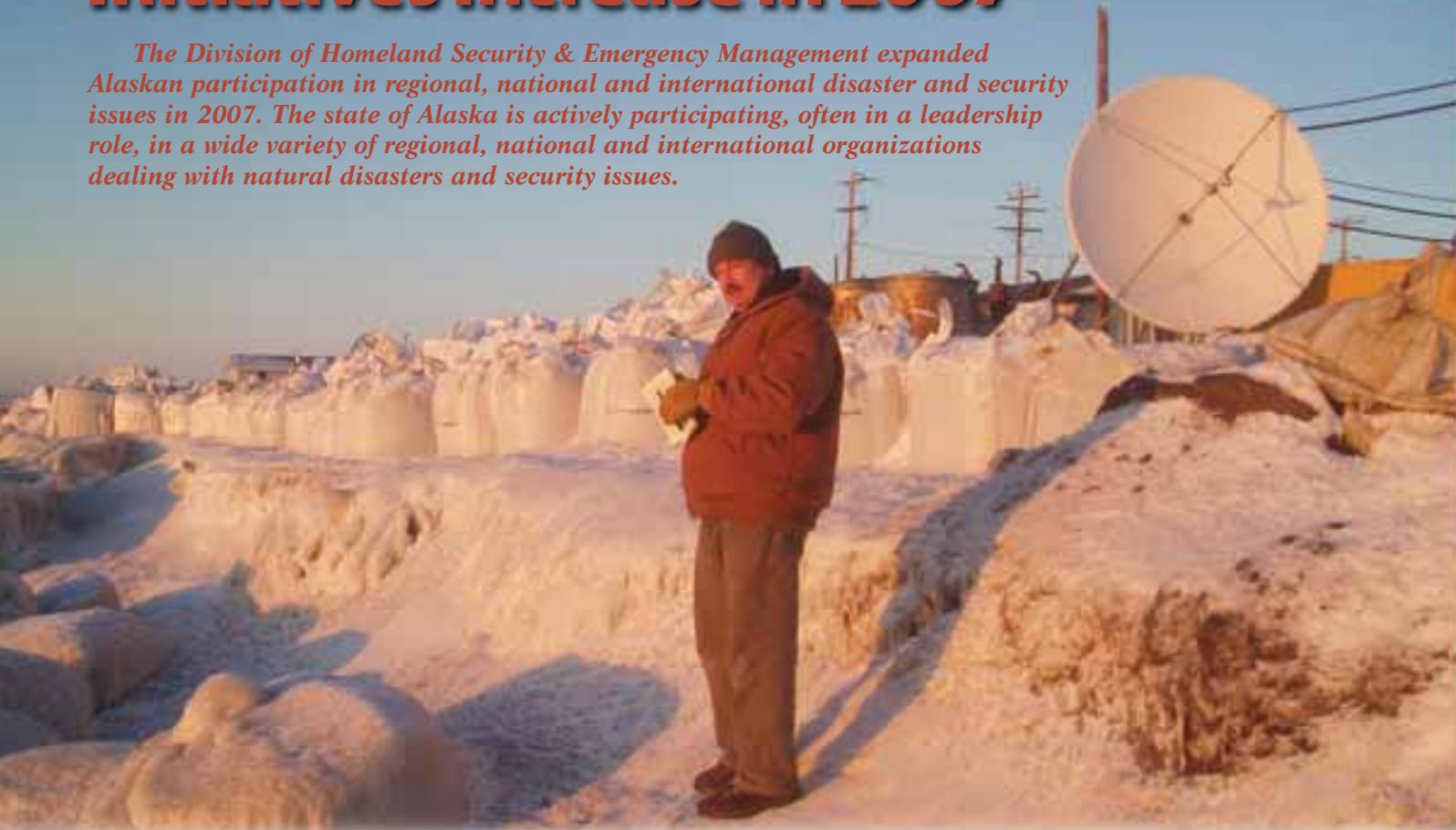
As we face the future, we are certain of one thing, it will continue to change. The Alaska Air National Guard stands ready – as it has for the last 55 years, to meet the challenges of those changes.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Initiatives Increase in 2007

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management expanded Alaskan participation in regional, national and international disaster and security issues in 2007. The state of Alaska is actively participating, often in a leadership role, in a wide variety of regional, national and international organizations dealing with natural disasters and security issues.



- Alaska Shield 2007 Exercise, a part of Northern Edge, was the most complex state-led exercise of a state's response to a terrorism threat to critical private industry.
- The state of Alaska's co-chair of the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Alaska proved the value of partnering with local, state, and federal law enforcement and emergency management agencies in dealing with a terrorist threat to Alaska.
- The state's participation in the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Association and the Pacific North West Economic Region highlights the advantages of mutual support between the U.S. states in the region and Canadian provinces and territories.
- Identified as a leader in Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Alaska was one of the few states handpicked to participate in the State Local Tribal Territory Government Coordination Council and the Homeland Security Consortium to help guide the federal Department of Homeland Security.

The division drafted and exercised the state's leadership role in protecting Alaska, Alaskans and their critical infrastructure. During the Alaska Shield 2007 exercise, the governor's leadership role in coordinating the local and state law enforcement agencies,

as well as the Alaskan National Guard, in the protection of critical Alaskan infrastructure was proven. In close cooperation with the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Alaska, at the governor's direction, the Alaskan plan to protect the critical energy sector was thoroughly tested. The key to Alaska's ability to protect its critical infrastructure is the state's close partnership with private industry, a clear example of that is the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection.

State Homeland Security & Emergency Management requirements with Alaskan National Guard resources were integrated. During Alaska Shield 2007, the execution of the state's plan to protect the energy sector needed a statewide response by the Alaskan National Guard. In the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management determined the mission and operational tasks that needed to be accomplished. These instructions were passed to the National Guard. The Alaskan National Guard Joint Task Force Headquarters developed and executed detailed tactical military plans. This was the first test and success of this close integration of civilian and military leadership in the department. This concept was further proven in real life when the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management determined the need for

Alaskan National Guard forces to be prepared to provide additional security at the International Whaling Commission. While the National Guard was not called up, the concept was proven.

Statewide preparedness and outreach were improved with PEAK. In the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management are developing the PEAK program. PEAK stands for Preparedness for Emergencies in Alaska and is a statewide program to reach a broad audience to encourage emergency preparedness. There are five targeted venues: schools, communities, the general public, private industry and media. The goal is to teach Alaskans to be better prepared for emergencies they are likely to face in Alaska.

We improved care for Alaska and Alaskans – pre- and post-disaster. In the last year, the state has spent \$5.4 million on hazard mitigation projects throughout Alaska. These projects will reduce the vulnerability of the state to natural disasters. Additionally, in the last year, the state has provided \$15.8 million in federal and state public and individual assistance for recovery from disasters. We are working with many communities to prepare local hazard mitigation plans.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is providing statewide training in the federally mandated National Incident Management System and participating in the National Shelter System. The state is providing regionalized training and exercises in key hub communities. This approach saves money and helps communities prepare for actual disasters. Communities in the region are in a far better position to prepare for and respond to a disaster in their own community and in those nearby.

The development of regional commodity distribution centers will also strengthen the regional idea. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is partnering with other state departments and federal agencies to prepare for a potential pandemic influenza. The state is also increasing its partnership with voluntary and charitable organization whose mission is to provide care to those suffering following a disaster. There have been marked improvements in temporary housing to for those who have lost their homes or their homes are inhabitable while they are being repaired.

By leveraging federal programs and providing increased technical assistance, the state is reducing their cost for disaster recovery while maximizing completion of disaster recovery and mitigation projects. Additionally, the state is conducting security and vulnerability assessments in communities throughout. This will provide a systems approach to security in the communities rather than looking at single sectors.

We improved crisis response in order to reduce disasters. By improving the state's ability to respond to a community in crisis, we frequently assist the community in resolving the crisis before it becomes a disaster. For example, by assisting the community to find needed fuel or power generation capability, the state prevents the disruption to the community and its citizens. By ensuring the community has all the forecasts and warnings of potential severe weather

or other natural disasters, the state helps the local communities make informed decisions. This can be life saving to coastal communities. Flood warnings, river watch and tsunami warning systems all give the community the time to seek shelter. Additionally, rural community infrastructure protection planning can reduce the impact of a disaster.

We empowered communities to be disaster resistant and resilient. The state is assisting communities to become disaster resistant and resilient by providing emergency management training and planning. In this way the community can build its response capability. If need be, the community can then lead the incident management and response to a disaster.

We are changing emergency management from a reaction to a discipline. With a coherent strategy and doctrine guiding us, the state will rewrite the Emergency Response Plan to emphasize preparedness, mitigation and deterrence before the disaster, and rapid restoration of community stability afterwards. The new plan will confront the full range of risks, threats and hazards – natural and manmade – facing Alaska. This will strengthen our statewide capability to ensure continuity of operations and government.

To facilitate this effort we are transitioning our state Emergency Coordination Center to an Operation Center capable of command and control of the full range of state and local assets and capabilities. Additionally, we will expand on the energy sector protection plan to include more sectors vital to Alaska, its citizens and its economy; including food, water, medical, energy, communications, transportation and finance.





Veterans

2007 – Providing Services to More Veterans



The Alaska Veterans Office provided services to more veterans and their family members in 2007, with outstanding support from Governor Sarah Palin and Major General Craig E. Campbell.

Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG) members are being recognized and officially discharged for their service during WW II.

- 1,000 applications for federal recognition and discharge have been received.
- Participation was significantly increased when the DMVA Tribal Liaison Office was added to the ATG Team.
- Governor Palin encouraged other state agencies in rural communities to participate in the outreach to an estimated 6,600 ATG members and their families for completion and submission of applications.



Joint Venture Grant service officers assisted more than 11,000 veterans and their families in receiving more than \$22 million from claims for earned benefits they were authorized in 2007. Alaskan veterans will receive almost \$117 million in compensation and pension payments, largely due to the efforts of the service officers under this program.

The Alaska State Approving Agency program, in its second year under DMVA, increased approved educational programs for veterans by more than 3 percent over the previous year. Currently, there are 783 programs available at 52 education and training facilities across Alaska. Approximately \$8 million was distributed to eligible Alaskans improving their education and training through the GI Bill program payments.

With the backing of Governor Palin, federal law changes have allowed five states, including Alaska, to provide veterans home loans from the proceeds of issuing the tax-exempt Qualified Veteran Mortgage Bonds (QVMB). The impact was an increase in veterans using the program from 44 in 2006 to more than 400 in 2007. Additional bond funding is currently being pursued from Congress.



Mr. Maurice Bailey was selected by the governor for the Veterans Advocacy Award for 2007. A Vietnam War veteran, Mr. Bailey organized the Veterans Aviation Outreach program to help Alaska's rural veterans improve their quality of life through better access to VA facilities and services.

The Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home was accredited by the Veterans Administration, the final step in a 30-year process. Now, qualified veterans living at the facility will have up to 30 percent of their personal monthly expense for care paid for by the VA.

The Alaska Veterans Office has continued to support other major programs to include:

- The Veterans Memorial Endowment Fund with \$12,400 available from the fund next year.
- Stand Down programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks helping 700 veterans and family members with access to veteran services, hot meals and warm clothes.
- Governor's Alaska Veterans Advisory Council staff support.
- Design and release of the Gold Star Family license plate with the Division of Motor Vehicles.



Alaska Military Youth Academy

Serving Alaskans and Changing Lives

This year has been a year of change, yielding outstanding results within the Alaska Military Youth Academy. The Alaska Military Youth Academy's tuition-free ChalleNGe program is located on Fort Richardson within the Camp Carroll training site. It is designed to provide at-risk 16-year-old through 18-year-old Alaskan youth, who have dropped out of high school, with a chance to complete a high school education or earn a GED, gain healthy life skills and develop leadership and teamwork skills that will prepare them for lifelong success.



- The program received a new division director and deputy director who come highly qualified to lead the program into the future.
- The two most recent graduating classes were the largest in the Academy's history.
- Rural and Interior Alaska student applications and participation are significantly increased. Cumulatively, the Academy exceeded 2,365 graduates who are demonstrating exceptional success in their lives and futures.

Alaska's ChalleNGe program is based on historically tried and proven American military based training methods and structure. The structure and discipline allow Cadets to focus on goals and to fully participate and perform during the mentally and physically demanding 22-week residential phase. It is not a military "boot camp."

To graduate from the residential phase, Cadets are required to pass eight core components, which include: Academic Excellence, Physical Fitness, Job Skills, Community Service, Health and Hygiene, Responsible Citizenship, Leadership/Followership and Life Coping Skills. The residential phase further prepares Cadets to successfully continue in the program's year-long post residential phase, where students pursue their documented future plans.

To provide Alaskan youth and families easier access to Academy information, and facilitate the application process, the school maintains two satellite offices – one in the

Dimond Center in south Anchorage and another in the Alaska Army National Guard Armory in Fairbanks.

- Since opening the admissions office in Fairbanks, applications from Interior and Rural Alaska increased more than 400 percent and continue to remain high.
- Applications received and processed for the fall class of 2006 and spring class of 2007 were the highest in the Academy's history.
- For the most recent graduating class, 36 percent of applicants were from Rural and Interior Alaska.

In the fall of 2006, and into the spring of 2007, the Academy achieved maximum use of the Academies capabilities by selecting 250 cadets to attend each class and having at least 210 cadets report for in processing the first day of class. Graduation metrics for the fall class of

2006 reflect 154 cadets graduated, while the spring and fall classes of 2007 each graduated 140 cadets. These graduation rates represent the three largest graduating classes ever in the 13 year history of the Academy.

As of August 2007, the Academy has graduated more than 2,505 ChalleNGe Cadets. National program metrics reflect that more than 90 percent of the Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe graduates are leading productive, successful lives more than a year after completing the post residential phase.

The Academy's main campus located at Camp Carroll provides living facilities, food service, academic classes, vocational training, medical services and administrative support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for ChalleNGe Cadets. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. The Academy is also an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development testing site.



Starbase Alaska



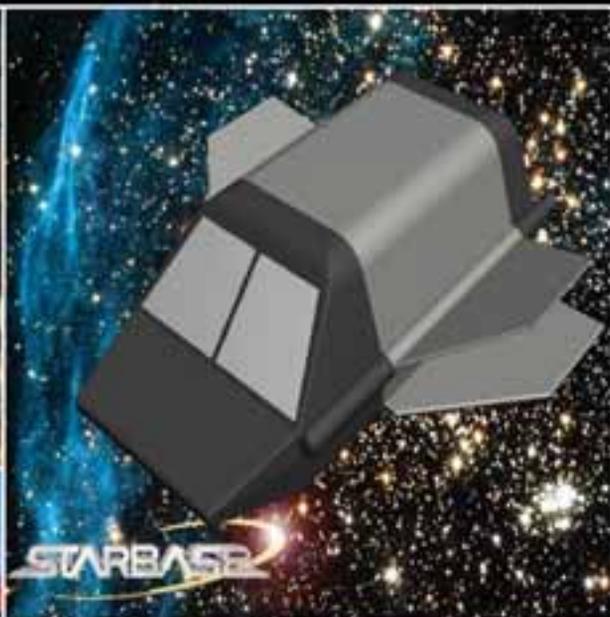
To Raise Interest and Improve the Knowledge and Skills of Youth in Math, Science and Technology

STARBASE Alaska seeks to “Add Value to America” through an educational opportunity designed to assist in overcoming three of the most difficult problems facing today’s youth: lack of personal direction, allure of substance abuse, and – most importantly – poor preparation in science, math and technology. Academically, the program is designed to challenge, motivate and stimulate young people with aviation and space science activities. Socially, it is structured to assist today’s youth in identifying positive alternatives to negative pressures found in their environment.

STARBASE Alaska is a highly interactive and hands-on educational enrichment program aligned with grade level expectations as well as state and national educational standards. By structuring our curriculum to the Alaska State Standards, our current target audience is 6th grade students during the school year. However, the STARBASE core curriculum can incorporate 4th through 7th grade, which becomes our target audience during the summer months.

During the 2007 school year, STARBASE Alaska at Fort Richardson reached more than 1,250 students in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna areas. In addition, a second site in Kenai was opened at the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska (CLCA). This second site was able to reach more than 500 students from the Kenai area. During the summer months we are able to reach out to special groups such as the families of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

Due to high demand for STARBASE, we added teacher kits to reach even more classrooms. STARBASE provided one-day “Teach the Teacher” training, and materials were provided to individual teachers for three days of STARBASE curriculum. Then Teacher Kit classes



were scheduled with two days onsite for PTC, flight simulation and other exciting non-transportable activities.

Each student that participates in the five-day academic program is exposed to the following concepts and ideas: Basic Aviation Physics (Properties & States of Matter, Properties of Air, Newton’s Laws of Motion, Bernoulli’s Principle and Four Forces of Flight); Teamwork Skills; Goal Setting Skills; Computer Flight Simulation; Parametric Technology for Computers (PTC), a 3-dimensional computer design program created specifically for the STARBASE program; Model Rocketry; and Reinforcement of a Drug-Free Lifestyle, provided by the

DDR (Drug Demand Reduction) Unit.

Each year STARBASE Alaska has grown in size and scope of their original mission. STARBASE Alaska continues to expand their reach into the community through participation in local school science nights, Kids Day, the Mat-Su Governor’s Picnic and partnerships with other non-profit organizations such as the Alaska Aviation Museum. By becoming “Partners in Education” with local school districts, STARBASE Alaska continues the mission of educating and developing responsible, productive, life-long learners and critical thinkers capable of assisting and leading America successfully in the 21st century.

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