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Pkg 24A SE Automatic Trans. (Compact Spare Tire), 2.0L I4 Dhoc Engine, Engine Block Heater			
62411	2014 Dodge Dart S.E.	\$19,185	\$16,995
Pkg 24A SE Automatic Trans. (Compact Spare Tire), 2.0L I4 Dhoc Engine, Engine Block Heater			
62407	2014 Dodge Dart S.E.	\$19,185	\$16,995
Pkg 24A SE Automatic Trans. (Compact Spare Tire), 2.0L I4 Dhoc Engine, Engine Block Heater			

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771394	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
Pkg 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Eng., Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Eng. Block Heater			
771397	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
Pkg 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Eng., Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Eng. Block Heater			
771467	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
Pkg 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Eng., Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Eng. Block Heater			
771482	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
Pkg 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Eng., Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Eng. Block Heater			
771473	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
Pkg 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Eng., Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Eng. Block Heater			

STOCK #	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL/TRIM	MSRP	SALE PRICE
771463	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
Pkg 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Eng., Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Eng. Block Heater			
771314	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
PKG 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Engine, Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Backup Cam.			
771309	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,660	\$29,571
PKG 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Engine, Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Backup Cam.			
771308	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,785	\$29,669
PKG 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Engine, Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Backup Cam.			
771310	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,785	\$29,669
PKG 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Engine, Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Backup Cam.			
771311	2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman	\$33,785	\$29,669
PKG 25B, 5.7L V/8 MDS VVT Engine, Auto. Trans., Anti-Spin Rear Diff., Backup Cam.			

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STOCK #	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL/TRIM	MSRP	SALE PRICE
64126	2014 DODGE CHARGER R/T	\$35,180	\$31,069
Pkg 29N, 5.7L V/8 Hemi MDS VCT Engine, Auto. Trans., Block Heater, Body Color Spoiler			
64127	2014 DODGE CHARGER R/T	\$35,180	\$31,069
Pkg 29N, 5.7L V/8 Hemi MDS VCT Engine, Auto. Trans., Block Heater, Body Color Spoiler			

4 to choose from



STOCK #	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL/TRIM	MSRP	SALE PRICE
64113	2014 DODGE CHARGER SXT	\$35,330	\$31,167
Pkg 28H, 3.6 V/6, 8 Spd. Auto. Trans., Driver Confidence Group, Rear Spoiler			
64114	2014 DODGE CHARGER SXT	\$35,330	\$31,167
Pkg 28H, 3.6 V/6, 8 Spd. Auto. Trans., Driver Confidence Group, Body Color Rear Spoiler			
64115	2014 DODGE CHARGER SXT	\$35,330	\$31,167
Pkg 28H, 3.6 V/6, 8 Spd. Auto. Trans., Driver Confidence Group, Body Color Rear Spoiler			
64124	2014 DODGE CHARGER SXT	\$35,330	\$31,167
Pkg 28H, 3.6 V/6, 8 Spd. Auto. Trans., Driver Confidence Group, Rear Spoiler			

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STOCK #	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL/TRIM	MSRP	SALE PRICE
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Pkg 23A, S X T, 3.6 V/6, 8 Speed Automatic Transmission,			
73327	2014 DODGE DURANGO SXT	\$33,390	\$31,360
Pkg 23A, S X T, 3.6 V/6, 8 Speed Automatic Transmission			
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Commander in Chief



Brig. Gen. (AK) Laurie Hummel
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner of the DMVA

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WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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Cover. Andronik P. Kashevarof proudly displays his U.S. Army honorable discharge and Alaska Territorial Guard certificate during an informal ceremony at Kashevarof's house in December. Kashevarof was a member of the Alaska Territorial Guard's St. George Island unit during WWII until 1947. Recently, an ATG Task Force was assembled and has been

searching for ATG members in order to provide them with honorable service records, including an honorable discharge. The goal is to locate 100 percent of the ATG members, begin correcting the oversight of the past and allow future generations access to their ancestors' service records.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



Military Appreciation. Sgt. Kristopher Fager, operations noncommissioned officer, 38th Troop Command, Alaska Army National Guard, displays the winning puck after participating in the "Big Puck Pass" during an Alaska Aces Military Appreciation game in November at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage. Photo: Sgt. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Concepts for section head logos derived from clip art provided by Alaska Native Knowledge Network. www.ankn.uaf.edu



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NationalGuardSales@AQPpublishing.com

Warriors is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership, quarterly, by the State of Alaska, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 5800, Camp Denali, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska 99505-5800, phone 907-428-6031, fax 428-6035; and AQP Publishing Inc., 8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the State of Alaska. All photos are Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs photos unless otherwise credited.

Distribution: **Warriors** is published for all current civilian employees, military members, veterans and their families of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. It is distributed free of charge via mail and distribution through each Division within the Department. It is also available at our website: <http://dmva.alaska.gov>.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters: *Letters to the editor* must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. **Submissions:** Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members,

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

Warriors Magazine
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Office of Public Affairs
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99505-5800
907-428-6031 / Fax 428-6035



The Adjutant General



Brig. Gen. (AK) Laurie Hummel
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard &
Commissioner of the DMVA

To the Soldiers, Airmen and civilian men and women of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs:

I am honored to have recently begun service as your new adjutant general and commissioner. You've truly made me feel welcome as I make initial visits to our divisions and Guard units.

I value hearing about your successes, your concerns and your suggestions for making our department a more highly functioning and welcoming workplace. With your assistance, I will be

assessing our organizational culture, processes and operations, and together we will lead any change necessary to best serve our fellow Alaskans.

Thank you for everything you are doing for our state. Deputy Commissioner Bob Doehl and I look forward to working with you. ■



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Meet

BRIG. GEN. (AK) LAURIE HUMMEL

Brig. Gen. (AK) Laurie Hummel is the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. In 2012, she retired from a 30-year active-duty Army career at the rank of colonel. On Jan. 30, 2015, Gov. Bill Walker appointed her to her current position. In this position she serves as the commander of the Alaska National Guard as the official liaison between the state and the active military in the state, as the official liaison between the state and federal Department of Veterans Affairs and as the official liaison between the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency in the state.

Hummel is the daughter of a career Army sergeant and is a third generation Soldier. She graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1982, the third class to include women. For more than 20 years, she worked in the fields of tactical, operational and strategic intelligence: six years in the 18th Airborne Corps, as the operations officer for the intelligence battalion closest to the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, and as chief of Operations Intelligence, Alaskan Command, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

With the opportunity to study toward a doctorate degree, she returned to Alaska to research the effects of the huge military investment made throughout Alaska during the Cold War era. This project allowed her to travel around the state, measuring economic, demographic and cultural changes during that time.

As a tenured professor of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, she then taught cadets, led faculty and developed curriculum at West Point. As a geographer with expertise in political demography and the geographical roots of terrorism, she was also a policy consultant to government agencies and other organizations. She was fortunate to join several missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom – first as an advisor for a program using social and environmental science to help commanders in the field better understand cultural conditions and make smarter decisions, then twice as an advisor to the leaders of the new National Military Academy of Afghanistan.

Upon her retirement from active duty, she and her husband returned to Alaska. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Adjutant General, AKNG, and Commissioner, DMVA:
2015-present

Owner, CL-Homes: 2012-present

U.S. Army, retired at Colonel: 1982-2012

Advisor, National Military Academy of Afghanistan: NATO
Training Mission – Afghanistan: 2010 & 2011-2012

Academy Professor and Geography Program Director,
Dept. of Geography & Environmental Engineering,
U.S. Military Academy (West Point): 2006-2010

West Point Fellow to U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA:
2005-2006

Academy Professor, Dept. of Geography & Environmental
Engineering, U.S. Military Academy (West Point): 2003-2005

Director of Operations Intelligence and Chief, Joint Intelligence
Support Element, Alaskan Command (Elmendorf): 1996-2000

Director of Operations, 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion,
Republic of Korea: 1995-1996

Instructor; Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geography & Environ-
mental Engineering, U.S. Military Academy (West Point):
1991-1994

Company Commander; Intelligence Staff Officer; Human
Resources Officer, 224th Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial
Exploitation), Hunter Army Airfield, GA: 1986-1989

Chief of Intelligence Plans and Production; Tactical Intelligence
Officer; Communications Platoon Leader, 24th Infantry
Division, Fort Stewart, GA: 1983-1986

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

Ph.D., Geography: University of Colorado (2002)
M.S.S., Strategy: U.S. Army War College (2006)
M.Ed., Educational Leadership: UAA (1999)
M.S., Geography: Penn State (1991)
B.S., U.S. Military Academy (1982)

MILITARY SERVICE:

Colonel, U.S. Army, active duty, 1982-2012;
Military Intelligence

SPOUSE'S NAME:

Chad

CHILDREN:

Kayleigh and Michael, two grandchildren

Alaska Guardsman Commissions on Return from Afghanistan

By Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

An Alaska Army National Guard member who returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in May 2014 commissioned a mere three months later.

After 13 years of military service, the “sirs” and salutes are still catching 2nd Lt. Lane Smith, a platoon leader with the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, by surprise.

“I enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard Sept. 13, 2001, but was finishing up my paperwork in the recruiting office when the towers came down,” Smith said. Like so many Americans, Smith joined the patriotic calling of a Post-9/11 America.

After 10 years and two deployments as an infantryman and cavalry scout with the ORARNG, Smith found himself teaching in the Alaska village of Tatitlek and assigned to the AKARNG's A Troop, 1-297th Cavalry Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, prior to his Afghanistan deployment.



Deployed to Afghanistan. Then-Sgt. 1st Class Lane Smith, left, with the Alaska Army National Guard's A Troop, 1-297th Cavalry Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, and Maj. Matthew Wilson, with AKARNG's Joint Forces Headquarters, stand in Afghanistan where they were deployed together from July 2013 to May 2014 as U.S. liaisons in support of the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces in Afghanistan.

Photo: Courtesy of Maj. Matthew Wilson, Alaska Army National Guard

Smith, as a sergeant first class, deployed to Camp Eggers, Kabul, as a U.S. liaison in support of the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces July 2013. In Afghanistan, Smith served as the Mongolians' direct link to the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and the Base Support Group at Camp Eggers and other sites in country.

“When I return from a deployment I tend to do everything opposite from what the reintegration people tell you to do,” explained Smith. “I find it helpful to use the momentum and high energy that goes on overseas to benefit my life back home.”

Smith started graduate school five days after returning from his second deployment to Iraq. This go-round he returned in time to watch his daughter graduate from high school, bought a house, started a new job and then left for Officers Candidate School in South Dakota 14 days later.

Because of the deployment, the AKNG was able to waive pre-OCS training, and Smith took it upon himself to prepare physically.

“While overseas, I ran 15 half marathons and many other smaller races,” Smith said. “This greatly aided me when I got to school since I had to keep up with the younger candidates.”

Smith considered commissioning for several years and even completed time in the Reserve Officers Training Corps in college but didn't give it serious consideration until his latest deployment.

“While on the MAF mission I had the opportunity to do a lot more tasks that were outside of my normal role as a platoon sergeant back in Alaska,” Smith explained. “I was exposed to much more of the planning and logistics side of the Army. This also brought me in contact with many excellent officers that mentored me in this whole new side of the Army.”

None more so than fellow U.S. liaison Maj. Matthew Wilson, with AKARNG's Joint Forces Headquarters, who served as Smith's partner while on the Afghanistan deployment. Wilson was able to mentor Smith with his years of experience in the logistics field and give him the inspiration needed to take the final plunge.

“I cannot count how many times we were tasked with something that looked impossible to do, and Sgt. 1st Class Smith would constantly search outside the box to find a way to make it happen,” Wilson explained. “This type of out of the box thinking led to



Newly Commissioned Officer. Maj. Matthew Wilson, with AKARNG's Joint Forces Headquarters, pins the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on to newly commissioned officer Lane Smith during a ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August 2014. The two Soldiers deployed together for one year to Afghanistan and returned to the United States in May 2014.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



DMVA Assists Remote Island Community Without Power

By Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs helped the island community of Little Diomedede emerge from a significant power outage in December.

The U.S. Coast Guard and Bering Strait School District notified the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management's State Emergency Operations Center of the island's power outage and the need for assistance. The SEOC requested support through the Alaska National Guard's Joint Operation Center in transporting an electrician via an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Nome to Little Diomedede.

The remote island is approximately 140 miles northwest of Nome and with dangerous winter sea waters, a twin-engine helicopter is the only means of transportation in or out of the small Alaska community.

Carolyn Heflin, the Bering Strait School District director of curriculum and instruction, said the school district flew an electrician to Nome, and the plan was for the electrician to then fly into Little Diomedede. However, the only local charter company's helicopter was down for maintenance. The weekly scheduled routine helicopter flight was not planned until the following week, so the SEOC turned to the Alaska National Guard for much-needed support.

"With temperatures right around zero degrees and wind chills dropping down to minus 30, there was an immediate need to get the power restored," explained Claude Denver, SEOC response manager. "The private helicopter company could not meet our time frame and the National Guard had the capability and personnel to transport an electrician out of Nome, which is essential given the critical power situation, sheltered population, weather conditions and the potential for critical infrastructure loss."

The Bering Strait School District reported that citizens consolidated in the Diomedede School where there was access to food and water.



"All schools in our district are designated as FEMA shelters by nature of having food provisions and generators," Heflin said. "The school itself was running on a generator with the temperature maintaining at 55 degrees."

Heflin said the district was most concerned about residents' homes being without electricity for more than 24 hours, which could lead to pipes freezing and bursting.

"We were really glad that the National Guard was willing to help and bring our employee to Diomedede," Heflin said.

"Little Diomedede is an extremely remote location with limited resources; this kind of mission was vital to survival for them," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Stettenbenz, Army Aviation Operations Facility #1 commander in Nome. "I'm glad we were able to give them the assistance. We enjoy helping our community, Alaskans helping Alaskans."

"All wheels turned together to make this operation happen," Denver added. ■

making friendships and fostering teamwork between Americans and Mongolians."

While on deployment, Smith took charge of English classes for the Mongolians, recruited members of other armies to help with acquiring the necessary assets to conduct training and mission requirements, and oversaw a lot of changes to the mission that resulted from the draw down of forces, all while taking care of logistical needs that the MAF forces might have so that they could focus on base defense issues.

In his 23 years of service, Wilson has never spoken so highly of a noncommissioned officer before and after seeing what Smith was capable of, he advised him to serve in the officer ranks.

"I believe that having been an NCO will help me in understanding the dynamics of the platoon more than officers who had never been enlisted," Smith said. "Just having been that 'Joe' who has now seen every position in a platoon and had many different platoon leaders' styles gives me a huge step up."

Smith credits his wife for making the five-plus years away from home during his 13 years of service possible.

"Schools, deployments, annual training, Katrina, firefighting — I could not have done it without knowing my wife was more than capable of holding down the fort at home," Smith said. "She has always been supportive of my adventure in the National Guard." ■

Where in the World

Nursing Exchange Grows Partnerships

By Sgt. Balinda O'Neal,
DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

An Alaska Army National Guard member who attended a military nursing exchange in South Korea in September shared her insights on the benefits of international partnerships and how they can help patients around the world.

Col. Rebecca Young, an advanced nurse practitioner with AKARNG's Medical Detachment, joined nearly 300 military nursing professionals from throughout the Asia-Pacific at the 8th Asia-Pacific Military Nursing Exchange in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

"The purpose of the event, as a whole, is to provide a venue for military nurses from a variety of countries to exchange information in hopes that each country will go back having learned something that they can apply to their practice," said Maj. Donna Hornberger, an international health specialist with Pacific Air Forces. "This event is primarily focused toward senior nurse leaders and senior enlisted medical technicians from countries throughout the Pacific region."

The exchange represents a unique opportunity for military nursing professionals to engage on issues of mutual interest, promote excellence in nursing practices, enhance professional relationships and foster healthcare interoperability between Asia-Pacific nations.

"Each year, a delegate from one country or another has commented on how they took something they learned while at the event and applied it to their way of doing business," Hornberger said.

Additional topics focused on medical and clinical research, enlisted force

Mongolia

South Korea

California

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Stand Down. Veterans look through available clothing and gear during the 22nd annual Stand Down for Veterans in Need held at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in October. Stand Down is a community of Alaska citizens working with veterans, government and nonprofit agencies, businesses and other volunteers dedicated to assisting veterans by providing a supportive encampment to connect veterans with services and assistance. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



Nursing Exchange. Col. Rebecca Young, an advanced nurse practitioner with the Alaska Army National Guard's Medical Detachment, removes her gear after completing a trauma training exercise that involved rescuing a crushed victim in a closed confined space during the 8th Asia-Pacific Military Nursing Exchange in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. Photo: Courtesy of Asia-Pacific Military Nursing Exchange

improve our responses to natural disasters."

Young is looking forward to many more experiences like these, while simultaneously building relationships among the Asia-

Pacific forces.

"We as nurses strive to take care of our patients, whether they are civilian or service members," Young said. "Human life should never be taken for granted. We should embrace our past, engage in our present and envision our future." ■

development, military health care delivery systems and management in force health, trauma and disaster.

"My favorite experience from the exchange was the team building between all the countries present," Young said. "We worked on ways military and non-military agencies can work together and

176th Wing Airmen Return from Italy

By Capt. John Callahan,
176th Wing Public Affairs

Welcome Home. Senior Airman Eric Johnson, a crew chief with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Maintenance Group, hugs his wife, Danielle, upon his return in November from a training mission in Europe. Danielle is also a crew chief with the 176th Maintenance Group, and was there to help receive the plane.

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



JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

Thirty-two Airmen from Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing returned home in November after a month-long deployment to Europe.

The Guardsmen from the 144th Airlift Squadron, along with support personnel from the Wing's Maintenance Group and its Operations Support Squadron, were away from home supporting training operations at NATO's Joint Multinational Training Center in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

They also provided airdrop support to the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team out of Aviano Air Base, Italy, as part of the 173rd ABCT's Multinational Jumpmaster University and night qualification jumps.

"I couldn't be more pleased," said Maj. Michael Jordan, the mission's commander of the deployed Guardsmen. "The weather didn't always cooperate with what we wanted to do, but it was still a good training opportunity for our young crews — especially learning to fly in a foreign airspace and work with their liaison, and operate over a foreign drop zone with its different set of rules."

The exercise culminated approximately eight months of planning on the part of the Alaska Air National Guard.

With about 1,400 members, the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing is one of the nation's largest and busiest Air Guard wings. ■

Packing Up A Pave Hawk. Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare to fold an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter to transport via C-17 Globemaster III from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to Moffett Federal Airfield, California, in November. At Moffett, the helicopter received modifications to improve its communications.

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



Hoist Training. A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, is lowered to the ground from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during hoist training in August on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Photo: Tech. Sgt. Frank Oliver, 455th Airlift Wing



Pacific Visit. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James visits with Col. Mark Hedlund, center, 168th Air Refueling Wing commander, and members of the wing during her visit in November. James traveled to Eielson Air Force Base as part of a visit to get a first-hand look at Airmen in action across the Pacific with stops in Guam, Hawaii, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

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



Alaska Army Guardsman Earns Expert Infantry Badge

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... One Alaska Army National Guardsman was awarded the Expert Infantry Badge after successfully completing the EIB course here in September.

Sgt. Joseph St. Germain, an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, received his EIB after completing the five-day course, hosted by the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

“There were hundreds of active-duty Soldiers testing for their EIB, and eight National Guardsmen participated as well,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dellabalma, an infantryman with C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, Alaska Army National Guard. “Sgt. St. Germain was the only Guardsmen to complete the course. That’s a 12.5 percent pass rate, which is roughly on par with the average pass rate for all participants.”

The testing began with 645 Soldiers attempting to earn the EIB. By the end of the rigorous course, only 67 Soldiers earned the right to wear the coveted badge.

The EIB was created to recognize infantrymen who have demonstrated a



Coveted Award. Sgt. Maj. Michael Grunst, deputy director of military support, Alaska Army National Guard, left, pins the Expert Infantry Badge onto Sgt. Joseph St. Germain, an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard. Of the 645 Soldiers who tested for EIB, only 67 earned the right to wear the coveted award. Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dellabalma, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance



mastery of critical tasks that build the core foundation of individual proficiency that allow them to locate, close with and destroy the enemy through fire and maneuver and repel an enemy assault through fire and close combat, according to the U.S. Army’s official website.

“It’s a lot of attention to detail,” said St. Germain.

The five-day course consisted of a physical fitness test, day and night land navigation, master skills testing stations that tested individuals on their confidence and proficiency on various weapons systems, individual tactical test lanes that tested basic infantry skills and a 12-mile foot march.

Foot March. Sgt. Joseph St. Germain, an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, pictured with his M4 carbine, walks during a 12-mile foot march while testing for the Expert Infantry Badge on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, in September.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dellabalma, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance

During the testing, Soldiers were graded on performance measures. Missing certain performance measures resulted in receiving a no go, and three no go's resulted in being dropped from the course.

"The biggest thing is being able to talk yourself through all of the performance measures," St. Germain said. "The events are timed, but you have to focus on the task at hand and not think about what's next, otherwise you might miss a step. I would just talk out loud as I was going through the motions, that way I wouldn't feel like I was rushing."

Before the events, Soldiers were given the opportunity to train at the various stations, he explained. But with so many people trying to test for the EIB, that training time was limited for each Soldier.

"It helps to be familiar with the weapons systems," St. Germain added. "That's what got a lot of people was the weapons systems. If you have a good idea about them, you'll understand what the cadre are looking for."

After making it through the individual lanes, the remaining Soldiers had to complete the 12-mile foot march. The Soldiers were given three hours to complete the march, at the end of which they had to do a layout of their gear and disassemble their M4 carbines, reassemble them and perform a functions check. Completing these tasks after the physical exertion was all that stood between failure and receiving the coveted EIB.

"After I did my layout and I knew I had it, it felt good," St. Germain said. "I enjoyed being out in the field, had fun working with the active-duty guys, and the Cadre were really good. I'm proud to have earned it." ■

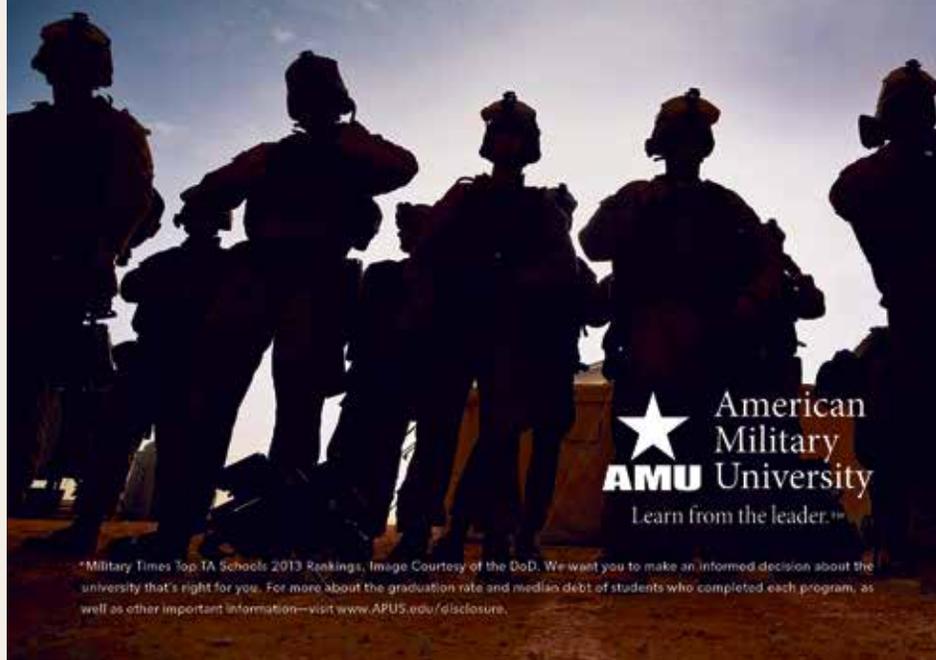
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Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection

By Julie Baker, DHS&EM

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Critical infrastructure provides the essential services that underpin society. We know it as the power we use in our homes, the water we drink, the transportation that moves us, the bridges that connect us and the communication systems we rely on to stay in touch with friends, family and emergency services. The mission of the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection is to ensure safe delivery of these essential services and functions and to protect this infrastructure for all Alaskans. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management serves as the co-chair of APIP.

With private companies owning approximately 80 percent of the infrastructure (radio towers, cell phone towers, grocery stores, supply chains, medical facilities, electric power generation, fossil fuel production and transportation capabilities) in Alaska, we are all interdependent upon each other. Without the help of these private companies, the State of Alaska would fail, but without our help, these private infrastructure stakeholders may not be adequately resilient against natural and man-made hazards.

APIP provides a forum for the public, private and non-profit sectors to share information and develop strategies for the continuity of services during periods of vulnerability or threat. APIP uses education and open discussion to expose and embrace



Rail Reliance. A wide range of goods and services travel north from the Port of Anchorage to Fairbanks on the Alaska Railroad and then are distributed to the Interior. A disruption in this critical line, similar to what happened as a result of the 2012 September severe storms, can have ramifications that ripple through the economy.

Photo: Courtesy of Office of Gov. Sean Parnell

our interdependencies before a disaster event. These partnerships translate into mutual aid during and after a disaster.

“One of emergency management’s top priorities is to restore essential services after a disaster; once conditions have normalized, people can return to their homes and begin recovering,” said John Madden, director of DHS&EM. “Strong partnerships between the



Getting It There. Heavy equipment and building materials are loaded onto a barge for shipment to Crooked Creek during the summer of 2011. The private sector is an essential part of the delivery of essential goods and services to the urban and rural parts of the state. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM

government and the private sector ensures a thoughtful and well-orchestrated effort to restore these services.”

After Sept. 11, 2001, the State of Alaska and its partners realized the need to gather, analyze and disseminate critical infrastructure information during peacetime and in times of need. Private companies were reluctant to share information because of concerns over proprietary information or exposure to fines or penalties if public regulatory agencies found violations. One key to resolving these concerns was the creation of Protected Critical Infrastructure Information. PCII is not only protected from public view but also from regulatory scrutiny. With the protection of PCII, public and private entities are able to collaborate with a greater degree of detail and security through APIP.

From a disaster response perspective, the more DHS&EM knows about infrastructure dependence, interdependence, resilience and redundancy, the more effective its response will be. Emergency managers and responders do not suddenly become all-knowing in a disaster. They must have data about each specific disaster while it’s happening. APIP provides an avenue for important information sharing and analysis that must take place before and during a disaster in order to execute effective response measures.

The main goals of APIP include:

1. Knowing, before a disaster, a private company’s capabilities and vulnerabilities to aid in prioritization of resource allocation.
2. Learning from private partners what they need and what they expect from the State of Alaska before, during and after an emergency or disaster. In turn, APIP partners learn what the state can and cannot provide. Understanding the gaps between the assistance they’ll need and the assistance they can expect helps organizations minimize preparedness costs, allows them time to plan thoroughly and helps prevent costly duplication of efforts.
3. Developing relationships to expedite communication before, during and after a disaster event.

APIP meets monthly from September to May. These meetings focus on a theme or scenario related to infrastructure protection, such as extreme weather events or cyber security. Meetings begin with briefings from subject-matter experts before opening up into a larger group discussion. Most of the work takes place in one large session so that all participants can observe and contribute.

While APIP is currently centered in Anchorage, members share interests and interoperability requirements with entities across the state. Therefore, efforts are underway to expand participation to Fairbanks and Juneau — primarily via teleconferencing, but also with in-person sessions. This expansion is beneficial as different areas of the state have different types of risks and therefore experience different challenges; sharing this information and discussing capabilities and gaps with all APIP members will strengthen organizational ties and resiliency.

APIP also seeks to greatly increase collaboration to anticipate problems through vulnerability assessments and cyber workgroups. If APIP can better anticipate problems, then members can better adjust their priorities when building capabilities across the state.

Whether it is an individual or a family preparing for a disruption of critical infrastructure, or business and industry taking steps to ensure the services they provide are resilient to disruptions, we must ensure we are as robust as possible. We all play a role in keeping our infrastructure strong, secure and resilient.

We can do our part at home, at work and in our community by being familiar with emergency plans, being prepared for disruptions, incorporating basic cyber safety practices and ensuring that if we see something, we say something by reporting suspicious activities to local law enforcement. ■



Utility Infrastructure. Work is done in Galena to combat the effects of the 2013 spring floods, which damaged the entire utility system in the Yukon River community. A partnership between the community, private-sector, not-for-profits and the government was able to fix utility service for the restored and rebuilt homes. Photo: Adam DeBrowa, FEMA

APIP in Action

Between March and April 2009, Mount Redoubt Volcano recorded 19 major eruptions that sent ash in excess of 60,000 feet into the atmosphere, shut down hundreds of commercial/cargo flights, severely disrupted maritime shipping operations and resulted in ash fall spanning 340 miles. After the first eruption, APIP convened to discuss how the eruptions would affect each sector’s ability to provide essential services. Once the group discovered all of the potential vulnerabilities, they rapidly found interdependencies and worked through contingency plans to fill gaps that would ensure all essential services were provided. Despite occurring within 106 miles of Anchorage, Alaska’s major population center and transportation hub, each member of APIP made sure that no critical commodity experienced a shortage for the entire 60 days of eruptions.

In 2010, a C-17 plane crash severely damaged state railroad lines on a military base. On the day of the accident, APIP convened to determine how the disruption in train traffic would affect members of the partnership and the general public. The resulting discussion revealed a variety of sensitive information, including the details of what crossed the tracks. This open flow of information allowed APIP to prevent a larger ripple effect by implementing a prioritized response that diverted passenger services by bus and provided the military with a comprehensive report that allowed their accident investigation to continue while the tracks were repaired.

In 2009, APIP prepared for the possibility of an H1N1 outbreak by considering the effects of widespread absenteeism in the workforce and the reduced movement of goods.

Go Anywhere. Small Unit Support Vehicles are fully-tracked, all-terrain, amphibious vehicles designed to support platoon-sized units in arctic and mountainous conditions. The Alaska Guard received the two SUSVs from the Red River Army Depot in November as part of an initiative to maintain its arctic vehicle capability. Photo: 1st Sgt. Charles Hooper, Alaska Army National Guard



Alaska Army Guard Works to Maintain Arctic Ground Capability

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard received two rebuilt M-973 Small Unit Support Vehicles from the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana, Texas, in November.

SUSVs are fully-tracked, all-terrain, amphibious vehicles designed to support platoon-sized units in arctic and mountainous

conditions. The SUSV, originally named the Bandvagn 206, was developed by Hagglunds for the Swedish Army.

The two vehicles, along with a team of eight personnel from RRAD, were flown to Alaska aboard a C-5 aircraft. The National Guard Bureau also sent two representatives to oversee the testing of the SUSVs.



Test Drive. Alaska National Guardsmen and mechanics from the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana, Texas, test drive a M973 Small Unit Support Vehicles on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in November. Photo: 1st Sgt. Charles Hooper, Alaska Army National Guard

“The Alaska, Minnesota, Vermont and Colorado National Guards have been fighting to maintain the SUSV to do cold weather operations,” said Lt. Col. James Palembang, surface maintenance manager of the AKARNG.

According to Palembang, SUSVs were removed from authorized equipment documents of the states in 2009.

“Because the Army does not see the SUSV has a program of record, it has been a fight to keep these as an authorized piece of equipment,” he said. “National Guard Bureau recognizes the importance of SUSVs in performing its federal mission in cold-weather climates, while adding an important capability of meeting its state’s mission for defense in support of civilian authorities response. They have been used many times for search and rescue, bringing emergency fuel to Nome for ship to shore refueling and during fire seasons.”

The National Guard is the only participant in the rebuild program for the SUSVs at RRAD, explained Palembang. This program is funded by the NGB and is the only program left to rebuild the vehicles.

“This is a 30-plus-year-old platform, and parts are hard to get,” Palembang said. “The Alaska National Guard has taken on a couple of new initiatives to maintain this piece of equipment until there is a replacement capability identified.”

These initiatives include participation in the NATO Support Agency BV206 Committee where 10 other countries use the platform, he explained. The AKARNG has also ordered parts from NSPA for the first time since many parts are no longer available through the U.S. military supply chain.

The Alaska Guard also worked with U.S. Army Alaska in a joint effort to develop a point of instruction for SUSV maintenance and are training new mechanics in Alaska on maintaining them, said Palembang. A one-week SUSV maintenance class was held in October with active-duty Soldiers at the Alaska Guard’s Combined Support Maintenance Shop.

“There is no other vehicle that can replicate the same capabilities as the SUSV, and this platform has been identified as being critical in operating in the Arctic. Simply put, it can go where rolling vehicles cannot.” ■



Arctic Critical. This is one of two Small Unit Support Vehicles that the Alaska Army National Guard received in November as part of an initiative to maintain its arctic vehicle capability. The SUSV is deemed as critical for operating in the arctic. Photo: 1st Sgt. Charles Hooper, Alaska Army National Guard



Good Cheer to Shishmaref. Thirty-four volunteers from several community businesses and organizations, in addition to members of the Alaska National Guard, deliver tidings of good cheer to the west coast Alaska village of Shishmaref in December.

Photo: Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead, DMVA Public Affairs

Operation Santa Claus: Holiday Happiness

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Hundreds of children living in two Alaska villages celebrated the 2014 holiday season with the festivities and fun of Operation Santa Claus.

The event, in its 58th year, is part of the Alaska National Guard's yearly community relations and support program that provides toys, clothing, books, school supplies, backpacks, fresh fruit and sundaes to youngsters in communities across the state.

Operation Santa Claus traveled to two communities in 2014 — Newtok, a western Alaska village outside Bethel, and Shishmaref, an island community in the Chukchi Sea.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and a team of elves took a variation of Santa's sleigh to the two villages, utilizing an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 Hercules and an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. ■



New Books. Matthew Kassaivli looks through the piles of books Operation Santa Claus brought to the village of Newtok in December. Operation Santa Claus also brought in fresh fruit, warm winter clothing, sundaes and backpacks filled with school supplies for each child in the village, in addition to a present from Santa. Photo: Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs





Family Holiday Photo. The Queenie family, kids ages 2-18 years old, takes a family picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus during Operation Santa Claus 2014 in Newtok. The Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron and Alaska Army National Guard's 1-207th Aviation Regiment transported Santa, Mrs. Claus and a handful of elves to nearly 200 waiting children in Newtok. Photo:Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs



Delightful Dancing. Community members of Shishmaref perform some native dances as part of the festivities of Operation Santa Claus 2014. In addition to the dances and music, Operation Santa Claus brings in presents, books, school supplies, fruit and ice cream as part of its annual community relations program.

Photo: Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead, DMVA Public Affairs



Ice Cream Treats. Rich Owens, owner of Tastee Freez restaurant in Anchorage and member of the Operation Santa Claus committee, serves sundaes to the community of Newtok. Residents in rural Alaska rarely get ice cream because of their remote location and difficulties in bringing supplies into the villages.

Photo:Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs



Festive Tunes. The Salvation Army Band plays holiday music during an Operation Santa Claus 2014 trip to Shishmaref in December. Photo: Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead, DMVA Public Affairs

HOW IT ALL BEGAN ... The Alaska Air National Guard originally started Operation Santa Claus in 1956 as a result of a request from St. Mary's Mission for toys for their children. Spring floods denied a fishing season that year, and the drought that followed all but eliminated the big game animals available to hunt. Every bit of money the mission had was used to pay for food to be shipped in, so it appeared there was no money to buy gifts for the children for Christmas that year.

So, Guardsmen would accept new or used toys, in those days, from members of the Anchorage community. In turn, they'd rehab used toys, then hand them over to Santa Claus for delivery aboard an Air Guard C-123J Provider.

Throughout the years, as time and social conditions in rural Alaska changed; other villages, schools and groups have invited Operation Santa Claus to their communities. Literally, tens of thousands of Alaska's children and adults have been on the receiving end of St. Nick's good cheer.



Youngest Villager. The youngest resident in the village gets a teddy bear from Santa and Mrs. Claus during Operation Santa Claus 2014 in Newtok.

Photo:Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs



REAL WARRIORS.

Photo by SSGT Debra A. Mickle



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Photo by SrA Eric Harris



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Alaska State Defense Force

Alaska Hosts Annual National Conference

By Capt. Melissa Holl, ASDF

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... The State Guard Association of the United States held its 2014 Annual Conference at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage in September. Officers and enlisted personnel from state defense forces throughout the United States and its territories traveled to Alaska for the event.

The State Guard Association of the United States is a nonprofit corporation that promotes the creation of state defense forces with state military departments and also creates nationwide training programs for state defense force members.

The Alaska State Defense Force has benefited from its association with SGAUS through participation in the Military Emergency Management Specialist training and the Chaplain's School. SGAUS is also creating a Staff Judge Advocate Academy for attorneys and an Engineering Academy for professional engineers. These training opportunities prepare state defense force personnel to respond in a professional manner to state disasters.

At the annual conference, Brig. Gen. Roger Holl, commander of the Alaska State Defense Force, was appointed the 2014-2015 president of SGAUS. Lt. Col. John James, director of Operations and Training for the Alaska State Defense Force, was named secretary of the Executive Board.

Accolades also went out to Cpl. Taylor Cospers, of the Alaska State Defense Force, who was selected as the SGAUS Soldier of the Year. Alaska's Sgt. 1st Class Helga Polsey was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for SGAUS.

State defense forces from numerous states shared their best practices at the conference. In addition, SGAUS honored Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, then-acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, for his contributions and guidance to state defense forces and his participation in the conference as the banquet speaker.



New President. Brig. Gen. Roger Holl, right, commander of the Alaska State Defense Force, is sworn in as the incoming president of the State Guard Association of the United States during its annual conference held in Anchorage.

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

John Madden, director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for the State of Alaska, was also honored for his contributions to the conference, as he spoke to the state defense forces on proper response to natural disasters.

Alaska Army National Guard Chaplain (Col.) Richard Koch and Chaplain's Assistant (Sgt. 1st Class) Charles Boldt were both honored by SGAUS for their teaching and contributions to the SGAUS Chaplain's School held in Alaska in 2013.

The State Guard Association of the United States Annual Conference was a reminder that state defense forces are a significant asset to the state, when disaster requires a professional response. ■



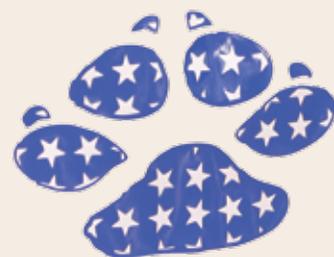
Disaster Response Insight. Brig. Gen. Roger Holl, left, commander of the Alaska State Defense Force, presents John Madden, director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for the State of Alaska, with an award from the State Guard Association of the United States for his insights on how state defense forces can meaningfully participate in disaster response. Photo: Melissa Holl, ASDF



Success. Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, right, then-acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Roger Holl, commander of the Alaska State Defense Force, display the Certificate of Appreciation that was presented to Bridges honoring his contributions to the State Guard Association of the United States and to the success of the conference.

Photo: Melissa Holl, ASDF

ALASKA GUARDSMAN'S KENNEL OFFERS HEALING TO BATTLE WOUNDED, WEARY



Puppy Dawgs. Battle Dawgs Racing owners Maj. Jennifer Casillo, an aircraft maintenance officer with the 176th Wing's Maintenance Squadron, and her husband, Rick, five-time Iditarod musher, hold their eight-week-old Alaskan Huskies at the Alaska National Guard Warrior and Family Services Family holiday party held at the National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in December. The Casillos brought in a litter of sled dog puppies for families to enjoy at the party. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – A 176th Wing maintenance officer with more than 16 years combined service in the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserves and Alaska Air National Guard has taken on a new mission of making a difference in the lives of the battle wounded and battle weary.

Alaska Air National Guard Maj. Jennifer Casillo, and her husband, Rick, a five-time Iditarod musher, are the co-owners and operators of a professional race kennel known as Battle Dawgs Racing, named in honor of service members and veterans who they call Warriors.

“The true battle for a veteran begins when they get home,” Casillo said. “We dedicated the kennel to providing a platform to expose Warriors to therapeutic and exciting experiences by harnessing the natural splendor of Alaska’s landscape and the power of sled dogs.”

In its third year, Battle Dawgs Racing, based out of Big Lake, Alaska, focuses on long-distance events, including the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. BDR also has a partnership with Alaska’s Healing Hearts, a national organization offering year-round outdoor recreational opportunities for America’s brave service members and their families.

Alaska’s Healing Hearts activities include fishing, hunting, skiing, rodeo, dog-sledding tours and various other outdoor pursuits. BDR’s partnership with Alaska’s Healing Hearts is another way to reach out to Warriors and provide them the opportunity to use its kennel and services as a healing tool.

“It’s a perfect relationship,” said Jessy Lakin, a staff member at Alaska’s Healing Hearts who is BDR’s director of operations.

Lakin, a combat veteran himself, believes in the healing power of dogs through engagement. He also recognizes that sled dogs’ teamwork reminds Warriors of camaraderie, something they might be missing from their time in service.

“The strength of a dog team is insane,” Lakin said. “You have 16 dogs pulling a



Iditarod Tough. Alaska Air National Guard Maj. Jennifer Casillo, an aircraft maintenance officer with the 176th Wing’s Maintenance Squadron, hugs her husband, Rick, a five-time Iditarod musher, at the start of the 2014 Iditarod in Willow, Alaska. Photo: Courtesy of Battle Dawgs Racing

sled with 500 pounds and dragging it over 1,000 miles. If you put a Warrior who is struggling around these dogs for just 10 minutes, the one-on-one connection that forms is just unbelievable.”

Helping veterans and giving back to the local community is a passion of BDR and Alaska’s Healing Hearts. Both organizations rely on corporate sponsors and the generosity of their supporters to provide and fund programs at no cost to Warriors.

“I love it when I can spend a whole day in the dog yard; it just clears my mind,” Casillo said. “We witness this in our Warriors. They are able to let everything



Deployment Farewell. Maj. Jennifer Casillo, an aircraft maintenance officer with the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, says goodbye to her husband, Rick, before leaving for a 4-month deployment to the Horn of Africa in January. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

*“The true battle for a veteran begins when they get home.
We dedicated the kennel to providing a platform to expose
Warriors to therapeutic and exciting experiences
by harnessing the natural splendor
of Alaska’s landscape and the power of sled dogs.”*

— Maj. Jennifer Casillo

fall away for a while and are able to bond with the dogs and our team.”

Apart from her duties as a maintenance officer in the Alaska Air National Guard and caring for the 27 dogs in her back yard, Casillo is a civilian helicopter pilot. She flies for a local company and also started Aurora Heli-Expeditions, a summer glacier tour business that she and her husband began three years ago.

“We offer free helicopter rides to Alaska’s Healing Hearts Warriors (and take them up on aerial sightseeing tours,)” said Casillo. “In addition, Battle Dawgs Racing and Aurora-Heli Expeditions are committed to providing free glacier dog sled tours in the summer and hosting the Warriors at our kennel during the winter training season.”

At the kennel, Warriors play an integral role in helping the BDR team train for upcoming races and events. In addition, Warriors will help the BDR team prepare for the 2015 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race where Rick will be competing in his sixth year. Casillo will be cheering him on from overseas. During the race, Casillo will be on her sixth deployment to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“The Battle Dawgs Racing team is going to have to rally together and help fill a big void during those months she is gone,

but we are all excited for her,” explained Lakin. “Her military experience comes over into her civilian life just beyond anything we could ever expect. We will all adapt and overcome.”

“I’m going to do what I can from afar to cheer and support my team,” Casillo said. “Rick and Jessy are going to operate while I’m gone, and then, I’ll jump right back in when I’m home. Battle Dawgs won’t miss a beat.”

Battle Dawgs Racing has plans to bring up two Warriors from the East Coast to be at the start of the 2015 Iditarod. In addition, BDR will offer handler slots to a few lucky Alaska National Guardsmen who will help out at the ceremonial start in Anchorage.

“The Iditarod is seen all over the world and everybody is able to witness the strength and power of these dogs,” Lakin said. “Allowing people to share the privilege that we have every day just being around these amazing animals is the best part; it’s hard to beat, definitely the best job I’ve ever had, and it’s all volunteer.”

Battle Dawgs Racing and Alaska’s Healing Hearts send the message that as American citizens and with the faith and support of others, nothing is unachievable, no matter the circumstance — all wounds heal. BDR encourages all supporters to follow the team on its Battle Dawgs Racing Facebook page for upcoming



Hugs. Zarah MacIntyre, 4, holds one of the 8-week-old Alaskan Huskies from the Battle Dawgs Racing kennel at the Alaska National Guard Warrior and Family Services family holiday party in December.

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

events and volunteer opportunities.

“If you know a Warrior who is struggling or even having a hard time, you can nominate them using our application form on our website battledawgsracing.com,” Casillo said. “Come out and bring your family, spend a week in our cabin and just get away and disconnect from things. We will put you to work on the dogs.” ■

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2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD AND IRON DOG TAKE TO THE SCHOOLS

Story and photos by Sgt. Marisa Lindsay,
DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Alaska Army National Guard recruiters visited students in December at the Anchorage School District's King Career Center in support of Iron Dog's student exchange program.

Iron Dog is an annual Alaska snow-machine race — dubbed the world's longest and toughest — and event organizers created the urban rural student exchange to engage high school students in meaningful learning experiences and cultural exchanges surrounding the race.

The program provides rural and urban Alaskan students with hands-on educational opportunities relating to the vast economic, geographic and cultural diversity that Alaska provides. 2015 marks the second year the Alaska National Guard has partnered with this program and the fifth year as a lead sponsor in the Iron Dog snowmachine race.

This uniquely Alaska race provides a tremendous opportunity for statewide outreach for the National Guard.

"The Iron Dog student exchange program is a great way for the Alaska Army National Guard to showcase its role in the community and the benefits that come as part of serving Alaska," said Sgt. First Class William "Dale" Bart, Alaska Army National Guard recruiting and retention marketing



Guard Opportunities. Students at the King Career Center in Anchorage learn about the Alaska Army National Guard during a recruiting visit in support of the Iron Dog student exchange program in December.

director. "It's important that we impress upon these kids to stay out of trouble, get good grades, stay in school and seek better options for themselves after graduation."

Throughout the day, the Iron Dog program provided two informative and interactive presentations for the students at

King Career Center. The sessions included time with Iron Dog winner Mark McKenna, a presentation by fellow sponsor Dolin Gold and lastly, a recruiting presentation with Bart. Afterward, students were afforded time to speak with Army National Guard recruiters at a career table regarding employment opportunities within the Guard.

"Through the connection with the race, the National Guard is demonstrating what it means to be an Alaskan and that is being civically involved and engaged within the community," said Mike Woods, a teacher at King Career Center and one of the founding members of the student exchange program. "Outreach into our schools through this program gives the National Guard an opportunity to be more than a television commercial or advertisement; it gives the Guard a human face."

After the visit to King Career Center, the National Guard recruiting and retention team will travel to Barrow, Bethel, Nome and Fairbanks with the Iron Dog program in early 2015.

"We are trying to revitalize and re-engage the rural people of Alaska using this program to reach communities that we normally cannot get to," Bart said. "These youth are Alaska grown, and we need to remember that the National Guard is too." ■



Home-Grown Guard. Students at the King Career Center in Anchorage gather around an Alaska National Guard recruiting table during an Iron Dog student exchange program presentation to hear more about the opportunities the Guard has to offer. The program is a way for the Alaska National Guard to highlight its community-based role and the benefits that come with serving your state.



VETERANS: SHARE YOUR STORIES

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs



Honoring Service. Jim Grant, post commander of American Legion Jack Henry Post 1, renders a salute during the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in November. Grant served as an air traffic controller before retiring from the U.S. Army at the rank of sergeant major. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... Throughout the past five years, I have had the grand privilege of spending my days with the awesome veterans of our great state. I am so honored to hold a position, as director of the State of Alaska Veterans Affairs, to serve those who serve and have served our nation.

As a veteran myself, with more 23 years of service, I take to heart one of the great quotes of President Calvin Coolidge: "A nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." All one has to do is travel around our great state to see that no one is forgotten. It is not uncommon to be in an airport, restaurant or a store and see a stranger bestow honor and respect to men and women who have served or are serving.

This Veterans Day, I encouraged all veterans to share their personal stories with family and friends. If you are on active duty and far from home, share your stories with your extended families. Please, especially remember those we have lost during our nation's conflicts. Their courage never grows old and bears repeating so that our memory of their service spans future generations. It is through these conversations and stories we keep our past and present veterans alive and in the heart of our nation.

Sharing your stories also helps keep life in balance and makes for a healthy veteran. Just through speaking about your great experiences helps families see what you went through and makes your past come

alive. It is always great to pass along stories that are funny, but sometimes, we have areas that are not so funny and need to be shared as well. If you find that past experiences in the military cause discomfort, speaking about it takes the strength away from the hurt and encourages healing. If you can't speak to family and friends, we have lots of people willing to step in and listen. You never know if the one you're speaking to might have had a similar experience, but because of your strength to speak openly, it could help them heal as well.

It is nice to live in such a great state because we are blessed to have so many veteran role models in our communities. Having the largest per capita veteran population in the nation, it is easy to find

veterans in every community. In Alaska, we have veterans from WW II to present, ranging in age from 18 to 102. Our two largest veteran population groups served during our most recent conflicts and the Vietnam War. What an honor to have so many who have served and served selflessly.

This past Veterans Day we remembered that a veteran is a fellow citizen, an ordinary person who at one significant point in his or her life served this great nation for others who could or would not. Our veterans do not serve for glory, or power, or wealth, but for our freedom. For an Alaskan veteran, a sincere thank you for your service means more than any other reward could bestow. ■

Symbol of America. Cadet Harley Trabold, an Anchorage resident and member of the Alaska Military Youth Academy honor guard, posts the American flag at the commencement of the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The ceremony was attended by veterans currently serving and those who previously served, as well as friends, family and supporters. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



Honorable Discharge. Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, then-acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, reads the honorable discharge certificate to Andronik P. Kashevarof during an informal ceremony at Kashevarof's house in December. Kashevarof served in the Alaska Territorial Guard's St. George Island unit during WWII until 1947 when the ATG was disbanded. It was not until 2000 that ATG members were officially recognized as members of the U.S. Army. Since then, the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs has been working to locate approximately 6,400 people who served in the ATG in order to recognize them for their service and ensure they receive Veterans Affairs benefits.

Photo: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

ATG Proud. Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, then-acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, presents the Alaska Territorial Guard patch to Andronik P. Kashevarof during an informal ceremony at Kashevarof's house in Anchorage, Alaska, in December. Photos: Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



HONORING VETERANS

and Remembering Their Journeys

By Staff Sgt. Robert Barnett, JBER Public Affairs



A Salute to Veterans. Verdie Bowen, director of the State of Alaska Veterans Affairs, and Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, then-acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, render a salute during the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Flags were plentiful. A large American flag took up most of one wall in between a Humvee and a firetruck in the two-story room; as people entered the building, many wore the symbol of American freedom on their shirts and hats. The symbol has another meaning — remembering those who salute it.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs hosted a Veterans Day ceremony at the Alaska National Guard armory and the Royal Canadian Air Force hosted a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Nov. 11.

“It was awesome,” said Dawn Bundick, department president of Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars and a Navy veteran of 10 years. “We are remembering

the (service members) who have gone before us, and also the ones who are coming after us. As a veteran myself, I’m always trying to encourage people to remember them.”

Hundreds of veterans and their families attended both ceremonies, which included music, speeches, presentation of awards and wreaths and the Veterans Day proclamation from President Barack Obama.

“Since the birth of our nation, American patriots have stepped forward to serve our country and defend our way of life,” Obama’s statement said. “With honor and distinction, generations of servicemen and women have taken up arms to win our independence, preserve our union and secure our freedom.

“On Veterans Day, we salute the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who have rendered the

highest service any American can offer, and we rededicate ourselves to fulfilling our commitment to all those who serve in our name. Today, we are reminded of our solemn obligation: to serve our veterans as well as they have served us.”

Veterans Day ceremonies across the country honored service members, past and present. In the United States, the holiday started at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, signifying the end of the First World War, a day that became known as Armistice Day.

“The idea of remembrance is not only about recognizing the sacrifices of the past, it’s also about continuing to work toward a better future,” said Verdie Bowen, State of Alaska Veterans Affairs director. “The world is a much-changed place; the nature of the threat even more changed.

The line between the home front and the international front has vanished. We pause at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month for those who have made that sacrifice. We'll pay tribute to their memory, and we'll also remember those who endure at home, their lives and the lives of their families forever changed. Inspired by their memory, guided by their example, we renew our pledge to continue to defend our values and this country we are proud to serve."

"Part of this commemoration today is to remind the community around us that our veterans are unique," said Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, then-acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "They took an oath of service; they volunteered to put their lives on the line in service to our nation, our states and communities to protect freedom where we live."

Many veterans have been content to serve in silence and not seek the benefits available to them today, Bowen said. When people give their oath, they are invisible. They go to initial entry training and disappear into the mix. They put on a uniform and it's easy to see their name, rank, their branch of service, what their accomplishments have been and what schools they've been to. But when they



Unity and Remembrance. A member of the Canadian Forces places a poppy on the headstone of a service member after the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The poppy is the symbol of Remembrance Day. Each year, the Royal Canadian Legion raises awareness and funds by offering replica poppies for a contribution that Canadians might wear as a sign of unity and remembrance.

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

retire or separate, they take all that off and tend to disappear into the community again, Bowen added.

People need to get to know veterans in the Anchorage community and learn their

stories of service, he said. There are 22 million veterans in the VA database.

"I bet you we don't know 22 million names today," Bowen said. "Honor them and learn their stories." ■

Vietnam Veterans With PTSD Now Eligible for Discharge Upgrades

By Veterans Affairs Staff

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... A new Department of Defense directive has instructed the military boards responsible for correcting or upgrading discharge status to give "liberal consideration" to petitions from Vietnam War veterans who received a less-than-honorable discharge because of behavior resulting from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Discharge upgrades could lead to the award of previously denied benefits, such as disability pay, separation pay, GI Bill eligibility and VA benefits.

There are more than 24,000 Vietnam veterans in Alaska, and some of those veterans could be missing out on much need benefits.

Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel directed that the military review boards "fully and carefully consider every petition based on PTSD brought by each veteran" and that such reviews will include "all materials and evidence provided by the petitioner." The Pentagon's new rule will apply to all veterans with discharges prior to the formal recognition of PTSD in 1980, which resulted in government agencies denying disability claims, discharge upgrades and VA benefits.

Hagel wrote in a Sept. 3, 2014, memorandum to military agency heads that supplementing this guidance is necessary because the records of service members who served before PTSD was recognized "do not contain substantive information concerning medical conditions in either service treatment records or personnel records," making it very difficult to document conditions to prove a connection between the veteran's PTSD and the circumstances surrounding the less-than-honorable discharge.

The new guidance is focused on veterans with low-level misconduct that may have resulted in administrative discharge. In effect, a veteran seeking a revised discharge will have to prove three elements: that he or she suffered from PTSD at the time of service, that the cause was related to military service and that the symptoms were a factor in the misconduct underlying the less-than-honorable discharge.

For more information, go to the Boards for Correction of Military Records web page at: https://kb.defense.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/386/~/boards-for-correction-of-military-records.

You can also contact Jeff Slaikeu or Verdie Bowen at (907)334-0874 at the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs.



Alaska wins NORTHWEST REGIONAL RANGER CHALLENGE COMPETITION

By Public Affairs staff

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard provides two full-time Soldiers to serve as instructors and program directors for the University of Alaska Anchorage's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program, whose mission is to select, educate, train and commission student-cadets to serve as officers and leaders of character in the U.S. Army.

In November, cadets from the UAA and University of Alaska Fairbanks program competed in the Ranger Challenge Northwest Regional competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, and took home first place, beating out nine other teams.

Though not a varsity sport, the Ranger Challenge Competition is an arduous event that tests leadership, critical thinking, decision-making and physical fitness. The events include a one-rope rope bridge,

rappelling, the Army Physical Fitness Test, a timed beach run and shooting the M4 carbine on the Engagement Skills Trainer.



Team Run. The University of Alaska Reserve Officer Training Corps team begins the 2-kilometer beach run of the Ranger Challenge Competition in November. They team finished 2nd place in the event and took home first place overall in the competition. Photo: Courtesy University of Alaska ROTC

The University of Alaska team is one of the smallest programs that competed. It's impressive that the team members from UAF and UAA never had the opportunity to train together in preparation for the competition, but they still managed to pull off the victory.

Three of the ranger challenge team members are also members in the Alaska Army National Guard. Spc. Richard Mitchell from UAA is a member of B Company, 1-143rd Infantry, Spc. William Belcher from UAA is assigned to 297th Quartermaster Detachment and Sgt. Laramie Lee Yancey from the University of Alaska Fairbanks is assigned to 1-297th Long Range Surveillance Squadron.

The next stop for the team is the brigade-level competition in February at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. ■



Beach Run. The University of Alaska Army Reserve Officer Training Corps team prepares for a 2-kilometer beach run during the Ranger Challenge Competition in November in Oregon.

Photo: Courtesy University of Alaska ROTC



Tactical Movement. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets rehearse room-clearing techniques for the Tactical Urban Movement event of the Ranger Challenge Competition. Photo: Courtesy University of Alaska ROTC



Regroup and Advance. Cadets conduct a sensitive equipment check and a map reconnaissance after the beach run event of the Ranger Challenge Competition before moving to the tactical urban movement event. Photo: Courtesy University of Alaska ROTC

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Award Winners Show True Commitment to Military

By ESGR staff

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... 2014 was a year of recognition for the Alaska Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

It started in September when Leverette Hoover received the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan award for Distinguished Community Service. Hoover is the Alaska branch manager for Siemens Industry, Inc. He is a disabled veteran retired from the U.S. Air Force. Hoover is a true hero to his co-workers, employees, fellow disabled veterans and community members. He distinguishes himself by going above and beyond for the military community in Anchorage. Hoover is currently the honorary commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Hoover is a supportive employer who participates in many ESGR events. In February 2014, he was one of 10 employers who attended a Boss Lift trip to Guam. Boss Lifts are opportunities to participate in a National Guard or Reserve mission to see first-hand what service member employees do when called to duty. The event was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel with Alaska ESGR to Guam to tour the many National Guard and Reserve bases. While in Guam, Hoover learned more about the joint missions that currently happen with the Guam National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing.

While visiting the military bases on Guam, Hoover spent some time visually evaluating the power generation systems and was analyzing how his team at Siemens could help create a better system resulting in cutting costs for utilities, maximizing energy efficiency and bettering the environment with ecofriendly equipment. He was always thinking about how he could "give back" to the warriors stationed there.



High Honors. Jamie Abordonado, Alaska Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; Leverette Hoover, Siemens Industry, Inc.; and Michael "Buzz" Buzinski, BuzzBizz Studios, are among the Alaska ESGR award winners in 2014, shown here at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's Gold Pan awards ceremony. Photo: Courtesy ESGR

Another "Gold Pan" win was Michael "Buzz" Buzinski owner of BuzzBizz Studios and public affairs director for the Alaska ESGR. Buzinski won a Gold Pan award for Entrepreneurial Excellence. He is also a veteran of the Air Force and serves on

the Headquarters ESGR IT subcommittee. He is a vital part of the team that creates a matrix collection of volunteer activity for watch of the 54 committees of ESGR. Without this team, the impressive actions of almost 5,000 volunteers nationwide would not be captured and the story would not be told.

Additional awardees from ESGR in 2014 were Louie Crew, ESGR Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award; Charlie Smith, Legion of Merit; and Jamie Abordonado, National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry award. ■

2014 was a year of recognition for the Alaska Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Airmen Conduct Base Security Abroad

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo,
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Approximately 16 Alaska Air National Guard members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron, 168th Air Refueling Wing, deployed last Fall to the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

They are supporting operations in both Afghanistan and Kuwait, while tasked with the mission of base and flightline security, as well as base support.

"Members from our 168th Security Forces Squadron are doing spectacular," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, security forces manager for the 168th Security Forces Squadron. "The training that our security forces members went through prepared them for what is to come, as it was almost a mirror image of what they go through down range."

The overall mission and training for this deployment could lead to the security forces members being away from home station anywhere from six to nine months. The Guard members are scheduled to return home spring 2015.



A Bit of Alaska to Go. Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, 168th Security Forces manager, presents Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy Amstrup, 168th Security Forces Combat Arms Training Maintenance superintendent, with an Alaska state flag during a deployment ceremony in September at the security forces squadron.



Deployment Ceremony. Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ling, 168th Security Forces manager, and members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron stand at parade rest during a deployment ceremony given in their honor at the security forces squadron in September at Eielson Air Force Base.

Air Guard Graduates Mark Accomplishment in Africa

By Lt. Col. Matthew Komatsu, 212th Rescue Squadron

DJIBOUTI, Africa ... The graduating class from the University of Alaska Anchorage's MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Training Program walked across the stage in Anchorage and received their diplomas in August. Two students, however, were notably absent; Kris Abel and Nate Greene were not present that day because they were on the other side of the world, deployed to Djibouti, Africa.

To recognize the importance of the event, deployed squadron members — all Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 212th Rescue Squadron — prepared a surprise, informal graduation ceremony of their own. Parachute riggers sewed caps and gowns fashioned from bed sheets purchased at the base exchange, “keynote speakers” prepared speeches and one squadron member was even able to download “Pomp and Circumstance” to his music player.

One afternoon, all unit members reported to the unit and assembled in formation. The graduates, Master Sgt. Abel and Staff Sgt. Greene, arrived to find caps and gowns ready to don and a stage set for their graduation. Lt. Col. Matthew Komatsu, the deployed unit commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Paul Barendregt, the unit senior enlisted leader, acted as keynote speaker and emcee, respectively.

In his short address to the team and the two graduates, Komatsu noted the importance of Abel's and Greene's accomplishment towards Alaska's medical service to its remote citizens.

“Kris and Nate are model citizen-Airmen,” Komatsu said during his address, noting their traditional Guard status. “They sacrificed two years in support of a degree that will benefit the state of Alaska, and somehow managed to do it in balance with their military commitments. We expect, and know, great things will come from these two.” ■



Overseas Graduation Ceremony. Chief Master Sgt. Paul Barendregt, 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, delivers the opening remarks at an intimate graduation ceremony in Djibouti, Africa, for deployed members Master Sgt. Kris Abel and Staff Sgt. Nate Greene. From left: Lt. Col. Matthew Komatsu, deployed unit commander; Master Sgt. Kris Abel, pararescueman and University of Alaska Anchorage graduate; Staff Sgt. Nate Greene, pararescueman and University of Alaska Anchorage graduate; and Chief Master Sgt. Paul Barendregt, unit senior enlisted leader. Photo: Capt. Christian Braunlich, 212th Rescue Squadron

Airmen Return from Deployment to Djibouti

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Approximately 20 Alaska Air National Guardsmen returned here in October from a three-month deployment to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Guardsmen from the 212th Rescue Squadron, 176th Operations Group and 176th Communications Flight were deployed to Djibouti as part of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa mission.

“Our primary mission (was) to provide a personnel-recovery force for the CJTF-HOA,” 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.

“Our deployed personnel accomplished the mission by providing personnel recovery capabilities in the region,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Conroy, commander of the 212th Rescue Squadron. “This includes all facets attributed to search-and-rescue operations. Additionally, personnel participated in partnership relations with countries in the region building coalition ties.” ■



Alaska Guardsmen Teach Cadets Life-Coping Skills

Story and photo by Sgt. Balinda O’Neal,
DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Alaska Army National Guardsmen went to Colony High School last fall to teach sexual assault and prevention classes, as well as drug awareness and coping strategies classes to Army Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadets in Palmer.

In October, Sgt. Monique Andrews, an AKARNG victim advocate coordinator, spent three days with the cadets teaching a modified version of the Department of Defense Army Sharp Unit Refresher training. It focused significantly on defining and identifying sexual harassment and sexual assault, defining and understanding “consent” and recognizing how to be an effective bystander.

“It is important to educate teens about sexual violence to increase their awareness and to assist them in developing appropriate coping strategies to effectively combat negative or unwanted behaviors if they witness them at home or in school,” explained Andrews. “Developmentally, teenagers rely heavily on their peers for support far more than they do adults, so the bystander intervention portion is crucial at this age. This training involved helping teenagers identify problems, and

then deciding what interventions are appropriate.”

In addition to learning about recognizing harassment, as well as prevention, cadets learned steps that they can take to stop sexual harassment and assault.

“We wanted the students to understand the importance of coming forward if they are a victim,” said retired Lt. Col. Butch Diotte, Colony High School Army JROTC instructor. “Many of our students have told us how their friends will tell them to just deal with it and not tell anyone when they are harassed.”

The class is taught annually to the JROTC cadets, but this is the first time they’ve had a guest instructor from the National Guard.

“We believe Sgt. Andrews did a superb job getting the point across that if you are a victim, you need to come forward and use the resources available to make sure it doesn’t happen again,” Diotte said. “Her presentation was interactive and she used thought provoking questions and showed excellent videos. One student specifically commented on how well she modified her presentation to make it more applicable to teenagers.”

Andrews and Sgt. 1st Class Diane Singh, the state resiliency coordinator, spent another three days in November with the cadets teaching a modified version of the

Army’s Resiliency program paired with drug awareness.

“Part of our mission in the National Guard is to serve and protect the community, and we feel implementing a program that will eventually combine sexual assault and harassment awareness, suicide prevention and drug awareness will increase over all safety and resiliency in our community,” explained Singh. “The enemy is not just the terrorist on the war front, it is drugs in our home state.”

The AKNG instructors incorporated activities and lessons to focus primarily on the way substances affect the body and brain. They also covered alternatives to improve overall mental fitness without the use of substances.

Singh said that she doesn’t want the message to be limited to “don’t do drugs.” She wants to leave the cadets with tools they can incorporate in their toolbox to stay resilient.

“This program is in the piloting stage, and we hope to bring it to all schools in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna school districts,” Singh said. “The presentation is interactive, engaging, empowering, educational and fun.”

“The last three years, we have just had our instructors to teach the cadets,” said Kali McCafferty, Colony High Army JROTC cadet battalion commander. “Having a new face that is very energetic and very excited to talk about this and address this issue is really great, and having them here as guest instructors, all the cadets are loving it.”

McCafferty added that she hopes the Alaska National Guard instructors come back to teach suicide prevention training, another mandatory annual requirement.

“Any of our mandatory classes that we have, that we can reach out to the Guard and let them come help us out, I see it as a win for both,” said 1st Sgt. Derek Heavner, Colony High Army JROTC instructor. “Not just for the mandatory classes but to come in and teach classes on any other number of topics that we have too.”

“Hopefully, we continue to do this in the future, not just at Colony High School, but any school or any program could probably benefit from the same level of instruction,” added Heavner. ■



Drug Awareness. Colony High School Army Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets participate in an activity that simulates being intoxicated during a drug awareness and coping strategies classes at the school in November. Alaska Army National Guardsmen Sgt. 1st Class Diane Singh, the state resiliency coordinator, and Sgt. Monique Andrews, a victim advocate coordinator, spent three days with the cadets teaching a modified version of the Army’s Resiliency program paired with drug awareness.



Who We Are...

How do you stay busy in the winter when there's no snow?

**Tech. Sgt.
Tiffany Hutchison**
Joint Forces Headquarters



"Baseball, cheerleading and football for my kids!"

Sgt. Marisa Lindsay
DMVA Public Affairs



"We get our kids outside and play football in our yard. Plus, the weather's been mild enough for some great hikes."

**1st Lt.
Jeffrey Johnson**
1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron



"Ice fishing and homework."

**Senior Master Sgt.
Paula Parrish**
Joint Forces Headquarters



"I've been sitting in freezing ice rinks to watch my son play hockey."

Wendell Orr
Internal Review Division



"I'm actually happy when there's no snow! I work out and keep busy with home projects."

We Remember Gary Lyons

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... The service members and civilian staff located at the Alaska National Guard armory on Camp Denali mourned the passing of Gary L. Lyons in October.

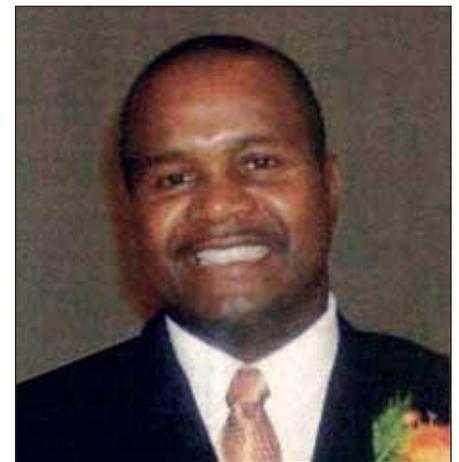
Lyons revitalized the armory's only restaurant with increased food quality and service with his Lyons Den café. His presence and the love and care he put into his food are greatly missed.

Patrons enjoyed Lyons's massive "BIG G" burgers, southern catfish, home-made soups, taco Tuesdays and specials board. He was known for his infectious smile and laughter, making fast friends with everyone. Lyons became a fixture in

the armory and on all of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson with his talk of Southern cooking, dancing and singing along to old-school R&B music, joking with his customers, making special orders and employing his children, making the Lyons Den a true family affair.

Lyons's dream of owning his own restaurant was realized after many years of working security on the trans-Alaska pipeline. With the thriving business of the Lyons Den at the armory, he had immediate plans to open an additional location.

As a lifelong Alaskan, Lyons excelled in athletics and earned the 1978-79 Alaska State Wrestling championship. His athletic abilities earned him a wrestling scholarship



to Pacific University in Oregon. In addition to being ordained as a minister, Lyons also dedicated himself to the service of his church. ■

In honor of Lyons's memory, the family invites contributions to the Vara Allen Jones Scholarship for Academic Excellence at the University of Alaska Anchorage #209-65, 1815 Bragaw Street, Suite 203, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.



Alaska Guardsman Recognized by Alma Mater

By Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Alumni Association and the Office of Development and Alumni Relations presented an Alaska Army National Guardsman with the Alumni Achievement–Business Professional Award during a ceremony at the Princess Riverside Lodge in Fairbanks in September.

Col. Jeffrey Roach, commander of the AKARNG's 38th Troop Command, was honored for his outstanding contributions and achievements as a UAF alumnus by UAF leadership, alumni board members, local regents, Board of Advisors, Board of Visitors and the Centennial Task Force.

After enlisting in the AKARNG's 1898th Combat Support Aviation Company as a helicopter mechanic and UH-1 Huey helicopter crew chief, Roach received his Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management from the UAF in May 1987. He went on to earn a master's degree in management from Webster University and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Air Force Air University.

"I'll admit that when I first graduated from UAF, I was looking forward to a different career path than I ended up on," explained Roach. "However, the path I am on has been awesome. The Alaska Army National Guard has allowed me to lead some of the best military professionals in the world and to do something else that I love along the way, fly helicopters."

When not flying or commanding his Guardsmen, Roach is the Northern Region planning manager, Aviation and Highways, for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. He has worked for the DOT&PF for more than 15 years in the transportation planning field.

"The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has provided me the opportunity to serve my fellow Alaskans through the development of transportation infrastructure," Roach said. "Service to others has been my life's work, and it is something I'll continue to do as long as I am able, whether through my professions or through volunteering for the many great organizations that serve our communities."

The Alumni Achievement Awards were created to recognize outstanding contributions made by graduates and former students of UAF. The areas of recognition include community support, university support, and business and professional excellence.

Roach's feelings on receiving the reward are a mix of rewarding and humbling.

"My family instilled in me a desire to serve others," Roach said. "I was blessed with two careers that have allowed me the chance to



Alumni Achievement. Col. Jeffrey Roach, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard's 38th Troop Command, was honored for his outstanding contributions and achievements as a University of Alaska Fairbanks alumnus by UAF leadership, alumni board members, local regents, Board of Advisors, Board of Visitors and the Centennial Task Force.

Photo: Courtesy Todd Paris, University of Alaska Fairbanks

uplift others through service; they have also given me the opportunity to be a servant leader.

"Attending UAF offered me the opportunity to not only earn a degree, but to open my aperture to take a broader view of the world around me," Roach added. "I developed some great friendships and had some awesome mentors at UAF."

Award recipients are selected by a subcommittee of the UAF Alumni Association board of directors.

"I would like to thank those along the way who entrusted me to lead my fellow Alaskans in the service of others," Roach said. Most of all, I'd like to thank my wife, Sherilyn. She has been my pillar of strength and encouragement. I could not have accomplished all that I have without her by my side."

Since 1991, 46 alumni have received the Business and Professional Excellence Award. Roach had nothing but accolades for the caliber of the UA alumni who have received this award in the past.

"Each was honored with this award because they excelled within their chosen field of endeavor. Through professional excellence, they made life better for others," Roach said. "It's striking to me all the ways the past winners have served their fellow man, and in many ways, shaped their communities along the way. I respect them a great deal for their accomplishments." ■

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military professionals in the world
and to do something else that I love along the way,
fly helicopters."*



Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Meritorious Service Medal



LTC Timothy Brower JFHQ (Army)
 CW4 John Gerrish AKARNG
 SGM Lillian Young JFHQ (Army)
 SSG Richard Mathieson AKARNG

Air Force Achievement Medal



TSgt Eric Lovley 176th ADS
 TSgt Herman Quinones Figueroa 176th ADS
 TSgt Richard Rockhorst 176th ADS
 TSgt Christina Cordes 249th AS
 1Lt Christopher Brunner 144th AS
 SrA John Massi 144th AS
 Maj Eric Schwalber 144th AS
 Lt Col Charles Sims 144th AS
 Capt Fidan Thornburg 144th AS
 Maj Robert Vitt 144th AS
 1Lt Darryl Wilson 144th AS

Alaska Legion of Merit



CW4 John Gerrish AKARNG
 SGM Lillian Young JFHQ (Army)

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



SSG Richard Mathieson AKARNG



Winter Training. Alaska Air National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Jheren Svoboda, a flight engineer with the 210th Rescue Squadron, prepares to hoist a combat rescue officer out of an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during a training mission held near Mount Susitna in December. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

PROMOTIONS

Captain

Jason L. Cameron 176th ADS
 Amy M. Johnson 176th MDG
 Silas H. F. Simone 144th AS
 Yutashea J. Zirkle 176th LRS

First Lieutenant

Benjamin B. Davis 144th AS
 Christopher M. McKnight 176th STU FLT

Chief Master Sergeant (E-9 Air)

Jon P. McCracken 176th OSS

Master Sergeant (E-8 Army)

Jason Baker R&R

Senior Master Sergeant (E-8 Air)

Joseph T. DeBano 168th MXS
 Brandon S. Stuemke 212th RQS
 Scott A. Stewart 210th RQS
 John E. Swearingin 176th CES

Sergeant First Class (E-7 Army)

Luis Eliza 297th BfSB
 Angela Horn JFHQ (Army)
 Robert Hughes 49th MDB
 Elizabeth Robinson JFHQ (Army)

Master Sergeant (E-7 Air)

Christy L. Curry 168th OG
 Robert W. Carr 168th ARW
 John M. Kelleher 213th SWS

Paul R. Deguzman 176th AMXS
 Nina V. Kolyvanova JFHQ (Air)
 Lucas J. Yuill 176th AMXS
 Brad L. Nelson 176th CES
 Andrew S. Reynolds 211th RQS
 Andre M. Marron 210th RQS
 Anjanette G.S. McCain 176th OSS
 Joe D. Sherrard 176th LRS

Technical Sergeant (E-6 Air)

Aaron L. Helt 213th LRS
 Garrett M. Brown 168th LRS
 Vanessa R. Campbell 168th MDG
 Jake A. Hudson 168th MXS
 Edward E. Jones 176th MXS

Staff Sergeant (E-5 Air)

Blayne G. Kiser 168th MXS

Daniel F. Kennett 168th CF
 Brittany L. Sawyer 168th MXS
 Shawn T. McCarthy 168th MXS
 Michael Diachenko 49th MDB
 Todd Ferris 1-207th AVN
 William Houser JFHQ (Army)
 Joel Olivo de Jesus 49th MDB
 Joseph Sallaffie 1-143rd IN ABN
 Edward Seddon 1-297th CAV
 John Sorrells 49th MDB
 Jacob J. Eibeck 176th MXS
 Anthony M. Gugino 176th MXS
 Kassi A. Stavenjord 176th OSS
 Brian P. Rhodes 211th RQS
 Eddie T. Perez 176th MDG
 Josef R. Lenz 176th LRS
 Deborah D. Louangrath 176th LRS
 James R. Mainolfi 176th MDG

RETIREMENTS

MSgt McRae Thomas 176th MOF
 TSgt Daniel Urbach 210th RQS
 Lt Col Timothy Trefts 168th OSS
 SMSgt Faith M. Harker 168th LRS
 SMSgt Mark R. Slingerland 168th MOF
 MSgt John P. Miller 168th OG
 TSgt David M. Pepper 213th SWS
 Col Thomas Bird 168th MDG
 Lt Col Jessica Mathews 213th SWS
 CW4 William Clutton 1-207th AVN
 SGT Kong Ly JFHQ (Army)
 SSG Fred Moore 1-207th AVN
 LTC Simon Brown JFHQ (Army)
 CSM Shawn McLeod 761st MP
 CW4 John Gerrish JFHQ (Army)
 SGT David Tunutmoak 1-143rd IN
 SPC David Carver 207th BSC
 PV1 Shannon Tallant R&R
 PV1 John Nieves R&R



Start of the Trail

Welcome to our newest members & employees

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Samuel Cottrell
Bradley Scottknecht
Jayson Garber
Nathan Dillon

207th Combat Support Company

Cithol Makoi
Ahina Aitogi
Jorge Palermo
Colby Newsom

1-297th Cavalry

Eric Anderson
Tony Garcialemus

1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance

Kyle Todd
Robert Sederstrom
Ross Kneram
Dakota Eastman
Jason Young
Januarius Magileitil

Hunter Mains
Jason De La Fuente
Pedro Ochoa
Iosefa Iosefa
Elijah Huber

1-143rd Infantry (Airborne)

Valdez Aristy
Brandon Eder

297th Military Police Company

Kevin Virgil
John Paul Taccad
Drew Renaud

207th Equipment Support Platoon

Eldebrando Diaz
Phia Vang
David Gil Martinez

1-207th Aviation

Kurt Grabulis
Harold Probert
Eitenneaigner Robbins
William Barnett
Jesse Stubbert

Alexander Keiser
Carol Domingo
Jesse Mayer
Clinton Pacleb
Keenan Dodge
Andrew Stinson
Carlos Guadarramagracia
Daniel Richardson

Medical Detachment

Jennifer Rouse

249th Airlift Squadron

Raymond Y. Jang
Andre J. Silva
Merick D. Ahlberg

176th Operational Support Squadron

Jeremy Igleheart

176th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Jeffrey W. Scott

176th Wing

Angela M. Erickson

176th Air Defense Squadron

Andrew J. Richmond
James L. Urban

Joint Forces Headquarters (Air)

Vickie L. Padello

176th Security Forces Squadron

Sarah E. Schmidt

212th Rescue Squadron

Paul R. Duclos
Benjamin J. Westveer
Thomas L. McArthur

168th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Jazmin Gonzalezaraiza

168th Air Refueling Squadron

Jasmine Gallatin
Devon Fitzpatrick
Jarred Stephens
Jason Armstrong
Katie Saddison

168th Security Forces Squadron

Ji Hoon Song
Tony Gross

213th Space Warning Squadron

Jeremy Lemons
John Oberst
John Charron
Christopher Frazier

168th Air Refueling Wing

Torrece Saxe
Geovanny Rodriguez

168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Christopher Hartwick

168th Civil Engineer Squadron

Seth Swearingen

168th Medical Group

Craig Thomas

168th Mission Support Group

Scott Howard

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	February	March	April
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	7-8	21-22	18-19
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	21-22	21-22	18-19
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	6-8	6-8	4
38th Troop Command	8-22	21-22	17-19
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	7-8	7-8	18-19
176th Wing	7-8	21-22	18-19
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	7-8	14-15	11-12

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency.



Fill out these cards, and give one to each member of your family to make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency. For more information on how to make a family emergency plan, go to ready.gov



Family Emergency Plan 

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT NAME: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ready 

Family Emergency Plan 

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TELEPHONE: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

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SMOKER**

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free help to quit smoking, contact

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QUITLINE
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