



FOR Oct. 16, 2016

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New Army National Guard unit activates at JBER

1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment stands up

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, will activate during an Oct. 16 ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory here.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Roberts will assume command of the newly formed organization during the ceremony.

Additionally, 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Squadron will deactivate.

Col. Wayne Don, 38th Troop Command commander, will preside.

"Sunday's activation of 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, marks a momentous milestone in the transformation of the Alaska Army National Guard," Don said. "The battalion will train to support statewide missions and to rapidly deploy anywhere in the world in support of combatant commanders."

The unit will comprise a headquarters company, three rifle companies (A, B and D), and a forward support company. A fourth rifle company, C Company, belongs to the Wyoming Army National Guard.

The battalion will be a subordinate unit to the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii Army National Guard.

A history of the 297th Infantry Regiment is attached.

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Details:

What: Activation ceremony of 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment

When: Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, 9 a.m.

Where: Alaska National Guard Armory on JBER

Note: Media interested in attending the ceremony must call 428-6030 to RSVP for coordination by Saturday, Oct. 15. Please leave a message with name, affiliation, and contact number. Plan to meet at the JBER-Richardson gate visitor's center at **8:30 a.m.** on Sunday for escort to the event.

297th INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY

Constituted Oct. 21, 1939 in the Alaska National Guard as the 297th Infantry 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, organized and Federally recognized Jan. 11, 1941 with headquarters at Juneau

Inducted into Federal service Sept. 15, 1941 at home stations

Reorganized and redesignated Jan. 26, 1944 as the 208th Infantry Battalion, Separate

Inactivated May 16, 1945 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi

Reorganized and federally recognized July 12, 1950 in southeastern Alaska with headquarters at Juneau

Reorganized and redesignated Oct. 1, 1953 as the 208th Infantry Battalion

Consolidated Feb. 1, 1959 with the 1st Scout Battalion (see ANNEX 1), 2d Scout Battalion and the 207th Infantry Battalion to form the 297th Infantry, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 1st and 2d Scout Battalions and the 3d Battle Group

Reorganized Jan. 20, 1964 to consist of the 1st and 2d Scout Battalions and the 3d Battalion

Expanded 1 May 1972 to form the 297th Infantry, to consist of the 1st and 2d Scout Battalions, and the 297th Cavalry, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 5th Squadron, 297th Infantry and 297th Cavalry consolidated 1 October 1976 and consolidated unit designated as the 297th Infantry, to consist of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 5th Battalions

Reorganized Nov. 1 1978 to consist of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th Battalions

Withdrawn May 1, 1989 from the Combat Arms Regimental System and reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System

Reorganized Sept. 1, 1989 to consist of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions

Reorganized Sept. 30, 1992 to consist of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 5th, and 6th Battalions

Reorganized Sept. 1, 1994 to consist of the 1st, 2d, and 6th Battalions

Reorganized Sept. 1, 1995 to consist of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions

Redesignated Oct. 1, 2005 as the 297th Infantry Regiment

(elements ordered into active Federal service 6 July 2006 at home stations; released from active Federal service 1 January 2008 and reverted to state control)

Converted and redesignated Sept. 1, 2009 as the 297th Cavalry Regiment, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 1st Squadron, with Headquarters at Fairbanks.