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Commander in Chief



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# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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**Cover.** Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet Cheyenne Cayton, of North Pole, Alaska, gives two thumbs up after her first successful jump tower trip in May. Cayton was one of 144 cadets from Class 2014-2 who graduated from the Alaska Military Youth

Academy's ChalleNge program in August, joining the 4,128 previous graduates since 1994. Inset photo: Cayton went on to join the U.S. Army and was sworn in by her stepfather, Maj. Jason Moncuse, who is congratulating her after the ceremony in August. Following graduation she left for basic training with additional training in Strkyer maintenance. Photos: Roman Schara, AMYA



**Training.** Members of 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, conduct hoist training with a Stokes litter basket near Knik and Colony glaciers about 50 miles north of Anchorage in August. Photo: Capt. Amy B. Slinker, Alaska Army National Guard

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veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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# For the People



**Governor Sean Parnell**  
Commander in Chief

## Overcoming Challenges, Restoring Trust

Alaska National Guard members have a long history of selfless service to our great state. From search-and-rescue missions to deployments around the globe to helping Alaskans recover from natural disasters, Alaskans know our Guardsmen are the best of the best. You are always ready, always there.

In February 2014, after receiving concrete evidence of leadership failures, I requested the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigations do an assessment of allegations of failed leadership. The team conducted an extensive review of both the Alaska Air and Army Guard, reviewed thousands of records, conducted a command climate survey and gathered information through 185 interviews.

Thank you to all Guard members who took part in this process. I released the full report, which showed serious problems with the Guard's leadership in handling sexual assault cases, equal employment opportunity complaints and administering justice for other misconduct in a fair, even-handed manner without reprisal.

The OCI made several sound recommendations. To implement these recommendations, we have assembled a team that includes Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks, members of my staff and a National Guard team led by Brig. Gen. Jon Mott. If you have not been participating in the Implementation Planning Team, there is still time to get involved. The more Guard members who contribute ideas, the better

the outcome will be for all Guard members.

The assessment report gave us a clear road map to make positive changes in the Alaska National Guard so we can restore Guard members' trust in Alaska Guard leadership, complete successful missions and create a workplace where all are heard and treated fairly.

As Guard members, you always work as a team to overcome challenges and come out of it stronger. This is one of those moments when we need your full-on participation. I am counting on each one of you to join with me in this challenge.



**Town Hall.** Gov. Sean Parnell speaks with members of the Alaska Army National Guard during a town-hall meeting at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October. During the meeting, Parnell answered questions from Guard members pertaining to the released report from the Office of Complex Investigations, current changes within the AKNG and how the Guard will move forward. The meeting was open solely to members of the AKNG with the rank of lieutenant colonel and below in order to promote an open discussion between the Guardsmen and their commander in chief. Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



# The Acting Adjutant General



**Brig. Gen. Leon (Mike) Bridges**  
Acting Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard &  
Acting Commissioner of the DMVA

## Alaska National Guard Reforms Are Underway

Alaskans are rightly concerned about serious allegations of abuse and misconduct within the Alaska National Guard.

While allegations surround a small number of the 4,000-member Guard, we take them seriously and want to communicate what we are doing to resolve the very grave challenges we face.

This is a difficult time in our organization. We are making significant process, program, training, and education changes in the Alaska National Guard to address the findings and recommendations in the Office of Complex Investigations report. This will take time.

The National Guard Bureau is providing assistance to us so we can focus on taking care of our Soldiers, Airmen and the mission. NGB sent an implementation planning team, led by Brig. Gen. Jon Mott of the Connecticut Air National Guard.

We deeply appreciate the assistance of the implementation team. Three team members from across the nation are also with us as subject-matter experts, working through the process.

Alaska National Guard members of all ranks and career fields volunteered to be on work teams to specifically identify steps to be taken because change must be initiated from within if it is to be authentically adopted into Guard culture. Brig. Gen. Mott's group will be here as long as it takes to facilitate the plan developed by our teams.

We will correct issues addressed in the report. Working together, we will improve our professional culture and strengthen our operational missions.

We have a series of administrative actions under review and will not discuss details until final determinations are made. At that time, we plan to release additional information regarding outcomes.

The implementation team is facilitating Alaska National Guard leaders in developing an implementation plan addressing the recommendations.

The plan will contain accountability metrics, specific desired-end states, goals and objectives, milestones required to achieve them, metrics used to measure change and other actions required to ensure completion.

The implementation team will ensure whatever tools, guidance, policy or resources required are available. State and National Guard leadership will be briefed and their input welcomed.

Brig. Gen. Mott and his team have had productive interactions with the AKNG leadership and believe the leadership is committed to developing a corrective plan.

The implementation team includes qualified people from distinct areas of

expertise, including an active-duty lieutenant colonel judge advocate general from NGB; a command sergeant major from the New Mexico Army National Guard, who is a subject-matter expert in equal opportunity; and a sergeant major from the Indiana Army National Guard who is a law enforcement expert and a trained military sexual assault investigator.

Brig. Gen. Mott himself has been involved in numerous rebuilding, restructuring and reorganization projects at all levels in his 32-year military career. Mott and his team have reached out to the entire staff of the NGB headquarters, as well as National Guard subject-matter experts from across the country.

Even when their physical presence is no longer required, NGB will continue to monitor and provide assistance to ensure support of the new AKNG leadership so that they can take care of the AKNG Soldiers and Airmen and their mission.

In addition to the NGB implementation team, a team of auditors were in Alaska in October at Gov. Sean Parnell's request to more thoroughly examine the management of fiscal resources. The team is comprised of the director of Internal Review, chief of Audit Operations and a senior auditor assigned to National Guard Internal Review Office.

The NGB audit team's initial visit will be followed by a November trip to complete the audit. This quick-response audit comes at the request of the governor. They have three months to complete the audit. Their draft report is expected in December.

We are undergoing a complete change at the Alaska National Guard. Our Soldiers and Airmen deserve it. Our citizens deserve to know we are committed to transforming our culture and restoring the trust that has been so badly damaged by the actions of a few who betrayed the men and women of the Alaska National Guard. ■

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# Implementing Change

## IN THE ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** ... On Sept. 4, Gov. Sean Parnell released a 57-page report of findings from the National Guard Bureau's Office of Complex Investigations that detailed a comprehensive analysis of multiple problems challenging the Alaska National Guard, its leadership and its processes.

Because of concerns about the AKNG's workplace culture, Parnell requested the investigation in a letter to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank Grass, who then initiated the investigation.

The five key areas identified by the report include sexual assault, equal-opportunity programs, coordination with law enforcement, fraud and command climate. The report also provided guidance for changes to correct these issues.

With the recommendations detailed, NGB sent the Alaska Implementation Team here, made up of four senior Guard leaders from across the country and led by Brig. Gen. Jon K. Mott, Connecticut National Guard assistant adjutant general-Air.

"The NGB-AIT is comprised of experts in key areas," said Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "They are here to assist and advise the Alaska National Guard with implementing needed changes for us to move forward in a way that ensures our values and the well-being and confidence of our members are upheld."

Working in conjunction with the NGB-AIT, the AKNG put together its own implementation planning teams to address the separate issues — one team each for four of the five categories identified in the OCI report and another they chose to add. The teams are AKNG Sexual Assault IPT, AKNG Equal Opportunity IPT, AKNG Law Enforcement IPT, AKNG Command Climate IPT and the added team, AKNG Justice IPT. Fraud is being looked into by an NGB

audit team for a more in-depth assessment of the issue.

The AKNG-IPTs have been tasked to develop an implementation plan based on the recommendations of the OCI report. The plan will contain details for each recommendation from the report. It will detail the desired end-state of the recommendation, required goals and objectives, milestones that are required to achieve it, metrics to measure that effort and suspense dates required to ensure they are addressed in a timely manner.

Each week, the teams conduct meetings to discuss the plan and what needs to be done to accomplish their objectives.

"In the first meeting, we established what the goals were for the program," said Lt. Col. David McPhetres, director of staff for the Alaska Air National Guard, who is acting as one of the managers of the AKNG IPT program. "Each team built out what their order of emphasis was, what they're doing, what their recommendations are, how they're measuring it and what milestones they've created. Those are then reported back during the Friday meeting along with a status. If there are problems that require outside assistance, it gets reported at that meeting, which feeds to Brig. Gen. Mott, who then reports back to the governor."

A rare opportunity that has arisen out of this process is that future leaders of the AKNG — from the junior enlisted Guardsman and up — have been given an opportunity to effect positive change to improve the organization, explained McPhetres. "We opened the effort to everybody within the Guard," he said.

The weekly team meetings are open to Guardsmen, who are invited and encouraged to participate. Like the full-time staff, traditional Guardsmen are also encouraged to attend if they can. If they cannot attend the meetings, they are still encouraged to participate by providing feedback to the AKNG-IPTs, either through their chain of command or directly to members of the teams.

"The best way for Guardsmen to help is to be part of the solution," McPhetres said. "If they have a recommended solution to a problem, they can share it in one of the IPTs, send it to me, a team lead or anyone in their chain of command. The key point is that everybody is capable of identifying problems, and the challenge is that we need people to also help identify solutions."

According to feedback from the teams, progress is already being made relating to the recommendations from the OCI report.

"The Alaska National Guard is creating a more inclusive process in regard to educating Soldiers and Airmen about promotion criteria and policies," said Lt. Col. Wayne Don, commander of the 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska Army National Guard, who serves as a co-lead on the AKNG Command Climate IPT. "We are increasing senior enlisted involvement in helping to educate Guard members about the selection process."

Also, a state equal employment manager position was listed and is currently in selection process of filling that job. Other positions are being filled as well. The 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, hired a new equal opportunity director and put its part-time EO specialist on full-time orders in September.

Each step is one closer to improving the organization, explained McPhetres.

"We drafted a vision statement that puts us somewhere over the horizon and where we want to be," he said. "Ultimately, whatever the result of our process is, we want a vision statement that is somewhere better than where we are today. Our next series of goals are to get our Soldiers and Airmen involved because it's really the grass-roots piece that needs to be the foundation and needs to embrace the vision. We need our people to believe in the process, and we want them to get behind whatever it is that takes us to the vision of what's better than today." ■



## Silver Star Awarded to Alaska Pararescueman

By Capt. John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



### JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

A pararescueman with the Alaska Air National Guard's famed 212th Rescue Squadron received a Silver Star — the nation's third-highest award for valor — in a ceremony here in July.

Master Sgt. Roger Sparks was awarded the honor for his actions during a fierce firefight with insurgents in Afghanistan's Watapur Valley on Nov. 14, 2010. Responding to a call to retrieve combat casualties in support of Operation Bulldog Bite, Sparks and a fellow pararescueman, Capt. Koa Bailey, descended from helicopter via hoist under enemy fire. Upon touchdown, they were both blown off their feet by a rocket-propelled grenade, and Sparks instructed the flight crew via radio not to lower any more personnel because of the high volume of fire.

Under fire from three directions, the pair began communicating with nearby coalition aircraft to direct air strikes against insurgent positions. Making contact with forces on the ground, they began to consolidate the wounded and provide treatment.

"Despite the threat of continued enemy fire and with no concern for his personal safety, Master Sgt. Sparks immediately began administering lifesaving procedures with his limited supply of first-aid gear," the citation reads. "When he exhausted his medical supplies, he improvised using belts, T-shirts or boot strings in a desperate attempt to keep his patients alive ... he feverishly triaged chest wounds, punctured lungs, shattered hips, fist-sized blast holes, eviscerated stomachs and arterial bleeders with extremely limited medical supplies and only the light of the moon piercing the darkness.

"Sparks exhibited extraordinary resolve, calm and heroism under constant enemy fire for nearly five hours, which resulted in four American lives being saved and four casualties being returned to their families with honor and dignity," the citation continues. "Through his extraordinary heroism, superb Airmanship and resolve in the face of the enemy, Master Sgt. Sparks reflected the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force." ■



**Honored.** Master Sgt. Roger Sparks, right, and Maj. Joseph Conroy, both with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, hold an award citation during a ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in July in which Sparks was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor, for his role in a firefight with insurgents during Operation Bulldog Bite in Afghanistan's Watapur Valley on Nov. 14, 2010. His actions during the combat operation resulted in four American lives being saved and four casualties being returned to their families with honor and dignity.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



**You Saved My Life.** Karl Beilby, a contractor with the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, speaks during an award ceremony about the day Master Sgt. Roger Sparks, a pararescueman from the 212th Rescue Squadron, saved his life in Afghanistan. Sparks was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor, for his role in a firefight with insurgents during Operation Bulldog Bite in Afghanistan's Watapur Valley on Nov. 14, 2010. Beilby was one of four men whom Sparks was credited with saving during the events of that day.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

# Where in the World

## Decontamination Training in the Aleutians

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Sullivan,  
103rd Civil Support Team

**UNALASKA, Alaska ...** The Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team–Weapons of Mass Destruction conducted a two-day hazardous material decontamination training with local emergency responders here in August.

Twenty Guardsmen worked with the Unalaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services and members of the UniSea hazmat team to share and establish decontamination procedures. One of the training scenarios had the hazmat agencies responding to a shipping container that washed ashore and contained multiple unknown 55-gallon drums.

The 103rd conducted downrange field analysis on the drums while the Unalaska first responders provided decontamination support.

“This scenario provided extremely realistic training for both agencies,” said Senior Fire Capt. Zac Schasteen, Unalaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services. “During peak season, hundreds of ships pass through Akutan Pass carrying thousands of containers; it is not an unrealistic scenario for containers to fall off the ships and land on our shore. The training between the 103rd and our department allowed us the opportunity to get critical feedback on our decontamination procedures.”

Both days of training enhanced the working relationship between the 103rd CST and the Unalaska Fire & EMS. By working with first responders in remote locations such as Unalaska, the 103rd CST is able to practice and enhance its standard

operating procedures to ensure a smoother operation should a real-world event occur.

“The 103rd CST’s main focus is learning local first responders’ capabilities and procedures, which will allow for seamless integration between both agencies in the event of a response,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dutch Inman, 103rd CST.

The 103rd CST serves as the state’s all-hazard chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialists who work in concert with local first responders in

hazardous materials situations. As subject matter experts, the CST routinely travels to all parts of the state to train and work with first responders.

In addition to the hazmat training, the leadership of the 103rd took the opportunity to provide some professional development on the Aleutian Islands Campaign for the unit’s Soldiers and Airmen.

The Aleutian Islands Campaign, often called “The Forgotten War,” serves as a platform to educate people on Alaska’s

Mongolia

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**Slippery Slope.** Members of the Alaska National Guard participate in the 2014 Mountaineering Club of Alaska’s Ice Climbing Festival on Matanuska Glacier in September. The festival serves to teach students of all skill levels the techniques of modern ice climbing. Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



**Decontamination.** Members of the Unalaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services provide decontamination capabilities to the Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team–Weapons of Mass Destruction during a recent joint training mission in Unalaska in August. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Melissa Sullivan, 103rd Civil Support Team

**Aleutian Campaign.** Members of the Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team–Weapons of Mass Destruction visit the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area in August. The unit traveled to Unalaska to conduct hazardous materials training with local first responders, and while there they took the opportunity to learn about the attack on Dutch Harbor and the Aleutian Campaign during World War II. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Melissa Sullivan, 103rd Civil Support Team



**Rescue Visit.** Erik Bjarnson, a firefighter from North Shore, Canada, stands in front of an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with Master Sgt. Brandon Stuemke, a pararescueman from the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, during a visit on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October. Bjarnson was rescued in 2005 by members of the Alaska Air National Guard, Parks Canada, and Denali National Park and Preserve when his climbing team became stuck during a blizzard atop Mount Logan in the Yukon Territory of Canada.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DIMVA Public Affairs



**Road Construction.** Sgt. Wilfred Almeida, heavy vehicle driver with the 207th Engineer Support Platoon, Alaska Army National Guard, uses a grader to build a road after receiving instruction from U.S. Army Alaska's 6th Engineer Battalion during his unit's first annual training as a unit on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August. After a week of heavy equipment operations, the Guardsmen focused on a variety of warrior skills including radio procedures using VS17 panel markers to call in Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, land navigation, improvised explosive device training, squad tactics and even vertical training on the rappel tower. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Earl, 207th Engineer Support Platoon

**Partnerships.** Alaska Army National Guard and Mongolian Armed Forces participants of a lessons learned and doctrine seminar pose for a photograph at the Peace Support Operations Training Center, Mongolia, in June. The seminar was an opportunity for both armies to share and learn from each other as part of their partnership in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

Photo: Senior Master Sgt. Earl Singleton, Alaska Air National Guard



history. The Aleutian Islands were invaded and occupied by Japanese troops until the United States countered the occupation and re-took the islands. Unalaska and Attu were two sites where the United States and Japan battled for control of the Aleutians.

"It connects us to the lineage and history of the military in Alaska; unfortunately, it is not as widely known as other battles in the Pacific," said Sgt. Paul Oliver, a survey team leader, 103rd CST. ■

## Lessons Learned in Mongolia

By Owen McCauley,  
Center for Army Lessons Learned

**FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS ...**  
The Alaska National Guard sponsored a U.S. Army Lessons Learned and Doctrine Seminar in Mongolia in June as part of its State Partnership Program with the

Mongolian Armed Forces.

The U.S. Army Combined Arms Center coordinated and conducted the seminar in support of U.S. Pacific Command's security cooperation objectives by deploying personnel from the Center for Army Lessons Learned and Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate to Mongolia.

Members of the Alaska Army National Guard and the Mongolian Armed Forces participated in the seminar and worked together with Combined Arms Center coordinators to review and assess the Mongolians' processes.

The seminar's purpose was to assist the Mongolians' methods of analyzing and managing information gleaned from experience to improve both their lessons learned and doctrine processes.

Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Col. Baatar Baljid, commander of the Mongolian Joint Training Center, Mongolian Armed Forces, gave the opening remarks for the seminar.

"Use this opportunity to learn from each other; both armies have a lot to share," Bridges said.

During seminar briefings, participants discussed previous and upcoming peacekeeping deployments as well as disaster support and humanitarian assistance efforts. Service members from each participating nation shared past experiences and lessons learned to foster cooperation and compatibility in future multi-national operations and exercises.

Mongolia has been an active participant in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, deploying troops to both theaters in support of coalition operations.

Mongolia is also an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping operations with deployments to Sierra Leone, South Sudan and other conflict areas.

"The Mongolian Armed Forces are doing a great job in their peacekeeping operation mission," Bridges added. "They are earning respect from the world community."

The seminar supports Mongolia-U.S. bilateral defense cooperation, which plays a vital role in strengthening Mongolia's defense reforms and military transformation. ■



**Jump.** Paratroopers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division jump from an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 Hercules as part of a Joint Force Entry Exercise on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The six-day exercise involved more than 1,500 personnel including active-duty Army and Air National Guard members.

Photo: Capt. John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



## ALASKA'S LARGEST AIR GUARD UNIT DEEMED "HIGHLY EFFECTIVE"

By Capt. John Callahan,  
176th Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** ... Anchorage's hometown Air National Guard unit earned good grades in a recent inspection by its Air Force parent unit.

Visiting the 176th Wing in June, inspectors from the Honolulu-based Pacific Air Forces gave the wing an overall "effective" rating, terming the wing's drill period as "very successful."

"We've proven through this inspection that our Airmen are among the best," said the wing's commander, Brig. Gen. Donald S. Wenke. "I couldn't be more proud."

To demonstrate its capabilities for the inspectors, the wing participated in the joint exercise Polar Guardian 14-2. During the course of this exercise, the 176th Wing flew more than 130 missions, including air



**Configuring the C-130.** Crew members from the 144th Airlift Squadron set up a C-130 Hercules to accommodate Army paratroopers as part of a Joint Force Entry Exercise, called Polar Guardian 14-2, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Photo: Staff Sgt. N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs



**Medical Attention.** Capt. Jason Collins, right, and other 176th Medical Group members practice medical aid techniques during an exercise at Camp Mad Bull in June during Polar Guardian 14-2. Photo: Capt. John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

drops of Army and Alaska Army National Guard troops, cargo/personnel movements and simulated rescue events. The exercise also included a simulated plane crash with responses by wing firefighters, security forces and medical personnel.

“The exercise was robust for the entire wing,” noted the inspection team leader, Col. David G. Vanderveer Jr., in a report to Pacific Air Forces Commander Gen. Herbert J. “Hawk” Carlisle.

The inspection marked a new approach to gauging wing readiness. In past inspections, held every four years or so, PACAF inspectors would scrutinize each of the wing’s individual units amid a burst of activity. That approach has changed. The new routine calls for unit inspections to be done on a year-round basis by the wing’s own Inspector General’s Office. The role of the PACAF inspectors, therefore, will be more limited.

Instead of inspecting each unit, they will inspect the wing’s own inspection program, talk to the wing’s Airmen and get a sense of their concerns, and look into specific issues highlighted by the Airmen and/or wing leadership.

None of the wing’s graded areas were rated less than “effective,” and one of the

most important – “executing the mission” – was considered “highly effective.”

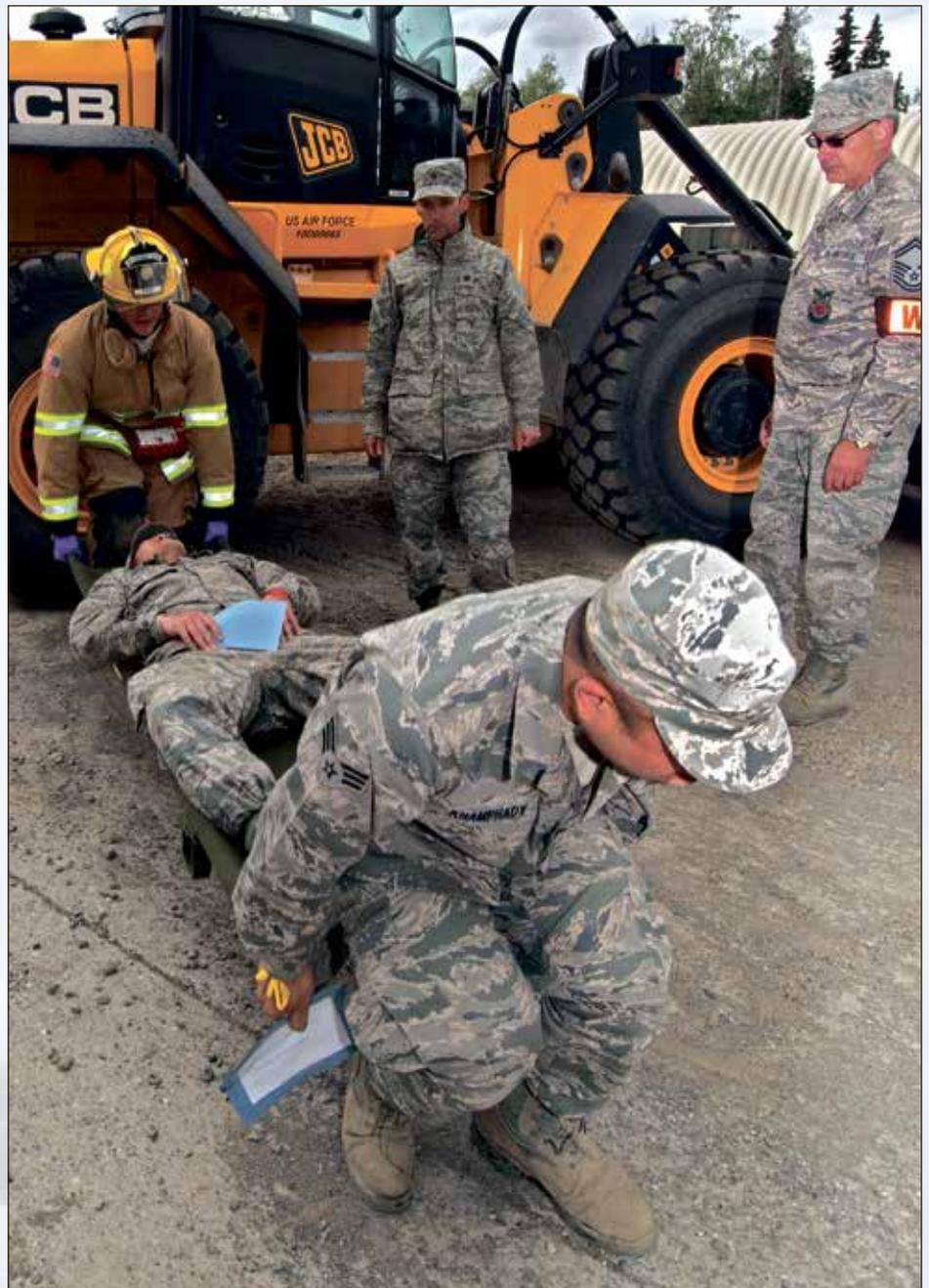
“Overall, the 176th Wing is highly effective at executing all their mission sets,” the report concluded. “In 2013, rescue forces responded to 444 search-and-rescue incidents and logged 123 saves. Through May of this year, they have already investigated 159 incidents and saved 32 people. The three rescue squadrons maintained a constant alert presence, enabling an immediate response when called upon. Additionally, the wing supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Damayan, participated in six diverse exercises supporting multiple major commands and sister-service

objectives, conducted two local humanitarian operations and supported air sovereignty missions.”

The inspectors praised the cooperation between the Alaska Air Guardsmen and their active-duty and reserve counterparts.

“The (active-duty and Guard) leadership at all levels have a good relationship, and when faced with manpower or support constraints, leaders proactively engage with one another to meet mission requirements,” the report noted.

The inspector’s bottom line: “The 176th Wing’s ‘Midnight Sun Guardians’ stand ready to execute their state and federal missions.” ■



**Rescue Techniques.** Firefighters and other 176th Civil Engineering Squadron members practice rescue techniques during an exercise at Camp Mad Bull on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Photo: Capt. John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

*“The 176th Wing’s  
‘Midnight Sun Guardians’  
stand ready to  
execute their  
state and federal  
missions.”*



**Shaking in Valdez.** The Quake Simulator sits in Valdez during Gold Rush Days in August to give residents an opportunity to experience an 8.0 magnitude earthquake in a safe environment as well as learn about preparedness in case a real quake hits. Photo: Julie Baker, DHS&EM

## DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON

By Julie Baker and Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...** The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Public Outreach team hit the road this summer, traveling to nine communities across the state with the earthquake simulator and one simple message: “Drop, Cover and Hold On.”

Alaska has more earthquakes than any other state, and it makes sense for the state to have one of three earthquake simulators in the country. DHS&EM purchased this very powerful tool in 2012 to promote emergency preparedness and provide earthquake education. The latest version of the earthquake simulator employs technology to provide a safe and realistic demonstration of nature’s power up to a magnitude 8.0 earthquake.

“Our priority is to reach a variety of audiences, including emergency responders, medical professionals, business owners, students, teachers, community leaders and the general public,” said John Madden, DHS&EM director. “Each Quake Simulator event is an educational experience. These events include safety fairs, preparedness expos, conferences and educational outreach programs. Our goal is to provide emergency

preparedness education and the risks associated with an earthquake event. We also provide detailed planning information to reduce earthquake hazards and how citizens can prepare before the next earthquake strikes.”

Completely portable and mounted on a dual-axle trailer, the traveling display is part of the division’s comprehensive earthquake safety education campaign. The interior, which is easily viewed through a large audience window, resembles a home office with a bookcase, computer, printer and

television carefully secured with earthquake straps. The straps and connectors protect the occupants from falling objects as shaking and lurching movements demonstrate the violent nature of a major earthquake.

Participants take a seat and hold on tight while emergency management specialists remind them of the recommended earthquake safety action: drop, cover and hold on. This essential call to action is visible on the exterior and interior of the simulator. The very convincing physical and visual experience, as well as the repetition of the essential safety message, leaves a lasting impression on even those who have experienced significant earthquakes.

This realistic effect is created by a powerful electric motor that thrusts the 2,000-pound contraption through a series of horizontal and vertical movements. The structure rests on custom racing springs and heavy-duty steel rollers controlled by a gearbox. Tests by the University of Southern California confirm the simulated movement is consistent with the shaking created by a local, shallow earthquake with a magnitude of 8.0.

The purpose of the simulator is to encourage citizens to be better prepared for earthquakes and to promote actions that mitigate the hazardous situations portrayed. Free brochures on how to mitigate earthquake risks at home and at work are distributed, and participants can discuss emergency preparedness issues with experts in emergency management. Although the focus is on earthquakes, information about



**Youth Summit.** Students from the Chitose-Anchorage Sisterhood Cities Youth Summit experience the Quake Simulator in August. The Youth Summit brought Japanese and Anchorage students together to learn about natural disasters that are common in Japan and Alaska, the importance of disaster preparedness and ideas to engage their peers. Photo: Courtesy DHS&EM

On Oct. 16, a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill was conducted worldwide with millions participating. Unlike many disasters, earthquakes are no-notice events. If people do not know what to do before the shaking begins, there is no hope to educate them during an earthquake. Visit [www.shakeout.org/alaska](http://www.shakeout.org/alaska) for more on preparedness information.



**Ready to Rumble.** The Quake Simulator puts people in Valdez through an 8.0 magnitude earthquake in August. Valdez Gold Rush Days brought feathered costumes to the earthquake simulator. It is community events such as these that allow DHS&EM emergency management specialists to offer preparedness tips and to meet local emergency managers. Photo: Julie Baker, DHS&EM

tsunamis and other natural hazards is also available.

The simulator is not limited to the Alaska road system. The Alaska Railroad has partnered with DHS&EM and provides transport along the rail system. The Alaska Marine Highway System enables the simulator to reach communities not served by the road system. Communities interested in hosting the earthquake simulator should email akpreparedness@alaska.gov. The simulator is available for events from May through October, dependent upon weather and staff availability. ■

**Top 10 Earthquakes  
IN THE UNITED STATES**

- 1** 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake  
1964 — Magnitude 9.2
- 2** Cascadia Subduction Zone  
1700 — Magnitude 9.0
- 3** Rat Islands, Alaska  
1965 — Magnitude 8.7
- 4** Andreanof Islands, Alaska  
1957 — Magnitude 8.6
- 5** East of Shumagin Islands, Alaska  
1938 — Magnitude 8.2
- 6** Unimak Islands, Alaska  
1946 — Magnitude 8.1
- 7** Yakutat Bay, Alaska  
1899 — Magnitude 8.0
- 8** Denali Fault, Alaska  
2002 — Magnitude 7.9
- 9** Gulf of Alaska, Alaska  
1987 — Magnitude 7.9
- 10** Andreanof Islands, Alaska  
1986 — Magnitude 7.9



**Creating Access.** The Tanana River Bridge spans more than three-fifths of a mile and provides year-round access to the largest military training area in the United States. In addition, it stops ice-jam flooding in Salcha as well as provides access to a hunting area. Photo: Courtesy Office of Gov. Sean Parnell

# New Tanana River Bridge Gives Multiple Benefits to Region

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska ...** The Tanana River Bridge opened this fall after a ribbon cutting ceremony in August.

The project was one of the first recommendations of the Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team, the group Gov. Sean Parnell created by administrative order to provide recommendations on retaining and building the state’s current military force capability.

More than three-fifths of a mile long, the bridge allows both wheeled-vehicle and train transport. It is designed to provide dependable, year-round access to the largest military training area in the United States – the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. The bridge also provides some additional advantages.

“Beyond benefits to the military and our economy, this bridge will be a major benefit to the community of Salcha by stopping ice-jam flooding from destroying homes,” Parnell said. “The bridge will also provide conditional and seasonal access to a hunting area that will make it possible for permitted and registered hunters to put meat in the freezer for their families.”

The bridge was built in partnership with the Department of Defense. The State of Alaska provided \$84 million and the Department of Defense provided \$104.2 million for the project. The Alaska Railroad completed the state’s longest bridge on time and on budget. ■



## Alaska National Guard Day

By Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...** From Fairbanks to Juneau, Alaskans gathered to celebrate and recognize the remarkable efforts of their past and present National Guardsmen.

Gov. Sean Parnell signed House Bill 247 on April 30, 2012, establishing Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 of each year to honor the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.

The governor's proclamation reads: "On this day, and throughout the year, we recognize the incredible efforts of past and present Alaska National Guard members and thank them for the sacrifices they make daily and have made in defending our freedoms and ensuring our security."

"I am honored to lead the courageous men and women who serve in our Alaska



**Aircraft Tour.** Lt. Col. Robert Mackelprang, 168th chief of safety, Alaska Air National Guard, provides attendees of Alaska National Guard Day a tour of a KC-135 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base.

Photo: Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



**Celebrating the Guard.** Members of the Alaska National Guard gather for an Alaska National Guard Day ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Gov. Sean Parnell signed House Bill 247 on April 30, 2012, establishing Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 of each year to honor the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

National Guard,” Parnell said. “Today, Alaska National Guard Day, we honor you and your families and say a profound thank you for all you are and for all you do.”

For more than 75 years, the Alaska National Guard has defended our nation and state. The Guard first rendered invaluable service in World War II as the Alaska Territorial Guard, and has since mobilized and deployed troops to the Middle East, Africa and West Asia in support of the War on Terror. There are more than 4,000 members serving today.

“I take pride each day I wear the uniform, realizing that everyone who would like to may not get the same opportunity as I have for 21 years,” said Maj. Irma Keator, 168th Force Support Flight commander, who volunteered to read the Governor’s Proclamation during the Alaska National Guard Day celebration at the 168th Air Refueling Wing.

“If I had it to do all over again, I would, as there is nothing else I would rather do than serve my country both home and abroad.”

The events across the state included the reading of the Governor’s Proclamation along with remarks from leadership. Past and present Guardsmen joined together to view static displays, tour aircraft, and reminisce on days of new and old.

“As the saying goes, when you love your job it’s like you never worked a day in your life,” said Rex Barnes, a retired member of

the 168th Air Refueling Wing who attended Alaska National Guard Day at Eielson Air Force Base. ■



**Future Guard Members.** Chief Master Sgt. James Wolverton, 168th Logistics Readiness Squadron superintendent, provides attendees of Alaska National Guard Day a tour of the facilities at Eielson Air Force Base in July.  
Photo: Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

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**Pre-flight Check.** Maj. Kelly Harrison, 168th Air Refueling Squadron pilot, conducts a pre-flight check around the aircraft to ensure everything is in order at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base.

# 168th Airmen Support NATO Mission in Germany

Story and photos by Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**GEILENKIRCHEN NATO AIR BASE, Germany ...** Alaska Air National Guard members from the 168th Air Refueling Wing spent two weeks in October, supporting the Airborne Warning and Control System NATO mission here.

The 168th ARW is one of 18 Air National Guard units that support the 17 E-3A AWACS aircraft and their radar surveillance missions by providing refueling capabilities.

Maintenance Airmen play a key role by ensuring Alaska Air National Guard's two KC-135s in Germany are kept in the best possible condition.



**Squeaky Clean.** Senior Airman Cody Albert, 168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, cleans the cockpit window of a KC-135 before a flight in September at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base.

“Our system knowledge is used not only to fix problems when they happen but to diagnose and prevent future problems from happening,” said Airman 1st Class Deren Trounce, a 168th Maintenance Squadron hydraulics technician.

As the only hydraulics specialist on a team of 19 Airmen who traveled to Geilenkirchen, Trounce said he gained experience and confidence in his skill set.

“Back home I have a support net,” Trounce said. “My mentors guide me through fixing a problem. Here it’s basically me; I am the hydraulic specialist.”

With the help of Staff Sgt. Shawn McCarthy, 168th Maintenance Group aircraft electrical and environmental technician, Trounce fixed a fuel line leak in the wheel well and bled the system of air pockets.

Working closely with Airmen from career fields ranging from avionics communication and navigation to crew chiefs and propulsion helped Trounce appreciate their knowledge and become better at his job, he said.

“This trip not only reinforces the knowledge I already have but helps me extend what I know,” Trounce said.

This growth echoes among the 168th Airmen supporting the AWACS mission. Airmen build on their knowledge and experience, which benefits the 168th teamwork at home, said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Renson, 168th Maintenance Squadron component maintenance flight superintendent.

“When they’re back home, all these shops are segregated, and they perform their own duties,” Renson said. “When they get here,

we integrate them into each other's jobs so they are helping each other. There's not enough of each one to do their job by themselves so they all have to pitch in."

Many of the specialists wear two hats, helping crew chiefs launch and recover aircraft, Renson said. Prior to the trip, Airmen spend a day learning to refuel the aircraft, add oil to the engines, install a tail stand and additional pre- and post-flight procedures.

Airmen gain experience with different skills when their specialty is not yet needed, Renson said.

"For example, if you don't have any engine write-ups, you can have them do crew chief launches," Renson said. "When there's no electrical and environmental work, we'll have them help propulsion when they're hurting."

In many ways, the trip is a unique training opportunity for many Airmen, such as Staff Sgt. Mike Meyers, 168th Fabrication Shop aircraft structural mechanic.

"Bird strikes don't happen very often at Eielson," Meyers said. "It happens sometimes, but not very often. Now here, there's a very high possibility that it's going to happen because of the number of birds on the runway."

If a bird were to hit a KC-135 during takeoff or landing, varying degrees of damage could occur.

Meyers, the only sheet metal specialist, would fix any dents or cracks on parts that must be replaced or repaired.

"We brought little pieces of metal and all the basic tools to fix it, such as a drill, rivet gun and measuring equipment to measure distances between holes and make a rivet pattern," Meyers said.

Each specialty brought tools, parts and repair equipment on the aircraft on large pallets. For supplies unavailable in Germany, a 168th Logistical Readiness Squadron Airman on the trip can provide support and acquire them.

Because Geilenkirchen is not home to an air refueling unit, KC-135 parts are hard to get if needed, Renson said. They would need to be ordered and delivered from another base, which can be time-consuming.

"The only parts for a KC-135 that are here are the ones we brought with us," Renson said. "There is some limited stuff that crosses over from the AWACS because it's the same basic airframe, but those parts are very limited and very few."

The success of the 168th ARW refueling mission at Geilenkirchen depends on the teamwork of Airmen and the culture of melding and sharing knowledge they create. ■

**Getting Ready to Launch.** A 168th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 is pushed backward by a tow truck prior to a launch in September at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base. The aircraft carries 125,000 pounds of fuel and will offload 30,000 to 35,000 pounds to receiving Boeing E-3As.



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# ALASKA GUARDSMEN

## Train With Allies While Deployed

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** ... Approximately 25 pararescue and support personnel with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing used their time while deployed to the Horn of Africa to sharpen their skills and train with partner nations.

The Guardsmen deployed to Djibouti in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa, attached to the 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron.

“Our primary mission there was to provide a personnel-recovery force for the

Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa,” said Capt. Christian Braunlich, director of operations with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

Aside from having a Guardian Angel team on 24/7 alert for medical evacuation and search-and-rescue missions, their secondary mission included training with African partner nations to improve their forces' capabilities, explained Braunlich.

Guardian Angel teams are highly trained medical personnel made up of pararescuemen and combat rescue officers who specialize in conducting high-risk rescue missions. They work closely with survive, evade, resist and escape specialists who train aircrew and high-risk-of-isolation personnel to return with honor from any type of survival situation.

The training in the Horn of Africa with partner nations included airborne operations over land and water as well as rescue craft



**Ready For Entry.** Pararescuemen with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, don self-contained breathing apparatus and prepare to enter a building during a training exercise in Djibouti in August. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa, attached to the 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron.

Photo: Maj. Matthew Komatsu, 212th Rescue Squadron

and dive operations that are logistically difficult to accomplish in Alaska because of the difference in weather and terrain, Braunlich said.

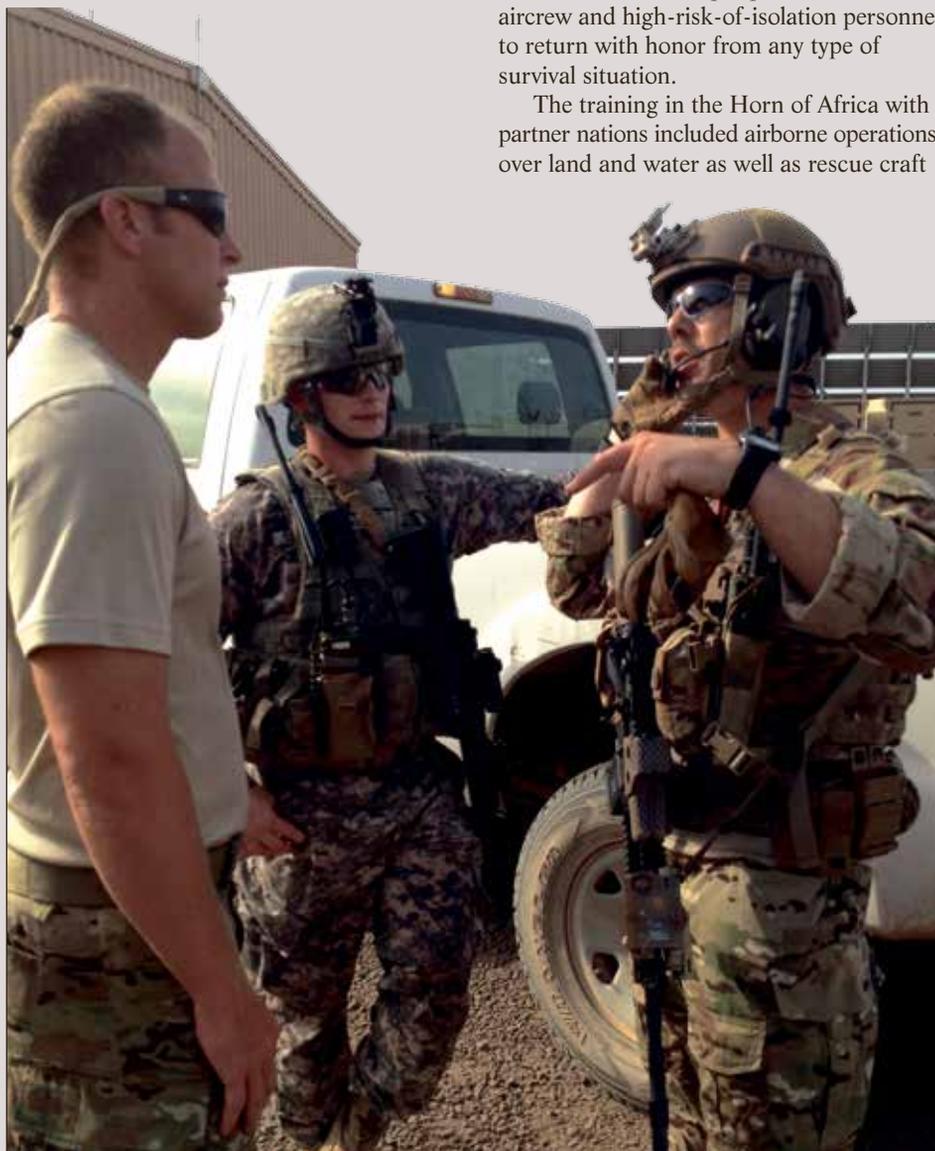
“We were also involved in some military-to-military (training) engagements,” he said. “A few of our pararescuemen provided tactical combat casualty care training for the Ugandan military, our SERE specialist provided training for a variety of American forces, and we sent a combat rescue officer, a pararescueman and a SERE specialist to Ethiopia to provide personnel recovery and SERE training for American forces there.”

Despite not being tasked to respond to or participate in rescue and recovery or combat operations, Braunlich said that the mission there was an important one.

“There's still a significant terrorist presence there threatening to further destabilize the region,” he said. “One of the organizations has stated publicly its desire to work with other fellow extremist groups in targeting Americans and America. The support we provided to friendly African forces helps both to protect us and to improve conditions in a region plagued by instability.”

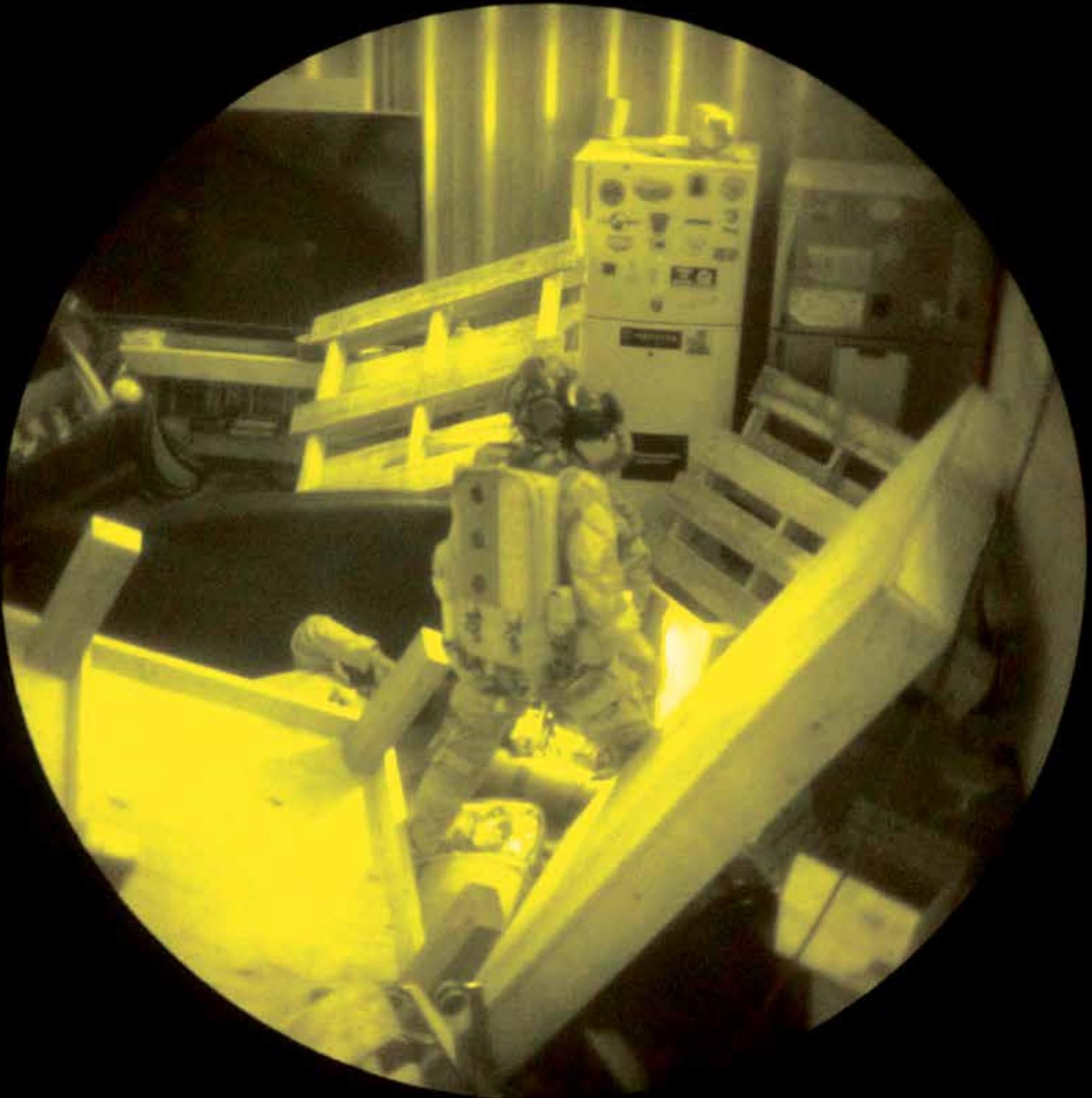
Training with partner nations in the Horn of Africa was a positive experience, Braunlich said.

“It's always interesting to see how other nations' militaries work, and I probably would never have found myself in Uganda if I wasn't deployed there,” he said. “Working with all of these units was great. Any time you start operating with organizations you don't work with regularly, there will be a familiarization period, but as a team, we leaned forward to prepare for operational missions and take advantage of every opportunity to achieve quality training.” ■



**Site-Security Training.** Pararescuemen with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, participate in a site-security training exercise in Djibouti in August. The Airmen were deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Maj. Matthew Komatsu, 212th Rescue Squadron

**Patient Extraction.** Pararescuemen with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, seen through night vision goggles, conduct patient extraction from a confined space environment during a training exercise in Djibouti in August. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa, attached to the 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. Photo: Maj. Matthew Komatsu, 212th Rescue Squadron





**Happy to Have You Home.** Spc. Caleb Schneck, a military policeman with the 297th Military Police Company, hugs his mother, Donna Schneck, after arriving at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in early August after an 11-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

# GUANTANAMO BAY DEPLOYMENT A SUCCESS

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** ... A platoon of approximately 30 military policemen with the Alaska Army National Guard's 297th Military Police Company, 761st Battalion, returned home to Alaska in early August after an 11-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"Our guys did an exceptional job," said 1st Lt. Ralph Harris, platoon leader, 297th Military Police Company, Alaska National



**Back in Alaska.** Sgt. Ulysses Cortez, a military policeman with the 297th Military Police Company, hugs his girlfriend, Jenelle Bennett, after arriving in Anchorage after an 11-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Guard. "All the units we worked for and with were really satisfied with the performance we did on the mission. I couldn't have found 29 better Soldiers to take with me on this mission. They made the unit look good, the Guard look good and they made Alaska look good."

The Guardsmen had deployed last September to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force-GTMO Joint Detention Group. Their mission was to conduct safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees, including those convicted by military commission. For the returning platoon, their primary mission during the deployment was providing area security at the facility.

"Our job was to provide external security," added Sgt. Keith Humphrey, a team leader with the 297th MP Company. "We kept unauthorized personnel out and the detainees in."

During their time there, the MPs conducted mounted and dismounted patrols around the facility. Despite working long hours, the military policemen of the 297th MP Co. stayed focused on their mission.

"There were some extremely long days but it didn't really affect any of us," Humphrey said. "We were just focused on the task at hand."

Their tasks also included manning static positions, checking credentials at control points, observation, maintaining equipment, and conducting renovations and repairs of their work areas.

Outside deployments, most traditional National Guardsmen maintain civilian careers in addition to drilling with their units for one weekend a month and two weeks a year during annual training. These skill sets often bring a wealth of knowledge and experience when the Soldiers deploy.

"The National Guardsmen are invaluable to the missions we take on deployments because we also bring the experience of our civilian careers with us," Harris said. "Our guys are well-rounded problem-solvers. There were many times that the active-duty guys fell short on support and asked if we had a welder or the like, and we were able to perform that service and help complete the mission."

Upon their return, many of the Guardsmen plan on returning to their civilian careers and going to school.

"I plan on finishing my degree," said Sgt. Jopeel Quimpo, the platoon medic for the 297th MP Company. Quimpo works for the State of Alaska certifying and recertifying emergency medical technicians and paramedics. "I'm enrolled in a nursing program and am planning on getting my bachelor's in science."

The most common theme among the MPs was that they looked forward to spending time with friends and families.

"I'm really glad to get back to my wife and children," Harris said. "I've been gone a lot the last few years, and I'm really glad to get back to Alaska. That's what I love about my home state. No matter where you go, you'll never find a place like Alaska." ■

# Guardsmen Return From Guantanamo Bay Deployment

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** ... Approximately 50 Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard's 761st Military Police Battalion returned home to various parts of Alaska in late August after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Guardsmen deployed last November to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Joint Detention Group.

"For our part of the mission in Guantanamo Bay, we were the brigade-level staff," said Capt. Brian Fuchs, who served as the battle captain for the Joint Operations Center, 761st MP Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard. "We oversaw and managed direct care of the detainees and provided transparent, humane and just care for them."

As a brigade-level staff, the Guardsmen were responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the JDG, and with that job, came a high level of responsibility.

"We kept higher headquarters informed of any actions that were occurring at Guantanamo Bay on anything that involved the detainees," Fuchs said.

Higher headquarters meant reporting all the way back to Washington, D.C., according to Fuchs.

"The most impactful thing for me before coming into this mission was in knowing that all eyes were on Guantanamo Bay," said Staff Sgt. Joyce Dean, a military policeman with the 761st MP Battalion. "During my nine months there, I saw why the detainees are still there and got to see how the process works. It answered a lot of questions for me."

Fuchs, who works for the Anchorage Police Department as a police officer when he is not on duty with the Alaska Army National Guard, said he understands the complexity of the mission.

"People who haven't been involved in detainee operations don't know how much that entails, how much time is involved or that type of care for detainees," he said. "People don't see how complex, vital and how real that mission is on the ground. That's what took me back. This is the real deal. To be successful at that mission at that level can be very taxing."

The staff worked an average of 10 to 12 hours a day, but because of the nature of the operation, were on call 24 hours a day, Dean said. Despite the long hours, the Guardsmen from the 761st MP Battalion received many accolades from other units working with them.

"I couldn't have asked for a better team," Fuchs said. "Over the last nine



**Welcome Home Hug.** Sgt. Brenda Sanchez-Veliz, 761st Military Police Battalion, kisses her son, Cesar-Leonel, after arriving at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport from a deployment to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

months, the 761st has been on point for the United States. We did it, we pulled off that mission, and that's a big deal when you're talking about the global war on terrorism. Alaska can be proud that their Guardsmen represented them well and I couldn't have been happier. I really appreciate everything they did for Alaska and the nation." ■



**Dad's Back.** Staff Sgt. Richard Murphy, 761st Military Police Battalion, holds his children, Sophia and Noah, after arriving in Anchorage in August after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force-GTMO Joint Detention Group. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Like Father, Like Son.** Spc. Bernardo Otero, 761st Military Police Battalion, takes a photo with his father, Raphael, upon his return to Anchorage after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay. Otero's father served in Guantanamo Bay 40 years ago as a U.S. Marine Corps lance corporal from 1974 to 1975. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



# Missile Defense



**Missile Defense Mission.** Alaska National Guard members of Bravo Crew, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, operate the ground-based midcourse defense portion of the Ballistic Missile Defense System in 2007, at Fort Greely, Alaska. The system has been manned 24/7 since achieving limited defensive capability in 2004.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III, Alaska Army National Guard

## Alaska National Guard Missile Defenders Celebrate 10 Years

By Maj. Michael Odgers, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

**FORT GREELY, Alaska** ... Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell; Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard; and Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, celebrated 10 years of missile defense operations during a ceremony held here in September.

Ten years ago on Sept. 30, President George W. Bush declared that the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System was operational, and for the first time, the United States had the capability to detect, intercept and defeat a long-range ballistic missile threatening the homeland.

During the ceremony, Treadwell read a letter from Gov. Sean Parnell that thanked the Soldiers and discussed some of the key milestones that made ballistic missile defense a reality. Treadwell also expressed his gratitude and praise.

"I'd like to say thank you; thank you for defending our nation," Treadwell said. "The State of Alaska supports you, the nation supports you. It took the dedication of the State of Alaska and the National Guard working together to make this happen, but it's only real because of what you do, and that's incredibly important. So when you mark this anniversary, please be proud and

do good work and know the nation depends on what you do every day."

Bridges credited Guard members for the success of the missile defense mission.

"Thank you to you who serve in uniform and your family members who support you. You are the most important reason why this mission is successful, and our nation can rest easy at night because of you," Bridges said. "Thank you for being on the frontline of this mission, well done."

The GMD system is designed to intercept and destroy an incoming ballistic missile in its midcourse while still outside the Earth's atmosphere. The system is composed of

sea-, land- and space-based sensors and ground-based interceptors located at Fort Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

National Guard Soldiers manning fire control centers 24 hours a day, seven days a week can detect a launch anywhere in the world and determine if that launch is a threat to the United States. If deemed a threat, Soldiers can launch ground-based interceptors to destroy the threat long before it reaches the United States.

The missile defense complex ground-breaking was in June 2002. In early 2004, the National Guard began hiring and training Soldiers from all over the nation to conduct this mission. The first interceptor was emplaced in July 2004, and the system was operational in September 2004.

The base was not able to house the newly assigned Soldiers' families. They had to be housed at Fort Richardson in Anchorage 300 miles away. The Soldiers worked for two weeks at a time, and then returned to their families during their off time. This schedule was in place for nearly one year until base housing was ready for their families.

The Soldiers who guarded the missile defense complex started with only soft-shell humvees and a small trailer as their operations center. The equipment wasn't designed for an arctic environment. When the Interior Alaska winters hit 40 to 60 degrees below zero, the Soldiers had to take turns keeping warm in a sleeping bag.

Today, the security forces have the necessary equipment and vehicles to conduct operations in all weather conditions and the facilities for administration and training.

The early days were a challenge for families. Fort Greely is a remote duty station 100 miles from a city with shopping. The post's amenities were small. The commissary was only the size of a convenience store. The gym was operational but still limited, and there wasn't a Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility. Additionally, the majority of the families came from outside Alaska and few had any idea what an Interior Alaska winter would be like.

Today, the commissary is much larger and offers most of what a family would need. The MWR is in place with recreation equipment to rent and a variety of trips available. There is now a Community Activity Center with family activities and a bowling alley.

Even the community had a few growing pains. This mission was bringing a few hundred Soldiers, civilians and their families



**Commemorating A Milestone.** From the left, Lt. Col. Michael Hatfield, commander of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell and Acting Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges stand for a picture after attending a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Operational Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System at the post theater at Fort Greely in September. Photo: Sgt. Julio Velez, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

to an area that only had a population of approximately 850 people. To handle the influx of students, Fort Greely opened one of the closed school buildings. In a partnership between Fort Greely and Delta Junction, the school is operated by the Delta School District.

Today, 10 years later, Fort Greely has 30 interceptors with 14 more planned in the near future. The mission continues to be a vital part of our nation's strategic defense. The post is a small but thriving community that continues to provide for the Soldiers who serve that key mission. ■





# Veterans

## State Finalizes Purchase of Land for Interior Veterans Cemetery

By Public Affairs staff

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska** ... A five-year process is finished as the State of Alaska has closed on land near Fairbanks suitable to build a veterans cemetery. The property, on a Fox hilltop with great southern exposure, is 320 acres and will provide a spiritual experience for all families whose veterans find their final resting place in this area.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs no longer builds national cemeteries and instead builds state cemeteries, where veterans can receive their full burial benefits. The land must be owned and operated by the state, and the federal VA will provide the funds to construct a veterans cemetery with the same look and feel of Arlington National Cemetery.

“Veterans and their families who live in the Interior deserve this hallowed ground to

remember the service and sacrifice of these great Alaskans,” said Gov. Sean Parnell. “I am proud to see this project begin the design phase, and I look forward to seeing construction start next summer.”

When this project was proposed in 2009, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs began to diligently search for property already owned by the state that could meet the unique requirements of a veterans cemetery. Because of complications with permafrost and zoning, there was no state land available within a 15-mile radius of downtown Fairbanks.

So the DMVA went to the public to seek a minimum of 100 acres for sale from a private entity. Local entrepreneurs John and Ramona Reeves came forward with a valid option.

“We are very pleased that this beautiful property will be used to honor the men and women of our armed forces,” John and Ramona Reeves said. “Both of our dads were, and always will be, Marines who served in World War II. It is an honor to help bring this vision to reality.”

National Cemeteries already exist in Sitka and outside Anchorage on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Building a veterans cemetery in the Interior will complete the burial options for veterans to receive their full benefits in all major population areas of the state.

The land in Fox is also the ending point of the famous Davidson Ditch. An interpretive display will be built into the final construction of this project to reflect the importance of the historic landmark. ■

## VETERANS HEALTH CARE GROWTH

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** ... After World War I, we did not have broad services for veterans – no U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, GI bills, home loans or other needed veterans benefits. Through the advocacy of generations of veterans, today there is strong support for veterans and the programs supporting them.

The veteran services system has been challenged, keeping up with the demand from four generations of veterans with impacts from five major wars as well as countless humanitarian missions around the world.

Throughout the last few years, we have taken a hard look internally and externally on how we deliver services to our veterans in Alaska. We have had to change our approach to better meet the needs and the challenges our veterans face.



In Alaska, we are first in the nation to have VA and Alaska Tribal Health Programs sign a medical sharing and reimbursement agreement. The agreement strengthens both the VA and ATHP, directly helping increase access to care and enhance continuity of treatment for eligible Native and non-Native veterans close to ATHP services, particularly those in remote and rural areas.

Veterans in Alaska now have access to 122 facilities in the network of care, up from just five VA facilities previously. Now, 96 percent of Alaskan veterans have direct access to VA-covered health care where they live if they choose these services.

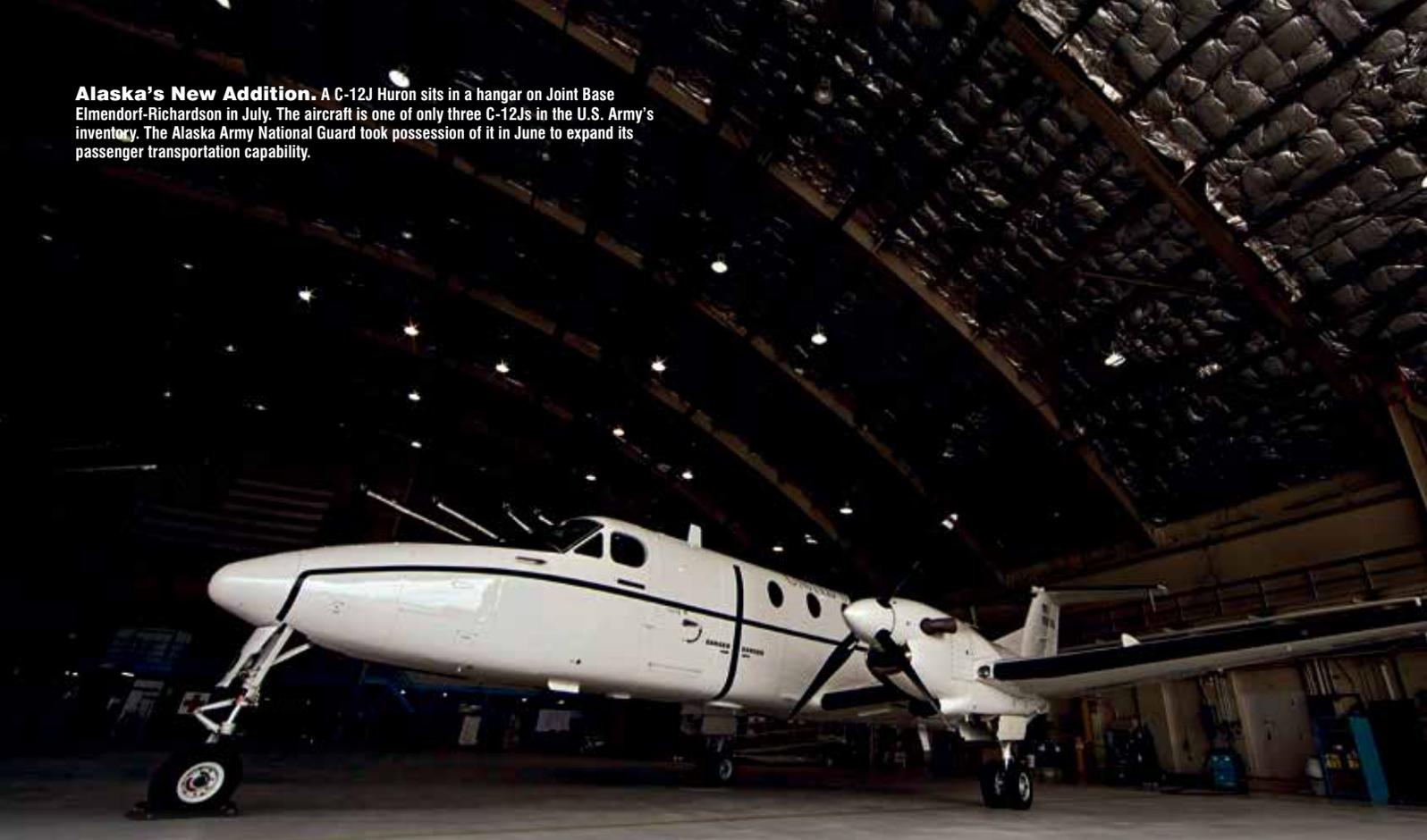
The next step into the health care challenge is providing a network of services outside the ATHP service area. The VA has worked with each medical facility as the needs are reflected for the veterans, but this process is slow.

With that in mind, the VA put into place a new contract with TriWest to establish a VA-approved network of care that is in place before the need is identified. With the new network in place, it will speed up the access to quality care and ensure we reach 100-percent coverage of all eligible veterans in Alaska.

Although this process seems slow, we are only in our fourth year of changing delivery of medical services in Alaska and have gone from \$5 million in purchased local care to more than \$105 million. We have a diverse mix of medical facilities providing service to our veterans.

Health care is part of the promise made to those who served, and we have stepped up to the challenge in Alaska. The awesome part of this challenge is that it has brought people at all levels to the table to develop long-term plans and goals. ■

**Alaska's New Addition.** A C-12J Huron sits in a hangar on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in July. The aircraft is one of only three C-12Js in the U.S. Army's inventory. The Alaska Army National Guard took possession of it in June to expand its passenger transportation capability.



# Alaska Army Guard Gains Flexibility with C-12J

Story and photo by Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

## JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

The Alaska Army National Guard took possession in June of one of only three C-12J Huron aircraft that belong to the U.S. Army after trading the C-12U King aircraft the AKARNG previously had in its inventory for it.

The C-12J Huron is the U.S. military designation for the Beechcraft 1900C, a 19-passenger, twin-engine turboprop fixed-wing aircraft. The primary mission of the C-12J is moving Department of Defense personnel between locations.

"Previously, we had the C-12U, which is the King Air 200 variant," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Moore, a senior instructor pilot with Detachment 54, Operational Support Airlift Agency, Alaska Army National Guard.

With Alaska being such an expansive state and served by a limited number of roads, aviation assets are crucial to the transportation of service members and equipment to and from remote towns across the state.

Until the end of fiscal year 2013, the AKARNG maintained a unit of C-23 Sherpa aircraft that performed many of the same functions as the C-12J, but with the budgetary constraints of divestiture, the active-duty Army decided the Sherpa was expendable and the C-23s were retired.

Losing the C-23s put additional strain on the C-12U, explained Moore, so when it was announced that one of the three U.S. Army C-12Js would be available, OSA personnel from Alaska put their name on the list of hopefuls wanting to give the plane a new home.

"We had lost all of our Sherpa aircraft, hence, needed a larger aircraft to be able to take some of those passengers," Moore said. "We put our name in the hat and we were the lucky ones to be able to make the transfer."

Aside from the added capacity of five to seven more passengers than the C-12U carried, the C-12Js' larger fuselage also accommodates a large cargo door in the back of the aircraft. The bulkheads can also be removed to allow the plane to hold more cargo.

"It gives us a little bit of flexibility to be able to use it as a passenger or a cargo-configured aircraft," Moore said, "but especially for the passenger configuration and being able to move more at any given time than to have to do duplicate runs or missions for larger groups of people."

For this particular airframe, its acquisition and subsequent transfer from Germany to Alaska was not its first-time landing on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"This aircraft was actually stationed here with the 517th Airlift Squadron of the U.S. Air Force," Moore said. "It was delivered from the Air Force to the 57th Aviation Battalion of the U.S. Army in Stuttgart, Germany, and now it's come full circle back."

With the aircraft's approximate range of 1,200 nautical miles, the trip from Germany to Alaska took four days.

"We stopped in Iceland the first night," Moore said. "The next night, we stopped in Bangor, Maine. Afterwards, we stayed in Seattle before heading back to Alaska. You're seeing part of the country you don't ever get to fly over. It's always exciting." ■



## Alaska State Defense Force Soldiers Nationally Recognized

By Capt. Melissa Holl, Alaska State Defense Force



**Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.** Sgt. 1st Class Helga Polsey displays the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award that she received during the State Guard Association of the United States annual conference in Anchorage in September.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska ...** The State Guard Association of the United States selected two Alaska State Defense Soldiers in a national competition as Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Selection as the SGAUS Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year is an exceptional honor for the Soldiers selected but also a great responsibility. The Soldiers will represent SGAUS for a year as the best of the best SGAUS has to offer. The Soldiers selected for these honors must also consistently display exceptional dedication, professionalism, performance, military bearing and appearance.

Sgt. 1st Class Helga Polsey received the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award. She serves with the 3rd Battalion, Alaska State Defense Force, in Fairbanks and is employed with the Family &



**Soldier of the Year.** Brig. Gen. Roger E. Holl, commander of the Alaska State Defense Force, congratulates Cpl. Taylor Cosper for receiving the State Guard Association of the United States Soldier of the Year award during the organization's annual conference in Anchorage in September. Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

Morale, Welfare and Recreation division of the U.S. Army at Fort Wainwright. Polsey joined the ASDF in 2005, and she has completed the ASDF NCO Academy as well as the SGAUS Military Emergency Management Specialist Academy and Department of Defense courses. Polsey also participated in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise.

Cpl. Taylor Cosper received the Soldier of the Year award. He is a February 2011 graduate of the Alaska Military Youth Academy and enlisted in the Alaska State Defense Force in spring 2013, now serving with the 2nd Forward Support Battalion in Wasilla. He is a 2013 graduate of the Alaska State Defense Force NCO Academy. In May, Cosper was awarded the Alaska Commendation Medal for outstanding service in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise. ■

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# Alaska National Guard

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If you are a victim of sexual assault, you are not alone and help is available. You have the choice to make a restricted or unrestricted report. There are benefits to making an unrestricted or restricted report: It's YOUR choice. Know your options.

**Restricted Report:** Enables military members to report allegations of sexual assault to specified personnel, without triggering an investigation. Specified personnel include the SARC, Victim Advocates, Chaplains or medical personnel. Empowers the victim to seek relevant information and support to make an informed decision about participation in the criminal process.

**Unrestricted Report:** Any report of a sexual assault made through normal military reporting channels, which include the victim's chain of command, law enforcement and criminal investigative services. If you are not sure which option is best for you, please call the SARC for a confidential consultation.



Octavia Thompson  
JFHQ SARC  
Off: 907-428-6219  
Cell: 907-854-1899

Octavia.l.thompson2.civ@mail.mil

If you choose to make a restricted report, you may contact the following personnel to report confidentially:

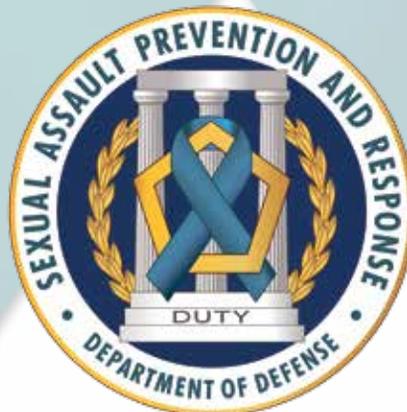
SARC/VAC	907-428-6219
Victim Advocate	
State Chaplain	907-428-6904
Medical Personnel	
SAFE Helpline	877-995-5247

Do **NOT** contact your Chain of Command IF you are considering a **Restricted Report**.



SGT Monique Andrews  
JFHQ VA Coordinator  
Off: 907-428-6147  
Cell: 907-854-1899

Monique.y.andrews.mil@mail.mil



### We Own It ... We'll Fix It ... Together



## Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates 144 Cadets

By Public Affairs Staff

**CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ...** The Alaska Military Youth Academy celebrated 20 years of service to the state of Alaska with the graduation of 144 cadets of Class 2014-2 from its ChalleNGe program in August.

The keynote speaker for the graduation, held at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in downtown Anchorage, was a urological oncologist and 1994 graduate of the Georgia Youth ChalleNGe Program, Dr. Joshua E. Logan, M.D.

During their 22-week residential phase at the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academics, leadership and followership, physical fitness, life coping skills, responsible citizenship, vocational training and service to the community. The 144 cadets who recently graduated from the Alaska Military Youth Academy joined the 4,128 previous graduates since 1994.

Upon graduation, cadets take part in the yearlong post-residential phase where graduates return to their communities to continue their education (high school, college or vocational schools), enter the workplace or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to help intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. ■



**Top Notch.** Honor graduate Madison Thammavongsa of Anchorage pauses to smile while presenting her graduation speech to the cadets, staff, families and friends of the Alaska Military Youth Academy during the graduation ceremony of Class 2014-2 in August. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA



**Celebration.** Following tradition, the Alaska Military Youth Academy's Class of 2014-2 toss their berets in the air as the finale of the graduation ceremony for the 144 cadets in August. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA

# AIR SHOW

**Air Show.** Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1-207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, take flight over Anchorage during the Arctic Thunder Open House in July. The event featured more than 40 Air Force, Army and civilian aerial acts for a crowd of more than 200,000 people.

Photo: Brig. Gen. Timothy O'Brien, Alaska Air National Guard



**Ready for Flight.** Sgt. Daniel Adrian, a UH-60 Black Hawk repairer with D Co., 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, explains to a young girl what buttons she's pushing during the Arctic Thunder Open House biennial event hosted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Personal Tour.** Maj. Tony Waliser, a navigator with the 211th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, provides information to visitors from around Alaska touring an HC-130 King aircraft during the Arctic Thunder Open House. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Happy in a Helicopter.** A young boy smiles from the cockpit of an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the Arctic Thunder Open House biennial event hosted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in July. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Future Aviators.** A couple of kids enjoy their time in the cockpit of an Alaska Air National Guard 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130 King aircraft during July's Arctic Thunder Open House on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The air show is the largest two-day event in the state. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Elite Aerial Team.** Four F-16 Fighting Falcons perform over Anchorage, showing off their premier aerial capabilities. The Thunderbirds' demonstration is one of the highlights of the Arctic Thunder Open House. Photo: Brig. Gen. Timothy O'Brien, Alaska Air National Guard



**Ready to Launch.** Spc. William Belcher, a parachute rigger with the Rigger Support Team, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, loads an M-203 grenade launcher during the 2015 Best Warrior Competition on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August.

# Two Fort Greeley Soldiers Win BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

Story and photos by Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...** Two Soldiers from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greeley won the title of “Best Warrior” in the 2015 Best Warrior Competition here in August.

Alaska Army National Guardsmen Sgt. Gerardo Lopez and Spc. Yamil Ramirez, both military policemen from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, won the competition in the noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted categories.

The Best Warrior Competition was designed to test Soldiers in a series of mentally and physically challenging events over the course of 72 hours to determine who the best Soldiers are.

“We take candidates from every unit and test them to figure out who the best Soldier

and noncommissioned officer is in the entire Alaska Army National Guard,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Nelson, branch chief



**Best Warrior – Noncommissioned Officer.** Sgt. Gerardo Lopez, a military policeman with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, and his fellow competitors from Alaska National Guard, stand at attention during the awards ceremony of the 2015 Best Warrior Competition on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August. Lopez won the noncommissioned officer title of Best Warrior.



**Alaska Commendation Medal.** Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Harrington, state command sergeant major of the Alaska Army National Guard, pins the Alaska Commendation Medal on Spc. Yamil Ramirez, a military policeman with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, at an award ceremony for the 2015 Best Warrior Competition. Ramirez was awarded the medal for winning the junior enlisted category of the competition.



**Under Scrutiny.** Sgt. 1st Class Mike Nelson, branch chief of the 207th Multi-Functional Training Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, evaluates the performance steps of Private 1st Class Emmanuel Nfonoyim, from the 761st Military Police Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, during the casualty evacuation event of 2015 Best Warrior Competition.

of the 207th Multi-Functional Training Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard.

Among the competition's events were an Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night land navigation, close-quarter battle drills, casualty evacuation, a written exam and live-fire weapons ranges.

"My favorite part of this competition is getting together with the other Soldiers and competing against them head-to-head," Lopez said. "The events aren't what makes the competition hard; what makes the competition hard are the Soldiers to the left and right of you."

For Lopez, this victory marks his second time winning the title of Best Warrior. In 2012, he won in the junior enlisted category when he competed as a specialist.

"It's a really tough competition," Nelson said. "Starting from Day One, they're pushed physically in the first event, and it doesn't let up for the next 72 hours. Anybody who comes out of this competition and wins it, they deserve to hold that title."

By winning the state competition, Ramirez and Lopez will compete in the regional Best Warrior Competition, according to Nelson.



**Weighted Run.** Sgt. Gerardo Lopez, a military policeman with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, carries a 175-pound dummy during a timed event of the 2015 Best Warrior Competition. Lopez went on to win the noncommissioned officer category of the competition.

"If they win the regionals, which is based on a couple of states like Alaska, Washington and Oregon, they go on to the national level and compete," Nelson said.

Aside from winning the chance to compete at higher levels, the Best Warrior Competition is used to determine the Soldier and NCO of the year, Nelson added.

"Competition is always good for Soldiers," he said. "It gives them something to be proud of. The Soldiers go back to their unit holding the banner of the best Soldier for 2015. That's something the unit that trained them can be proud of." ■



**Shooting Skills.** Sgt. Timothy Matthew, an infantryman with the 297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Long Range Surveillance, Alaska Army National Guard, fires the M9 handgun while Sgt. Stephen Behrens, from the 207th Multi-Functional Training Regiment, evaluates his performance during the 2015 Best Warrior Competition on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

# AWARDS BANQUET

## Recognizes Supporters

By ESGR staff

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska ...** The Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve honored its finest at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at the Hotel Captain Cook in September.

One of the highlighted awards was the ESGR Lifetime Achievement award presented to ESGR volunteer Louie Crew, who has been an active member of ESGR for almost 20 years. Crew is the West region (Bethel) chairman and has been an instrumental part of the ESGR Steering Committee, made up of all ESGR volunteer leadership to make decisions regarding the annual strategic plan.

The Legion of Merit medal was presented to Charlie Smith on behalf of the Alaska National Guard leadership, Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Timothy O'Brien, assistant adjutant general—Air. This distinguished honor was presented to Smith for all his



**Patrick Henry Award.** Jamie M. Abordonado, ESGR support technician, receives the 2014 National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award for her ongoing contributions to the National Guard through her work with ESGR. The Patrick Henry Award was created in 1989 and is the civilian counterpart to the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal. The Patrick Henry Award recognizes local officials and civic leaders who, in a position of great responsibility, distinguish themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS.

Photo: Tunwa Yee, Edward Fox Photography and Video

work not only with ESGR as a volunteer but also for his accomplishments as the Selective Service representative in Juneau.

An additional presentation was made for the Patrick Henry award to full-time staff member Jamie Abordonado. The Patrick Henry award was originally presented at the 2014 National Guard Association of the

United States Conference in Chicago in August. Abordonado was nominated for the award for her outstanding service in supporting National Guard members from 2007 to 2014. She is also a traditional, drill-status Guard member in the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing.

The honors presented to the local civilian employers were the Seven Seals award to Robert Anderson for excellent service when he provided an awards plan for the myriad of ESGR employer awards. As a volunteer for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's Leadership & Executive Advancement Program, Anderson perfected the employer award nomination process and provided details to help the ESGR volunteers understand what level of recognition should be presented for which supportive actions by the employer. He created a cover sheet that details the deadline dates for each level of award for employers.

In addition, CH2M Hill headquarters received the ESGR National Freedom Award for outstanding support provided by an employer. There are only 15 recipients of this award each year. In Alaska, the ESGR State Chairman Craig Campbell presented CH2M Hill the Pro Patria award, the highest recognition given to a civilian employer in the state. ■



**Legion of Merit.** Brig. Gen. Timothy O'Brien, left, assistant adjutant general—Air; Charlie Smith, center, ESGR volunteer and Selective Service representative; and Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, display Smith's Legion of Merit award that he received in September for his work and accomplishments with ESGR.

Photo: Courtesy ESGR



## GOVERNOR SIGNS AGREEMENT BACKING ALASKA'S MILITARY SUPPORT NETWORK

Story and photos By Capt. Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

### JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

Gov. Sean Parnell signed a memorandum of agreement in September, recognizing the accomplishments of Alaska Forget Me Not, a coalition that works to ensure military members and families have access to culturally competent services and support.

Alaska Forget Me Not focuses on statewide collaboration, community outreach, education, and strategic partnerships to benefit service members, veterans and families living in Alaska.

“What you are seeing today is a gathering of service providers who are willing to say, we as a community support you,” Parnell said. “We have a community of supporters of our military, and we have an opportunity here that is beyond what I think is achieved anywhere else in the country.”

Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, joined Parnell at the Arctic Warrior Event Center on JBER for the signing of the support agreement that acknowledges the positive steps the coalition has made for the military community. Bridges spoke specifically to Alaska Forget Me Not coalition members about the importance of their programs to the veterans who live in remote villages of Alaska.

“Without the care of this coalition, and all the parts of it, to help these great American Soldiers, we would lose them,” Bridges said. “All of you coalition members come to the table with a unique skill set. You make us better; you will support us and sustain us because of your willingness as agencies and individuals’ willingness to do so.”

Parnell encouraged the coalition members to continue providing these much-needed programs and services to current military members, veterans and their families.



**Significant Signing.** Gov. Sean Parnell sits in front of Alaska Forget Me Not members while signing a memorandum of agreement recognizing their accomplishments in ensuring Alaska's military population gets much needed support services. The coalition focuses on statewide collaboration, community outreach, education, and strategic partnerships to benefit service members, veterans and families living in Alaska.

“I’m signing this memorandum knowing that there are many coalition members here as well who as Alaskans say, we love you, we support you and we will always be there with you,” Parnell said.

Alaska Forget Me Not also works to identify gaps in available programs and duplication of efforts to make sure services maximize their program’s impact. ■

## The Health Care Law and You — A Member of the Guard or Reserve

By Lt. Col. Kay Spear-Budd, Warrior and Family Services

### JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

Health coverage is designed to protect you from the increasing costs of health care. No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people need to get treated for an illness or injury at some point, and health coverage helps pay these costs. The health care law – also known as the Affordable Care Act – offers new ways to get and pay for coverage, while also offering greater consumer protections.

Federal law requires that you have “minimum essential coverage” beginning in 2014. As a traditional Guard or Reserve member, you qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select, which often times is less expensive than most other available plans. You can purchase plans for as low as \$51.68 for member-only or \$204.29 for member-and-family per month and still meet the “minimum essential coverage” requirement. If TRICARE isn’t the plan for you, we can connect you with one of the certified application counselors located

throughout the state, including rural Alaska. Certified application counselors will help applicants understand and choose the right health plan, conduct outreach, maintain experience in eligibility, enrollment and all insurance affordability program specifications; provide information and services in a fair, impartial and culturally competent manner; and facilitate selection of a qualified health care plan. The Alaska National Guard Family Assistance Center can help locate a certified application counselor near you.

Whether you’re eligible for TRICARE or just need assistance in finding quality health care, stop by your nearest Family Assistance Center or the transition assistance advisor (D-103) in the National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, or call 907-428-6663/ 888-917-3608 and a Family Assistance Center specialist will connect you with the information you need. ■



# Who We Are...

## How are you going to spend this year's Permanent Fund dividend?

**Staff Sgt. Caleb Funk**  
Recruiting and Retention  
Battalion



"Vacation!  
I'm taking my 5-year-old  
daughter to Aulani Disney  
Resort in Hawaii."

**Capt. Riannon  
Blaisdell-Black**  
134th Public Affairs Detachment



"My fiance and I are  
combining our PFDs  
to purchase and install a  
wood stove in preparation  
for the winter."

**Staff Sgt.  
Joe Campbell**  
168th Air Refueling Wing



"I will be taking my wife  
and kids to California  
to visit their  
great-grandparents."

**Master Sgt.  
Ella Doak**  
168th Air Refueling Wing



"The majority of my money,  
unfortunately,  
will be going to my  
heating oil bill  
for this winter."

**Jessica Dennis**  
DHS&EM



"I am paying off some bills,  
giving my kiddos money  
to be able to go Christmas  
shopping and do activities  
this winter."



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# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Legion of Merit



CW5 Terry L. Rollie . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Meritorious Service Medal



MAJ Todd Miller . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 MAJ Lyle Ward . . . . . 49th GMD  
 CPT James Johnson . . . . . 49th GMD  
 CW4 Kathryn Sanders . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 1SG Richard Debilzan . . . . . 49th GMD  
 1SG David Proehl . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MSG Anthony Carter . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 MSG Kenton Connolly . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 MSG Kenneth Cross . . . . . 207th BSC  
 SFC Michael Eastham . . . . . 207th MFTR  
 MSGT Patricia Ragland . . . . . 176th OSS  
 CAPT John Jasper . . . . . 176th ADS  
 CMSgt Keith Wilson . . . . . 176th CES  
 LT COL John Oberst . . . . . 176th ADS  
 SMSGT Annette Banks . . . . . 176th LRS  
 LT COL Scott Fell . . . . . 249th AS  
 MAJ Mary Armentrout . . . . . 144th AS  
 TSGT Jacob Zwierstra . . . . . 176th AMXS  
 SMSGT Barbara Jackson . . . . . 176th OSS  
 SMSGT Maryanne Jankowski . . . . . 176th HQ  
 COL Blake Gettys . . . . . 176th OG  
 LT COL Christopher Borger . . . . . 176th LRS  
 MSGT Paul Jenkins . . . . . 176th LRS  
 MSGT Leanne Amodemo . . . . . 176th LRS  
 MSGT Luz Brown . . . . . 176th LRS  
 LT COL Jean Liebig . . . . . Air Res  
 LT COL Richard Cavens . . . . . 176th WG  
 MSGT Mary Younkins . . . . . 176th OSS  
 CAPT Andre Morgan . . . . . 176th FSF  
 LT COL Mark Mommsen . . . . . 176th OSS  
 LT COL Jessica A. Matthews . . . . . 213th SWS  
 LT COL Robert C. Mackelprang . . . . . 168th ARW  
 LT COL Bradley E. Gerken . . . . . 168th MDG  
 LT COL Heather M. Jones . . . . . 168th MDG  
 CMSgt Kimberly H. Mortrud . . . . . 168th ARW  
 MSGT Denise R. Wagenman . . . . . 168th FSF

## Army Commendation Medal



SFC Andre Scott . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Air Force Commendation Medal



CAPT Erik Botman . . . . . 176th ADS  
 MSGT Rebecca McCart . . . . . 176th LRS  
 TSGT Michael Cooper . . . . . 176th ADS

TSGT John Swanson . . . . . 176th LRS  
 TSGT John Charron . . . . . 176th LRS  
 SSGT Daniel Sharp . . . . . 176th LRS  
 TSGT Melissa Woolley . . . . . 176th LRS  
 TSGT Rebecca Cole . . . . . 176th LRS  
 LT COL Heather M. Jones . . . . . 168th MDG  
 1LT Carrie L. Conley . . . . . 168th MDG  
 TSGT Jamie L. Algard . . . . . 168th OG

## Army Achievement Medal



SPC Stephanie Lincoln . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Air Force Achievement Medal



SMSGT Christopher Gragg . . . . . 176th ADS  
 MSGT Erik Kershner . . . . . 176th ADS  
 SMSGT Heather Pineiro . . . . . 176th ADS  
 SSGT James Richardson . . . . . 176th ADS  
 SSGT Katherine Brumfield . . . . . 249th AS  
 MAJ Kirby Chacon . . . . . 176th OSS  
 SSGT Cassandra Aglietti . . . . . 176th ADS  
 MAJ Scott Altenburg . . . . . 176th OSS  
 TSGT Thomas Hough . . . . . 176th OSS  
 CAPT Hans Jagow . . . . . 176th OSS  
 MAJ Marty Armentrout . . . . . 144th AS  
 CAPT Traci Reeves . . . . . 176th OSS  
 MAJ Kelly Murphy . . . . . 176th ADS  
 TSGT Melvin Casler . . . . . 176th ADS  
 SRA Kenneth J. Jewitt . . . . . 168th LRS  
 A1C Kristopher M. Luddington . . . . . 168th ARS

## Alaska Legion of Merit



CW4 Albert Ostrowski . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 1SG David Proehl . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



MAJ Lyle Ward . . . . . 49th GMD  
 MSG Thomas Riley . . . . . 207th MFTR  
 SFC Michael Eastham . . . . . 207th MFTR  
 SSG Frederick Moore . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Anthony Carter . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Alaska Commendation Medal



LT COL Daniel A. Dobbels . . . . . 517th AS  
 CPT Karen Trueblood . . . . . U.S. Navy  
 LTC Stephen Wilson . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

SFC Dutchy Inman . . . . . 103rd CST  
 SSG Johnathan Lewis . . . . . 103rd CST  
 SGT Andrew Markham . . . . . 103rd CST  
 SGT Paul Oliver . . . . . 103rd CST  
 PFC Tadhg Nakada . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Alaska Community Service Medal



CPT Joel Heath . . . . . 207th BSC

## Alaska State Service Medal



MAJ Robert Seymour . . . . . HHC 297th BFSB  
 CPT Nathan Cornilles . . . . . HHC 297th BFSB  
 CW4 Wayne Horton . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW4 Michael Michaud . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW4 Melvin Rush . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW4 David Stettenbenz . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW4 Mark Ward . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW3 Franklin Bithos . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW3 Don Bradford . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Robert Faust . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 David Friend . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Michael Lewis . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Richard Morrison . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Thomas Semmens . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Peter Smith . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Moses Toyukak . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW2 Michael Williams . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CSM John Drew . . . . . 49th GMD  
 MSG Kenton Connolly . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 MSG John Orth . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC Mark Delgado . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC Seth Gordon . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC Todd Kochte . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC George Koval . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC Jeremiah Ladenberg . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC Shawn Layton . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SFC Thomas Stokesberry . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Arron Angol . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Elejah Bernollia . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Karen Denton . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Miguel Gomez . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Nicholas Lime . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Eric Lumba . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Nicholas Mikos . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Jacob Nay . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SSG Levi Roy . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Brandon Barnes . . . . . 1-207th LRS  
 SGT Jeremy Goff . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Timothy McCormick . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Ray Parker . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Bradford Roman . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Vincent Salzbrun . . . . . 1-207th AVN

# PROMOTIONS

## Colonel

Darrin E. Slaten . . . . . 176th OG

## Lieutenant Colonel

Timothy Brower . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Dollie Waters . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Candis A. Olmstead . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 Marty A. Armentrout . . . . . 144th AS  
 Howard W. Potton . . . . . 211th RQS  
 Benjamin C. Nealy . . . . . 249th AS  
 Kirk G. Plamberg . . . . . 249th AS

## Commander (O-5 Navy)

Jennifer Avery . . . . . AK Naval Militia

## Major

Jason W. Collins . . . . . 176th MDG

## Captain

Laura B. Delgado . . . . . 176th MDG  
 Jeremy Nielson . . . . . 1-297th CAV  
 Robert Gordon . . . . . 297th SIG

## First Lieutenant

Megan Webb . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Lieutenant, Junior Grade (O-2 Navy)

Bradley Theisen . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 William Merriman . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Samuel Martin . . . . . AK Naval Militia

## Second Lieutenant

Melissa Eury . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Jamie Ledbetter . . . . . 297th SB  
 Joy Petway . . . . . 297th BFSB  
 Lane Smith . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
 Drew Allison . . . . . 1-297th R&S

## Chief Warrant Officer Two

Stefanie Hall . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Warrant Officer

Rodney Spaulding Jr. . . . . 49th TG  
 Morgan Osborn . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Master Sergeant / First Sergeant (E-8 Army)

Todd Kochte . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Christi Huggins . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Senior Master Sergeant (E-8 Air)

Everett F. Johnson . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 Robert N. Holmes . . . . . 176th AMXS  
 Christopher W. Hudec . . . . . 176th OSS

James B. Brewer . . . . . 176th WG  
 David W. Kiernan . . . . . 213th SWS  
 Robert C. Dowler . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Michael J. Goodwin . . . . . 168th MXS  
 Timothy J. Vanderhoff . . . . . 168th MXG  
 Joseph M. Donoghue . . . . . 168th CPR FT

## Sergeant First Class (E-7 Army)

Bethany Amarone . . . . . 297th MP  
 David Gulley . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Natasha May . . . . . RRB

## Master Sergeant (E-7 Air)

Scott D. Hopkins . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Seth C. Bowen . . . . . 176th OSS  
 Gailanne B. Paculba . . . . . 176th WG  
 David W. Torrance . . . . . 210th RQS  
 Corbett C Ercolani . . . . . 210th RQS  
 Carleas L. Parsons . . . . . 168th FSF  
 Ronald P. Smith Jr. . . . . 168th MXS  
 Beverly L. Eveland . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Dana J. King . . . . . 168th CF  
 Tracy E. Purdy . . . . . 168th ARS  
 Clint J. Kerr . . . . . 168th AMXS

## Chief Petty Officer (E-7 Navy)

Jason Breeding . . . . . AK Naval Militia

## Staff Sergeant (E-6 Army)

Arthur Browley . . . . . 297th MP  
 Paige Harper . . . . . 297th QM  
 Robert Sapp Jr. . . . . 38th TC  
 William Houser II . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Craig Christensen . . . . . 207th BSC  
 Howard Yang . . . . . 207th BSC  
 Brian Miller . . . . . 297th MP  
 Edsel Huynh . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
 Matthew Blanchett . . . . . 1-297th CAV  
 Michael Sybert . . . . . 1-297th CAV  
 Eric Prieto . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Ernesto Venturafigueroa . . . . . 49th GMD

## Technical Sergeant (E-6 Air)

James N. Walker . . . . . 176th ADS  
 Jessica L. Blignaut . . . . . 176th LRS  
 Eric B. Brinkman . . . . . 176th MXG  
 Chad M. Lemaster . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Jason D. Herring . . . . . 176th MXS

# RETIREMENTS

LTC Arvill Lyon . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 LTC Charles Nesloney . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CPT James Johnson . . . . . 49th GMD  
 CW5 John Hardy . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CW5 Terry Rollie . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CW4 Earston Hewitt . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CW4 Kathryn Sanders . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CW4 Albert Ostrowski . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CW4 Benjamin Herning . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 CW3 Brian Baranek . . . . . Det 54  
 CW2 Richard Fleming III . . . . . 49th TG  
 1SG David Proehl . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MSG Lonzell Scott . . . . . 297th MP  
 MSG Rob Apel . . . . . 297th MP  
 MSG Thomas Riley . . . . . 207th MFTR  
 MSG Kenneth Cross . . . . . 207th BSC  
 SFC Daryl Shoup . . . . . 297th BfSB  
 SFC Troy Godwin . . . . . 103rd CST  
 SFC Michael Eastham . . . . . 297th MFTR  
 SFC William Herzner . . . . . 297th MP  
 SFC Homer Nunoork . . . . . 297th SIG  
 SFC Jerome Arisman . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SFC Paul Wonder . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SFC Brian Warren . . . . . 49th GMD

SSG John Ruthe . . . . . 207th BSC  
 SSG TD Starkweather-Jones . . . . . 207th SB  
 SSG Henry Bendt Jr . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
 SGT Ira Chikoyak . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 SGT Rhonda Mason . . . . . 207th BSC  
 SGT J. Coffee . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
 SGT Quila Dock Jr. . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
 SPC Harvey Dock . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
 CMSgt Jacquelyn  
 Quattlebaum . . . . . 176th MDG  
 TSgt James Pennington . . . . . 176th SFS  
 SSgt Giosue Floyd . . . . . 176th LRS  
 TSgt Lawrence Lacroix . . . . . 176th LRS  
 Col Claude Swamy . . . . . 168th MXG  
 Lt Col Carl L. Kohntopp . . . . . 168th ARS  
 Lt Col Robert C.  
 Mackelprang . . . . . 168th ARS  
 Capt Leilani C. Frazier . . . . . 213th SWS  
 CMSgt Patrick J. Skinner . . . . . 168th MXG  
 SMSgt Andrew G. Brady . . . . . 213th SWS  
 MSgt David W. Pointer . . . . . 168th AMXS  
 MSgt Troy L. Clinkenbeard . . . . . 213th SWS  
 TSgt Steven Armendariz . . . . . 213th SWS  
 TSgt Dawn R. Bishop . . . . . 213th SWS

# PROMOTIONS

Christopher L. Tidwell . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Alison C. Cherry . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Jonathan Q. Goins . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Lawrence C. Erickson Jr. . . . . 176th OSS  
 Jacob M. Inman . . . . . 210th RQS  
 Jennifer M. Trout . . . . . 210th RQS  
 Katherine C. Brumfield . . . . . 249th AS  
 Alex R. Rivera Paz . . . . . 168th LRS  
 Adrian R. Miller . . . . . 168th LRS  
 Christopher Williams . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Shane Lowe . . . . . 168th ARW

## Petty Officer First Class (E-6 Navy)

James Beaudreault . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Daniel Dunlap . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Cameron Betts . . . . . AK Naval Militia

## Sergeant (E-5 Army)

Whitney Rowe . . . . . 207th BSC  
 Michael Johnson . . . . . 297th BFSB  
 Matthew Bautista . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Joseph Marshall . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Josiah Streff . . . . . 1-207th AVN

Kyle Rogers . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN  
 Corbin Shuravloff . . . . . 1-297th R&S  
 Zachary Adams . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Thecla Jeanlouis . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Mark Sullivan . . . . . 297th MP  
 Thomas Lee . . . . . 1-297th CAV  
 Nathan Dillon . . . . . 297th MP  
 Julia Walker . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Marc Roach . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Alberto Galicia Feliciano . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Michelle Guerrero Gonzalez . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Brian Hiner . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Elvin Martes Maldonado . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Marcos Nunez Maduro . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Edgar Perez . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Hector Rosado Baez . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Anthony Shurilla . . . . . 49th GMD  
 F. Velazquez de Leon . . . . . 49th GMD  
 Casey Waters . . . . . 49th GMD

## Staff Sergeant (E-5 Air)

Chadwick M. Dyson . . . . . 176th ADS  
 Breanna M. Kerr . . . . . 176th ADS

Tyler R. Wehrli . . . . . 176th AMXS  
 Cory J. Roberts . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Derek W. Terrini . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Courtney R. Waters . . . . . 176th OSS  
 Kelly N. Eisberg . . . . . 211th RQS  
 Emily E. Kenny . . . . . 249th AS  
 Alyssa C. Dobberpuhl . . . . . 168th MXS  
 Bjorn H. Nielsen . . . . . 168th CF  
 Charles D. Bowser . . . . . 168th SFS  
 Benjamin J. Hager . . . . . 168th SFS  
 Christian K. Armour . . . . . 168th ARS  
 Justin R. Smith . . . . . 213th SWS  
 James A. Hendricks . . . . . 213th SWS

## Petty Officer Second Class (E-5 Navy)

Peter Balami . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Adam Agosti . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Wesley Dellinger . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Tyler Oden . . . . . AK Naval Militia  
 Christopher Hernandez . . . . . AK Naval Militia

# WARRIORS Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for most Alaska Army *and* Air National Guard units. All dates are subject to change.

Alaska National Guard	November	December	January
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	1–2	6–7	10–11
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	15–16	6–7	24–25
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	14–16	6–7	23–25
38th Troop Command	14–16	5–7	24–25
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>			
168th Air Refueling Wing	1–2	6–7	10–11
176th Wing	1–2	6–7	10–11
<b>Alaska State Defense Force</b>			
Headquarters	1–2	13–14	10–11



# Start of the Trail

Welcome to our newest members & employees

## 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Whayne Sebrey  
Abraham Walton

## 207th Combat Support Company

Wade Albrown-McLendon  
Leslie McDowell  
Eric Gau  
Rafael Mano  
Davante Owens

## 297th Network Support Company

Jashan Durgin  
Ian Ashley

## 1-297th Cavalry

Cameron Osborne

## 1-143rd Infantry (Airborne)

Brady Cape  
Matthew Rozenboom  
Innocent Bennett  
Joshua Bigwood  
Timothy Smith  
Kyle Rodgers  
Erik Gorman  
Edgar Sandoval

## 1-297th Reconnaissance & Surveillance

Christopher Sawatzki  
Joey Bechtol  
Richmond Dorris  
Anthony Luiken  
Harold Stein  
Kayshawn Dyett  
Sawyer Rickman

## 297th Military Police Company

James Dalton  
Daniel Contini  
Cassity Abad  
Calixto Valazquez  
Dalton Galindo  
Jessica Rhoades  
Tori Rhoades  
Evelyn Jacobson

## 207th Equipment Support Platoon

Brandon Stoner  
Lenard Wiggins  
Angela Dyer

## 1-207th Aviation

David Raggs  
Marvin Josey  
Derius Jones  
Alfonso Pitpit  
Christopher Lenning  
Russell Smith  
Lucas Bartel  
Jesse Mayer  
Katelyn Listro  
Travis Kayouktuk  
Zachariah Sanderson  
Brent Wolfer

## 297th Quartermaster

Samantha Fisher

## 49th Missile Defense Battalion

Christopher Reardon  
Murray Harrison

## Medical Detachment

Julien Coleman

## 168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Justin Sawyer  
Chantz Turner

## 168th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Danielle Broidrick  
Matthew McBride  
Tyler Jones  
Brian Sims

## 168th Maintenance Squadron

Benjamin Ajisefinni  
Ashley Hembree  
Jared Triplehorn

## 213th Space Warning Squadron

Angel Guerrieri-Figueroa  
Jezabelle Oneill Roulette

## 168th Air Refueling Squadron

Jeremy Lopes  
Joshua Larson  
Allen Short

## 168th Medical Group

Blair Lewis

## 168th Air Refueling Wing

Sarah Weeks  
Michael Copeland

## 168th Force Support Flight

Ashleigh Edwards

## 168th Security Forces Squadron

Bradley Denison

## 168th Operational Support Squadron

Darin Shanks

## 168th Comptrollers

Michael Conan

## 168th Communications Flight

Steven Laszloffy  
Grace Ann Magileitil

## 176th Force Support Flight

Christine Mcculloch

## 176th Medical Group

Robert S. Pullen  
Jennifer J. Dieken  
Elizabeth S. Lafleur

## 176th Civil Engineer Squadron

SSgt Jacob W. Gibson

## 176th Security Forces Squadron

SSgt Nathan I. Namaau  
SrA Myung Jin A. Chun  
SrA John F. Teamer II  
A1C Christopher K. Schuerch

## 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron

SSgt Javad S. Perez  
SSgt Franklin L. Huff

SrA Jeremy B. Red  
A1C Andrew W. Hammersley

## 176th Maintenance Group

Brandon W. Sipes  
Rafie Baez  
Walter A. Wallace  
Joseph A. Siebert  
Alyssa N. Wier  
Rayce S. Cole  
Austin T. Stingley

## 176th Operations Group

John Ippolity  
Darrin Slaten

## 176th Operational Support Squadron

Casey A. Lewis  
Sara M. Bolin  
Johnathan J. Damon  
Kyle J. Keesecker

## 144th Airlift Squadron

James B. Keenan  
Todd M. Green  
John R. Sparks  
Caleb Z. Caldwell

## 210th Rescue Squadron

Ricky R. Schweim

## 211th Rescue Squadron

Ryan P. Burke  
Andrew S. Reynolds  
Nicholas R. Miller

## 176th Air Defense Squadron

Christopher Pineiro  
Mark A. Roberts  
Matthew A. King

## 249th Airlift Squadron

Phillip Valenta  
Christopher Burgess  
Joseph A. Leman  
Arron J. Gibbs  
Rayn M. Nofziger

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*USAA members Robert Griffin III,  
Washington Redskins quarterback,  
and his parents, U.S. Army veterans*

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# What's in the cloud?

**Nicotine** — Addictive

**Ultra-fine particles** — Asthma

**Acetone** — Nail polish remover

**Lead** — Brain damage

**Formaldehyde** — Embalming fluid

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