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WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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On the Cover:

Disaster. Galena is overrun by flood waters and ice slabs from the Yukon River in May. Governor Sean Parnell signed a state disaster declaration for this area and several other communities in June followed by a signed federal disaster declaration by President Barack Obama a few weeks later. Photos: David Lee, DHS&EM



Water Survival Training. Sergeant First Class Charles Boldt, state chaplain assistant, Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard, performs a blinded high-level entry into the water to simulate a night exit or disorientation into the water during water survival training at Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. After insertion, the swimmer must listen to verbal commands to swim to safety. The object is to be comfortable and confident in your equipment and abilities. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

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HOW TO REACH US

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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



Taking Care of Those Affected by the Floods

As Alaskans, we remain grateful for the men and women always on guard to serve Alaska and our nation. They conduct lifesaving search and rescue missions, flood assistance during spring break-up and always provide assistance to those in need.

An unusually cold spring followed by higher-than-average temperatures prompted flooding in many communities. Serious ice jam flooding and high water from snow melt runoff hit the Alaska Gateway, Yukon Flats, Yukon-Koyukuk, Lower Yukon and Copper River Regional Educational Attendance Areas in May. Nearly 250 homes have been impacted, and at least 194 of those are uninhabitable. Keeping Alaskans safe and restoring essential services and housing remain our top priority.

We thank the Alaska National Guard for stepping up and helping to evacuate Galena

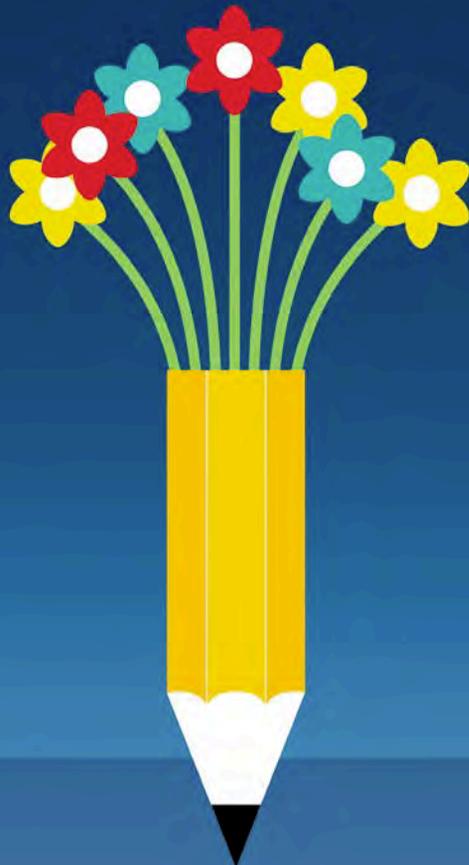
residents as part of the response effort to the flooding. I am proud of you, the men and women who continue to serve their fellow Alaskans, in addition to your combat duties.

Together with the State Disaster Declaration I issued in May, we have pursued resources available to assist with the recovery and rebuilding efforts. The president signed a federal Disaster Declaration in June, committing federal assistance with the Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs to those affected by the spring floods along the Yukon River and its tributaries. The Public Assistance program will be available for residents in the Copper River Regional Educational Attendance Areas. Statewide, the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will also be in place to reduce long-term risk for natural hazards.

The Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management has conducted damage assessments in several communities and has opened Disaster Assistance Centers to help residents apply for aid programs. The State works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure we are taking care of affected Alaskans.

This summer, as we enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures, I encourage all Alaskans to be safe as they participate in boating, fishing, festivals, fairs and other community events. My wife, Sandy, and I are grateful for the men and women who serve and have served with honor, courage and sacrifice. ■

Sean Parnell



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The Adjutant General



Major General Thomas H. Katkus
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Strong Partnerships Show Strategic Value

This fall finds us coming through a unique summer in the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. We maintained our mission posture, responded to floods and fires, managed the impact of furloughs, and watched with dismay, and sometimes frustration, the federal government's effort to comply with the Budget Control Act through the imposition of sequestration.

In the most positive manner, the State of Alaska engaged and played an active role in assisting our Department of Defense partners in keeping strategic position while maximizing value. Specifically, the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs continues to work with local communities near bases and the active-duty leadership to identify opportunities to create relationships and save money.

We are starting small and working toward the development of larger, statewide efforts. Enhanced-use-lease agreements and intergovernmental-service agreements will allow the state, local government and the military to create economies of scale to save money for everyone.

The Department of Defense budget goes through cycles. At every significant conflict, budgets go up. When conflicts resolve, budgets go back down to sustainable levels. We know it costs more to do business in Alaska, but we are going to continue to do our level best to lower costs for the military. Through this effort, we stand our best chance for the military to keep a strong and permanent presence in Alaska.

The world is changing, and the pivot to the Pacific is underway. But, at the same time we look to the Indo-Pacific-Asia region, we have an obligation to protect our interests in the Arctic. Alaska is uniquely positioned to do both.

We are engaged with the Army and Air Force leadership in the Pacific Theater and at the Pentagon to educate everyone about the strategic and military value of Alaska. Later this fall, we will see a decision from the Air Force about the environmental impact statement for the proposal to move

the F-16 aggressor squadron from Eielson Air Force Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. We'll also see the Pacific Air Force strategic assessment of Eielson Air Force Base. Then in November, we expect to hear what Pacific bases are being considered for the stationing of two squadrons of F-35 Joint-Strike fighters.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs will continue to lead the efforts of state government to make sure we are best positioned to keep what we have and where possible, gain additional force structure.

The Army sees what Alaska has to offer. It added 550 Soldiers to Fort Wainwright after it concluded a nationwide evaluation of where to cut 130,000 Soldiers and civilians by 2020.

Through our strong partnerships, we will continue to make the military in Alaska the best strategic value and an example of cooperation, not just between Soldiers, Airmen and the community, but among businesses, government and corporate military leaders. ■



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Urban Warfare. Students work through an urban warfare scenario during the basic security operations course at the Pacific Regional Training Center, Guam, in May. Thirty-one defenders from Kadena Air Base, Japan, and Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, participated in the 17-day course to enhance their mission skills for deployment, as well as use the skills to train other defenders at their home stations.



Dispatches from the Front...

Enhancing Pacific Security Operations

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Benjamin Wiseman,
36th Wing Public Affairs

NORTHWEST FIELD, Guam ... Thirty-one active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and U.S. Navy members graduated from the basic security operations course in May at the Pacific Regional Training Center here on Guam.

Members of the 736th Security Forces Squadron Commando Warrior Flight operate the PRTC and train frontline defenders from the Pacific area of responsibility on U.S. Central Command and regional training requirements to support contingency missions and home station security.

During the 17-day course, students received in-depth training about convoy operations, counter improvised explosive devices, navigation techniques, advanced weapons tactics and other skills to promote base and mobile security. These skills are most vital to defenders when deploying downrange.

"The training they receive here is extremely important," said Senior Airman Justin Klukan, 736th SFS Commando Warrior PRTC cadre. "During the basic security operations course, students are thrown into realistic scenarios to see how they would react during a real-world situation. It is better for students to realize their reactions to certain situations in training than to just figure it out during deployment. Here, they get hands-on training that can't be duplicated at home station."

With nearly 16 hours of class work or field application each day, students are given the maximum time to learn new skills and hone ones they already know.

"We were put through a serious test during this training," said First Lieutenant Kevin Nelson, 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard. "It's great to see the Airmen and

noncommissioned officers work in this environment and train to lead and fight as if it was real."

The 736th SFS Commando Warrior Flight made sure training remained at a high tempo throughout the course and aided students who needed help or clarification.

"The instructors were great," Nelson continued. "They were very professional. I was really impressed after seeing the progress that my unit and other students were making."

As the PRTC continues to train up to eight classes a year, the commando warrior flight stands ready to prepare frontline defenders to support contingency missions all across the world.

"We work hard out here to train new students to the best of our abilities," Klukan said. "Any of our instructors will agree that it is worth the long days to know that these defenders will be ready to deploy when they leave our training site." ■



Security Operations. Airman First Class Cody Hoxie, fire team member, 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, provides cover fire for his team during an urban warfare scenario at the Pacific Regional Training Center in Guam.

Where in the World

Human Resources: A Gateway to Deployment

By Sergeant Edward Eagerton,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Six Soldiers with the 49th Theater Gateway's personnel accountability team, Alaska Army National Guard, returned from a human resources-centered exercise, Silver Scimitar, at Fort Devens, Mass., in March.

Silver Scimitar is an exercise designed to train Soldiers on how to properly and effectively operate a theater gateway in a combat zone. Theater gateways are the entry and exit points with which all personnel must pass before moving on to their respective areas of operation.

"It was an opportunity for us to validate ourselves before we go downrange, if we deploy in the future," said Lieutenant Colonel Don Mercer, director of the 49th Theater Gateway, Alaska Army National Guard.

Approximately 350 Soldiers, composed of active-duty Army, Army Reserves and National Guard, were in attendance for the exercise, Mercer said.

The training consisted of a week of classroom instruction and a second week of culminating exercises, which tested the Soldiers in their abilities to manage the flow of service members moving in and out of theater. Every person and piece of equipment moving through the gateway must be accounted for.

"The overview for everybody is accountability," said Sergeant Joseph

Mongolia



Mongolian Partnership. Colonel Eric Maxon, left, senior Guard advisor/chief of National Guard Affairs, presents Major Gantumur, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force VII, with a National Guard Affairs team coin in March for outstanding support as the task force operations officer in Afghanistan. Maxon is a member of the Alaska Army National Guard serving a tour with the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., and deployed to Afghanistan. Photo: Courtesy Colonel Eric Maxon, Alaska Army National Guard

Staunches, a transportation management coordinator with the 49th Theater Gateway, Alaska Army National Guard. "When you get in to theater, you see the gateway team first. They scan you in. That's when you've got boots on the ground. You start getting paid the separation pay, hazardous duty pay, active duty pay. They give you the lowdown on what to do, what not to do, what to wear and where to go." ■

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NATO Medals. Alaska Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Simon Brown, left, Alaska Army National Guard senior advisor/liaison officer to the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force, presents NATO medals to members of Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force VII during an April Transfer of Authority ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan. Mongolia is partnered with the Alaska National Guard as part of the National Guard's 65-nation State Partnership Program.

Photo: Colonel Eric Maxon, Alaska Army National Guard



Dental Exam. Lieutenant Colonel Julie Robinson, a dentist from the 176th Medical Group, works on a patient on Lanai, Hawaii, during Tropic Care 2013. Forty-five Alaska military personnel helped to run medical clinics for medically underserved Hawaiians as part of an innovative readiness training project in June.

Photo: Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Tropic Care

By Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Halla,
176th Wing Public Affairs

LANAI, Hawaii ... Forty-five Alaska military personnel from the Air and Army National Guard, as well as active-duty Air Force members ran medical clinics for medically underserved Hawaiians on the islands of Lanai, Molokai and Maui as part of a two-week innovative readiness training project in June.

The Alaskans joined about 500 other military personnel at six sites across four

Missile Interceptor. Sergeant Erik Wilkins, right, communications operator, Echo Crew, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, briefs Command Sergeant Major James N. Ross, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, on his role in the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System in March. Wilkins is part of a five-member crew that can launch ground-based interceptors from Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., to intercept long-range ballistic missiles threatening the United States. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jack Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



USS Anchorage. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk combat search-and-rescue helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron prepares to land in April on the flight deck of the USS Anchorage, an amphibious landing craft, in Cook Inlet. The Pave Hawk pilots practiced landing on the USS Anchorage to receive training not readily available in the region. The USS Anchorage came to the Port of Anchorage for a commissioning ceremony in the city it was named for. Photo: Staff Sergeant Zachary Wolf, U.S. Air Force



Goodbye Hugs. Senior Airman Kristen Harmening, an aviation resource manager from the 176th Operations Group, says farewell to her son and husband on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson before leaving on her first deployment in June. Nearly 100 Air Guardsmen from across the 176th Wing left for a deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs

wonderful thing most of us are going to remember for a long time.” ■

Airmen Deploy to Kuwait

By Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

Nearly 100 Alaska Air National Guard members from the 176th Wing deployed in June to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The deployers are primarily from the wing’s 144th Airlift Squadron and 176th Maintenance Group, with additional support personnel.

“Our training really shows in the deployed environment,” said Lieutenant Colonel Dirk Cain,

144th Airlift Squadron, mission commander of the deployment. “We’re looking to do our best and to represent the state of Alaska well.”

The group’s primary wartime mission is to support the movement of cargo and personnel. Members of the 144th Airlift Squadron fly the C-130 Hercules.

Most of the deployers will remain in Kuwait on a 60-day rotation.

Since 1952, the 176th Wing has effectively served Alaskans at home and American interests abroad. Today, the JBER-based unit is among the largest and busiest wings in the Air National Guard. ■

Hawaiian islands as part of Tropic Care 2013, the largest IRT mission since the program began. The group provided care in optometry, dentistry, physical exams, public health assessments, medical equipment repair and grief counseling.

“It’s a two-fold benefit for the taxpayer,” said Lieutenant Colonel Sharolyn Lange, the 176th Medical Group commander, Alaska Air National Guard, and Lanai team leader. “Not only are we training and getting our war skills up, we’re actually taking care of Americans.”

The National Guard Bureau’s innovative readiness training program is meant to meet

mission-essential training while lending a helping hand to deserving communities and organizations. Entities applying for assistance must demonstrate standards such as level of need. Hawaii is classified with several medically underserved areas and populations, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

At a community-sponsored opening ceremony on Lanai, a part of Maui County, the mayor expressed appreciation to the troops. “Thank you very much for all that you do,” said Alan Arakawa, mayor of Maui County. “The people of Maui County really do appreciate it. This is a very, very

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



River Watch Teams Prove Their Worth During Breakup

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Spring breakup is a dangerous time in Alaska. Rivers that serve as transportation corridors for snowmobiles and cars during the winter and boats during the summer are rendered impassable by massive chunks of churning ice and open water. Ice chunks, some as big as a house or as large as a football field, move down stream at speeds of up to 10 miles per hour.

When the ice moves within the banks of the river, it is a time of celebration for many communities because they know that boat travel and subsistence hunting and fishing will soon be possible.

A smooth breakup means that ice jam flooding will not ravage their community. But ice moving downriver can get caught in a bend in the river, become grounded on a sand bar, or simply pile up on itself and form an ice jam. Water builds up behind the jam

until there is enough force to lift the ice and carry it downriver.

Ice jams can cause water to jump the banks of the river and flood nearby communities. A lifted ice jam can also be a source of flooding as the large slug of water that lifted the jam brings ice and water crashing into a riverside community.

For more than 30 years, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the Alaska Pacific River Forecast Center have partnered to form the River Watch program. Each River Watch team conducts aerial observations of the breakup front, provides early warning, helps communities prepare for flooding, and if necessary, works with the community to respond to flooding and make subsequent requests for emergency assistance.

Notification of ice jam conditions have proved valuable. Many Alaska river communities are isolated, with many miles from

one community to the next. Ice jams can develop in the unobserved areas and impact nearby communities. It is River Watch's mission to provide early warning so communities can take the necessary steps.

This year, Circle, on the Upper Yukon, worked closely with the River Watch team to prepare the community when a flood warning was issued. The Native village of Circle readied its emergency shelter, asked residents to put essential supplies in a go-kit, moved vehicles to higher ground, and put aside emergency food and water. The village warned residents about the potential for flooding and where people should go.

In early morning May 19, the water began to flow over the top of the sea wall. Circle residents all moved to a safe area. In a few hours the water rose eight feet. The flooding in Circle resembled a flash flood in that the water rose rapidly and then receded in a matter of hours.



Aerial View. A River Watch flight captures the devastation in Galena as ice in the Yukon River caused flood waters to inundate the town in May. Photo: David Lee, DHS&EM



Ice Makes Landfall. Claude Denver, River Watch emergency manager, DHS&EM, gives some perspective in Eagle on the size of ice slabs that can crush a town during spring breakup when ice jams occur along some of the state's rivers. Photo: Courtesy DHS&EM



Pinned by Ice. A trailer in Circle is no match against the force of ice as it breaches the banks in this community during ice jam flooding in May. Photo: Claude Denver, DHS&EM

"The water flowed through the area with surprising speed. The high, rapidly moving water sent massive chunks of ice slamming into the homes along the river front," said Claude Denver, River Watch emergency manager, DHS&EM. "The flooding inundated all but two of the homes in the community. Before the flooding occurred, every member of the community was notified and moved to a safe location."

Another benefit of the River Watch program is the emergency management specialist who is part of the team. If flooding is imminent, the emergency management specialist can help the community make preparations such as readying their emergency shelters. The community can also request emergency assistance directly from the emergency manager, who is in regular contact with the State Emergency Operations Center.

"Many times our emergency manager is in the community as flooding is taking place," Denver said. "This gives us a trained perspective that can help a community identify the greatest need."

In Galena, the Yukon River began to rise May 27. Downriver at Bishop Rock, a sharp kink in the river, an ice jam had formed. The River Watch team notified the community that flooding was likely.

As the water began to spill over the banks of the river and flood Galena, the River Watch emergency manager embedded with the community's leadership contacted the State Emergency Operations Center. Water eventually reached 90 percent of Galena homes.

The community, with support from the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the

American Red Cross of Alaska, evacuated more than 300 people to Anchorage, Fairbanks and Ruby. Two emergency shelters were established in Galena.

On May 28, the State Emergency Operations Center received information from the Galena-based DHS&EM emergency management specialist that water had begun to spill over the dike protecting the airport runway and that further evacuation would be necessary. With a flooded runway, Galena would have no way out.

The State Emergency Operations Center contacted the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and requested search-and-rescue assets and evacuation resources to rescue those needing to leave Galena. The RCC contacted the Alaska Air National

Guard, who activated an HC-130 King aircraft and an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with pararescuemen on both aircraft. The Alaska Army National Guard sent a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Just four hours after notification that an evacuation was necessary, Alaska National Guard resources were on the ground.

"The role of DHS&EM is to support communities' response to disasters and to activate state resources when an event overwhelms a community's ability to provide essential life, health and safety services," said John Madden, director of DHS&EM. "The River Watch enterprise allows us to accomplish this mission along the remote river systems of our state." ■



Evacuation. Alaska Air National Guard members help residents of Galena into a C-130 Hercules during an evacuation of the town in May. The Alaska National Guard sent multiple aircraft and rescue personnel to the rural Alaska village to assist with rescue efforts. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

Mighty Yukon Deals Mighty Blow. The mighty Yukon breaches its banks at Galena in May and floods the town, destroying homes and infrastructure. Photo: David Lee, DHS&EM



FEDERAL DISASTER Declared for Spring 2013 Floods



By DHS&EM and FEMA Staff

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... On June 25, President Barak Obama approved Alaska Governor Sean Parnell's request for federal assistance in the disaster-affected areas of

the Alaska Gateway, Yukon Flats, Yukon Koyukuk, Lower Yukon and Copper River Regional Attendance Areas.

All areas were approved for the Individual Assistance Program and Public Assistance

Program, with the exception of the Copper River Regional Attendance Area, which has access only to the Public Assistance Program. The Federal Disaster Declaration makes federal funds and resources available to support the recovery of these areas affected by the 2013 spring floods.

The federal assistance programs offer help to individuals and families affected by the disaster, as well as funds to assist the state, tribal, and affected local governments with infrastructure damages and costs incurred during the response and recovery from the floods.

Based on eligibility, Individual Assistance includes many different programs to help individuals and families affected by the floods including:

- Temporary housing.
- Grants to repair or replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation, and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs.
- Unemployment assistance benefits.



Flood Waters. Residents of Emmonak watch as flood waters begin to take their toll on the small community during spring breakup in May. Photo: Courtesy Alaska State Troopers

- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance.
- Loans for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, nonprofit organizations.
- Loans for farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residences.
- Other relief programs: crisis counseling assistance for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans' benefits and social security matters.

Individuals affected by the 2013 spring floods that occurred from May 17 to June 11 can call or go online to register for disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“Registering is an important first step on the path to a variety of recovery programs,” said federal coordinating officer Dolph Diemont. “We are encouraging people to apply as soon as possible.”

“Registering with FEMA is essential, even if survivors have already registered with the state,” said state coordinating officer Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM.

Those in the area designated for assistance to affected individuals and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web-enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Disaster assistance applicants who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service, call 1-800-621-3362.

The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days



Water and Ice Damage. An Eagle resident surveys the damage caused by spring breakup and flooding along the Yukon River in May. Photo: Claude Denver, DHS&EM



Pool Clean Up. Workers clean up the community pool in Galena in June after flood waters from the Yukon River damaged the facility as well as many homes and other public buildings in town. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM

a week until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves

(name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses. ■



Debris Removal. Insulation and debris mount outside the Galena city hall building and health clinic in June, as workers cleared out the building down to the studs because of the damage caused by flooding. Photo: Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

New Anchorage Sam's Club values military experience

Veterans Welcome Home Commitment creates local employment opportunities



Over the past several months, Sam's Club has been working toward the relocation and grand re-opening of one of its two clubs in Anchorage. While the relocation will translate into even more convenience, products and services, it will also create opportunities for employment across the community.

Sam's Club, the nation's eighth-largest retailer and a leading membership warehouse club, has already hired, and will continue to hire associates as part of the move. And, with parent company Walmart recently announcing its Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, an emphasis has already been placed on recruiting those with military experience. Through the commitment, Walmart has pledged to hire any honorably discharged veteran within his or her first year off active duty. It projects to hire more than 100,000 veterans over the next five years alone.

"As part of the program, our club visits the nearby bases every Tuesday to provide classes to transitioning service members," said Jim Stoneking, Member Services Assistant Manager at Sam's



Club in Anchorage, who served nine years in the U.S. Army. "Sam's Club values the skills and experience veterans can bring to its business and the civilian world. And not only that, but

Sam's Club provides excellent opportunities for advancement. There's no limit to what you can accomplish in your career here."

For Stoneking, who was stationed in Honduras, Germany, South Korea and on Alaskan soil between Grenada and the Gulf War, the values at Sam's Club and the opportunities it affords associates have made for a perfect match.

"I've been out of the military for 21 years, but it still feels like it was yesterday," said Stoneking, who has been with Sam's Club for just over a year. "I still think of myself as a paratrooper sergeant. That focus on accomplishing a mission and taking care of my troops has served me well in leading people at Sam's Club. The associates can feel my commitment – they know that I care about them and our members know I'm here to serve them."

Jim is excited about what the new club will offer by way of jobs, but also in convenience. "I think our members will be excited to shop their new club. They'll be able to get all of the services Sam's Club has to offer, in one location."

Guardsmen First to Summit Mount McKinley

By Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hayes, 176th Wing

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Five Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 212th Rescue Squadron became the first group to reach the 20,320-foot peak of Mount McKinley this year, summiting North America's tallest mountain May 9.

Major Matt Komatsu, Chief Master Sergeant Paul Barendregt, Technical Sergeant Kyle Minshew, Staff Sergeant William "Bill" Cenna and Staff Sergeant Brett Wilson summited the mountain, often referred to as Denali, during a training expedition to enhance their winter survival skills in rescue operations.

"We were dropped off by the 210th Rescue Squadron in a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter on April 25 and began our training the next day to enhance our high altitude winter rescue and glacier skills," Komatsu said. "The nature of climbing Denali provided our team the training we needed in terms of surviving in those types of climates. We went out there to train, with the added benefit of summiting Denali if possible."

With Denali Base Camp at the 7,200-foot level, the Alaska Guardsmen began the tedious climb on April 26, making sure to follow a daily schedule to avoid injury and sickness.

"Our daily plan was pretty predictable," Komatsu said. "You wake up when the sun hits your tent, spend a couple hours getting something to eat and drinking plenty of



Ascent. Chief Master Sergeant Paul Barendregt climbs up the prow of the West Buttress on Mount McKinley during winter rescue and glacier training. Barendregt and four other Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 212th Rescue Squadron became the first group to reach the 20,320-foot peak of Mount McKinley this season. Photo: Courtesy Alaska Air National Guard

water before preparing for the day's movement. Nothing super spectacular but sort of the patient approach to the route is the best way to avoid getting altitude sickness."

According to Komatsu, the Alaska Guardsmen moved up the mountain six to eight hours a day with a 2,000 to 3,000-foot daily gain in elevation.

"We were on skis and roped together up to about 11,000 feet. And then from 11,000 feet, we used crampons, ice axes

and rope climbing until we reached the peak," Komatsu said.

After two weeks of climbing, the Alaska Guardsmen reached the peak around 6 p.m. May 9, completing an arduous journey during a year that marks the 100th anniversary of the first successful ascent of McKinley's summit.

"It was pretty rewarding," Komatsu said. "We had a lot of challenging weather on the way up and to be able to persevere as a team, get the training value of it and learn when to push it and when not to push it, provides us real lessons for conducting missions here in Alaska."

"There pretty much is not a more unforgiving environment than Denali. This training and environment will prepare our team for the real hard-core, dangerous winter missions where we have to stay alive and keep the patient alive for a couple of days or longer. It's critical to our ability to operate in Alaska."

In addition to this team, the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, also known as Guardian Angels, sent two more expedition teams to Denali this climbing season to conduct training in winter rescue and glacial climbing operations.

Three members of the 212th Rescue Squadron are also supporting the National Park Service as part of the Volunteers-In-Parks program, where pararescuemen use their specialized skills to accompany National Park Service climbing rangers for roughly 30 days on the mountain to assist in rescue operations. ■

First to the Top. Back row, from left, Chief Master Sergeant Paul Barendregt, Technical Sergeant Kyle Minshew and Staff Sergeant William "Bill" Cenna. Front, Major Matt Komatsu and Staff Sergeant Brett Wilson. The five Alaska National Guardsmen with the 212th Rescue Squadron pose for a photo at the 20,320-foot peak of Mount McKinley after becoming the first group in 2013 to summit North America's tallest mountain May 9.

Photo: Courtesy Alaska Air National Guard





Aviation in Alaska. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters transport personnel in and out of Selawik, one of the western Alaska villages that was part of Operation Arctic Care, which brought in medical, dental and veterinary aid to 12 rural villages in Alaska in April. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Ready to Serve



Aviation Support Leads to Arctic Care Success

By Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... More than 40 Guardsmen from the 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, provided aviation support in April for the nation's largest recurring joint medical readiness exercise, Operation Arctic Care.

With no roads connecting villages in northwest Alaska, aviation assets were essential in transporting supplies, equipment and personnel to 11 locations in two weeks.

"This year we worked with the Maniilaq Corporation [regional Native corporation] under the operational control of the Marines," said Captain Brendon Holbrook, B Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, commander. "Without aviation support, they wouldn't be able to get the doctors, nurses, veterinarians, and health care technicians who are so vital for the care and upkeep of all the people in the villages."

Sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Arctic Care was able to provide health care and veterinary support to residents in the Kotzebue Sound region of western Alaska.



Local Travel. Using the customary mode of travel, service members representing the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Marine Forces Reserve, National Guard and Navy Reserve take a sled ride while visiting the village of Selawik during Operation Arctic Care. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

The joint mission brought up 19 Guardsmen and two UH-60 Black Hawks from the Nebraska National Guard.

"The experience offered a great deal of training that is unable to be accomplished in Nebraska," said Captain Aaron Fisk, C Company, 2-135th Aviation (Air Ambulance) Company, Nebraska Army National Guard. "Everyone worked as a team to be able to provide the needed aviation assets to accomplish the mission."

Army National Guard aviators and maintainers worked vigorously to support UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and C-23 Sherpas that flew more than 325 hours, carried 64,294 pounds of cargo and transported 506 passengers in support of the mission.

The overall numbers were outstanding, Fisk said. "The Alaska National Guard was very helpful, and we were able to work as one unit with mixed aircraft and personnel."

"Seeing the helicopters fly over, I think it's a big treat for the people in the villages," Holbrook said. "They know that we are bringing in all the personnel, and they really look to us as a big help to them. Without the Alaska National Guard, specifically the aviation support that we provide, this operation wouldn't be able to exist." ■



Veterinary Care. Major General Thomas H. Katkus, center, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and other commanders observe Specialist Karen Green, veterinary technician, 109th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services, as she prepares a dog for a surgery in Noorvik as part of Operation Arctic Care in April.

Photo: Corporal Marcin Platek, Marine Forces Reserve



Dental Exam. Commander Greg Klein, 14th Dental Company, 4th Dental Battalion, Navy Reserves, administers a dental exam at the Community Health Center in Noorvik during Operation Arctic Care in April. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Crew Chief. Sergeant Joshua Stroud, B Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, crew chief, watches the surrounding area of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter before it departs Kotzebue in support of Operation Arctic Care. As the nation's largest recurring joint medical readiness exercise, Operation Arctic Care provides topnotch medical, dental and veterinary care to remote areas of western Alaska. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

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176th Air Control Squadron

OPPORTUNITIES

By Staff Sergeant James Walker, 176th Air Control Squadron

JOINT BASE ELEMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

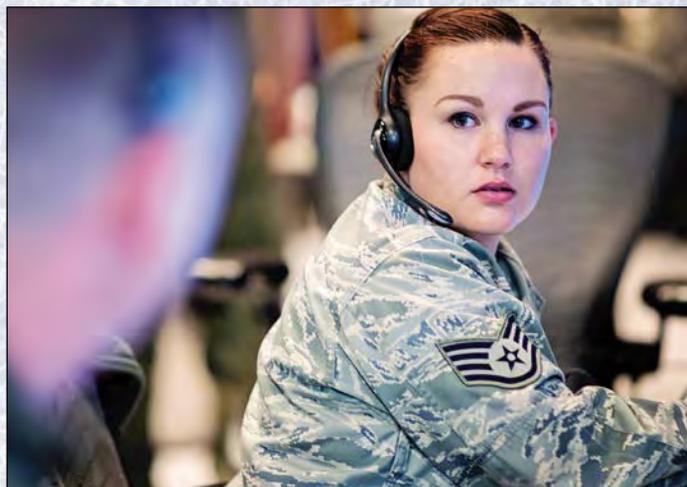
The Air National Guard has a rich heritage of growing leaders within its ranks and upholding the state mission with tremendous “in-house” experience.

Comprising 148 Guardsman and 10 Royal Canadian Air Force members, the 176th Air Control Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage has been a National Guard fixture as NORAD’s 24/7 Eyes of the North. The 176th ACS is a crucial part of the Alaskan NORAD Region’s cog. It serves as the tactical arm of a mission that claims roots back to the 1950s, and the Canadian component plays an instrumental role in the execution of the NORAD mission.

Since its inception in 2004, the 176th ACS has commissioned nine prior enlisted members. Enlisted positions as command-and-control battle management operators have given these future officer candidates an exceptional level of experience by having them maintain and control 1.3 million square miles of Alaska airspace for which the squadron is responsible. While the enlisted career options are also strong, those who stand out may have an opportunity to be selected from within to serve in these key positions as junior officers either in a drill-status Guardsman role or as a full-time active Guard reserve member.

There are several ways Airmen can get their commissions in the Air Force, but the Guard is unique in that it has its own officer training school apart from its active-duty counterpart. Enlisted members trade in their stripes for bars at the Academy of Military Science, formerly at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn., and now a permanent fixture at Air University’s campus in Montgomery, Ala.

“I completed my degree after a recent promotion to technical sergeant, just as our manning document authorized two new 13B (air battle manager) positions,” said Captain Clarence Stevens,



Communications. Staff Sergeant Danielle Carpenter, weapons director with the 176th Air Control Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, communicates with her Canadian counterpart while attempting radio communication with an aircraft in Alaska.

Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

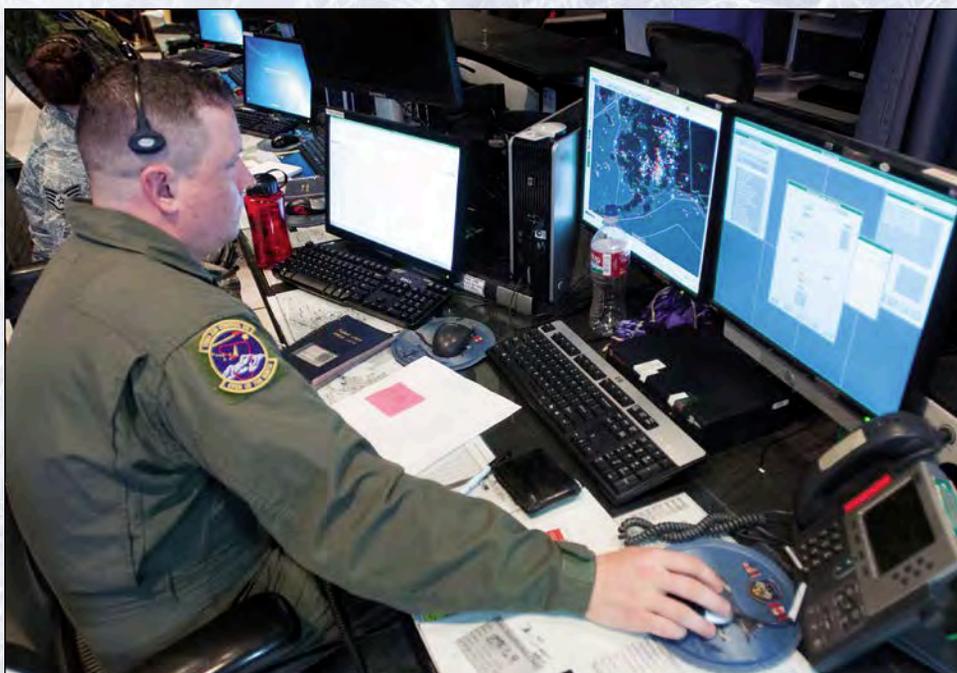
mission crew commander and chief of standardizations and evaluations. “Two of the three positions were filled with officers, and I got the last one. The opportunity does exist, and we do commission more individuals than any other squadron I’ve ever been in. I’d encourage anyone seeking this opportunity to go full throttle at it, but to have a backup plan if things don’t pan out.”

“This has been an outstanding opportunity as a capstone to a great enlisted career. The best part of the job is the demanding, yet rewarding, opportunity the 176th presents in its day-to-day missions of aerospace control and air sovereignty,” said Captain Christopher Perham, 176th ACS officer in charge for public affairs and former technical sergeant. “The Academy of Military Science was one of the best Air Force schools I’ve ever gone through.”

Aside from the opportunity to commission with the 176th ACS, many have found other reasons to make the 176th their home, starting with their priorities on the home front.

“I wanted stability for my family back here in Alaska, and the 176th ACS was hiring a communication officer,” said Major Gordon Birdsall, chief of support. “I sought out this type of stability at 15 years of service because our children were, at the time, 14 and 10, and we wanted them to begin and end high school without PCS-ing into a new school. This unit doesn’t deploy, and I didn’t want to deploy again and lose valuable family time while in Afghanistan, Pakistan or other such destinations.”

The 176th Air Control Squadron is always looking for outstanding candidates, officer and enlisted, from any Air Force specialty code. Interested parties should contact their nearest Guard recruiter or active-duty in-service recruiter to find out if the 176th Air Control Squadron might be a good fit. ■



Watching the Skies. Staff Sergeant David Taylor, air surveillance technician with the 176th Air Control Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, monitors the airspace over Alaska in May. The members of the 176th ACS maintain a continuous watch on the skies over North America from a secure, high-tech facility on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

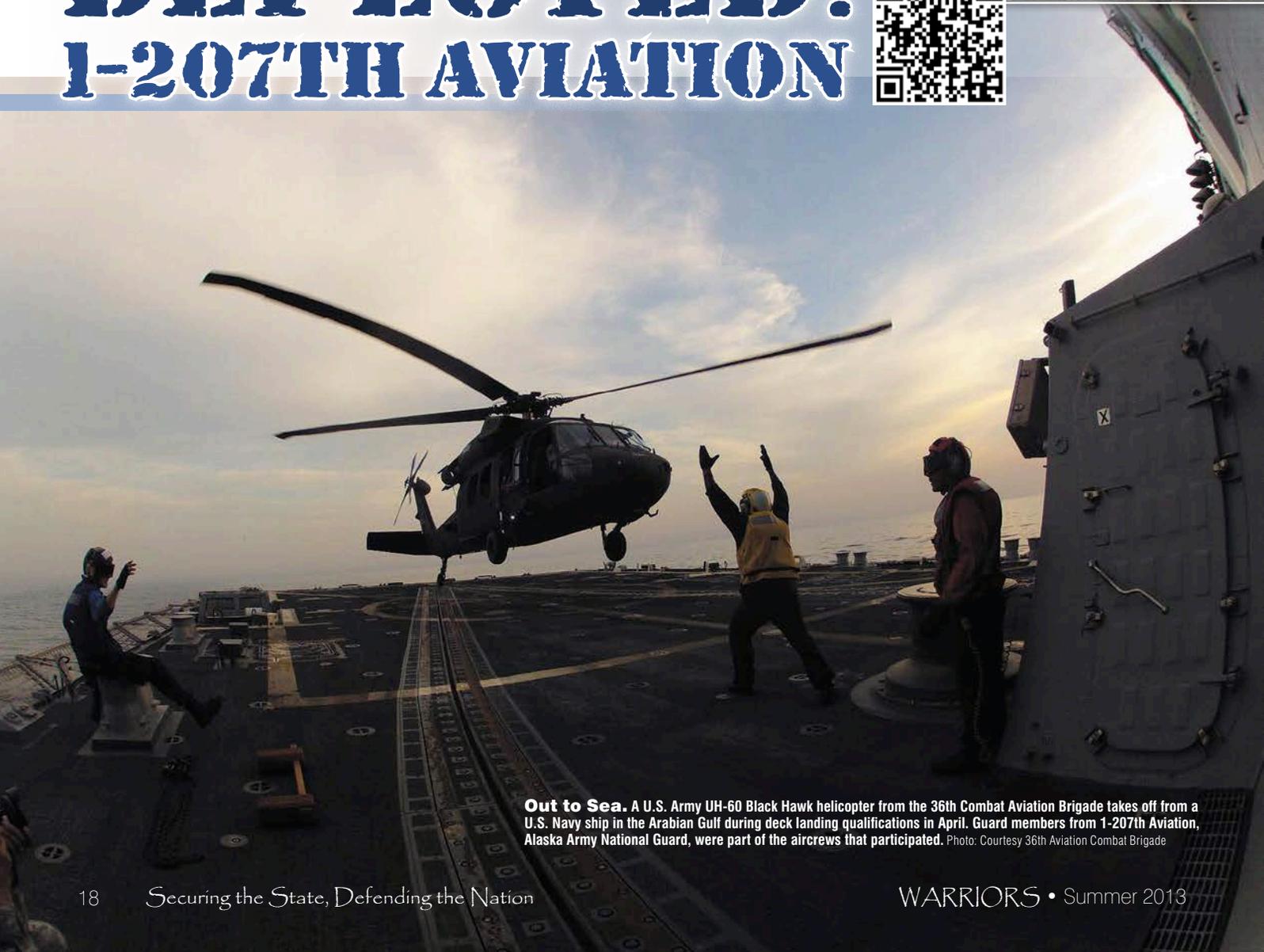


Rescue Exercise. Aircrews from 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, train with aircrews from 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion, Colorado National Guard, and 2-238th Aviation, Indiana National Guard, during a personnel recovery exercise in the Arabian Gulf in April. Army and Naval aviators worked together to rescue Soldiers from the water as a result of a simulated downed aircraft.

Photo: Sergeant Mark Scovell, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade



DEPLOYED: 1-207TH AVIATION



Out to Sea. A U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade takes off from a U.S. Navy ship in the Arabian Gulf during deck landing qualifications in April. Guard members from 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, were part of the aircrews that participated. Photo: Courtesy 36th Aviation Combat Brigade

Deployed. Sergeant Sonny Cooper, A Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, awaits the arrival of Major General John Nichols, adjutant general of the Texas National Guard, at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait in June. Photo: Major Randy Stillinger, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade



Rotor Work. Specialist Tanner Lauderback, left, and Specialist Robert Hannam, both UH-60 Black Hawk crew chiefs for A Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, adjust the pitch control rods that help turn the rotor on an Alaska National Guard helicopter during pre-deployment training in Fort Hood, Texas, in March. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



It's Getting Hot In Here. Record temperatures in Alaska in June are no match for the heat felt in the desert by some of our deployed Guard members. Warrant Officer Jeff Rogers, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, shows how hot it is in Kuwait where his unit is deployed providing aviation support with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to U.S. and coalition forces.

Photo: Courtesy Alaska Army National Guard



Aviators Aboard. Sergeant Adam Weber, left, Chief Warrant Officer Two Franklin Bithos, center, and Specialist Tanner Lauderback, all from A Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, stand onboard the USS San Antonio in the Arabian Gulf during training in May. Photo: Major Randy Stillinger, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade



Maintenance. Alaska National Guardsmen from A Company, 1-207th Aviation, perform maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during pre-deployment training in Fort Hood, Texas, in March. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



Guardisman on track to West Point

By Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

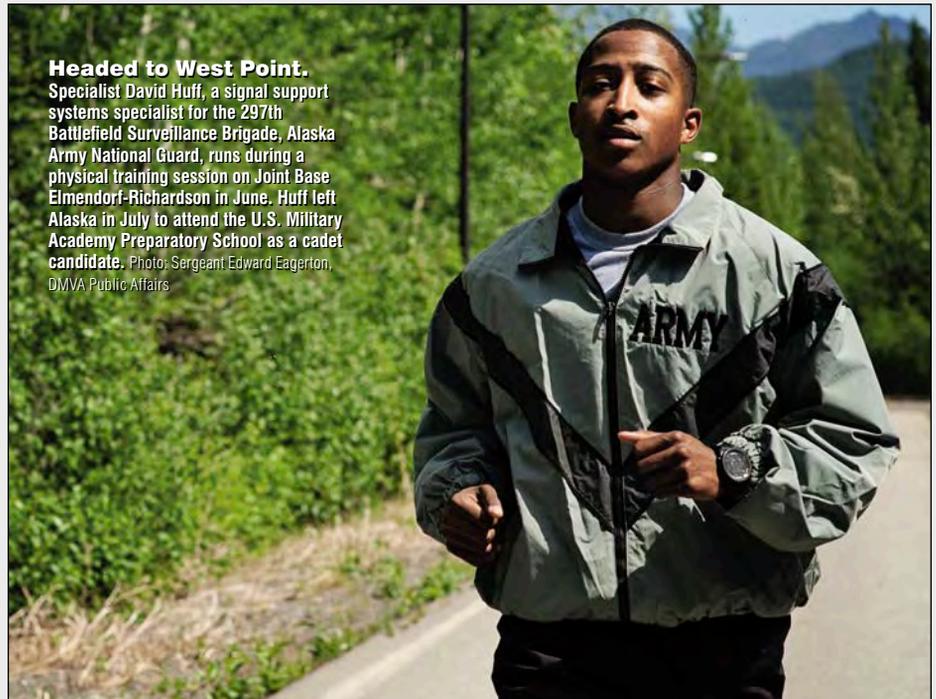
CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... As a high school dropout, Specialist David Huff has accomplished more than he ever expected in the past three and a half years.

Upon completing the Alaska Military Youth Academy, enlisting in the Alaska Army National Guard, and graduating from the National Guard Patriot Academy, Huff is now bound for the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

After an altercation led to suspension at the end of his freshman year in high school, Huff was left six credits behind and with a diminishing grade point average.

"I had to make up those credits, and I had an attitude problem," said Huff, 21, a signal support systems specialist for the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard. "So I dropped out of high school and was accepted into the AMYA."

The AMYA ChalleNGe Program is designed to intervene and reclaim the lives of Alaska's at-risk youth and produce graduates with the skills to succeed as adults.



Headed to West Point. Specialist David Huff, a signal support systems specialist for the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, runs during a physical training session on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Huff left Alaska in July to attend the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School as a cadet candidate. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

"I got angry really easily and let opportunities that I could have had go by the wayside under my own free will and accord," Huff

said. "I did well at the AMYA but still left there dealing with some issues of immaturity."

Two months after he talked to a recruiter, Huff enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard and took advantage of another opportunity by attending the National Guard Patriot Academy.

While lack of funding closed this pilot program January this year, the Patriot Academy offered qualified recruits the opportunity to finish high school and earn college credit while giving back to the community.

"A Patriot Academy instructor and additional role model got him refocused on the longer objective term in life of being successful and to really go for a diploma and look at other options," said Brigadier General Mike Bridges, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard. "One of those other options was the potential to receive a National Guard nomination to West Point from the Alaska Army Guard."

With no knowledge of West Point, Huff began researching the academy that is synonymous with educating, training and inspiring many of the Army's greatest leaders throughout the past 200 years.

"To see the people who have actually gone to West Point and to see the things they have done, that's a goal worth aiming for," Huff said. "The experience that you



Stand-Out Cadet. David Huff, center, now a member of the Alaska Army National Guard, smiles with his parents, Darryl and Bridgett, in June 2010 after receiving a citation from the 26th Alaska Legislature honoring him for being chosen as the 2010 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year for Alaska. At the time, Huff was a cadet with the Alaska Military Youth Academy and later joined the Alaska Army National Guard as a signal support systems specialist for the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hayes, 176th Wing

get there, the different people that influence you, it's second to none."

With thousands of students applying to West Point each year, it is an exceptional honor being accepted for admission. After being denied admission twice, Huff was finally admitted into the West Point Preparatory School on his third attempt.

"I was taking college English, Trigonometry, and Chemistry, and they saw I was doing well," Huff said. "I'm extremely grateful they recognized the academic and leadership potential in me because usually when they say 'no' the first time, it's stays 'no.'"

With roots in the Alaska Army National Guard, Huff will be able to share what he's learned here and also expand on that, giving even more to the country with this new venture.

"We will feel bad about losing a great Soldier from our ranks who has potential and is doing well, but the Alaska Army National Guard is sharing this young man and his potential with the nation through service," Bridges said. "He is succeeding in a great way, which makes us very proud of being his host family unit."

"For me to even have the opportunity to go to the prep school is a blessing in and of itself," Huff said. "Through all this, I've learned that you really can't go anywhere unless you have a goal in life."



Army Guard Proud. Specialist David Huff, a signal support systems specialist for the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, takes a break from lifting weights during a physical training session on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Huff is a graduate of the Alaska Military Youth Academy and the National Guard Patriot Academy and headed to the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School as a cadet candidate in July. Photo: Sergeant Edward Egerton, DMVA Public Affairs

With a growing list of people Huff attributes to his success, there are two people who stand out — his father, Darryl Huff, and retired General Colin Powell, U.S. Army.

"Apart from God, I couldn't have made it this far without my dad," Huff said. "It's amazing what God has done for me, and my dad always knew I could do better and pushed me."

Huff has nothing but accolades to say about Powell after reading his book "My

American Journey" while attending the AMYA. Huff's mantra in life came from the book: "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."

"I changed my mindset and my history of getting in trouble into something positive," Huff said. "You get the right mindset, you get hungry, and you go after what you want."

Huff left for the West Point Prep School in July. ■

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Legislation Supports Military Community

By Office of Governor Sean Parnell Staff

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... Governor Sean Parnell signed several pieces of legislation in June honoring and supporting our military personnel and their families.

“Our service members and their families are the pride of Alaska,” Parnell said. “Alaska has the privilege of counting upwards of 77,000 veterans as residents of our great state. We want to see that population flourish, and we want more of our active-duty military and their families to call Alaska home when they choose to retire.”

Senate Bill 73, sponsored by Senator Kevin Meyer, allows a municipality to grant a property tax exemption to a military widow or widower whose spouse died while serving in the U.S. armed forces or in the National Guard. The legislation provides an exemption on the first \$150,000 of the assessed value of the primary residence.

House Bill 46, sponsored by Representative Dan Saddler, allows the State of Alaska to waive the commercial driver’s license road skills test for military personnel who earned their driving experience operating commercial-grade vehicles in the armed services.

House Bill 84, also sponsored by Saddler, allows military service, training, and education acquired while on active duty service to count toward temporary occupational licensure in professions administered by the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. It also directs the University of Alaska to accept credit toward degrees and vocational certificates if applicable.

HCR 2, sponsored by Representative Shelley Hughes, proclaims Alaska a Purple Heart State to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation’s men and women in uniform wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

HCR 5, sponsored by Saddler, awards the Alaska Decoration of Honor to nine individuals who were killed in the line of duty while honorably serving our state and country in 2012. The Alaska Decoration of Honor is awarded posthumously to Dustin P. Napier, Jeffrey L. White Jr., Thomas K. Fogarty, Brian L. Walker, Richard L. McNulty, Vincent J. Ellis, Nathan T. Davis, Carl E. Hammar and Ethan J. Martin. ■

“Our service members and their families are the pride of Alaska. We want to see that population flourish, and we want more of our active-duty military and their families to call Alaska home when they choose to retire.”

— Governor Sean Parnell



Military Supporters. Governor Sean Parnell signed several pieces of legislation honoring and supporting Alaska’s military personnel and their families in June on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. From left: Department of Labor Commissioner Dianne Blumer, Representative Lora Reinbold, Representative Lance Pruitt, Senator Kevin Meyer, Representative Dan Saddler, Governor Sean Parnell, Representative Wes Keller, Ron Siebels (Military Order of the Purple Heart), Gordon Severson (Military Order of the Purple Heart), Representative Shelley Hughes, Representative Charisse Millett, Representative Bob Lynn, Representative Gabrielle LeDoux and Representative Mia Costello. Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sean Parnell



Veterans

A Challenge to All Veterans

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Throughout Alaska's history, men and women from every corner of the state have courageously given their youth, and sometimes their lives, defending our country.

Today, we have living in our great state, several heroes of our conflicts. We have 35,451 who have served in the Gulf region and Afghanistan; 21,451 Vietnam War-era veterans, 2,920 Korean War veterans, 1,578 WW II veterans and 14,523 peace-time veterans. Those who answered the nation's call, whether by choice or draft, dutifully served in the place of others so all can enjoy the freedoms we have today.

This year marks the 10th year since our country witnessed the start of the present

Gulf War. Since then, operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have made up the longest sustained U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War.

As the conflicts wind down, we often find ourselves in a place of limited memories. Many times, only those who serve and their families remember the conflicts; and in some cases, they continue to fight the wars in their thoughts and dreams.

The best way to promote healing is through discussion with others. For our veterans, post-traumatic stress disorder is the silent bullet you never hear. PTSD disrupts the lives of combat veterans and the lives of family and friends. It does not distinguish between race, age or gender and often goes undiagnosed.

Not long ago, I was challenged to read the book *Tears of a Warrior*. After reading the book, I could see the changes that occurred in my own family and how my time in combat shaped my future. I know it is hard to admit when we're wrong, and moreover, it is hard to ask for help.

My challenge to all veterans is to contact the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs for a free copy of *Tears of a Warrior*. You can call us toll free as well at 800-248-3682. If you discover, after reading the book, that it touches a bundle of nerves, that's okay as well. Call our office at the toll-free number, and we will be honored to put you in touch with a veterans center or Family Program office close to you. I know working together, we can help. ■





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Alaska State Defense Force



Honoring History and Sacrifice. The Russian American Colony Singers commemorate Alaska World War II Remembrance Days with Brigadier General Roger Holl, center in green, commander, Alaska State Defense Force, and retired Colonel Suellyn Wright Novak, president, Alaska Veterans Museum.

Remembering World War II

Story and photo by Captain Melissa Holl, Alaska State Defense Force

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... The Alaska State Defense Force aided the Russian American Colony Singers and the Alaska Veterans Museum in the historical program “Alaska World War II Remembrance Day” in Anchorage and Fairbanks in May.

The two Alaska WWII Remembrance Day events were “a historical and musical narrative to commemorate WWII in general and especially the role of Alaska during that time.”

Governor Sean Parnell signed an executive proclamation proclaiming May 8-11, 2013, as Alaska WWII Remembrance Days in Alaska. He urged “Alaskans everywhere to observe our great state’s role in this significant conflict, remembering the service of those who fought so that others could remain free.”

The two commemorations emphasized a pivotal time in the history of our state. According to Stephen Ambrose, historian

and author, it was “the war that changed the world.” It was in those years that Alaska had great events too, including the founding of the Alaska Territorial Guard, building the Alaska Highway and defending American soil as the war in the Pacific reached the shores of the Aleutian Islands.

First Lieutenant Zlata Lund, Alaska State Defense Force and director of the Russian American Colony Singers, along with retired Colonel Suellyn Wright Novak, president of the Alaska Veterans Museum, provided a stirring historical narrative of World War II set to music, video and slides. In attendance were honored veterans who served in the war.

These events and the Alaska WWII Remembrance Days were founded to honor the service and sacrifice of those veterans. ■

Governor Sean Parnell urged “Alaskans everywhere to observe our great state’s role in this significant conflict, remembering the service of those who fought so that others could remain free.”

Radiological Hazard Exercise Tests Responders

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) tested its ability to respond to a chemical, biological and radiological threat in Sitka with several other agencies in March.

The exercise, dubbed Exercise Orca, revolved around the scenario of eco-terrorists, known to have chemists within their group, who threatened commercial fish and aquaculture industries in Southeast Alaska. The scenario had it that the terrorists set up a clandestine lab in old Fort Rousseau on Makhnati Island in Sitka Harbor where they were manufacturing unlicensed radioactive materials and spreading it through food at a local bazaar causing possible radiation poisoning.

"Our primary purpose for this exercise was to test our ability to respond to a remote location in Alaska, understand the town's capabilities, interact with a small town's command post and assess our interoperability among several agencies," said Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Wilson, 103rd CST (WMD) commander. "We also tested the Civil Support Team's response, as well as the community's response, to a chemical, biological and radiological hazard."

During the exercise and as part of the scenario, the City of Sitka received several chemical, biological and radiological threats, which prompted officials to request assistance from the 103rd CST (WMD).

"We determined that additional support was required in radiation assistance, so the Department of Energy's Radiation Assistance Program Region 8 arrived to advise on radiation hazards," Wilson said.

In addition, several agencies also provided field experts and assistance, testing their own capabilities as well. Among those that participated were the Alaska Division of Public Health's Public Health Nursing, Alaska State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Sitka Fire Department, Sitka Mountain Rescue, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Sitka Police Department, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, U.S. Coast Guard, Civil Support Teams from Hawaii, Guam, and Rhode Island, as well as U.S. Army Pacific and the Alaska National Guard's 1-207th Aviation Regiment.

"This is the first time we had an exercise of this magnitude involving weapons of mass destruction," said Al Stevens, Sitka



Decontamination. Technical Sergeant Nina Kolyvanova, right, Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), and Sergeant First Class Matt Ayuyu, Guam National Guard 94th CST, process two members of the 94th CST through a decontamination line during Exercise Orca in Sitka. Multiple agencies participated in the exercise to test their ability to respond to a chemical, biological and radiological event. Photo: Roberta White, Sitka Fire Department

Fire Department, operations section chief during the exercise. "We're a small Southeast community that doesn't have near the capabilities to respond to a large incident like this, so it's good to train with the military and other agencies that we would call upon in this type of situation."

Not only was each agency able to refine its role during a hazardous materials response, but the agencies were able to hone their proficiencies when working together.

"The exercise went very well; the Civil Support Teams and several of the agencies learned a lot about each other's capabilities," Wilson said. "We now have a better understanding of how to integrate in a small command post setting. The City of Sitka also has a better understanding of haz-mat response resources in the state, specifically, officials now understand our 103rd CST (WMD) capabilities better."

"Prior to this exercise, we had no idea what the CST did or who they were, really," Stevens said. "But now, we all walked away from this exercise feeling very confident that if we ever encountered an incident involving weapons of mass destruction, we would certainly call the CST, and they would be able to assist and provide resources and results that we wouldn't have alone." ■

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Family Program

Get Ready, Get Set, Prepare!

By Family Program Staff

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Did you know the top three most likely disasters to occur in Alaska are earthquakes, wildfires and extreme winter weather? Did you also know it's not a matter of IF it will happen but WHEN it will happen?

Are you prepared for that next disaster? Have you made an emergency supply kit and developed a family communications plan? Do you know where your gas and water turn off valves are? Are you prepared?

In preparing for disasters, there are important differences among many potential situations that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen and the appropriate way to respond to them from your Joint Support Services/Family Program.

In a combined effort with the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the Joint Support Services/Family Program staff and volunteers are getting prepared for the next big disaster. In doing so, we are kicking off September's National Prepared Month by rolling out nine months of activities for the entire Alaska National Guard family leading up to the statewide Alaska Shield 2014 and Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise.

Please join us for these free events hosted by the Alaska National Guard Joint Support Services Support/Family Program on the last Friday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at your local armory. If you live outside of Anchorage, visit your regional Family Assistance Office for local details.

Here is a sneak peek at what we're going to be covering:

- Emergency Kit Scavenger Hunt
- Emotional Preparedness (kids and adults)
- Safety Actions (during the event and post-event precautions)
- Military Spouse Role in a State Active Duty Status
- Challenge (actually survive as if in a natural disaster – practicing and utilizing what you've learned)
- Creating and Sharing a Family Plan
- Statewide Vigilant Guard 2014/Alaska Shield 2014

Be sure to like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AKNGFamily for real-time updates on these and other upcoming events. ■



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Photos: Courtesy of ESGR



Legislator Backs Service Members. Representative Neal Foster, center, is joined by Craig Campbell, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state chairman, left, and retired Rear Admiral Jim Underwood, former U.S. Coast Guard District 17 commander and current board member of the Alaska Aerospace Corporation, after Foster signed his ESGR Statement of Support during an Alaska state legislature event in Juneau in March. Employers and civic leaders who sign these support statements appreciate the values, leadership, and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans.



Statement of Support. Representative Mia Costello, right, proudly displays her Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Statement of Support with Craig Campbell, ESGR state chairman, in March. The ESGR Statement of Support is a certificate letter signed and displayed by civic leaders and employers recognizing and pledging their support of our nation's Guard and Reserve members.



My Boss is a Patriot. Craig Campbell, left, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state chairman, congratulates Carl Grotts, president of Alaska Steel, while presenting him in March with the My Boss is a Patriot Award for outstanding support of Guard and Reserve employees.



Happy to Support Guardsmen and Reservists. Representative Bob Lynn, left, prepares to sign his Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Statement of Support in March with Craig Campbell, ESGR state chairman, standing by. Several state legislators signed statements of support while in Juneau.

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Taking Command. Brigadier General Leon M. "Mike" Bridges, right, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, passes the 38th Troop Command guidon to Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Roach, 38th Troop Command incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony at Bryant Army Airfield on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Some of the units that fall under the 38th Troop Command include 1-207th Aviation, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, 103rd Civil Support Team and the Medical Detachment. Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

38th Troop Command



Passing the Colors. Colonel Hunt Kerrigan, right, relinquishes command of the 38th Troop Command, Alaska Army National Guard, during a ceremony at Bryant Army Airfield on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Guardsmen, family and community members gathered to observe the passing of the colors from Kerrigan to Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Roach signifying his assumption of command. Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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249th Photo of the Year.

This photo, "Sleeping Giants," by Airman First Class Zachary Heinen, is the 2013 inaugural winner in the first annual Alaska Air National Guard 249th Airlift Squadron Photo of the Year contest. Heinen explained that "it had just rained, and the clouds were beginning to break, creating a nice sheen on the flight line" highlighting the squadron's C-17s. Photo: Airman First Class Zachary Heinen, 249th Airlift Squadron



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Appreciation Coins Presented



Thank You. Joe Masters, right, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Public Safety, presents a coin in appreciation to Major Robert Seymour, left, executive officer with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, in May for his participation in the recovery mission of those onboard Helo-1, an Alaska State Trooper helicopter that crashed near Talkeetna in March. Masters recognized five Guardsmen for their participation in the recovery mission. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



Who We Are...

What is your favorite summer activity?

**Major
Rafael Pacheco**
38th Troop Command



"Walking my 100-pound Akita-Husky mix, Layla. We go everywhere around Eagle River."

**Staff Sergeant
Aracelis Ovalles**
Joint Forces Headquarters-Army



"Hiking at Flattop."

James Lee
Visual Information Office



"I love riding my bicycle and summer barbeques – not necessarily in that order."

**Staff Sergeant
Lindsey Medinas**
176th Air Control Squadron



"Four-wheeling and camping around the Knik River and in Eureka."

**Master Sergeant
Armando Soria**
11th Air Force
Rescue Coordination Center



"Downhill mountain biking and trail riding at Alyeska."

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Silver Star, Six Bronze Stars Presented to Airmen

By Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Halla,
176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... One Silver Star Medal and six Bronze Star Medals with Valor were awarded here in May to Guardsmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron.

One of the five Alaska Guardsmen, Staff Sergeant Bill Cenna, received the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars with Valor for his actions on three separate occasions. Captain Chris Keen, Master Sergeant Chad Moore, Technical Sergeant Chris Harding and Staff Sergeant Nic Watson each received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for actions in combat during the Alaska Air National Guard's deployment to Afghanistan in 2012.

The Silver Star Medal is the third highest military decoration that can be awarded to U.S. military personnel for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth highest combat award presented in the United States.

"These guys intensified the Air Force core value of service before self," said Brigadier General Donald "Scott" Wenke, commander of the 176th Wing. "But that's what they do every day. They're true heroes in the purest form."

The medals were presented for actions during the 212th Rescue Squadron's



Accolades. One Silver Star and six Bronze Stars with Valor are displayed during a ceremony before they were awarded to five Alaska Air National Guardsmen on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in May for their heroic actions while deployed to Afghanistan. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hayes, 176th Wing

deployments to Afghanistan in 2011 and 2012. The Guardsmen worked with military members from multiple branches and countries.

"Given the character and caliber of all the men being recognized, it does not surprise me that we're here today to highlight their actions while they rescued or recovered fellow combatants in high-threat areas," said Major Joseph Conroy, commander of the 212th Rescue Squadron. "All of us in the military share in the profession of arms; although individuals are being recognized today, we all share in the ceremony. We must remain ready, reliable and relevant." ■



Men of Valor. From left, Staff Sergeant Bill Cenna, Captain Chris Keen, Master Sergeant Chad Moore, Technical Sergeant Chris Harding and Staff Sergeant Nic Watson are honored during an awards ceremony for their heroic efforts while deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and 2012. One Silver Star and six Bronze Stars with Valor were awarded to them during a ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in May. Photo: Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Combat Heroism. A Silver Star and two Bronze Stars with Valor are pinned on the uniform of Alaska Air National Guardsman Staff Sergeant Bill Cenna, pararescuer, 212th Rescue Squadron, for heroic actions on three separate occasions while he was deployed to Afghanistan supporting rescue operations in 2011 and 2012. Cenna receives the medals during a ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in May.

Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hayes, 176th Wing



Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Meritorious Service Medal



Maj Brian D. Tipton 168th OSF
 Maj Deborah A. Garrett 168th AMXS
 SMSgt Amy Stalder 168th LRS
 Capt Lucas A. Smith 168th MSG
 TSgt Steven A. Beck 168th SFS
 Capt Shane Garling 176th AMXS
 Capt John Romspert 176th OG
 MSgt Shannon Oleson 176th WG
 MSgt Brandon Stuemke 212th RQS
 MSgt Roger Sparks 212th RQS
 Col Mark Hedlund JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SMSgt Carla Mashaney 210th RQS
 SMSgt Douglas Echternacht 176th OSS
 Maj Crystal Kappelman 176th OG
 TSgt Peggy Affleck 176th OSS
 Maj Michael Jordan 176th WG
 LtCol David Looney 176th WG
 MSgt Cecil Dickerson 249th AS
 LtCol Amy Schwalber 176th AMXS
 COL Hunt Kerrigan JFHQ-AK (Army)
 LTC Paul Darling RTI
 1LT Anthony Rivas 1-207th AVN
 CW3 Gabriel Henneman 1-207th AVN
 CW3 Steve Lewis 1-207th AVN
 1SG James Magsayo 1-207th AVN
 1SG Donald Teter 1-207th AVN
 MSG Eric Odegaard JFHQ-AK (Army)
 MSG Maria Weaver JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SFC Missy Diaz RTI
 SFC David Powell R&R
 SFC John Tully 297th R&S
 SSG William Powell 1-207th AVN

Army Commendation Medal



SSG Charles Stiver JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG Victor Ward 207th MFTR
 SGT Jason Rafael JFHQ-AK (Army)

Air Force Commendation Medal



SSgt Ashley R. Hembree 168th FSF
 Capt Kevin J. Geese 168th CF
 SMSgt Teresa Renson 168th FSF
 TSgt Justin J. Stuart 168th ARW
 LtCol Jerrold Wangberg 176th OPS

Air Force Achievement Medal



SSgt Christopher L. Williams 213th SWS
 SSgt Bryan C. Irby 168th LRS

SSgt Melissa N. Langfield 168th FSF
 SSgt Catelyn A. Shrader 168th FSF
 SrA JeanPaul S. Williams 168th FSF
 SSgt Benjamin Lund 176th MXS
 LtCol Scott Howard 176th ACS
 Maj Kenneth Radford 249th AS
 Capt Joshua Flye 249th AS
 Capt John Callahan 176th WG
 TSgt Mark Eaker 176th OSS
 SMSgt Douglas Echternacht 176th OSS
 LtCol Julie Robinson 176th MDG
 MSgt Wayland Baker 176th ACS
 Maj Kevin Clifford 176th ACS
 TSgt Melissa Erhard 176th ACS
 Maj Carrie Howard 176th ACS
 TSgt Bradley Knudson 176th ACS
 SSgt Matthew Lucas 176th ACS
 SRA Blake Wangberg 176th ACS
 SRA Eric Cox 249th AS
 TSgt Patricia Ashcraft 176th ACS
 MSgt Evan Bud 176th ACS
 MSgt Arthur Clark 176th ACS
 MSgt Mark Cooper 176th ACS
 TSgt Christopher Cordiner 176th ACS
 MSgt Derrick Coston 176th ACS
 MSgt Brian Curtis 176th ACS
 MSgt Carrie Curtis 176th ACS
 Capt Nicholas Dillon 176th ACS
 TSgt David Fuller 176th ACS
 MSgt Keith Greenhalgh 176th ACS
 SSgt Gerald Harrington 176th ACS
 SMSgt William Humenik 176th ACS
 TSgt James Mcilmail 176th ACS
 TSgt Bradley Newton 176th ACS
 LtCol John Oberst 176th ACS
 MSgt Sanjuan Ordonez 176th ACS
 MSgt Douglass Patchin 176th ACS
 TSgt Jessica Pena 176th ACS
 TSgt Aaron Pflock 176th ACS
 SSgt Cirena Pritchett 176th ACS
 MSgt Eric Shinsato 176th ACS
 Capt Clarence Stevens 176th ACS
 LtCol Jon Thornton 176th ACS
 MSgt Lundy Twiford 176th ACS
 LtCol James Vanhoomissen 176th ACS

Alaska Legion of Merit



1SG James Magsayo 1-207th AVN
 1SG Donald Teter 1-207th AVN
 MSG Douglas Lee

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



CW3 Gabriel Henneman 1-207th AVN
 CW3 Steve Lewis 1-207th AVN
 MSG Jason Nesslage JFHQ-AK (Army)

MSG Christopher Simmons 761st MP
 SFC Missy Diaz RTI
 BG Roger Holl ASDF

Alaska Commendation Medal



SSG William Powell 1-207th AVN
 SGT Richard Brown 49th GMD
 SPC Joshua Austin 761st MP

Alaska State Service Medal



COL Catherine Jorgensen JFHQ-AK (Army)
 MAJ Jeffrey Lunsford R&R
 CPT Chad Ausel 297th MP
 MSG Felicia Link R&R
 SFC Jesse Cross 207th AVN
 SFC Rodney Jones JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SFC David Powell R&R
 SFC Gregory Ray R&R
 SFC Matthew Roeber 761st MP
 SSG Duane Ostrowski 49th GMD
 SSG Victor Ward 207th MFTR
 SGT Jose Pineda 49th GMD
 SGT Artemio Rivera 49th GMD



Bronze Star. Colonel Hunt Kerrigan, left, commander of 38th Troop Command, Alaska Army National Guard, pins the Bronze Star Medal on Sergeant First Class Paul Wonder for meritorious service as the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force non-commissioned officer in charge while deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. Wonder's leadership, expertise and determination were instrumental to the success of the METF mission to provide force protection to Camp Eggers and flightline security at Kabul Afghanistan International Airport. Wonder also received the Mongolian Peacekeeping Medal, Afghanistan for his exceptional service and guidance to the METF while deployed. To date, Wonder and Major Rafael Pacheco are the only METF liaison officers to receive the award. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hayes, 176th Wing

PROMOTIONS

Colonel

Joseph John Streff JFHQ-AK (Army)

Lieutenant Colonel

Christopher Borger 176th LRS
James Vanhooymissen 176th ACS
Jason Rose 176th OSS
Guy Hayes 176th WG

Major

Christen Meress 211th RQS
Anna Fischer 249th AS

Captain

Justin Orenich 176th MDG

Chief Warrant Officer One

Drew Brigham Vandendries 1-207th AVN

Chief Warrant Officer Two

Robert Patrick 1-207th AVN

First Lieutenant

Matthew Crossman 249th AS
Wesley Ladd 211th RQS
Matthew Soukup 176th STU FLT

Second Lieutenant

Mindy Kaye Cason 297th BFSB
William Dennis Zagrocki 297th BFSB
Logan Joshua Thomas 1-297th CAV
Jennifer Nicole Nutt 207th EQP
Nicholas Michael Forbes 1-207th AVN
Joseph Meyers Stallone MED DET
Zachary Darnell 176th ACS
Gregory Keffer 176th MXS
Renaye Lavin 176th ACS
Stephanie Manning 176th MXS
Desiree Perham 176th AMXS
Adam Wabrowetz 211th RQS
William Bullock 144th AS
Gerren Blair 249th AS
Casey Dockstader 211th RQS
Daniel Dickman 210th RQS

Chief Master Sergeant

Teresa M. Renson 168th FSF

Senior Master Sergeant

William G. Paul 168th OSF
Christopher Wilson 176th OG
Eric Chester 176th AMXS

Sergeant First Class

Xavier Bird 207th MFTR
Karima Leah Turner 134th PAD

Master Sergeant (Air)

Philip G. Newton Jr 168th MXS
James O. Brownlee Jr 213th SWS
Debora J. Brekke-McGee 168th SFS
Victor J. Weber 168th AMXS
Michael Hancock 176th ACS
Mathew Hermes 176th ACS
Jonathan Smith 176th ACS
Michael Robertson 176th CPTS
Elizabeth Ross 176th CES
Brandy Thanos 176th CF

Staff Sergeant (Army)

Juan E. Restrepo-Posada 297th BFSB
Jessica Kimberly Armstrong 207th BFSB
Kathleen Ann Hiersche 297th BFSB
Kenneth B. Edgeworth 49th GMD
Warren Noi JFHQ-AK (Army)
Eric Matthew Gaiser 297th MP
Rebekah Lee Hirschel 49th GMD

Technical Sergeant

Robert Rosa 213th SWS
Phillip V. Bridges 213th SWS
Alisa M. Rivera 168th LRS
Amanda M. Scott 168th LRS
Mark Gilleland 176th LRS

James Jones 176th MXS
Joshua Travis 176th MQF
Vance Steeter 210th RQS
Corey Largo 212th RQS
Bryan Cable 176th AMXS
Greyson Watkins 176th CES
Arlene Carlos 176th OSS
Garrett Wier 176th WG
William Cenna 212th RQS

Sergeant

Henry Pagan MED DET
Amber Lee Hillman 1- 207th AVN
Andy Lisi Thompson JFHQ AK (Army)
Shane Lee Carter 1- 207th AVN
Paul Cuabo Miller 1- 207th AVN
Rachael Anna Gwizdak 297th BFSB
Jose Antonio Montalvorecio 49th GMD
Brandon Lewis Amarone 49th GMD
Edward Blue 49th GMD
Raymond Caraballosantos 49th GMD
Caroline Nievescancel 49th GMD
Jamie Montesrivera 49th GMD
Lindsay Russell Leavitt 49th GMD
Matthew Lawrence Johnson 208th
CONSTRUCTION MGMT
Jordan Arthur Jackson 1-297th CAV
Basave Omar Onofre 1-297th CAV

Staff Sergeant (Air)

Michael L. Strickler 168th ARS
Joshua BL Langfield 168th MXS
Robert A. Segla 168th AMXS
Jonathan F. Legan 168th ARS
John McAleavey 144th AS
Ryan Stark 249th AS
Daniel Miceli 176th MDG
Heather Gust 176th MXS
Mathew Baker 176th CES
Laurel Foster 176th SFS
Gloria Thompson 176th FSF
Arielle Achkio 176th FS

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RETIREMENTS

TSgt Robert R. Dubia 168th MXS	SSG Dennis Dillon 297th MB
Lt Col Ashton T. Reynolds 168th ARW	SGT Eric Pavil 1-143rd ABN
SMSGt Keith J. Henrys 168th OG	Renee Blake 176th LRS
TSgt Steven A. Beck 168th SFS	Charlie Busby 176th SFS
Maj Byron R. Rager 168th ARS	Michael Cooper 211th RQS
TSgt Scott D. Kvitten 168th SFS	Tracy Hartless 176th ACS
SGT James Altsik 1-143rd ABN	Henry Gatpandan 176th MXS
SPC Andrew Fooks 297th CS	Carl Kancir 176th ACS
SFC John Tully 1-297th R&S	Vincente Mandeville 176th LRS
MSG Christopher Simmons 761st MP	David Matthews 176th JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Archibardo Tirado 297th BFSB	James Neill 176th ACS
SSG Marvin Kernak 297th BFSB	Wesley Mooty 144th AS
MSG David Gresham 297th CS	Todd Peplow 210th RQS
SSG Keith Nosbisch 1-207th AVN	Josef Rauch 176th SFS
SFC Missy Diaz 207th MFTR	James Richardson 176th ACS
MSG James Magsayo 1-207th AVN	Robert Wray 176th LRS
MSG Jason Nesslage JFHQ-AK (Army)	

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	August	September	October
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	3-4	21-22	5-6
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	3-4	21-22	26-27
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	3-4	28-29	26-27
38th Troop Command	3-4	28-29	26-27
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	3-4	21-22	5-6
176th Wing	3-4	21-22	5-6
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	10-11	14-15	19-20

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Start of the Trail

Welcome to our newest members & employees

210th Rescue Squadron

Edward Downs
Thomas Broden
Adam Wabrowetz
Daniel Dickman

211th Rescue Squadron

Casey Dockstader

212th Rescue Squadron

Todd Pederson
Oral Scott

176th Civil Engineer Squadron

Phillip Gifford
Mathew Baker
Marsengill William
Taylor Blair

176th Air Control Squadron

Jacob Conrad
Zuzana Loviskova
Calvin Jaynes

176th Communications Flight

Brendon Stubbs
Brooke Morin
Robert Wilton

176th Maintenance Squadron

Justin Frary
Chris Jacobson
Leelah Jochem
Jacob Poelman
Walter Fellman
Cody Poelman
Matthew Coleman
Thomas Elliott
Neil Schlosser

176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

William Moody
Nicholas Hoffer
Michael Mejia
Anna Greene
Elijah Tingstad

176th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Dustin Jenne
Adam Woolley
Jessica Blignaut
Raymond Ashcraft

249th Airlift Squadron

Anthony Barker

144th Airlift Squadron

David Duncan
William Bullock
Benjamin Eby

176th Security Forces Squadron

Jason Pettit
Joshua Rushing
Willard Lee

176th Operations Group

Rachel Gifford
Christian Leamy
Gerren Blair

176th Force Support Flight

Tina Brown

176th Operational Support Squadron

Kim Sandback
Justin Binder
Raylene Bernotat
Christina Kisskeys

176th Medical Group

Marcy Wright
Jessica Gianoli
Lindsay Delevante
James Mainolfi

168th Security Forces Squadron

Grady T. Radabaugh
Aaron J. Trujillo

168th Medical Group

Carrie L. Conley
Desirae D. Trotter

168th Maintenance Squadron

Seth A. England
Kyle L. Edwards

168th Air Refueling Wing Headquarters

Robert T. Johnson

168th Communications Flight

Matthew S. Cronce

213th Space Warning Squadron

Mark E. Dellaquila
Antonio S. Smith

168th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Charlene L. White
Jocelyn T. Mcleod

168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Bradley J. Schwaiger
Christopher T. Boyle
Elliot J. St. Laurent

1-143rd Infantry (Airborne)

Adam McKown
Joseph Stgermain
Noah Andrew

297th Signal Company

Mathew Cox
Kalani Kersbergen

1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance

Dayton Will
Carson Keys
Ishmael Liggins
Dillin Wiggins
Johnny Carter Jr.
Jordan Jackson
Tallon Chappel
Michael Coronado
Anthony Jannone
Daniel Wiggins IV
Trenten Bode
Robert Jenkins
Jacob Collins
Ryan Sorenson
Nathaniel Monteith
Jerimy Bednarczyk
Michael Sybert
Jordan Jackson
Issac Searles
Carson Keys
Nikiefer Myers

207th Combat Support Company

Sean Boyle
Drew Allison
Cameron Blake
Antonio Brown
Therron Hines Jr.
Cierra Stover
Jeremy Snow
Chantelle Ngiralmu
Lance Smith
Bobby Stone III
Michael Morey
Denaeh Davis
Crystal Roseman
Carol Cornett Jr.
Zack Fetta
McKenzie Phelps
Lehman Tolliver
Cameron Arnold
Harry Ingram

761st Military Police Battalion

Frank Enele
Damien Smith
Mark Marcaida

297th Military Police Company

Jay Fret
Troy Tibbetts
Justus Albertson
John De Leon
Alex Ymbert-Rosario
Timothy Elroy
Benjamin Clauson
Micole Candelaria
Jamie Olvera
Samuel Matlock
Dylan Skrzynski
Michael Phelps
Timothy Elroy
John Deleon

207th Engineer Equipment Support Platoon

Julian Rosario
Matthew Johnson
Anthony Remisosky

1-207th Aviation Battalion

Latu Tuikolongahau
Duane Hoskins
Dawn Adkins
Federico Bautista
Dakota Bohall
Raeleen Hales
David Hennis
Chantel Jones
Sean Pritchard
Erik Gunderson
Robert Holmes
Wayne Burgess
Michael Hedgepeth
Kelsey Smith
Ebony Adams

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Alyssa Laphorne
Robert Boatwright
Michael Odom
Jeremy Snow

208th Construction Management Team

Matthew Johnson

Joint Forces Headquarters - Army

Jeremie Sheperd



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Barbara Q., USAA member

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