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& Commissioner of the DMVA

Ms. Kalei Rupp
Managing Editor/DMVA Public Affairs

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Doehl
Deputy Commissioner, DMVA

Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead
Staff Sgt. Balinda Dresel
Sgt. Marisa Lindsay
DMVA Public Affairs

Capt. John Callahan
Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla
Staff Sgt. Edward Eagerton
176th Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Jeremy Zidek
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Capt. (AK) Melissa Holl
Alaska State Defense Force

Roman Schara
Alaska Military Youth Academy

Capt. Amanda Plachek
Chaplain (Col.) Rick Koch
Chief Warrant Officer Two Jeffrey Arnold
Erik Johnson
Alaska Army National Guard

Staff Sgt. Ivan Chatham
176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jamie Abordonado
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson
Airman 1st Class Cassandra Whitman
Alejandro Pena
U.S. Air Force

Brandy Smelcer
Valdez Fire Department

Senior Airman John Linzmeier
18th Wing Public Affairs

White House

State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs



MARCOA Publishing, Inc.
Matt Benedict, **President, CEO**
Jamie Rogers, **Editor**
Kristina Christian, **Graphic Designer**
Matt Gerber, **Advertising Sales**

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www.AQPpublishing.com

NationalGuardSales@AQPpublishing.com

WARRIORS

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Pushup Challenge. Col. Joel Gilbert, Alaska Army National Guard chief of staff, carries passengers on his back during an impromptu pushup challenge from local youth in St. Mary's during a visit by Operation Santa Claus in December.
Photo: Alejandro Pena, U.S. Air Force



Military Appreciation. Pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, rappel from the rafters to deliver the starting puck at an Alaska Aces military appreciation game in November. Alaska National Guardsmen, along with service members from all branches of the military, participated in pre-game and intermission events during two games honoring military members.
Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

<http://dmva.alaska.gov>

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Governor's Message

Gov. Bill Walker
Commander in Chief

On behalf of all Alaskans, I want to thank the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard and the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs for their service to Alaska. From military operations to disaster and emergency situations, Alaskans can have confidence in the state's ability to operate as a unified team and to provide for efficient and coordinated efforts in every circumstance.

Regarding the state agency responsible for responding to the critical needs of communities during natural disasters, I am proud of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management's work to use the Incident Command System to effectively manage disaster events. This scalable system is used by wildland firefighters, federal agencies, local jurisdictions, private businesses, state government agencies and others to efficiently deploy, track, support and pay

for the resources necessary to respond to an event, and it is a good example of the type of streamlined operations that have become increasingly more important in a difficult fiscal climate.

The past few months have provided ample opportunities to recognize the kind of efforts that members and veterans of the Alaska National Guard provide every day to our fellow Alaskans. There is perhaps no better example than the 2015 Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award winner, Dave Trantham. On behalf of Alaskans and veterans, I am grateful for Dave's efforts to ensure that those who have served Alaska are properly remembered.

It was also a privilege to participate with the Alaska National Guard and nonprofit organization Operation Santa Claus in early December to collect toys, school supplies and food staples and deliver them to school

children in the rural communities of St. Mary's and Savoonga. I was privileged to accompany members of the Alaska National Guard as they arrived in St. Mary's for the 59th annual Operation Santa Claus in a C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying several volunteers. Thank you for the opportunity to touch the hearts and homes of more than 250 children in St. Mary's.

The information provided in this issue of Warriors demonstrates that Alaskans can be proud of the many important ways you serve our state every day. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Appreciation of Service. Gov. Bill Walker, center, and Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, left, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, visit Airmen with the 176th Civil Engineering Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, during their static display presentation at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs



The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
Commissioner, DMVA

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz “won” the 84th running of the Boston Marathon. If you know the story, you know why I put won in quotation marks. Eight days after the marathon, officials determined Rosie had not run the race but instead emerged from the crowd toward the end to cross the finish line. She wanted the glory of finishing but did not want to invest the time to complete the task correctly (or honestly).

She had a pattern of circumventing established process to achieve a hollow victory. To qualify for the Boston Marathon, she started the New York City marathon, rode the subway to the end, then crossed the finish line to get a qualifying time.

Yvon Chouinard, outdoorsman and the founder of Patagonia, has said, “How you climb a mountain is more important than reaching the top.”

As we approach our one-year anniversary together, I want to remind everyone that creating sound processes for repeatable and sustained improvement are as important, if not more-so, than the actual improvement.

My previous articles in Warriors have provided greater fidelity on our Department of Military & Veterans Affairs vision and core values. In this piece, I would like to address process and its importance.

Successful organizations are not like Rosie. They invest in sound, doctrinally based processes to create consistent results, and they put in the work to achieve those results. Regardless of whom the jumpmaster is, the same commands and checks will be completed for a parachute operation whether it is day or night, or with inexperienced or experienced jumpers. Replacing one member of an aircrew does not change the processes involved with operation of the aircraft.

Success in our organization will not be a matter of luck, trickery or figuring out something on the fly only to “recreate the wheel” the next time around. We will continue the great progress we have made so far, and each member of the organization will work to refine or develop enduring processes that will make things smoother and better in the future.

Ultimately, our collective success will be determined by our successors’ success. In



Meeting Guard Members. Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, shakes hands with Airman 1st Class Daniel Vandevort, 168th Civil Engineering pavements and equipment specialist, during a visit to the 168th Vehicle Maintenance shop in October. Hummel shared her goals for the organization going forward and thanked the Airmen for their service and dedication. Photo: Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

other words, instead of taking shortcuts or slapping Band-Aids on problems, we’ve got to do some hard work now to make it easier on us (and our replacements) in the future.

We should not let this deter us in our efforts. I challenge each of you to identify the processes you use to conduct your jobs. Then, look for ways to refine and improve them. I want you to ground everything you do in doctrine or regulation. Then document those actions so the process is recorded, defensible, replicable and transparent. Doing this creates a learning organization capable of more than we ever dreamed possible.

Improving and documenting process won’t be easy, but it’s what we have to do. We will not look for the shortcut but instead spend the time and energy to develop the

consistent, doctrinally based processes this organization deserves.

We will reach the summit, and we will have done it the right way. We are not an organization full of Rosies but an organization of dedicated professionals. Our success will be a source of pride and accomplishment because it will lead to our improved performance.

Yours in service to Alaska,



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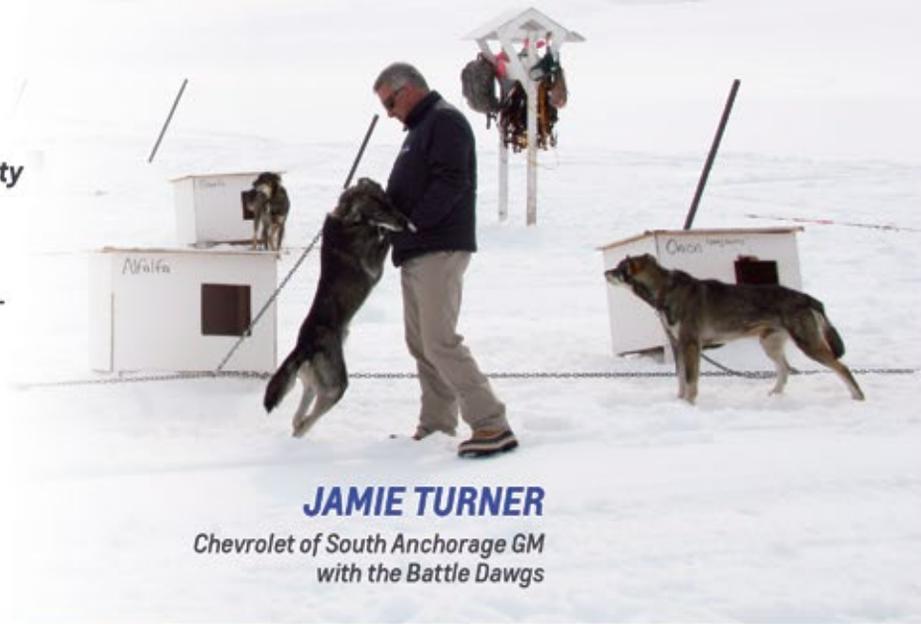
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Deputy Commissioner

Bob Doehl
Deputy Commissioner, DMVA

DMVA: Getting Boots on the Ground in the Most Strategic Place on Earth

“A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be.”

— Wayne Gretzky, National Hockey League Hall of Fame player, holder of 61 NHL records

The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs gets it. We embrace Wayne Gretzky’s words of wisdom as our requirement to be relevant in a changing world.

A couple of years ago, President Barack Obama directed that the United States shift its focus to the Pacific as the area of growing strategic importance to this nation. Alaska is the state with the most Pacific Ocean coastline and is the most relevant given our size and location. We are in effect already extensively deployed in the area of building strategic concern as we go about our day-to-day tasks in the Last Frontier.

Recently, much has been said about the increasing emphasis on the Arctic as a place of commerce, resource development and strategic importance. For the first time, the Coast Guard is charting a route through the Bering Strait for trans-Arctic shipping. When Obama visited Alaska last summer, the Chinese navy also made an appearance in Arctic waters. With a shifting geopolitical situation, Russia continues to send military aircraft this way to test our defenses at an increased frequency, stand up an arctic command and build new military bases in its lands in the Arctic.

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, there is language calling for the Department of Defense to develop an operations plan to protect national strategic interests in the Arctic and to provide the resources to do so. Simultaneous with this newfound national interest, the DMVA is refocusing its efforts to be more effective across the entire expanse of Alaska, a land of vital strategic importance to our nation.

“I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world.”

— U.S. Gen. Billy Mitchell to the U.S. Congress in 1935

This famous quote by Mitchell highlights the relevance Alaska assumed with the advent of aviation. Today, our C-17s and KC-135s based in Alaska can reach any city in the northern hemisphere within eight hours. These words also found immediate relevance in terms of strategic interests in the Pacific. Whoever controlled Alaska’s Aleutian Islands during World War II controlled transportation routes in the Pacific. Starting June 3, 1942, the Aleutian Islands of Attu and Kiska

were officially occupied by Japanese forces. After nearly a year, the United States and Canada reclaimed the islands, a vital step to enable military forces to address hostilities across the region.

Not often remembered today is the first time Mitchell spoke of the importance of Alaska, 34 years earlier and before the rise of aviation. At that time, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Adolphus Greely had a problem: He was woefully behind in building a telegraph line from Valdez to Eagle, 400 miles away. He called upon 1st Lt. Billy Mitchell to get the project back on track. Mitchell was not a desk jockey. When he arrived in Valdez at 21 years old in 1901, he had already served in the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection. To perform this task, he made a point of getting boots on the ground to understand what would be needed. Over the next two years, he travelled thousands of miles by dogsled, horse and snowshoe across remote regions of Alaska. He met extensively with those living in villages to gain a better understanding of the environment. He also saw firsthand the deaths and ruination when Alaskans were not prepared to address the challenges posed by the environment.

This experience enabled him to get the project back on track. From his time travelling in rural Alaska and seeking the advice of elders, he had supplies moved to construction sites in the winter rather than in the summer as had been planned Outside. Based on local knowledge,



Photo: Alaska National Guard archives

he quickly determined that foolishly having a pack horse carry 200 pounds of supplies 15 or 20 miles a day during the summer to supply the project was doomed to failure. He instead had supplies moved to construction sites in the winter, when over frozen ground, the same pack horse could pull 2,000 pounds of supplies even greater distances each day. In this way, he got the wire, insulators, poles, etc. in place so that when the ground was thawed, the line could be constructed. As he looked at the resource-rich lands of Alaska and its proximity to Asia, Mitchell, back in 1901, observed: "It was obvious that at some future time its strategic importance to us would be very great."

Were Mitchell alive today, he would not be surprised in the least that Alaska and the Arctic have become the subjects of growing focus. He would probably be surprised that there is not already an operations plan in place to protect national interests in the Arctic. He would only look on with chagrin at anyone deciding on how to do business in rural Alaska without extensive boots-on-the-ground legwork and consultation to see if it made sense.

As the DMVA goes forward to execute its vision of development of an Arctic strategy, community engagement and increased emergency management capacity, we realize the obvious considerations Mitchell so clearly observed. To do so, we will leverage our strengths across the DMVA.

The Alaska State Defense Force traces its roots back to the Alaska Territorial Guard. Both are based on Alaskans volunteering to step forward to serve fellow residents in time of threat and peril. To be effective, the ASDF needs members from all across Alaska, not just a few locations (largely on the road system) where it is now concentrated. Starting with the establishment of a signal detachment in Bethel, the ASDF is refocusing its

efforts to create rural units. To be relevant everywhere, the ASDF is striving to become a force with statewide participation and knowledge of various local conditions.

The Alaska Army National Guard is refocusing and enhancing its efforts to increase the number of participating Guardsmen from off the road system. As part of this effort, we are engaging community leaders to be partners in establishing thriving Guard units. Rather than attempting to dictate from headquarters how an armory in a rural Alaska village would do business, we will collaborate. Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hildreth, Alaska Army National Guard, and I spent time last month in Bethel meeting with local leaders and elders to get guidance on how the Alaska Army National Guard can grow in their region.

As climate change and commercial development increase the amount of activity in the Arctic, the Alaska Air National Guard is likewise evolving to ensure it can effectively conduct search-and-rescue missions. Its efforts include full integration of C-17 long-range, high-capacity options into its search-and-rescue planning efforts and development of Arctic sustainment packages, i.e. preconfigured air droppable loads of tents, heaters, generators, first-aid equipment and other supplies necessary to respond to a mass disaster, such as an airline jet crash in the remotest parts of the Arctic.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is on the front lines of building enhanced emergency management capacity and mitigating the effects of disasters before they happen. DHS&EM staff members continually travel to rural Alaska to help find solutions to possible risks. The division is fully engaged in getting funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist with relocation of the inhabitants of Newtok to a new village called

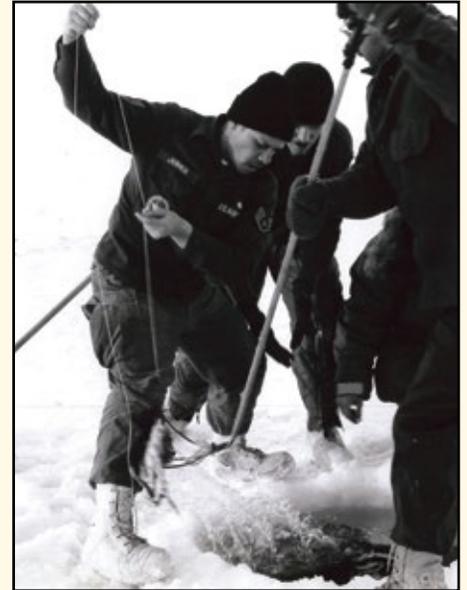


Photo: Alaska National Guard archives

Mertarvik. Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel and DHS&EM senior staff members traveled to Kivalina to make sure the assistance being provided with emergency evacuation plans makes sense on the ground.

The Office of Veterans Affairs continues to grow the Tribal Veterans Representative program so that a veteran in any village in Alaska will have a local point of contact to assist in obtaining benefits earned in defense of this nation. These volunteers are vital to overcoming time, distance and other barriers to obtaining these benefits. We have more than 200 tribal veterans representatives in Alaska but not one in every village yet. The Office of Veterans Affairs staff is determined to continue growing this program until we achieve this goal.

Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, has directed that we establish a statewide partnership with key community leaders to guide our efforts and maximize the effectiveness of our outreach in rural Alaska. Gov. Bill Walker and Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott have reviewed and support this collaborative engagement by the DMVA. We are reaching out to leaders across Alaska to join us in this important task.

With the Coast Guard transit route still in development and oil extraction not yet in full swing in the Arctic, the "puck" of strategic interest has not yet gotten there. When it does, DMVA will be in place. ■

Robert A. H. Pochl



Photo: Alaska National Guard archives

Best Warrior Competition Puts Soldiers to the Test

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Seven Soldiers competed in the 2016 Alaska National Guard Best Warrior Competition held during a rainy and fog-filled weekend at a variety of training locations on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September.

The three-day competition consisted of 15 events that physically and mentally challenged the sleep-deprived Soldiers.

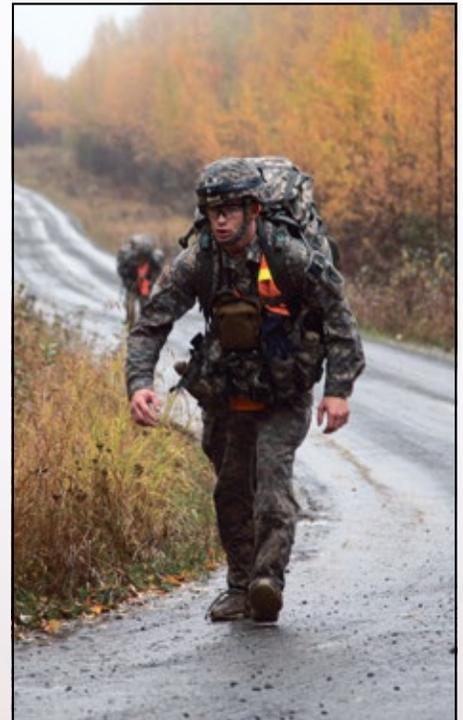
The 72-hour course began with an Army physical fitness evaluation. The remaining competition included written examinations, evaluations on day and night land navigation, weapons knowledge, tactical shooting and participation in an obstacle course, among other assessments.

“What the Best Warrior Competition is looking to do is identify the Soldiers who are

mentally and physically equipped to perform these Soldier tasks alongside environment-produced and self-induced stress,” said Master Sgt. Justin Shaffer, the operations sergeant and deputy commandant for the 207th Multifunctional Training Regiment, who is in his fifth year running the Best Warrior Competition operation.

Constant drizzle, fog and colder temperatures delivered plenty of environmental stressors for the participants as they navigated their way through the mainly outdoors competition.

“The rain really did present a challenge,” said Private 1st Class Michael Notti, a paralegal specialist with the 761st Military Police Battalion and competitor in the event. “You’re coming through an event feeling exhausted and physically drained, and on top of that it’s



Junior Enlisted Soldier of the Year. Spc. Dillon Ball, 1-143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), conducts a road march along Pole Line Road on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during the 2016 Alaska Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in September. Ball was named Junior Enlisted Soldier of the Year at the conclusion of the competition. Photo: Staff Sgt. Balinda Dresel, DMVA Public Affairs



Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Staff Sgt. Edsel Huyhn, 1-143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), conducts a uniform inspection during the 2016 Alaska Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition. The Best Warrior Competition was designed to test Soldiers in a series of mentally and physically challenging events over the course of 72 hours. Huyhn was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Photo: Staff Sgt. Balinda Dresel, DMVA Public Affairs

raining, so it was hard to focus — it really tests your skillset and your abilities.”

Even though it’s a strict competition, Notti explained that everyone covered down to make sure all competitors were supported and had what they needed.

“At the end of the day, we are all the Alaska Army National Guard, and we want everyone to do well,” Notti said.

Alaska Army National Guard, State Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Petersen hosted the awards ceremony where Spc. Dillon Ball, with the 1-143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), was named Junior Enlisted Soldier of the Year and Staff Sgt. Edsel Huyhn, also with the 1-143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

“Win or lose, Soldiers walk away knowing more about themselves... They know what it takes mentally to get through situations — because this is so much more than a physical competition,” Shaffer said. “I’ve never seen anyone walk away from this event having wished they didn’t participate; they always walk away knowing themselves, their skillset and the Army better.” ■

Guard Members Train in Valdez

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Soldiers with A Troop, 1st Battalion, 297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron and the 207th Combat Support Company, along with members of the Alaska State Defense Force and other state entities, supported a municipality-led active-shooter exercise in October in Valdez.

Hosted by the Valdez Police and Fire departments, the exercise provided Guardsmen with an opportunity to engage with the local municipality and community members.

“Any opportunity that we have to work jointly with local departments and get out into rural Alaska is always a win-win,” said 1st Lt. James Tollefson, the executive officer for A Troop, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron.

“Although our Guardsmen generally wouldn’t respond to an active-shooter scenario, during any incident or event we would most certainly be working with other agencies, so it’s imperative that we exercise with those agencies to build a rapport and learn their capabilities,” said Capt. Christopher Dailey, A Troop, 1-297th R&S commander. “It’s our objective to interact with our various partners and find a way to tie in training on the newly written Rules for the Use of Force guidelines.”

The Rules for the Use of Force is a 13-page document written by the state provost marshal, Maj. Brian Fuchs, and approved by Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. It provides information and guidelines for our Guardsmen based on Alaska state laws and statutes when performing Defense Support of Civil Authorities operations.

“The rules for the use of force doctrine basically lets our Soldiers know what they can and cannot do as far as self-defense and levels of resistance and control within civilian crowds,” Dailey said. “Our Soldiers are only here providing support for this operation, but it has also served as a segue for me to go over other hypothetical scenarios where we would use the The Rules for the Use of Force.”

Aside from their support role during the exercise, the Guardsmen, Alaska State Defense Force members, and Alaska Army National Guard recruiters held an open house, which provided food, entertainment



Mongolia Partnership. Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, visits the National Emergency Management Agency’s operation center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in November. The Alaska National Guard and Mongolia work together through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program that helps partners engage in defense security goals and leverage relationships to facilitate broader interagency collaborations. Photo: Capt. Amanda Plachek, Alaska Army National Guard



Missile Defense. From left: Staff Sgt. Trampas Vojtasek, Staff Sgt. Javier Solla, Capt. Peter Browning and Capt. Kevin Fulmer, ground missile defense operators of Charlie Crew for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, stand in the Fire Direction Center on Fort Greely in October. Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion operate the ballistic missile defense system, as well secure and defend the 800-acre Missile Defense Complex on Fort Greely. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs



Joint Active-Shooter Exercise. Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers with A Troop, 1st Battalion, 297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron and the 207th Combat Support Company support a municipality-led active-shooter exercise with mock injuries held at Valdez Elementary School in October. The exercise provided Guard members with an opportunity to engage with local municipality and community members.

Photo: Brandy Smelcer, Valdez Fire Department

and static displays for the community of Valdez.

“Valdez is a very military-friendly community, and we want the people of this community to know that we are here to support them,” Dailey said. “Additionally, we would really like to build upon the Guard presence and existing relationship in this area.” ■



Alaska Guardsmen Esc

By Staff Sgt. Edward Eagerton, 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Nine Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard’s 249th Airlift Squadron touched living history — more than 20 World War II and Korean War veterans — as they assisted them at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in October for their honor flight to Washington, D.C.

The veterans from various Alaska cities and villages visited the nation’s capital,

Security Team Returns from Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Edward Eagerton, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Pacific Importance. Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., left, U.S. Pacific Command commander, listens to a question from Col. Lee Knowles, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade commander, Alaska Army National Guard, during the admiral's visit with members of the Alaska National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Military & Veterans Affairs personnel at the National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September. Harris, who is based out of U.S. Pacific Command headquarter on Camp H.M. Smith near Honolulu, Hawaii, spoke about the importance of the United States government and military relations in the Pacific theater of operations.

Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs



Honor Flight. Lt. Col. Gregory Yoschak, from the 249th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, talks with a veteran at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in October. Nine Alaska Air National Guardsmen connected with more than 20 World War II and Korean War veterans, helping them prepare for their flight to the nation's capital to see memorials erected in their honor, as part of the Last Frontier Honor Flight program.

Photo: Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Port Veterans to Honor Flight

seeing the memorials erected in their honor for the first time. The flight is the fifth iteration arranged by The Last Frontier Honor Flight program, a regional division of the national organization.

Ron Travis, the president and co-founder of The Last Frontier Honor Flight, noted that getting the group through the airport can be a difficult task, but with assistance, it is easier.

"They're a great help," Travis said about the Guardsmen's contributions.

The Guardsmen found connection in the lives of these men and women. Among the elders were an Alaska Territorial Guardsman and a female Nurse Cadet, both of whom served during WWII.

"The story is really about their story," said Lt. Col. Kirk Palmberg, the Air Guard lead.

"It's quite a trip — a lot of emotions," Travis said. "There's no down side to this. It's all good." ■

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Eleven Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Security Forces Squadron returned to Alaska in November from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

There, the team was split up and sent to different areas in the region to support security missions, according to Master Sgt. Gary Keller, a squad leader with the 176th SFS.

"We got separated around Afghanistan," he said. "Three [Airmen] from our group went to Jalalabad, where they provided security for the predator [drone] mission there. Six of us were assigned to missions in Kandahar. Some provided security for the unmanned aerial vehicles, and the rest were doing flight-line security for the 451st Air Expeditionary Group."

Keller would later be reassigned to a personal security detail in Kandahar, where he assisted local political personnel.

"We were there to help them function on their own," Keller explained. "The Afghan director would ask about his plans for security for the airport and the flight line, and I would explain to him how I would do it, but ultimately, the decision was his as they take over those functions."

He explained that the days were long for him and his fellow 176th SFS members.

"Looking back, you always say it goes quickly, but when you're there, it just seems long," Keller said. "Some of our guys were working seven days a week and were putting in 12- to 14-hour days. Everybody did great though. Some of the newer Airmen got to experience a deployment, and the people they worked for said everybody met or exceeded their expectations."

Another group of 176th SFS members who deployed to Kuwait returned in January. ■



Security Forces. Staff Sgt. Adrian Battle, 176th Security Forces Squadron, aims a M203 grenade launcher during annual training in 2015 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson prior to the unit's deployment to Afghanistan and Kuwait later that year. After a successful deployment performing various security missions, Guard members returned to Alaska in November 2015 and January 2016.

Photos: Staff Sgt. Edward Eagerton, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska Air Guardsmen Deliver Rescue Capabilities Across Pacific

By Senior Airman John Linzmeier, 18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan — Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 176th Wing conducted a long-range search-and-rescue training exercise with Airmen from the 31st Rescue Squadron at the end of October near the coast of White Beach Naval Base.

A 212th Rescue Squadron Guardian Angel rescue team was delivered across the Pacific Ocean on a nearly 12-hour, nonstop flight aboard a C-17 Globemaster from the 249th Airlift Squadron along with two rescue craft.

“In this situation, if there was a distressed vessel in the Pacific that no one could reach,” said Maj. Aaron Zamora, 212th Rescue Squadron combat rescue officer team commander, “the 176th Wing could launch one of our organic C-17s with a Guardian Angel team and all the boats and equipment we need to airdrop to the survivor.”

The team of six was airdropped into the water along with two rescue craft — a Guardian Angel rescue craft and a rigged alternate method zodiac — to conduct a mock search-and-rescue operation.

A boat party from the 31st Rescue Squadron met with the jumpers in the drop zone to recover parachutes and debris from dropped pallets.

“This training identified many challenges, from the basic interoperability of active and Guard forces to the complexity of inserting a PJ team from 4,400 miles away,” said Maj. Patrick Lowe, 31st Rescue Squadron director of operations. “We met this challenge as a total integrated force

team with early coordination, constant communication and a willingness to help each other.”

The Globemaster received in-flight refueling from a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 168th Air Refueling Squadron as it flew across the Pacific Ocean. An HH-60 Pave Hawk was also carried aboard the C-17, with a maintenance team and aircrew to extract the Guardian Angel team if needed.

The completion of the training validated the 176th Wing’s long-range search-and-rescue capabilities, assuring that the involved rescue units are ready to work together to save lives at a moment’s notice.

Upon the Guardsmen’s departure in Alaska, snow was falling, a stark contrast to Okinawa’s tropical climate. Zamora said his team is used to opening packages wearing thick dry suits in freezing conditions.

The 176th Wing has four crews that are trained to conduct specialized airdrop rescue missions, and the 249th Airlift Squadron is the only C-17 unit qualified to deliver rescue jumpmaster procedures.

Modern search and rescue has evolved drastically in the past few decades as a result of the Air Force’s increased need for power projection, Lowe said. This innovative training has proven that long-range search and rescue is a viable means to mitigate risk to Airmen, regardless of vast distances.

With a presence of Airmen around the globe, rescue units frequently need to train together to provide aid to anyone, anytime and anywhere. ■



Free Fall. Master Sgt. Christopher Harding, 212th Rescue Squadron parajumper, performs a military free fall from a C-17 Globemaster from the 249th Airlift Squadron near the coast of White Beach Naval Base, Japan.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Ivan Chatham, 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Water Search. U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Shane Hargis, Alaska Air National Guard 212th Rescue Squadron parajumper, and Maj. Jay Casello, 212th Rescue Squadron combat rescue officer, begin a mock search for survivors aboard a Guardian Angel rescue craft in late October near the coast of White Beach Naval Base, Japan.

Photo: Senior Airman John Linzmeier, 18th Wing Public Affairs



Ocean Landing. Airmen and equipment from the Alaska Air National Guard’s 212th Rescue Squadron land on the ocean surface in late October near the coast of White Beach Naval Station, Japan. They were there to conduct long-range search-and-rescue training with members from the 31st Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Photo: Senior Airman John Linzmeier, 18th Wing Public Affairs

New Training Opportunities Available

Story and Photos by Capt. (Alaska) Melissa Holl, Alaska State Defense Force



Staff Judge Advocate Academy. Members of the State Guard Association of the United States gather in Maryland for the Staff Judge Advocate Academy in 2015. The content of the Staff Judge Advocate Academy will be made available online to Alaska State Defense Force members in 2016, saving on travel costs, which had hindered ASDF members from taking the course in Baltimore.

WASILLA, Alaska — State defense forces nationwide are increasingly viewed as providers of professional services to states, and, as such, training and professional development for members has increased.

In 2015, the State Guard Association of the United States, of which most members of the Alaska State Defense Force are members, developed more schools and academies for state defense forces. These academies and schools are designed to train professionals to operate within the military and emergency services environment.

Two new academies were held in Baltimore in 2015: the Engineering Academy and the Staff Judge Advocate Academy. The Engineering Academy, a two-day program, trained professional engineers how to operate within the military system and provided relevant courses on state military engineering needs during emergencies. The Staff Judge Advocate Academy was also presented to train state defense force lawyers on relevant issues confronting the military and military personnel.

For some time, the State Guard Association of the United States has provided an Emergency Military Management Specialist Academy to train state defense force members and others how to work within the Incident Command System during emergencies. Likewise, the State Guard Association of the United States has offered the Chaplaincy School to teach clergy about issues relevant to serving members of the military.

Two new academies are set to start in 2016. The first will be standardized Professional Military Education courses to train state defense force personnel in proficiency standards for leadership skills necessary

for promotion. In addition, a Medical Academy will be initiated and will focus on state defense force medical unit organization, liability and deployment issues.

All these academies are designed to bring higher standards and more professional capabilities to state defense forces throughout the nation. The developed academies will be available online to State Guard Association of the United States members after Jan. 1. ■



Engineering Academy. New in 2015, the State Guard Association of the United States hosted an Engineering Academy in Maryland in the fall. The content of the academy will be available online to members of the Alaska State Defense Force in 2016.



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Col.) Rick Koch
State Command Chaplain

Choose Courage and Selfless Service

He was one of the smallest Soldiers in the Army at 5 feet 2 inches and weighing a mere 125 pounds. He wore thick glasses and had hearing problems. He was not a likely candidate to be one of America's infantry heroes. He joined the Ohio Army National Guard in the late 1930s and was federally activated soon after Pearl Harbor. His name was Roger Young, and, despite his diminutive size and health problems, he had an inner strength and determination to give his all in whatever he did in life. His unit was infantry, and his determination to be his best helped him earn his stripes as a noncommissioned officer ready to lead Soldiers into battle.

Young saw service in the Pacific theater of World War II. Before long, his unit, the 148th Infantry Regiment, was preparing to embark on a campaign to fight the Japanese on the Island of New Georgia. Sometime before the New Georgia operation, Young realized he was losing his hearing. As a sergeant, he did not want to put his Soldiers in jeopardy because of his failing health, so he requested to be busted to private and to remain with the unit. Despite the doctor's objections, he somehow managed to continue serving as a private.

On July 31, 1943, Young, part of a 20-man patrol from the 148th Infantry Regiment, moved forward to scout the Munda Airfield

on New Georgia. Eventually, they were caught in a ferocious firefight with a sizable Japanese force. Four of their patrol went down immediately, and the rest were pinned to the ground under a hail of machinegun fire. In the midst of this struggle, Young crawled forward. Though his lieutenant ordered him back, he pressed on toward the machinegun nest. The remaining 15 men of his patrol tried to provide covering fire, and Young inched forward.

A bullet struck him in the shoulder, making his left arm useless and shattering the stock of his rifle, which he then abandoned. As he got closer another hail of bullets raked his left side, but he still continued on. Fifteen feet from the machinegun, he rolled into a shallow depression and with his unwounded right hand reached for a grenade, pulled the pin with his teeth, stood up and threw the grenade in the machinegun position while simultaneously being riddled with bullets. Young, the unlikely infantry Soldier with a big heart, earned the Medal of Honor posthumously for his bravery in action that day.

One never knows how God is going to call him or her in life. In the Fall 2015 issue of Warriors magazine, I wrote about entering into relationship with God. Once we do that, we need to hang on, because God is going to take us places that will be commonly

challenging, will sometimes be hard and will often be considered ridiculous by the rest of the world. Yet our divine calling will always be rewarding and bring us from the superficial and shallow to the deep peace of selfless service.

Long, long ago, the nation of Israel was in grave crisis. The people and leaders for the most part had abandoned God and thus the values that held them together and made them strong. They were ripe for invasion from their enemies and social collapse. God needed a new voice to speak to the people, and he chose the unlikely, youthful Isaiah. When God asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah boldly proclaimed, "Here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 1:6).

Have the courage to acknowledge a relationship with God even though you may discover it will, at times, bring uncomfortable change and growth. Have the courage to act as God leads you even though it will, at times, be contrary to the ways of the world around you. Have the courage to keep moving forward through the storms and difficulties of life, for surely God will reward you.

We can learn a lot from the selfless service of Isaiah and Medal of Honor Recipient Roger Young and many, many others who have the courage to take the hard road and blaze a trail that leads human dignity forward to better places. ■



Not sure if you've had too many?
I'll check for you.

SO BE PREPARED:

- If you drink, don't drive.
- Designate a sober driver.
- Call a taxi or ...
- Spend the night wherever you choose to celebrate.



Remember:
When You Drink & Drive,
You Lose.

STAND DOWN for Veterans in Need



Good Conversation. Forrest Powell, guest speaker at the 2015 Stand Down for Veterans in Need, shakes hands and enjoys some conversation with a local veteran during the Stand Down event in October.

Photo: Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson, U.S. Air Force



Medical Services. Capt. Laura Delgado, left, checks U.S. Army veteran Riley Casey's blood pressure during the 2015 Stand Down for Veterans in Need last October in Anchorage. Delgado is a nurse with the 176th Medical Group, Alaska Air National Guard, in addition to her full-time duties as a nurse at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Stand Down events provide veterans in need with a hand up with various types of direct assistance, including medical screenings. Photo: Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson, U.S. Air Force



Flag Ceremony. Veterans line up to provide a flag ceremony during the 2015 Stand Down for Veterans in Need event in October at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The event is held every year by more than 400 volunteers and provides key resources to veterans in need throughout Anchorage.

Photo: Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson, U.S. Air Force



Helpful Haircuts. Veterans receive a complimentary haircut during the 2015 Stand Down for Veterans in Need in October.

Photo: Chief Warrant Officer Two Jeffrey Arnold, Alaska Army National Guard

Incident Command System Unifies Response Efforts

By Jeremy Zidek, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Alaska is a challenging place. Terrain, distance, weather, and other natural occurrences can take a typical day and turn it into a disaster situation. No matter how much Alaska communities or individuals prepare, they occasionally find themselves in need of assistance. When natural disasters or other dangerous events occur, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is the state agency that responds to the critical needs of communities.

To effectively manage these disaster events, the state uses the Incident Command System, a scalable system used by wildland firefighters, federal agencies, local jurisdictions, private businesses, state governments and others. The Incident Command System allows emergency response agencies to efficiently deploy, track, support and pay for the resources necessary to respond to an event. Within

the Incident Command System, all branches report to the incident commander, an individual responsible for every decision and action needed to respond to the event.

Because Alaska is vast and strategically positioned, we often experience simultaneous events that require close coordination with other agencies. To orchestrate an effective response, the Incident Command System can establish a Unified Command in lieu of appointing an incident commander. The Unified Command shares the roles and responsibilities of the incident commander among two or more individuals, each already having authority in his or her respective agency. The Unified Command structure allows the partner agencies to establish a joint plan, operate in concert with one another and share resources as they respond to the event.

“The end of the summer was a very busy time for DHS&EM and other agencies: The president’s visit, landslides in Sitka and a wildfire in Kodiak involved multiple local, state, federal and nongovernment agency resources. Establishing a Unified Command allowed for swift coordination,” said Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM chief of operations.

DHS&EM activated the State Emergency Operations Center and established a Unified Command with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health and Social Services.

“I look back on my experience at the Emergency Operations Center, and feel I learned a lot,” said Lt. Michael Duxbury, a unified commander and member of the Alaska State Troopers. “What I like and respect most about the experience is how collaborative and solution-oriented the whole crew was and how easy it was to work with everyone.”

The president’s visit, which began Aug. 31, 2015, required the Department of Public Safety, Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Anchorage Police Department, Federal Aviation Administration, National Park Service, active-duty military, Alaska National Guard and others to coordinate closely with the U.S. Secret Service.

President Barack Obama visited Alaska to attend the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement and Resilience, otherwise known as GLACIER, where many nations gathered to discuss the effects of climate change on the arctic. The president also used the visit as a chance to see areas of the state and meet with Alaskans.

In Anchorage, the Secret Service and law enforcement worked to ensure that the GLACIER Summit was secure for the president and all other dignitaries attending the event. The Federal Aviation Administration issued a temporary flight restriction for Merrill Field and Lake Hood during the times the president was within 6 miles of those airfields.

The president also visited Seward, Kotzebue and Dillingham. In each location, security was coordinated between the Secret Service and local, state and federal law enforcement. In addition, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services established trauma



President Visits Alaska. President Barack Obama visited Alaska in late August and early September to participate in an arctic climate change summit and tour the state. The president visited Anchorage, Seward, Kotzebue and Dillingham, where he posed with Alannah Hurley, left, and Kim Williams on Kanakanak Beach. The State’s Incident Command System helped coordinate Obama’s security during his visit. Photo: Courtesy of the White House



Landslide. Heavy rainfall triggered a massive landslide in Sitka that killed three men. The natural disaster affected nearly the entire community, as most people knew the men who died and wanted to do something to help. One of the main challenges during this disaster was keeping volunteers from conducting impromptu searches on the possibly unstable debris field. The State's Emergency Operation Center was activated to provide assistance. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

medical stations in each location. The Unified Command was instrumental in the effort to coordinate these and other activities.

The Sitka landslides occurred Aug. 18, 2015, when extreme rainfall struck the community. Sitka, not unaccustomed to heavy rain, received more than 4 inches of rain in a few hours spurring a landslide on Kramer Road that left three men missing. Immediately, the community stood up their Incident Management Team and began the search effort for the missing men. The response included numerous local resources and many outside resources called in to support the effort. The State Emergency Operation Center was activated to provide assistance.

On the evening of Aug. 19, the remains of two of the men were recovered. Six days later, the final person was recovered as well. Throughout the response and recovery effort, the SEOC provided staff, coordinated state resources and gave technical assistance to Sitka.

While the president's visit and the Sitka landslide were being managed through the SEOC, a wildland fire occurred within the Kodiak Island Borough, which rarely sees wildland fires because of

regular rainfall. As the Kodiak Island fire was being contained, DHS&EM was also opening Disaster Assistance Centers to assist communities affected by the summer's wildfires in other parts of the state.

"With different levels of authority and capabilities, the coordination between agencies can become very intricate," Fisher said. "Bringing the decision-makers together removes many of the coordination obstacles and increases operational efficiency. During an event you may only get one chance to make the right decision. The Unified Command structure allows us to make good, joint decisions quickly."

The complexity of the late summer SEOC activities provided an opportunity for DHS&EM to exercise some of the emergency management skills that are infrequently utilized. With the success the Unified Command found this summer, Alaskans can be confident in the state's ability to come together and operate as a unified team. ■

Operation **SANTA CLAUS**

By Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla and Staff Sgt. Edward Egerton, 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — There's something indispensable about returning to your roots, like an intrinsic yearning that needs to be filled. And who knows yearning better than children awaiting Christmas?

Operation Santa Claus answered that calling when its volunteers and partners delivered gifts, fresh fruit, school supplies, and Santa and Mrs. Claus to more than 250 children in St. Mary's, a community in southwestern Alaska, in December.

The operation began 59 years ago as a request from St. Mary's Mission for Christmas donations for their orphans after a rough year of subsistence living. The Alaska Air Guard responded, delivering not only gifts and food but also Saint Nick. Since then, the annual event evolved into the current partnership with the Alaska National Guard supporting Operation Santa Claus alongside more than 30 other organizations such as the Salvation Army and local businesses.

"It was awesome," said Bill Alstrom, mayor of St. Mary's, recalling childhood memories of the first operation. "They landed on the river — they were C-123s, and of course, they brought Santa Claus."

Almost six decades later, members of the Alaska National Guard arrived in a C-130 Hercules aircraft, bringing Santa and his merry band of helpers once more. The elementary school gym filled with smiles, wrapping paper and push-up challenges issued by brazen, energetic youth. Traditional Christmas music played as children met with the Clauses, ate fruit and ice cream and showed off gifts.

Thank-yous were exchanged from both patrons and volunteers for the opportunity to serve.

The event ended with a traditional Native dance, which both Gov. Bill Walker and U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan joined at the residents' request.

"What a gorgeous sight this is," Walker said. "Thank you to the Alaska National Guard who flew us out here today and the tons of volunteers (that helped) make this happen."

In October, Operation Santa Claus visited Savoonga, a remote village on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea. However, before the guests of honor arrived in Savoonga, a community's worth of people came together to manifest the holiday cheer.

"We had support from all over the country," said April Gettys, executive director of the Operation Santa Claus organization. "We had ladies from all the way in Florida knitting hats and scarves, people sending in donations and gift cards, people giving from all over. It really was a herculean effort."

The community of volunteers and contributors was comprised of about 30 groups and organizations that put in more than 3,000 hours to make the 59th iteration of Operation Santa Claus come to be.

"My first feeling when we arrived was a feeling of being overwhelmed with love," Gettys said. "When we got there, perfect strangers would wrap their arms around you and tell you they love you just because you came to their village. Just going there and seeing how much they appreciated it, it makes it all worth it. Your eyes just get opened, and it helps you realize what really matters in life." ■



Santa's Sleigh. Residents of Savoonga greet Santa, Mrs. Claus and a team of elves upon their arrival to the village by an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 in October for Operation Santa Claus. Photo: Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Festive Dancing. Gov. Bill Walker, center, and U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, right, perform a traditional Yup'ik dance with students at the Elicarvicuar Elementary School in St. Mary's. The two joined a group of about 50 military members and volunteers who traveled to St. Mary's as part of Operation Santa Claus. Photo: Capt. John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Holiday Greetings. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greet community members at the Elicarvicuar Elementary School in St. Mary's. Some of the residents greeting the Clauses were present for the original mission to St. Mary's in 1956. Photo: Capt. John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



All I Want for Christmas. Santa and Mrs. Claus meet with a girl from Savoonga during their trip to the village in October with Operation Santa Claus. Photo: Staff Sgt. Edward Eagerton, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Delight. A child from St. Mary's shows Capt. John Callahan, of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, a toy car during an Operation Santa Claus visit to the village in December. Photo: Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Missile Defense

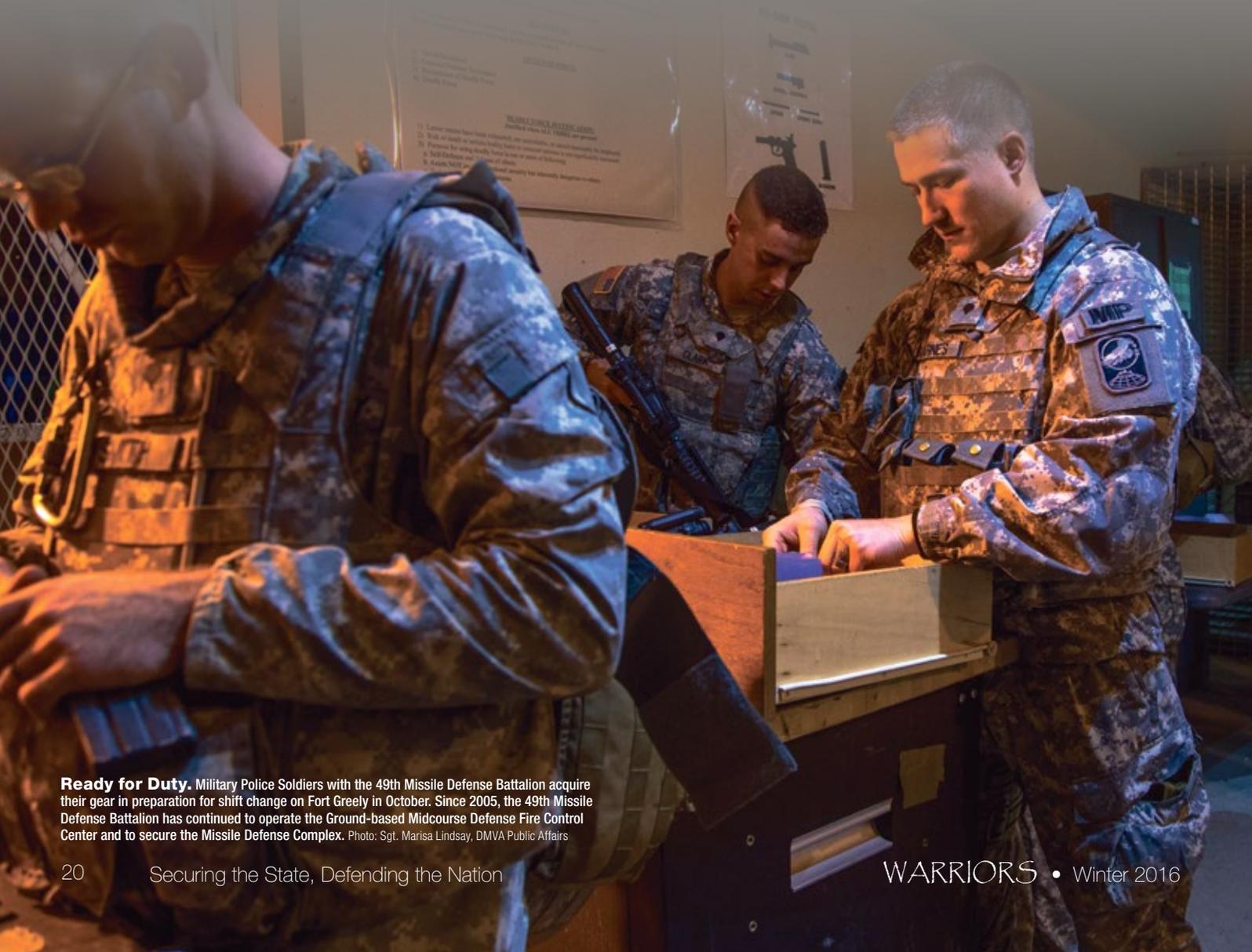


Mission Brief. Capt. Kevin Fulmer, right, briefs Adm. Cecil D. Haney, inside the Fire Direction Center as part of a familiarization tour of the Missile Defense Complex during Haney's visit to Fort Greely in October. Over Haney's right shoulder is Lt. Col. Timothy Brower, commander of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, whose troops operate and protect the interceptors.

Photo: Airman 1st Class Cassandra Whitman, U.S. Air Force



Maintenance Mindset. Sgt. Christopher MacLee, a military policeman with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, conducts preventative maintenance checks and service on a Humvee in preparation for shift change on Fort Greely in October. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs



Ready for Duty. Military Police Soldiers with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion acquire their gear in preparation for shift change on Fort Greely in October. Since 2005, the 49th Missile Defense Battalion has continued to operate the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Fire Control Center and to secure the Missile Defense Complex. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

Hats We Wear

The more than 4,000 men and women of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs are a diverse group, bringing many strengths and experiences to the workplace. Their on-duty missions are varied, their personal talents are numerous and their interests are great. These are just some of the “Hats We Wear.”



Chief Master Sgt. Steven Calvin

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
Air Force Hockey Coach

**State Command Chief
Alaska Air
National Guard**



Deborah Morton

Ms. Petite United
America Ambassador

**Recruiting, Placement,
Mentoring Supervisor
Alaska Military
Youth Academy**

Bethel Hero Earns Advocacy Award

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A World War II veteran and former Alaska Army National Guard member has been named the 2015 Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award winner.

Dave Trantham, of Bethel, received the award during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, and Verdie Bowen Sr., director of the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, presented the award to Trantham.

"Dave Trantham has made community service on behalf of Alaska's veterans a central part of his life," Bowen said. "Dave spearheaded the efforts to develop a veterans cemetery in Bethel that was built with no state or federal funds. In addition, it was Dave's vision and volunteer spirit that inspired people all across the Yukon-Kuskokwim region to assist in creating the Alaska Territorial Guard Memorial Park as a tribute to the more than 1,000 Alaska Territorial Guard members who protected that region during World War II."

Trantham, a former school teacher, is a WWII veteran who wore many uniforms throughout his career. He served in the Army, Air Force and the Alaska Army National Guard.

"Anyone who visits Bethel should stop at the Memorial Park; you can see the work of Dave Trantham and the volunteers," Bowen said. "They have developed a park that will be there for generations as a place for people to reflect and enjoy. Dave's legacy of service and his historic undertaking of the memorial distinguishes him as a model for this award." ■



Voice for Veterans. From left: Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs; Dave Trantham, 2015 Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award winner; and Verdie Bowen Sr., director of the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, reflect on Trantham's award during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

Travel Grant Renewed

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs renewed a transportation grant for \$250,000 to the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs to provide transportation options to veterans in five rural areas who need to travel to health care services.

"Last fiscal year, this grant reached out to more than 5,900 veterans in rural areas," said Verdie Bowen Sr., director of the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs. "Our transportation partners transported Alaska's veterans across more than 220,000 miles and more than 67,000 nautical miles round trip at no cost to veterans. We provided the first step in ensuring our veterans in some of our rural communities have access to quality care."

The following five boroughs will continue to receive grant money for transportation under this program: Denali, Matanuska-Susitna, Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula and Prince of Wales-Hyder. Veterans living in those communities qualify to use an array of transportation options so that they may seek the health care they need.

The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs partnered with five transportation organizations to meet those needs: Interior Alaska Bus Line (Denali Borough), Valley Mover (Matanuska-Susitna Borough), Alaska Marine Highway System (Kodiak Island Borough), AAA Alaska Cab Inc.

(Kenai Peninsula Borough) and Inter-Island Ferry System Authority (Prince of Wales-Hyder).

Transportation continues at no cost to veterans requiring access to the VA Medical Clinic or community-based outpatient clinics, hospitals under the Native Health Care Sharing Agreement or VA authorized vendors, such as pharmacies or medical specialists, until all funds are expended for that area.

"I encourage veterans in each of the boroughs identified to contact our transportation partners for schedules and locations for pick up and drop off," Bowen said. "The renewal is a great victory for our rural veterans."

The Office of Veterans Affairs has named the grant the Maurice "Mo" Bailey Highly Rural Transportation Grant in honor of the late Mo Bailey. Bailey served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1976 and committed his life to helping veterans. Bailey was dedicated to rural and urban outreach, providing veterans rides in his aircraft to access care and services and to distributing food boxes to veterans in need. Bailey was always there to serve and was the 2007 recipient of the Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award.

For more information, please contact either Verdie Bowen Sr. or Forrest Powell at 907-334-0874 or 888-248-3682. ■

Veterans Day Parade a First

Story and Photo by Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla, 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — More than 50 Guardsmen of the 176th Wing joined current and former military members in November for Anchorage's first Veterans Day Parade downtown.

About 250 active service members participated in the parade, said Art Bell, a member of the Anchorage Veterans Day parade committee. It was the largest group of actively serving veterans to march in downtown Anchorage, he said.

"Just to see the support from the community was awesome," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Namaau, the lead organizer for the 176th Wing's parade participation.

Representatives from the 176th Security Forces, 176th Civil Engineer Squadron, 176th Maintenance Operations Flight and 176th Wing Student Flight showcased how Guardsmen serve the local community beyond their military duties. Guardsmen who also work in state and city law enforcement drove their patrol cars, and a Guardsman led her sled-dog team through the parade route.

Namaau reflected on the crowd cheering as the recent deployment-returnees of the 176th Security Forces passed by with family members.

"To get the recognition they deserve (as Guardsmen), that, to me, was moving," Namaau said. ■



Parade Route. More than 50 Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing march through downtown Anchorage in the city's first Veterans Day parade in November.

Assessment Identifies Veterans' Needs

By Office of Veterans Affairs Staff

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Alaska Veterans Needs Assessment, which details what issues are most important to the state's veterans, was completed and released in October.

This assessment was accomplished by the University of Alaska Anchorage-Institute of Social and Economic Research. ISER conducted this needs assessment of Alaska veterans starting in spring 2014. Its goal was to identify and measure areas for improvement in providing services and determine the methods to achieve improvement. Their approach consisted of three methods:

- Survey 2,950 Alaska veterans using a list of veterans who have requested veteran designation on their driver's license.
- Focus groups: one consisting of women and one of disabled veterans.
- Key information interviews with individuals responsible for helping veterans navigate the benefits available to them.

The findings were far ranging. One of the most important lessons was the difference in needs across age groups. Younger veterans were concerned about education and employment while older counterparts

valued health care and navigating the application process as most important to them. The four most claimed benefits by veterans were health care, disability compensation, home loans and education/training.

"This survey is a true reflection of Alaska veterans' needs, and with the completion of the assessment, we have a better picture of the services we need to concentrate on for those members who are in our state," said Verdie Bowen Sr., director of the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs.

"The good news is we are going in the right direction with the services and assistance we are already providing to our veterans," Bowen added. "This assessment provides us a road map to the future so we know how to continue serving our veterans in the most helpful and beneficial way. I want to thank each veteran who took the time to answer the questions and participate in the groups because this has addressed their needs and will lay the foundation for benefits into the future." ■

Alaska Military Youth Academy

Class 2016-01 in Action

Photos by Roman Schara, Alaska Military Youth Academy



Hockey Game Highlight. Gov. Bill Walker, wearing a combination University of Alaska Anchorage and University of Alaska Fairbanks jersey, joins Alaska Military Youth Academy Director Bob Roses and cadets for the Governor's Cup hockey game between UAA and UAF in December at Sullivan Arena in Anchorage.



Physical Fitness. Cadet Jake Goss, of North Pole, hustles for the best time in the shuttle run as part of his initial physical fitness test.





Giving Back to the Community. In the season of giving, cadet Dylan Reeves, of Anchorage, donates a pint of blood in December to the Blood Bank of Alaska in Anchorage. The Alaska Military Youth Academy historically leads all small schools for blood donations every year.



Interests and Strengths. Cadet Leona Sundown, of Anchorage, completes a questionnaire as part of her Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery interpretation class. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at more than 14,000 schools and Military Entrance Processing Stations nationwide.



Inspection. Commandant Christine Edwards inspects the 2nd Platoon barracks in November for cleanliness and order.



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Air Guard Commander Settles Back Home

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

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Closing in on her first year as assistant adjutant general-Air and commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, Col. Karen Mansfield has enjoyed getting to know the Guardsmen of the Alaska National Guard as well as the wide range of missions they conduct.

She took the reins as the Air Guard commander in April 2015, bringing with her vast active-duty and National Guard experience.

After joining and commissioning into the Air Force in 1989, Mansfield proved that the sky was her limit during a decade-long active-duty career. Trained as a weapons controller — and after Fighter Weapons School, a tactics officer — she travelled globally. Deployments included trips to the Middle East in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In the midst of her active-duty time, she was moved to Elmendorf Air Force Base and assigned to the 962nd Airborne Warning and Control System Squadron, where she gained firsthand experience in Pacific Theatre operations and an appreciation for all that Alaska has to offer.

It wasn't until 2000, after an assignment as an Air Force Weapons School instructor at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, that Mansfield decided to join the ranks within the Air National Guard family and transitioned into the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard.

Mansfield's latest position begins a new chapter in both her military and family life.

After accepting the offer to fulfill this position, Mansfield, her husband, Scott, and 8-year old son, Lucas, moved from Washington state. They had been living there since 2011, where she held multiple staff and leadership positions with the Washington Air National Guard.

"Coming back to Alaska felt like coming home — I had forgotten how it felt to be so close to everything that we love, particularly outdoor recreation, and how it felt to be in such a tight-knit and supportive military community."

She was excited to accept the new position and bring her family back to the Last Frontier.

"By far, my favorite part about this position has been the times I've been able to go out and see the units, visit with the Guardsmen and

witness how hard they're working," Mansfield said. "Not only do we have our Guardsmen constantly deploying and returning home, but our state operations tempo is extraordinarily high as well."

Since Mansfield took command in April, the Alaska Air National Guard, one of the busiest Air Guard states in the nation, has had several deployments to Afghanistan and Africa, and rescue and flying operations have been operating at a fast pace.

"I spent my first few months on the job really getting out and about and getting to know our units, our missions and our Guardsmen, both locally and up north," Mansfield

said. "I'm really starting to feel settled as I get into a battle rhythm within headquarters and also with working alongside our Army brethren."

Mansfield looks forward to leading the AKANG further into the 21st century and excitedly speaks of change and adaptation as the organization looks to acclimate to the military's and state's needs.

"I think we have a great team, a great way forward and a very bright future," Mansfield explained. "We are operationally engaged, and we have relevant missions across Alaska and globally; we are not letting ourselves get stagnant." ■



Visiting with Guardsmen. Col. Karen Mansfield, assistant adjutant general – Air, talks with Airmen from the 176th Civil Engineering Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, during their static display presentation at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October. Mansfield, who became Air Guard commander in April 2015, said she enjoys getting out and visiting with Guardsmen and learning about their missions.

Cultivating Transparency, Teamwork, Trust

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — After nearly one year as assistant adjutant general-Army, Col. Joseph Streff has worked to create positive changes within the Alaska Army National Guard.

Streff was personally selected by Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, for this position and officially took command in March 2015.

With more than 28 years of Alaska Army National Guard service under his belt, Streff's fierce drive has taken his career sky-high — beginning as an enlisted air traffic controller, a chief warrant officer UH-60 helicopter pilot and then an aviation officer before assuming his current role.

"I've been fortunate to have some very capable commanders and staff officers working alongside me to set the conditions for the success of this organization," he said.

Streff earned his commission after previous experience as an enlisted and chief warrant officer Soldier then was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1990.

"Back in the 1980s, I chose to pursue my dream, and that dream was to fly," Streff said. "I realized that the military provided a tremendous opportunity to do so, and during my exploration of the components of different services, I realized that the National Guard was the best option for me because I could stay in Alaska, fly part time and participate in homeland security missions."

With his current role commanding the AKARNG taking flight, Streff is quick to mention the three guidelines that shape his decisions and leadership style: transparency, teamwork and trust.

"First off, we need transparency. We want decisions clearly understood within the organization to indicate collaboration and to also showcase that decisions aren't made in a vacuum," Streff explained. "This leads me to teamwork. ... I really endeavor to create an organization that comes together with ideas, forms those ideas, and brings those ideas to the commander all the while documenting the process so that we know where we've been, where we are, how the decision was made and where we want to go in the future."

Lastly, Streff maintains that if he and fellow leadership execute teamwork and transparency correctly, the result will be trust from Soldiers and the organization at large.

"Our chaplain, Chaplain Ted McGovern, defines trust as 'actions over time,'" Streff said.

Daily challenges and opportunities to positively affect the organization he's served for almost three decades are what he appreciates most about commanding Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers.

"The most important asset that we have in the Alaska National Guard is the Soldier," Streff said. "Everybody who shows up in this building and who's employed by this organization needs to understand that the Soldier is the purpose behind why we are here. ... If you take care of the Soldier, the Soldier takes care of the mission."

Although this new role has kept Streff busy, he still has been able to make time for

what's most important: his wife, Lynn, and their children, grandchildren and dogs. He also makes time to tend to his garden, which boasts a greenhouse and beautifully designed planter boxes, all built and maintained with his own hands.

"I really enjoy hiking with my family and fishing, but what I also really love to do is garden," Streff revealed. "There's something very therapeutic about planting something, nurturing it, watching it grow and then harvesting."

As Streff continues to cultivate and guide the organization, he believes Alaska's Army Guard is headed in the right direction.

"I rely on my barometers of the command climate, and they include my state command sergeant major, chaplains and the Soldiers I get to speak with; I can say that procedurally, things are changing, and I can say that morale seems to be changing for the positive," Streff said. ■



Final Flight, New Role. Col. Joseph Streff, assistant adjutant general-Army, sits in the cockpit of an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter after taking his final flight behind the controls in February 2015. He left his position in aviation to take on his current role as commander of the Alaska Army National Guard. Photo: Erik Johnson, Alaska Army National Guard

No Ordinary Commute for some Airmen

Story and Photos by Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent,
168th Air Refueling Wing



Commuters. Members of the 168th Air Refueling Wing board a KC-135 Stratotanker to return to Anchorage from Eielson Air Force Base after a drill weekend in October.

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — On Friday afternoon, Senior Airman Dawn Gonzalez waits for two of her three kids to get home from school.

She's packed homework for the classes she's taking at University of Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna College and tied up loose ends, taking military leave Friday from her full-time job as a case management support specialist at the Valley Native Primary Care Center. Her textbooks are nestled in next to her sage green boots.

When the kids hop off the bus, they pile into the car along with her husband and set off to make the hour-long drive from Wasilla to Anchorage.

"It's our time to spend together on those weekends," Gonzalez said.

From there she will catch a ride to her part-time job. But her ride is a unique kind of carpool; it's a C-17 Globemaster III.

Gonzalez is a member of the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing on Eielson Air Force Base.

Every month she and 30 other Airmen in the 168th Air Refueling Wing, and seven Airmen from the 176th Wing make the 360-mile commute to their jobs in the Alaska National Guard.

Upon arrival at the Eielson temporary lodging facilities, Family Readiness program

has dinner ready for commuters, a program which began in August. A group of volunteers spend about 10 hours planning and preparing the meal, which is ready when the Airmen arrive.

But why choose to commute so far away and spend two nights away from your family?

"I prefer it up here; I just like my shop," Gonzalez said. "We have a good relationship, which is why I endure this whole commuting process."

Her team is the 168th Vehicle Maintenance shop. And the time away is a chance to study for her math class, in pursuit of a bachelor's degree to become a pharmacist.

On Fridays, a 176th Wing C-17 or C-130 Hercules, based out of Joint Base

Elmendorf-Richardson, flies members of the 168th up to Fairbanks, then picks up Fairbanks residents of the 176th Wing and brings them to Anchorage. On Sunday afternoon, the 168th flies its 30 commuters back to Anchorage on a KC-135 Stratotanker, picks up the 176th Airmen and heads home to Fairbanks.

"Like our Airmen from other parts of Alaska and the country, Airmen from Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley bring strength of diverse mission sets, professionalism and a true desire to serve both state and nation," said Col. Torrence Saxe, 168th ARW acting commander. "They continually spread the word about the 168th Air Refueling Wing in our state's most populous region. I sincerely appreciate their efforts in bringing in additional folks to our wing."

This partnership is critical, Saxe added.

"We both receive training benefit, and it's a true example of teamwork within the state," Saxe said. "The 168th and 176th working together epitomizes cooperation and coordination."

For Master Sgt. Roderick Miranda, an electrician in the recently formed 168th Civil Engineer Squadron, the commute is a newer routine.

It's difficult to be away from home for two nights, especially when you have small children, he said. But the benefits make up for it.

"Sparing one weekend a month is worth being here doing what you do," Miranda said.

Staff Sgt. Rosendo Perez, 168th Security Forces Squadron team member, has been making this commute since 2012. He makes the journey because people in the 168th ARW take care of each other, he said. ■



Not Your Average Carpool. Airmen from the 168th Air Refueling Wing bide time with a snooze, book or game during the short flight from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to Eielson Air Force Base on a 176th Wing C-17 Globemaster III in October. About 30 members of the 168th ARW who live in the Anchorage area commute up to Eielson Air Force Base one weekend a month for drill.

Who We Are

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would it be?

**Airman 1st Class
Ed Magararu**

176th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"The Philippines – it's home. It would be great to see my friends and relatives."

1st Lt. Ryan Murrell

1-143rd Infantry (Airborne)



"I'd probably go to Sweden. I have a host family there from when I went in high school, and I'd like to go back and see them."

**Senior Airman
Tina Brown**

176th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"I would go to England or Maine. I have seen both in pictures and movies and have always wanted to visit."

**Staff Sgt.
Joseph Sallaffie**

1-143rd Infantry (Airborne)



"My wife and I would go to Hawaii because it's warm, and we could use a little warmth."

**Lt. Col. (Alaska)
John James**

Alaska State Defense Force



"Israel for the military and historical perspective. Plus, I think it would be an interesting place to visit."

Message to the Force

No barriers. No filters. Straight from the top.

SUBJECT: Joint Staff Capabilities and Announcement of Selection, Director of Joint Staff

December 1, 2015

1. Joint staff capability is critical to the success of the Alaska National Guard. A joint staff has many key roles, including advising me and the Assistant Adjutants General on Defense Support to Civil Authorities and Security Cooperation, as well as emergency/disaster preparation and response. A joint staff also develops, maintains and executes plans such as CONPLAN 3500, hazard annexes, DSCA exercises, AKNG Strategic Plan, Innovative Readiness Training, the State Partnership and Security Cooperation programs, the Civil Support Team, and the Counterdrug Program. Additionally, a joint staff serves as the AKNG primary liaison to many outside divisions and agencies and engages externally in support of our mission and vision. A joint staff also provides initial staffing (the "warm start") and sets conditions for success of the Joint Operations Center in exercises and real-world operations. We are in the process of standing up a viable joint staff and investing in the processes that maximize its capabilities.

2. The Director of Joint Staff is a key Drill Status Guardsman/M-Day position. I have selected Brig. Gen. Brent Feick as interim Director of the Joint Staff. Brig. Gen. Feick joins the AKNG from the West Virginia National Guard. He has deep experience in joint planning and operations as National Guard Bureau's Chief of Future Operations (J35) and Deputy Director of Operations (J3). Additionally, Feick has acted as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs; NGB Joint Staff on the Quadrennial Defense Review; and as Director of Air Staff for the WVANG. We welcome Feick and look forward to his leadership in enhancing joint capability within our force.

3. I have selected Col. Blake Gettys, AKANG, as Brig. Gen.'s Feick's successor. The Director of the Joint Staff position will transition on or about Sept. 30, 2016.

Laurel J. Hummel
Brig. Gen. (Alaska), AKNG
The Adjutant General



Employers Tour Air Guard Facilities

By Jamie Abordonado, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve invited local civilian employers to experience firsthand the missions of the Alaska Air National Guard by visiting Airmen and the aircraft they operate from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in July.

Employers toured the pararescue facility of the 212th Rescue Squadron and aircraft operated by the 210th Rescue Squadron — HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters — and the 211th Rescue Squadron — HC-130 Hercules aircraft. In addition, the employers also toured a C-17 Globemaster III operated by the 249th Airlift Squadron. The tours gave employers the opportunity to meet with Guard members and ask about their service, all while getting mission briefs from the command.

The visit extended to the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron where they visited with members from security forces and were able to put on gear used for tactical training, as well as handle weapons used specifically by security forces personnel.

These tours had a profound impact on at least one of the employers. He was so impressed by the mission and the service members he met that he decided to talk to a recruiter that same week.

“During the visit, it occurred to me that re-enlistment might be possible,” said Allen Hansen, Marsh & McLennan Agency. “With six years of prior service in the Alaska Army National Guard, plus two in the Individual Ready Reserve, I had a good idea of what to expect. My previous (military occupation specialty) as helicopter repairer/crew chief was great, but for re-enlistment I was drawn to the backbone of the Army: the infantry.”

Hansen re-enlisted with the Alaska Army National Guard and credits the time spent over at the Alaska Air National Guard facilities for sparking his interest in serving once again.

“The ESGR event was a great opportunity to help recall what I’ve been missing since leaving the National Guard: excellent training,

unparalleled camaraderie and great reasons to maintain higher levels of fitness,” Hansen added. “Now that I’m older, I appreciate being one of the ranks more than I did in my early 20s. It is a great privilege and an honor to once again stand among our troops.” ■



Air Guard Adventure. Employers stand in front of a C-17 aircraft during their tour of Alaska Air National Guard facilities in July. From left: Lou Zeilinski, BP Alaska; Allen Hansen, Marsh & McLennan Agency; Alan Bitner, Bureau of Land Management; Valyn Lamothe, Alaska Fast Cash; Jamie Abordonado, ESGR; and Dave Lamothe, ESGR. Photo: Staff Sgt. Edward Eagerton, 176th Wing Public Affairs

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Awards and Decorations



Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt James R. Tritle 168th LRS
 SMSgt Robert T. Johnson 168th ARW
 MSgt Carrie L. Stokes 168th LRS
 Capt Sara L. Kerr 168th ARW
 SMSgt John W. Gaikowski 168th CF
 MSgt Andrew P. Seward 168th SFS
 Capt Andrea K. Lewis 168th MDG
 CMSgt Kenneth E. Latham 168th MDG
 MAJ Michele D. Edwards JFHQ (Army)
 MAJ Michael D. Jones 103rd CST
 MAJ Richard K. Mohammadi ... 103rd CST
 CW5 James H. Keyes JFHQ (Army)
 CW3 Jonathan L. Goodwin .. Det 54, OSAA
 CSM Marc S. Petersen 38th TC
 1SG Timothy C. Smith 1-207th AVN
 SSG James A. Blyler 1-297th R&S
 SSG Brian Cade 1-297th CAV
 SSG Travis C. Kline 49th GMD
 SGT Michael Davis 1-207th AVN
 Capt Aaron Bunn 144th AS
 CMSgt Stephen Burris 176th ADS
 MSgt Matthew Cary 176th MXS
 TSgt Jonathan Diel 176th CF
 Maj Benjamin Eby 144th AS
 MSgt Corbett Ercolani 210th RQS
 TSgt Nathan Greene 212th RQS
 MSgt Thomas Gregory 176th MSG
 CMSgt Eric Howell 210th RQS
 MSgt Chadwick Jennings 176th CES
 MSgt Brian Johnson 249th AS
 SMSgt John Kershaw 176th CES
 TSgt Brandon King 176th MXS
 TSgt Eric Langerman 210th RQS
 1Lt Renaye Lavin 176th ADS
 SMSgt Janet Lemmons 176th FSF
 SSgt Dneko Mason 176th CES
 TSgt Kenneth Mayfield 176th CES
 TSgt Jay Mendoza 176th LRS
 SSgt Erik Nosich 144th AS
 TSgt Aaron Pfeil 176th MXS
 CMSgt Delmar Schaefer 176th CF
 SMSgt Scott Stewart 210th RQS
 CMSgt Paul Verrier 176th MOF
 TSgt Jody Young 176th CES
 MSgt Lucas Yuill 176th AMXS
 MSgt Paul Zagorski 176th OSS



Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt Jonnilyn I. Reyees 168th ARW
 TSgt Ricky R. Ramos 213th SWS

Jennifer L. Beckley 168th ARW
 SSgt Reuben R. Wright 168th SFS
 TSgt Kevin M. Ruedy 168th SFS
 2Lt Erica L. Olson 168th FSF
 2Lt Lonnie A. Young 168th LRSS



Army Achievement Medal

SGT Virginia R. Hurtado Det 54, OSAA



Air Force Achievement Medal

SSgt William T. Stead 213th SWS
 SrA Eric J. Dunston 168th SFS
 SrA Timothy G. Morgan 168th SFS
 SrA Trevor J. Auton 168th SFS
 SrA Jordan D. Thompson 168th SFS
 A1C Dominique S. Gutierrez 168th SFS
 SrA Dakota K. Olsen 168th SFS



Army Good Conduct Medal

SrA James Shaw 176th CPTF



Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Lt Col Kenneth Radford Jr. 249th AS



Iraq Campaign Medal

Lt Col Kenneth Radford 249th AS
 SSgt David Curtis 176th LRS



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

SrA Tyler Hoskins 176th SF



Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

A1C Carlos Bosques Batista 176th SF
 SrA Lindsay Delevante 176th MDG
 SrA James Shaw 176th CPTF



Armed Forces Service Medal

CMSgt Shawn Arnzen 176th MXG
 SMSgt Shawn Gannon 176th OG
 MSgt Lavonne Gardino 176th CES
 TSgt Nathan Greene 212th RQS
 MSgt Thomas Gregory 176th MSG
 Lt Col Candis Olmstead JFHQ (Air)
 MSgt Paul Zagorski 176th OSS



Alaska Distinguished Service Medal

1SG Timothy C. Smith 1-207th AVN
 SFC Corwin G. Viglione 1-207th AVN
 SSG Travis C. Kline 49th GMD



Alaska Commendation Medal

SFC Christopher W. Mattson 1-207th AVN
 SSG Jacob M. Lingnau 297th MP
 SSG Kenton L. Ward 297th MP
 SGT Damian Q. Collum 297th MP
 SGT Michael Davis 1-207th AVN
 SGT Charles L. McGonigal 297th MP
 SGT Calixto E. Velazquez 297th MP
 SPC Jordan A. Marlowe 297th MP
 SPC Sasha K. Nery 297th MP
 SPC Bradley G. Olson 103rd CST
 SPC Patrick R. Patton 297th MP
 SPC Ilaisaane O. Toetuu 297th MP
 PV2 Andrew D. Ensley 297th MP



Alaska Domestic Emergency Ribbon

COL (AK) Doyle Holmes ASDF
 COL (AK) Charles Lund ASDF
 COL (AK) Michael Schowen ASDF
 LTC (AK) John James ASDF
 LTC (AK) Arthur Saltmarsh ASDF
 MAJ (AK) Randell Cosper ASDF
 MAJ (AK) Timothy Stephan ASDF
 CPT (AK) Dennis Barrett ASDF
 1LT (AK) Bruce Buzby ASDF
 1LT (AK) Jentry Crain ASDF
 2LT (AK) Jeffrey Brown ASDF
 CSM (AK) Ricky Siler ASDF
 1SG (AK) James York ASDF
 MSG (AK) Jerry Stackhouse ASDF
 SSG (AK) Steven Flippen ASDF

SGT (AK) Taylor Cosper ASDF
 SGT (AK) James Eggerman ASDF
 SGT (AK) Daniel Smith ASDF



Alaska Community Service Medal

SSG Balinda O. Dresel 134th PAD



Alaska State Service Medal

CPT Mariano H. Barajas 49th GMD
 CW2 Jeshua McMaster 1-207th AVN
 SSG Christopher G. Utkin 1-207th AVN

Chilean Parachute Badge

CPT Arthur Meyer 38th TC
 WO1 Matthew Johnson 207th EQP SPT
 SFC Edgar Romine 1-297th R&S LRS
 SFC Russell Throckmorton 1-297th R&S LRS
 SFC Ryan Weimer 103rd CST
 SSG Andrew Eklund 1-297th R&S LRS
 SSG Oliver Meza 1-297th R&S LRS
 SSG Jon Miller 103rd CST
 SSG Jason Sebring 1-297th R&S LRS
 SGT Richard Evans 1-297th R&S LRS
 SGT Matthew Sanders 1-297th R&S LRS
 SPC Rigoberto Orozco 1-297th R&S LRS

Basic Aviation Badge

1SG Julie A. Small JFHQ (Army)

Master Recruiter Badge

SSG JR Lomboy R&R

Senior Recruiter Badge

SSG Anthony D. Lee R&R

Basic Recruiter Badge

SGT Casey R. Waters R&R

Promotions

Colonel

Joel Gilbert JFHQ (Army)

Lieutenant Colonel

Aaron Kelsey 297th BfSB
 Alex Elmore JFHQ (Army)
 Kimberly Riggs 176th CES
 Robert Vitt 144th AS
 Matthew Harper 176th OSS
 Glenn Ott 210th RQS
 Michael Jordan 144th AS

Major

Chad Ausel JFHQ (Army)
 Jason Caldwell 1-297th CAV
 David Cunningham JFHQ (Army)
 Jeffrey Johnson 1-297th CAV
 Allison Snow 249th AS
 Christopher Keen 212th RQS
 Brian Marasco 249th AS
 Scott Dickerson 144th AS
 James Keenan 144th AS
 Andrew Richmond 176th ADS
 Ashley Nowak 176th WG

Captain

Brandon Bowden 297th R&S LRS
 Michael Lopez 1-297th CAV
 John Sutter 1-297th CAV
 Matthew Perdw 176th ADS

First Lieutenant

Desalyn Whitlock 176th ADS

Command Sergeant Major (E-9 Army)

Michael Grunst 38th TC
 Richard Hildreth JFHQ (Army)
 Donald Ramey JFHQ (Army)

Sergeant Major (E-9 Army)

James Nyquist 1-297th CAV

Chief Master Sergeant (E-9 Air)

Shawn Arnzen 176th MXG

Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (E-8 Army)

Troy A. King R&R
 James Schilling 38th TC

Senior Master Sergeant (E-8 Air)

Clint Miller 168th LRS
 Gary Critchfield 168th MXS
 Kim T. Groat 168th MDG
 Philip G. Newton 168th AMXS
 Timothy Stone 249th AS

Sergeant First Class (E-7 Army)

Eti E. Faaaliga R&R
 Scotty Rodgers R&R
 Matthew Armstrong 297th MP
 Allison Bohac 297th BfSB
 Kevan Katkus 1-207th AVN

Derek Rabago 1-297th R&S
 Christopher Utkin 1-207th AVN
 Michael Wright R&R

Master Sergeant (E-7 Air)

Richard B Mongold 168th FSF
 Ruperto R Perez III 168th MXG
 Al J Atoigue 168th AMXS
 James W Hudnall 168th OG
 Dusty Spencer 168th MXS
 Blair E. Dellaquila 168th MDG
 Philip J. Nelson 168th OSS
 James Asselin 176th MXS
 Summer Jones 176th LRS
 Michael Ralston 176th ADS
 Alexander Bitner 176th LRS
 Jimmy Rojas 176th ADS
 Gabriel Ekiss 176th ADS
 Krista Riefler 176th ADS
 Jason Dykstra 212th RQS
 Jeffrey Scott 176th LRS
 Thomas Andrukiewicz 176th LRS

Staff Sergeant (E-6 Army)

Monique Andrews JFHQ (Army)
 Aaron Byrd 1-297th R&S
 Kyle Francione 1-207th AVN
 Charles McGonigal 761st MP
 Roberto Santiago Torres 49th GMD
 Patrick Sick 1-297th CAV
 Joshua Vanderzon 1-297th CAV

Technical Sergeant (E-6 Air)

Ricardo Cardines 168th MXS
 Jonathon F. Legan 168th OG
 James A. Huston 168th AMXS
 Gregory M. Wood 168th MXS
 Tia Boglin 176th CPTS
 Jody Young 176th CES
 Clifton Fox 176th ADS
 Carter Williams 176th FSF
 Matthew King 176th ADS

John Fleming 176th OSS
 Walker Haken 176th MXS
 Cirena Pritchett 176th ADS
 Byron Haken 176th OSS
 Anthony Pillittier 176th LRS
 Veronica Bungcayao 176th MXG

Sergeant (E-5 Army)

Wade Albrow-McClendon 1-207th AVN
 Eric Carter 297th MP
 Damian Collum 297th MP
 Tiera Eldred 297th MP
 Berald Escribano 1-297th CAV
 Theodore Heintz 1-297th R&S
 Denmark lese 297th MP
 Scott Sandoval 297th SIG
 Willis Wayne 1-207th AVN

Staff Sergeant (E-5 Air)

William B Lawson 168th ARW
 Lawrence E. Salzman 168th LRS
 Teresa J. Koch 168th ARW
 Jocelyn T Holt 168th SFS
 Jared M. McDonald 168th LRS
 Jason Hughes 212th RQS
 Justin Becker 176th CF
 Mason Jordan 176th MXS
 Tobias Morgan 176th AMXS
 Jeremy Rhodes 211th RQS
 Peyton Wackerman 176th LRS
 John Pascoe 176th LRS
 Alvin Collelo 176th MXS
 Tyler Walter 176th OSS
 Sean O'Brien 210th RQS
 Kenneth Mendenhall 176th OSS
 Alan Cordell 144th AS
 Aleksandr Mcglathlin 176th AMXS
 Daniel Bellerive 176th LRS
 Anthony Guedea 210th RQS
 John Pahkala 176th CES
 William Toimoana 176th MXS

Retirements

SMSgt John W. Gaikowski 168th CF	SSgt Paul Kopecky 176th AMXS
MSgt Charles Hixon 168th CF	TSgt Daniel Collyer 176th MXS
TSgt Todd Limbaugh 213th SWS	SMSgt Kaprice Zuke 176th CPTF
SMSgt Robert Johnson 168th ARW	SGT Michael Davis 38th TC
MSgt Thomas Bradley 176th CES	SFC Jason Rode 38th TC
SMSgt Fortunato Galvez 176th CES	SFC Stanley Wright 297th BfSB
MSgt Wayland Baker 176th ADS	SFC Harry Alexie 297th BfSB
MSgt Sanjuan Ordenez 176th ADS	1SG John Orth 38th TC
MSgt Stephen Gordon 176th LRS	SFC Yolanda Cooper 38th TC
SMSgt Thomas Martin 176th LRS	SSG James Blyler 297th BfSB
MSgt Charles Hatch 176th LRS	1SG Timothy Smith 38th TC
TSgt Shaquita Long Rodgers 176th LRS	SFC Desiree Chambers 297th BfSB
MSgt Earl Singleton JFHQ (Air)	SFC Arthur Honea 38th TC
Col Edith Grunwald JFHQ (Air)	SFC Darin Swain 38th TC
SMSgt Eric Taylor 212th RQS	SFC Corwin Viglione 38th TC
MSgt Michael Pulanco 176th SFS	SGT Joseph Brown JR 297th BfSB
	1SG David Cochrane 38th TC

Changes of Command and Responsibility

Brig Gen Brent Feick Joint Staff
 Lt Col Brian Kile 210th RQS
 Maj Joseph Sundy 168th CES
 CMSgt Shawn Arnzen 176th MXG
 CW4 Pamela Vitt Command Chief Warrant Officer,
 Alaska Army National Guard

Status of Discipline Actions

In the interest of transparency, these are the actions that the Alaska Air National Guard has taken from May 1 through Sept. 20, 2015. Each case and the resulting punishment were decided on its individual merits using a variety of factors including severity of the offense and disciplinary history of the individual, as well as other relevant factors. For questions regarding the appropriate range of punishment for an individual, please call the 176th Wing legal office or Human Resources Office.

Rank	Category	Action
Lt Col	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
Lt Col	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
SMSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Two	Letter of Counseling
MSgt	Conduct Not Conducive to Good Order and Discipline	Letter of Reprimand
MSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
MSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Two	Letter of Counseling
TSgt	Failure to Meet Financial Obligations	Letter of Reprimand
TSgt	Discourtesy	Letter of Counseling
TSgt	Negligence of Assigned Duties	Letter of Reprimand
TSgt	Failure to Comply with Standards	Letter of Counseling
TSgt	Failure to Comply with Standards	Letter of Counseling
TSgt	Failure to Comply with Standards	Letter of Counseling
TSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
TSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
TSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
SSgt	Non-Participation	Discharged
SSgt	Substance Abuse and Non-Participation	Discharged
SSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
SSgt	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Three	Letter of Reprimand
SrA	Substance Abuse	Discharged
SrA	Failure to Fulfill Junior Enlisted Airman Responsibilities (DUI)	Demotion
SrA	Failure to Report for Duty	Letter of Reprimand
A1C	Failure to Maintain Fitness Standards x Four	Discharged
A1C	Non-Participation	Discharged and Recoupment of Incentive Bonus for Non-Participation
Technician/ 176th WG	Failure to Meet Standards	Letter of Admonishment

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	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	5-6	Mar. 31 - Apr. 3	14-15
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	5-6	2-4	14-15
ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	4-6	16-17	13-15
38th Troop Command	4/5-6	1/2-3	13/14-15
ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD			
168th Air Refueling Wing	5-6	Mar. 31 - Apr. 3	14-15
176th Wing	5-6	2-3	14-15
ALASKA STATE DEFENSE FORCE			
Headquarters	12-13	9-10	7-8

Welcome to our newest members and employees

176th Wing

Dianna Miller
Jamie Keen
Benjamin Carlson

176th Medical Group

Margaret Lambros
Sophie Macmaster
Latasha Scheu
Anthony Meyer

176th Civil Engineer Squadron

Michael Hazen
Dakota Prather

176th Force Support Flight

Anthony Fetta

176th Comptroller Flight

Joseph Smith
Shawn Everett

176th Security Forces Squadron

Josiah Lobato

176th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Benny Orallo

176th Maintenance Group

Trevor Galindo
Cory Powers
Joseph Bosak
George Offenhauser
Marguerite Leis

176th Operational Support Squadron

Alicia Wampler
Michael Cook

176th Air Defense Squadron

Brandon Maley

210th Rescue Squadron

Arnold Perea

212th Rescue Squadron

Kazden Ikehara
Christopher Bailey

168th Comptroller Flight

Chayne Paul
Elizabeth Carter
Sherry Burns

168th Maintenance Squadron

Lisa Espinoza
Benjamin Haynes
Tyler Slechta
Jesse Taitano

168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jesse Aguon

168th Medical Group

Eric Lanser
Anthony Robinson
Debra Triplehorn
Marie Devaney

168th Security Forces Squadron

Kenneth Mayfield
Christa Bowers
Robert Chastain
Alyna Higdon

168th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Treana Briggs

168th Force Support Flight

Renee Sablan

213th Space Warning Squadron

Gersom Rivera

168th Aerial Refueling Squadron

Ronald Oliver

168th Mission Support Group

Daniel Vandevort
Michael Roach

168th Aerial Refueling Wing

Mae Suzanne Olson

1-207th Aviation

Mendonzo Tatisrosario
Evan Davis
Joshua Danao
Erin Ottosen

Mercy Flores
Mariapaula Danao
Cruz Garcia
Fabiana Mobley
Richard Cortez Jr.
Colten Bell
Jeffrey Hartmann
Amber Hamar
Michael Miller
James Lombrano
Carrie McGrann
Paul Gillquist

297th Military Police Company

Gian Salvanera
Nicole Wells
Diego Suateo
Tyley Mcatee
Taylor Landry
Corbin Streiff

Medical Detachment

Andrew Quiring

1-297th Cavalry

Alexander Martinfrank
Matthew Stevens

1-143rd Infantry (Airborne)

Axel Anaruk

1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance

Levi Leyland
Kong Lee Devan Amling

207th Equipment Support Platoon

Thomas Martin

761st Military Police Battalion

Maata Finau

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Joshua Phillips
Eric Sumpter

49th Missile Defense Battalion

Sharmila Lever
Benjamin Maye
Erik Michels

207th Multifunctional Training Regiment

Skye Long

49th Personnel Detachment

David Bayne

Joint Forces Headquarters (Army)

Lori Wasserman
Tracy Dooley
Collin Welch
Todd Anderson
Ronnie Mayfield



Air Drop Preparations. Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III loadmasters with the 249th Airlift Squadron palletize two small unit support vehicles and support equipment in preparation for a joint air drop over Joint Base-Elmendorf-Richardson in September. This was the first time two small unit support vehicles had been airdropped in Alaska. Photo: Sgt. Marisa Lindsay, DMVA Public Affairs



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