

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs







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Commander in Chief



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# WARRIORS

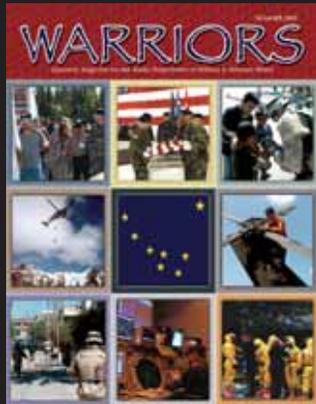
Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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world – and even within the far reaches of Alaska during recent disasters – we reflect upon their enduring examples of courage, leadership, self-sacrifice, duty, honor, freedom, liberty, persistence and service.



State Partnership Pride. Major General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, along with High Commissioner Dash Purev, National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia, celebrated their signing of a State Partnership Program Memorandum of Consultation in July. The memo reflects and supports an evolving relationship between the Alaska National Guard and the country of Mongolia. Central to the partnership are information exchanges where training experiences and methods of operations are among the topics shared. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

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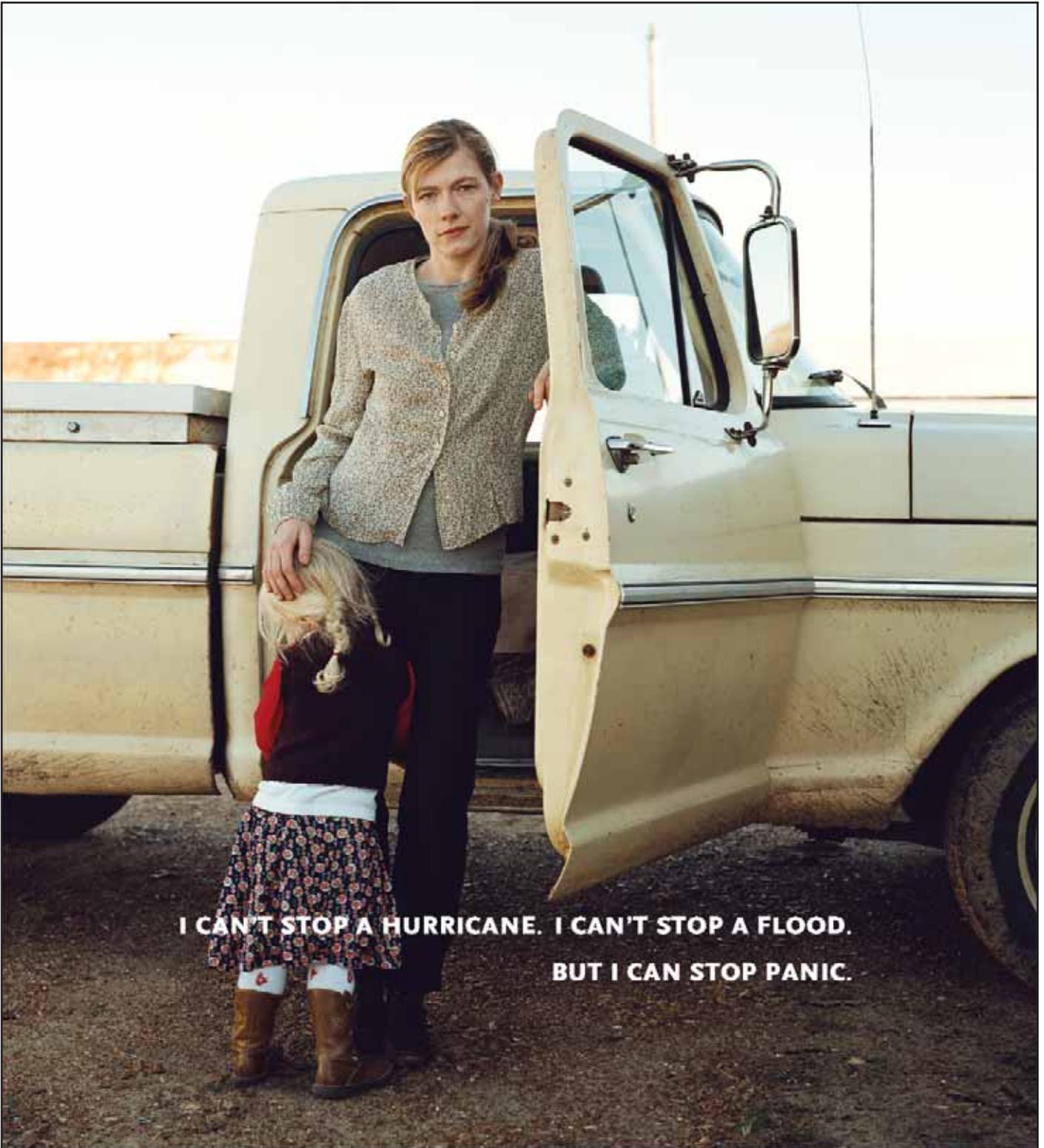
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**HOW TO REACH US**

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

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

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# Dispatches from the Front...

## Cleaned Up Neighborhoods Brighten Valley

### *297th Support Battalion Puts Shoulder to the Wheel*

For the 12th year, Operation "Bumper Drag" paired soldiers of Alaska's Army National Guard and their neighbors in clearing out and cleaning up the environment. The Alaska Army National Guard's 297th Support Battalion soldiers again took their cleanup efforts into the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this summer. More than 100 Guard members, using 40 trucks, worked with participants from the borough's cleanup program on the annual three-day event.

This year's Bumper Drag worked in several sites removing autos: the Old Sutton Landfill; Jim Creek; Maud/Dike Road; the Knik River Bridge; and where Mr. Stillwell skillfully made his extractions, the Matanuska Townsite. The results are the reward: they removed hundreds of derelict cars and trucks along with a range of utility items. According to officials, the annual event improves the safety of their communities while reclaiming the beauty of their surroundings. ■



Environment Overhaul. PFC Tonya James directs Operation Bumper Drag traffic at the Mat-Su Borough landfill and keeps a count of how many scrap vehicles come in. Photo: SSgt Kristi Schneider, JFHO-AK Public Affairs

## Stranded Boaters Get a Lift from Rescuers

Four stranded boaters experiencing engine problems on Lake Iliamna were rescued by an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crew and pararescuers July 25.

The Alaska State Troopers called the Alaska National Guard's Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) for help after the boat and its four occupants didn't arrive as scheduled that morning. According to the RCC, the boaters were heading north from Kakhonak on the south side of Lake Iliamna when their problems began.

Rescuers from the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons of the Alaska Air National Guard located the 18-foot boat and the four people passengers on Sharon Island.

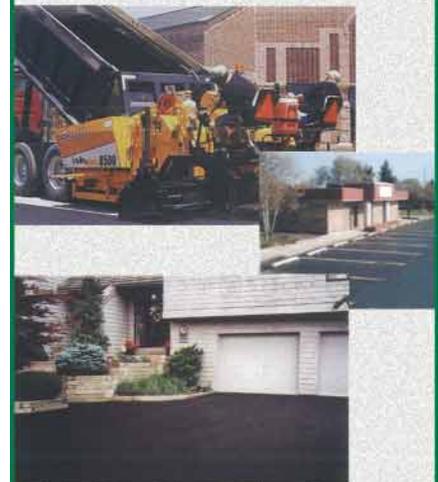
"They had mechanical problems with their motor," said an RCC spokesman. "So, they built a large fire while waiting to be rescued."

The aircrew successfully transported the boaters to Iliamna where they were released to the Alaska State Troopers. ■



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# Where in the World

## Governor Praises BRAC Vote on Kulis

JUNEAU... Governor Frank H. Murkowski commended the Base Realignment and Closure Commission on its vote to make the closure of Kulis Air National Guard Base contingent on adequate Air Force funding to preserve its important mission.

"This is precisely the approach we asked for when we visited with commission members and once again, it's clear that they heard Alaska's concerns," Murkowski said. "We'll have the assurance of a seamless transition for our Air National Guard unit and eventually room for growth at Ted Stevens International Airport."

The commission also agreed that the Air Force had substantially underestimated the cost of moving Kulis Air National Guard operations to Elmendorf Air Force Base. Initially, the Air Force estimated such a move will cost between \$75 and \$81 million. The actual costs estimated by BRAC exceeds \$121 million.

It is anticipated that the 176th Wing's movement to Elmendorf will take several years. Once it is completed, the state will work through Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to recommit the 130 acres occupied by the National Guard to support growing civilian operations.

"We've seen this commission has a clear understanding of Alaska and the military importance of our location," Murkowski said. "We've been able to save Eielson, move Kulis on Alaska's terms and effect a much slower withdrawal from Galena's forward air station. This has been the best possible outcome for Alaska.

"I am pleased that the BRAC Commissioners noted Eielson's strategic importance in the Pacific Rim, and I believe this bodes well for the future of this base. The commission clearly saw

**Kulis ANG Base: Home Sweet Home.** A C-130H Hercules airlift aircraft from the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base prepared to take off in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in September. Kulis is home to nine C-130H aircraft, four HC-130N Hercules rescue tankers, as well as six HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission slated these air assets and base personnel to move to Elmendorf Air Force Base in the coming years if adequate funding is provided. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Steve Politsch, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



## Mongolia



**State Partnership Program.** Alaska Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major David Hudson explained to the Mongolian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) how chemical protective suits will help assist them during emergencies. The suits were bundled with gas masks, gloves and boots in chemical exposure kits designed for first responders going into chemical disasters. Thirty-eight kits were donated in July to Mongolia's NEMA and law enforcement from the Alaska Army National Guard. The National Guard's State Partnership Program has affiliated the AKNG with the country of Mongolia to work together on exchanges such as combined training on preventing and managing disasters, and technical assistance on protection and chem-bio equipment.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

our argument that its airspace and training facilities are too important and it is impractical to 'warm base' such a cold place.

"I am also thankful that the commission agreed that a withdrawal from Galena should be slow. We will work closely with the community and the federal government to assure the excellent boarding school, vocational school and other community assets aren't dramatically harmed by this decision. I expect the Air Force's exit from Galena to involve a long final approach and a soft landing for the community." ■

Fairbanks • Eielson AFB  
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**Hurricane Katrina Relief.** Technical Sergeant Frederick Sauvillo and Captain Christopher Prince, both of the 176th Air Wing at Kulis Air National Guard base, load supplies for a flight to Oregon to pick up cargo and personnel to deliver to New Orleans, Louisiana, in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Steve Politsch, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



**Crankin' Rotors In Haiti.** Maintainers got an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter ready for operations in support of 'New Horizons' exer-

cise in Haiti. American Forces are assisting with building clinics and schools and restoring infrastructure in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Jeanne. Photo: JO1 Steven Vasquez, US Navy

## Operation Arctic Care 2005 Wraps Up

*Rural Alaskans Benefit from  
Guard & Reserve Medical,  
Dental, Veterinary Teams*

KODIAK... Doctors declared 'Operation Arctic Care' alive and well as they wrapped up their two week foray into some of Alaska's rural communities.



**Helicopter of Help.** Sergeant Eric Rothery (inside the helicopter), a UH-60L crew chief with Charlie Co., 1/207 Aviation Battalion, received gear to pack aboard a helicopter that is destined to take people and equipment to the Interior village of Nulato. The 1/207th of the Alaska Army National Guard supported Arctic Care 2005, a multi-service medical readiness and logistics training exercise that traveled to 13 villages around the state. Photo: 1st Lieutenant Tony Wickman, Alaskan Command Public Affairs



**Working Together to Win the War.** Major Joseph Lawendowski, of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, covered Specialist Dominic Palammo, from the Kentucky National Guard's 940th Military Police Company, while they searched buildings for insurgents in Al Hillah, Iraq. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Army, Specialist Arthur D. Hamilton



**Measuring Up.** Major Alden Weg, of the U.S. Army's MEDDAC provided care and medical screening for patients of all sizes during his two week deployment in support of Operation Arctic Care. Uniformed healthcare providers served hundreds medical, dental and canine patients during their annual tour in rural Alaska. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska National Guard



**Welcome to Afghanistan.** Brigadier General Craig Christensen, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, and State Command Sergeant Major David Hudson, were among a group of Guard and Reserve generals and state command sergeants major visiting troops deployed to Afghanistan. There are several Alaska Guard members currently serving tours of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

"The docs, dentists and other health care professionals saw hundreds of patients – human and canine," said Major Mike Haller, public affairs officer with the Alaska National Guard.

"We appreciate the opportunity to reach out and assist our friends and neighbors with this important training exercise," Haller added. Guard officials estimate that in the Galena area alone, approximately 325 medical patients, 450 dental patients and 175 ophthalmology patients were seen. They also believe that more than 500 animals were immunized by veterinarians.

Arctic Care, a multi-service military healthcare operation, involved 60 service members from the Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Coast Guard, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force with the Public Health Service this year. Services included medical, dental, veterinary, optometry, women's health and preventive medicine.

Medical and dental teams worked with civilian providers from the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks. Operating from regional headquarters in Galena, services were

supported in Hughes, Huslia, Ruby, Nulato and Kaltag.

The exercise headquarters was based in Kodiak where exercise commander Captain Karen Petrella also supported care to six villages with air support from the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Keeping our commitment to our rural Alaskan neighbors continues to be at the forefront of our combined efforts with Operation Arctic Care," Haller said. He noted that since the war on terrorism began, the efforts are more of a practical patchwork involving various teams from each of the uniformed services.

"Our partnerships with the Public Health Service, the Indian Health Service and the numerous regional tribal organizations is critical to getting the right mix of dedicated health care to the areas that need it the most, in any given year," Haller said.

The exercise was supported by C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Alaska Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force and the Marine Corps. UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard and the Army's 68th Medical Company provided airlift into some of the smaller villages. A total of 52 flight hours were logged and 60 passengers carried.

"Arctic Care is the perfect blend of training and public service," said Captain David Scott, senior medical officer for the Galena area of operations. "Arctic Care provides an opportunity for rural residents to be seen by medical specialists that are otherwise only

available if the patients traveled to Fairbanks or Anchorage," he said.

"In addition to the medical services provided by the military teams, most from warmer climates, the benefit of training in a sub-arctic environment is considered a benefit by those who take part. The logistics planners from Alaskan Command were critical to the success of the deployment," Haller added. "They worked with other services in planning the multi-stage movement of the medical teams and their gear to and from six remote villages along the upper Yukon." ■



# My Turn

**Major General Craig E. Campbell**  
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard & Commissioner,  
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

## Governor's Leadership Key to BRAC Success

What a remarkable victory! We simply would not have been successful without the dedicated leadership of Governor Frank Murkowski.

When the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) commission began their early work, Alaskans had the potential for losing a lot – nearly all of Eielson Air Force Base, Kulis Air National Guard Base, and realignment of Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson.

It was Governor Murkowski's thoughtful strategies, determined leadership and tenacity in the tough moments that got us through to the point where we are able to declare ourselves victorious.

When the dust settled, Eielson Air Force Base essentially remained intact – with its F-16 flying unit as host, though they'll lose their A-10s; Kulis Air National Guard Base is required to move so long as sufficient funding is provided for the complete process; and the transference of about half of Elmendorf Air Force Base's F-15s to other units (including six to the Virginia Air National Guard). The surprise, though, was the closure of Galena Air Force Station as a Forward Operating Base. Compared to

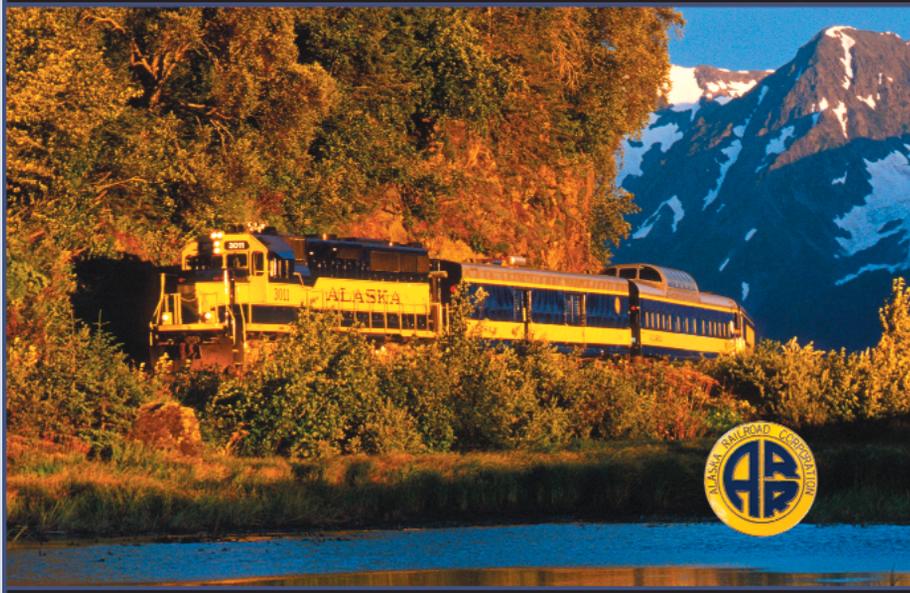


Armed Services Salute. Major General Craig Campbell, along with U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski spoke on the impact of today's military forces at the Matanuska-Susitna Military Appreciation luncheon early this summer. They highlighted the evolving missions and growing deployments of Guard and Reserve troops.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

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many locales and bases, Alaska actually fared well.

We simply would not, nor could not, have been successful without the very extraordinary and enterprising partnerships we drew together from one end of the state to the other. The amalgam of interested parties, working together for a common purpose, sent an overwhelmingly powerful message to BRAC commissioners.

In all of this, through all of the planning sessions and community meetings, something else emerged – a stronger, more unified Alaska. People closed ranks in a common desire to ensure a future for Eielson Air Force Base, Interior Alaska and our own Air National Guard.

The summer of 2005 will certainly be recorded as one of the most interesting turning points in the Alaska Air National Guard's history ... and in the history of our state.

As we celebrate, we should also note the successful transformation of our Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation Battalion – transforming from a utility lift unit to air assault – and deploying to Iraq. What they accomplished is impressive – all the while, they supported an alert mission during fire season.

Citizen soldiers – always ready, always there – now, more than ever. ■

# Joint Forces



Ready to Serve

## 2005 Annual DMVA Picnic

The DMVA held its first annual picnic in July at Cottonwood Park on Fort Richardson. More than 300 state employees and Alaska National Guard personnel enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, warm temperatures and sunshine, as well as numerous activities. DMVA staff and volunteers also had events for the young ones in attendance, with most of the kiddies leaving with multi-colored hair and painted faces! ■

Photos: Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM



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## Governor Breaks Ground for the Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home

By DHSS Public Information Team



Groundbreaking. Governor Frank H. Murkowski, Commissioners Joel Gilbertson and Craig E. Campbell, Director of the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes Virginia Smiley and other state officials break ceremonial ground for the new State Veterans Home in Palmer. Photo: DHSS

When the groundbreaking began for the Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home in Palmer on Aug. 29 it was an ending – and a beginning. The groundbreaking culminated a process that began in the 1970s when the state of Alaska began searching for a viable way to address veterans’ needs for a state home within the state.

Taking better care of Alaska’s veterans began with the conversion of the Palmer Pioneer Home to the official Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home.

“For nearly 30 years veterans in this state tried to find a way to build a state veterans home. I am happy we have accomplished this during my administration – but we accomplished it because all of us worked together,” said Governor Frank H. Murkowski. “It took the hard work of Alaskans across the state to make this happen. This effort shows that we are determined to provide a home for those seniors who have served their country.”

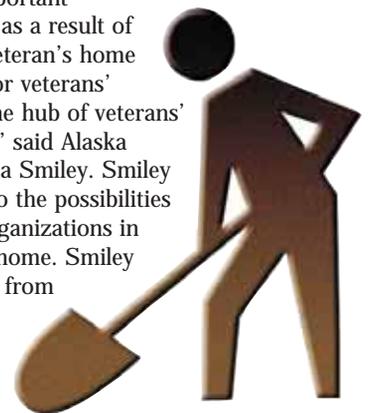
“We’re delighted that the veterans’ home effort is finally moving to the next step,” said Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Commissioner Craig E. Campbell. “This is great news for all of Alaska’s veterans. The Governor was determined from the beginning of his administration to get this done – and we did it.”

The home will serve veterans, veterans’ spouses or dependent children and non-veterans who qualify for admission to the Pioneer Home system. A five year to eight year transition plan will assure that veterans and other residents of the Pioneer Home system are not compelled to move out of the home in which they reside solely because the Palmer home is designated as the Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home. Residents currently living in the Palmer Pioneer Home will continue to call the facility home, and no veteran will be forced to relocate or move from any other Pioneer Home to the Palmer location. Veterans will only be relocated to the Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home by their choice. Veterans who are in other Pioneer Homes may request a transfer to the Palmer facility, and when a bed is available with the required level of service, the request for transfer will be accommodated. The services provided to veterans in the new state veterans home will be the same as those currently provided to all residents of the

Pioneer Home system.

The advantage to each veteran living in the new home is that the Department of Veterans Affairs will pay the state \$27.19 a day for each veteran who resides in the Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home, which will help offset the cost of care to Alaska veterans. The allowance will begin when renovations are complete and the home is certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally, one of the important possibilities that could develop as a result of the establishment of the new veteran’s home is the emergence of activities for veterans’ groups. “I want to make this the hub of veterans’ activities in the Mat-Su Valley,” said Alaska Pioneer Home Director Virginia Smiley. Smiley added that she looks forward to the possibilities of interaction with veterans’ organizations in connection with the new state home. Smiley said she is open to suggestions from existing veterans’ groups that want to be more involved with the Palmer home than they are now. ■



“I want to make this the hub of veterans’ activities in the Mat-Su Valley.”

– Alaska Pioneer Home Director Virginia Smiley



Get Your Plates. Showing off the new veterans license plates are (left to right) Sam Shields, American Legion Commander, Bethel Post 10; Sam Blankship, Vice Commander, Bethel Post 10; Peggy Dettori, American Legion, Department of Alaska Commander; Bertie Bertram, American Legion, Department Service Officer; and Jerry Beale, Alaska State Veterans Affairs Administrator. In a measure to honor people who have served or are serving with United States Armed Forces, the Alaska Legislature has designated a special license plate honoring veterans. The \$100 fee goes into a special state fund for veterans programs. Anyone who has a vehicle can own this beautiful plate. For information, go to [www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ADMIN/dmv/dealer/pdfs/vetcom.pdf](http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ADMIN/dmv/dealer/pdfs/vetcom.pdf).

Photo: Naomi Klouda, editor, Tundra Drums

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# Donating DVDs: Giving Troops a Chance to Feel at Home

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

Life in a war zone can start to get monotonous. Let Technical Sergeant Kevin Johnson be the first to introduce you to “Groundhog Day” in the desert.

Johnson, a member of the Alaska Air National Guard’s 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base, assisted the United States Army in convoy operations as a truck driver for more than seven months in Iraq in 2004. He said his desert deployment became one long “Groundhog Day” where everyday took on a rhythm of repetitiveness and relaxing didn’t come easy.

So, to break the cycle for other soldiers and “keep things going, keep things lively,” Johnson said, he has been working to increase the movie and audio collections at American military camps across the Mideast through a program he started called DVDs 4 Troops.

He collects DVDs, CDs and VHS tapes and sends them to the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) centers at U.S. military posts overseas. So far he’s amassed more than 2,000 in movies and music.

Assortments have been sent to Camp Junction City, Camp Remagan, Camp Ar Ramadi, Camp Victory, and Forward

Operating Bases Gabe, Danger and Speicher, all of which are in Iraq. DVDs were recently sent to Bagram, Afghanistan, as well.

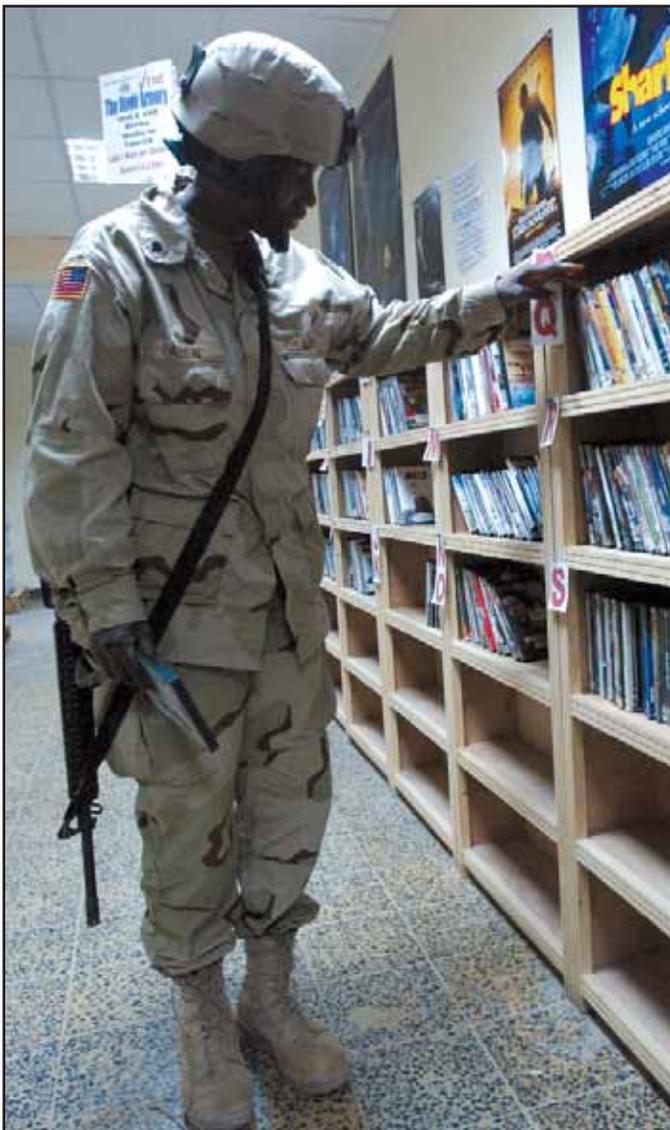
The program is already a hit and donations continue to stream in. The biggest request: “Any new movie. We don’t get to see the new movies overseas, so whatever is new is the new favorite,” Johnson said.

The popularity of new releases has prompted his latest venture. He’s working to raise \$1,000 for each base so that each week he can send one new release to the troops.

“[The movies] help you relax and you think that you’re back home,” Johnson said.

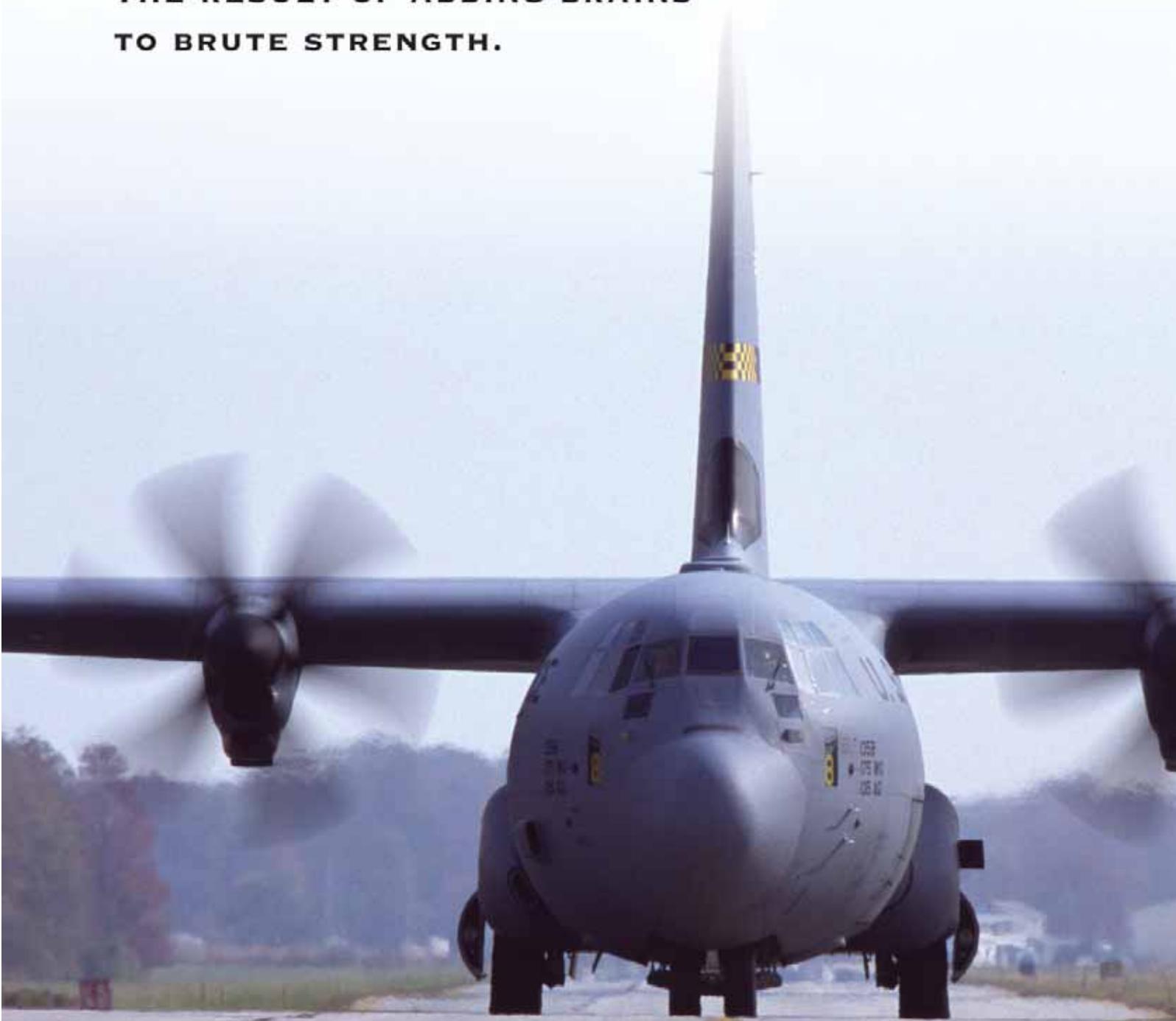
For his efforts, Johnson received the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) New Member of the Year award for community service in June. “It’s neat, very much a surprise,” Johnson said about the prestigious honor. “But even though I get the award, the reason for all this is the recognition for the program, the publicity helps make others aware.”

To learn how you can donate to the program, visit [www.DVDs4Troops.org](http://www.DVDs4Troops.org). ■



Looking for Movies. Soldiers stationed at FOB Speicher near Tikrit in northern Iraq browse the aisles for movie rentals at the Morale Welfare and Recreation facility. The entire selection of DVDs is made possible through the efforts of DVDs4Troops, which collects movies and CDs for deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Photos: Staff Sergeant Duane Brown, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Department

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Alaska's Senior Senator Signs for Employer Support. Sen. Ted Stevens recently signed an ESGR Statement of Support during the Fairbanks Annual Military Appreciation Banquet. Stevens, a strong proponent of the National Guard, has an extensive history of advocating the need for the Guard and Reserve and the roles that employers need to play as part of America's defense. Stevens is a World War II veteran.

Photos: Courtesy of Alaska ESGR Committee



ESGR Endorsement. Steve Lundgren, senior vice president Mt. McKinley Bank and Alaska ESGR Vice Chair (left), and Mark Hamilton, president University of Alaska, sign a Letter of Support of the Guard and Reserve.

## Anchorage Police Commit to Support Guardsmen, Reservists

By Samantha L. Quigley, American Forces Press Service

ANCHORAGE... The Anchorage Police Department has put into writing its verbal commitment to the Guardsmen and Reservists who protect and serve the community when they're not protecting and serving the country.

Anchorage Police Chief Walter Monegan signed a "statement of support" under the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's "5-Star Employer Program."

"All it (involved) was basically memorializing an existing (verbal) agreement," Monegan said. "Members of the Guard and Reserve do double duty, and I respect that."

The document declares, in writing, that an employer will adhere to the tenets of the federal law regulating treatment of Guardsmen and Reservists. But it's more than just a statement to those military service members who work for Monegan.

"I think its tremendous (that Monegan signed the commitment)," said Douglas "Scott" Lofthouse, a senior patrol officer with the Anchorage Police Department and a master sergeant with the 3rd Security Forces Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard. He explained that it solidifies the department's commitment to its service members.

While Guardsmen and Reservists working for the municipality are entitled to benefits afforded to them by federal laws, medical and dental benefits provided by their employer for their eligible family members also are continued. This allows family members to keep their healthcare providers, Monegan said. He added that financial arrangements can be made to ease the shock of having to cover bills on military pay, which may be less than pay earned from the police force.

Both Lofthouse and Mark Karstetter, an Anchorage patrol officer and a technical sergeant with the 176th Maintenance Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard, said the welcome home from the department after their recent deployments was "outstanding."

"I went right back in as a detective," Lofthouse said, referring to the position he left when he was activated in August 2002. "The department was great."

Karstetter agreed. He had been called up just after finishing field training for the police department. After a one-year deployment, he returned and found himself with someone riding along with him again, just to make sure his skills were still sharp. But he was put back into the position that he had vacated when he

was activated. He said this accommodation is something other employers should strive for.

"I would encourage employers to be flexible, because we're sending our youngest and brightest overseas to do a (dangerous) thing they don't always need or want to do, but they go because they're asked to," he said. "And with the current laws, I think it's a good thing that they can come home and start their lives over and still have a job, they have a routine."

Being first responders gives the police officers a unique perspective on the war on terrorism and, consequently, the activations of the Guard and Reserve required to fight it.

"I think I have a better understanding than most of the general public does about what it takes for the security of the nation and the security of your hometown," Karstetter said. "I've always been extremely patriotic, so getting called up is not something that I'm upset about."

He also said being a first responder makes being sent to a combat zone easier to deal with. When he came under rocket attack while deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, he said, it really didn't faze him.

"I think the police department helped me cope with certain things better than most (people)," Karstetter said. And that includes other service members. He credits this unique readiness to having already encountered high-stress situations.

Karstetter and Lofthouse were honored Aug. 30, by the Anchorage Assembly during a special meeting. Each was presented with a certificate from the municipality, thanking them for their service to the police department as well as to the country.

The police officers were honored through a program the municipality instituted to honor the nearly 70 Guardsmen and Reservists in its ranks. An Alaska Army National Guardsman deployed to Iraq is expected to be the honoree at the next assembly meeting.

Monegan's commitment to support the service members working for him, recognition of those service members by the municipal assembly, and the benefits extended to them that exceed federal requirements are ways in which this city has chosen to support the Guard and Reserve. Monegan said he thinks this is a reflection of America's attitude toward its service members, as well.

"Because of September 11, I think the spirit of the country is, 'We support you,'" Monegan said. ■

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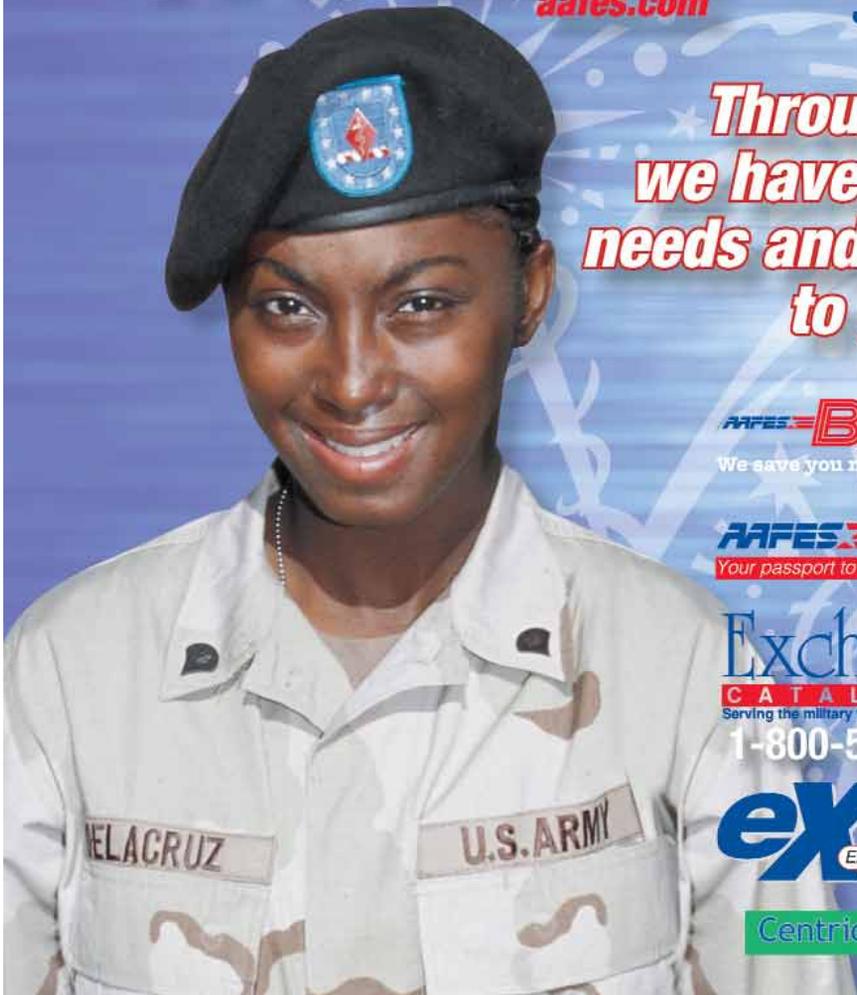
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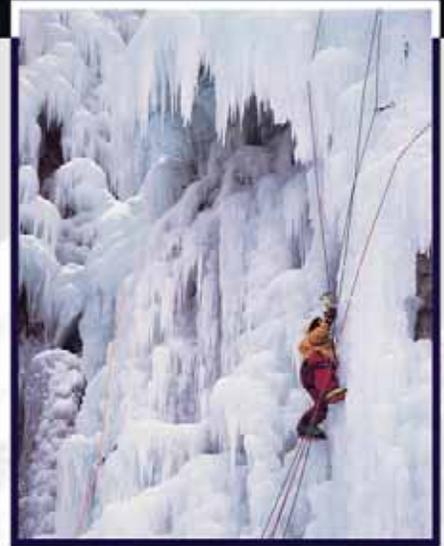
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# In the Face of Danger, A Hero Emerges

Story by Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer



Fuel had to be dumped from the Pave Hawk in order to steady the aircraft before Shuman was lowered on a 200-foot cable in an attempt to reach Tackle's tent.

"As they are lowering me down, the wind from the rotor blade is bouncing off the rock wall, so it starts causing a pendulum spin," Shuman recalled. "It's out of control; it's just spinning in large circles."

Shuman admitted it was a scary moment.

"I could see the cliffs coming by and my concern was I was going to hit one



Power of a PJ. All pararescuers, including Senior Master Sergeant David Shuman, have an eight foot by eight foot locker to store the wide array of gear they have that allows them to jump, literally, into any situation. PJs have everything from mountain ropes and harnesses to ski and scuba gear. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

On a clear, crisp day in June 2002, Senior Master Sergeant David Shuman, a pararescuer from the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, found himself hooked to a helicopter and dangling from a cable more than 9,500 feet above ground.

Nothing lay below him but mounds of snow and rocks lining a daunting Mount Augusta. But more than the impending danger or the sheer terror of what could happen in his perilous state, Shuman had only one thing on his mind – saving Jack Tackle.

Then 48-year-old Tackle was stuck on Mount Augusta, suffering from a broken back, fractured neck and bruised spinal cord. He had taken a serious fall and had been holed up in a bright orange tent for more than two days.

An experienced climber from Montana, Tackle and fellow alpinist Charlie Sassara had been ascending Mount Augusta when rapidly warming temperatures up the peak triggered disaster.

Shuman recalled hearing that "a

boulder the size of a briefcase" tumbled down the mountain and slammed into the back of Tackle. With Tackle badly injured from the accident, Sassara was forced to set his partner up in a tent with a sleeping bag, food and water, then descend alone to get help.

A day of bad weather prevented rescuers from finding Tackle that first day. However, during day two that would all change.

### ***The rescue begins***

Shuman remembered getting the call at 5 a.m. that he was needed for day two of the rescue efforts. Hours later, Shuman was onboard an Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk flying alongside an HC-130 Hercules when they found Tackle.

"He had the flap [of the tent] open, so when we came over he was able to wave to signal that he was alive, because we didn't even know if we had a live person at this time," Shuman said. "Because of the injury that was reported, it was possible that he could be dead."



Token of Thanks. Jack Tackle shows his continual gratitude to the pararescuers of the 212th Rescue Squadron (formerly the 210th) by keeping in touch and sending signs of appreciation. In July 2002, Tackle signed a poster of one of his mountain conquests and sent it back to the squadron. The dedication reads: "To the PJs of the 210th – with the greatest respect and admiration!" Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

of the cliffs and get injured myself," he said. "When you're getting lowered you're still over nothing getting dropped onto this icy face."

With Shuman's safety in jeopardy, he was quickly lifted back up. The crew was forced to dump more fuel in order to hover steadily. In all, more than 1,500 pounds of fuel had to be dropped before Shuman could descend successfully.

And with virtually no fuel, timing was critical.

"I told him [Tackle] we only have a couple minutes – we have to go," Shuman said. "So, there's no time for any patient care or treatment."

Shuman successfully clipped Tackle onto his harness and both men were lifted back into the Pave Hawk with just seconds to spare.

### **Heroes are honored**

After all the heroics, Tackle spent about a week in recovery at an Anchorage hospital. Before leaving to return home, Tackle had something special planned – he invited the entire rescue crew to dinner.

"It was actually kind of nice to meet someone that was quite thankful to an entire organization for what they did,"

*"I could see the cliffs coming by and my concern was I was going to hit one of the cliffs and get injured myself."*

–Senior Master Sergeant David Shuman

Shuman said. "He still to this day thanks the 210th."

And as another symbol of thanks and deep recognition for the danger Shuman put himself in to save the life of another, he was awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism. This prestigious accolade came in January 2005 – more than two years after the rescue.

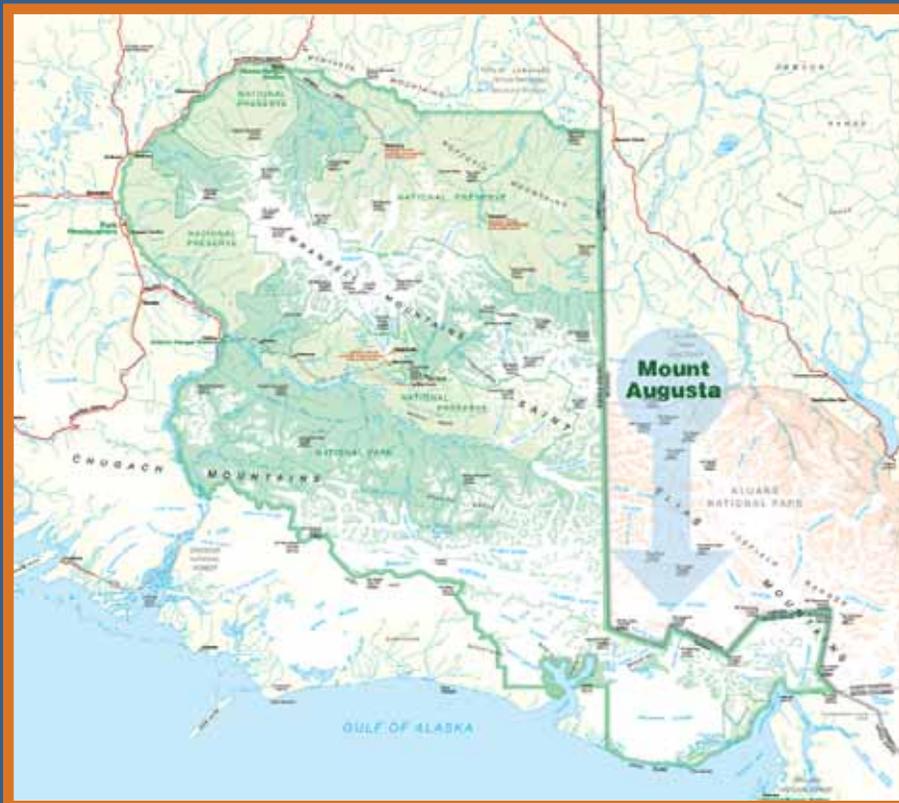
"I was quite surprised," Shuman said with a smile.

"But the nicest thing about this rescue is not this [award] but Jack Tackle. I still talk to him. Every couple of months... he just e-mails to check in. When he comes to town, we'll go out to dinner."



The high honor of the Airman's Medal praises Shuman for his efforts, but he credits the entire crew, which received the Earl Ricks Memorial Award for national rescue of the year, for the successful mission.

"The thing about this [the Airman's Medal] is, really, it came down to just the guy that was on alert that day," he said. "Any of my teammates, all of them, could have pulled off the exact same event. It just happened to be my day." ■



Mount Augusta lies within the St. Elias National Park in the USA and Kluane National Park Canada. The park is of enormous size, 13.2 million acres, six times the size of Yellowstone and larger than Switzerland. The park is populated by enormous mountains, glaciers and rivers. Nine of the 16 highest mountains in the U.S. are in this park.

The mountains in the park include:

- Mt. Saint Elias . . . . . 18,005 feet
- Mt. Bona . . . . . 16,421 feet
- Mt. Churchill . . . . . 15,638 feet
- Mt. Bear . . . . . 14,831 feet
- Mt. Alverstone . . . . . 14,565 feet
- University Peak . . . . . 14,470 feet
- Mt. Augusta . . . . . 14,070 feet



# Education



## Online Application for Tuition Assistance Received Overwhelming Response

By Sergeant Eric Hamilton

If you're an Alaska student serving as a traditional Guard member, or an excepted federal technician in the Alaska National Guard, you should know the Education Support Office has three programs for funding voluntary postsecondary education.

First, a traditional Alaska Army Guard soldier (non-AGR) can apply for Federal Tuition Assistance. The Federal Tuition Assistance program pays up to \$250 per semester hour and up to \$4500 in fees and tuition per fiscal year. By using Federal Tuition Assistance, students may find it unnecessary to utilize other funding programs. Passing grades for any classes paid for using Federal Tuition Assistance must be turned in within 30 days of the course completion date. If a soldier has grades more than 30 days overdue this can trigger a possible repayment and denial of future funds.

The second exciting program is Alaska State Tuition Assistance, which is open to all Guard members. Instead of applying separately for each semester, students will have an opportunity to apply for the whole school year at once and will receive confirmation on the amount approved by the education service officer for the total school year via e-mail. This process allows better financial planning and greater flexibility among students while incorporating changes that expedite quicker approval of awards and fund disbursements. The next start date is December 1, 2005 for the upcoming spring semester.

The third program open to all guard members is the Alaska In-State, Non-UA Tuition/License/Certificate Reimbursement program.

Reimbursement is still subject to availability of funds, and the initial application must be followed with proof of registration, payment and program completion in order for reimbursement to be made. Approval does not guarantee payment; funding is renewed at the start of the state fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2006.

Other news and upcoming education developments and initiatives will be posted on the [www.akguard.com](http://www.akguard.com) Web site, on the Education page. This page contains a lot of new options and features including: forums to find information, space for comments and suggestions for the education office, and applications for class requests, fee reimbursement, scholarships and more. To reach the Education Support Office, send an e-mail to [eric.hamilton@ak.ngb.army.mil](mailto:eric.hamilton@ak.ngb.army.mil), call 907-428-6477 or fax to 907-428-6929. ■

For more information, visit the education page on our Web site at: [www.akguard.com](http://www.akguard.com).



Success is Filled with Good Examples, Determination. Alaska's First Lady, Nancy Murkowski, took time to visit with cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy's National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program recently. The Academy's new official spokeswoman Olympic Champion Snowboarder Rosey Fletcher also visited with the youngsters. Cadets are involved in a voluntary 22-week-long residential program that changes their lives. Each year, the ChalleNGe Program graduates more than 200 youth between the ages of 16-18. The campus is located at Camp Carroll on Fort Richardson near Anchorage. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

### UAA Credits for Military Service

Complete a Request for Military Training form provided by UAA to have your military credits evaluated.

Up to eight elective credits may be awarded to students who have successfully completed one calendar year of active duty military service. In addition, credits may be granted for formal service schools and the MOS/Rating as recommended in the Guide to the Evaluation of Experiences in the Armed Services prepared by the American Council on Education.

No more than 15 semester credits may be applied toward an associate degree and no more than 30 semester credits may be applied toward a baccalaureate degree. Exceptions are granted only to students enrolled in the SOC programs.

The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOCAD, SOCMAR, SCCOAST, and SOCNAV) program allows active-duty personnel to finish certain associated and baccalaureate degree programs without losing credits as they transfer during their military careers.

Eligibility for entrance to these programs requires three semester credits to be completed in residence at UAA for the associate program and six semester credits in residence at UAA for the baccalaureate program. These credits must be 100-level or above with grade(s) of C or higher.

To graduate from these programs, the residency requirement of three semester credits for the two-year programs and 24 semester credits for the four-year programs and an overall GPA of 2.0

Please contact Enrollment Services at [ayenroll@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:ayenroll@uaa.alaska.edu) or at (907) 786-1480 for further information regarding required documentation and forms.

Postsecondary education programs for active duty military personnel, dependents of active duty personnel, Department of Defense employees, and civilians at military bases are offered through the state. Major military bases and corresponding military education centers include:

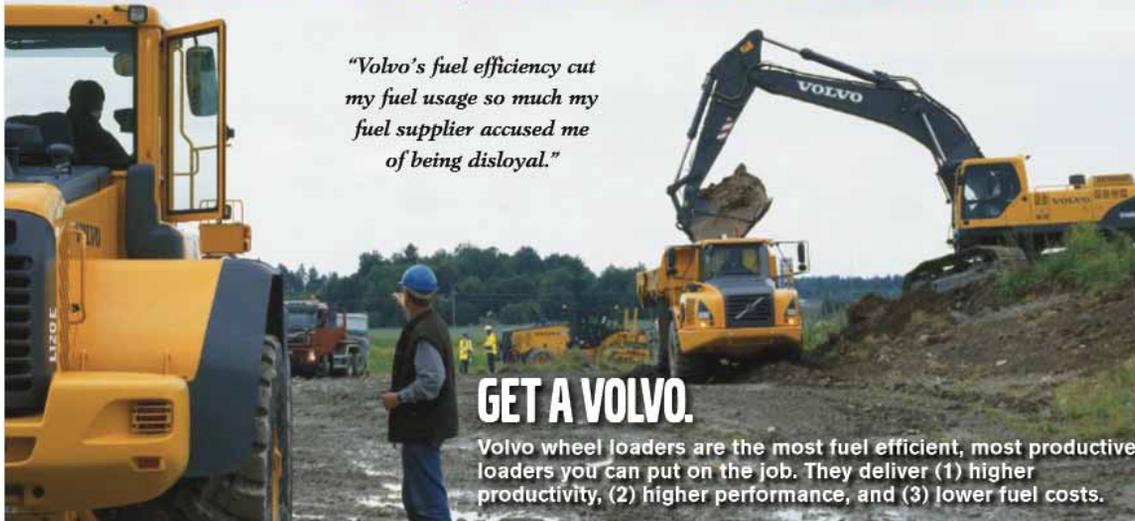
- Fort Richardson Army Post and Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage
- Eielson Air Force Base, Clear Air Force Station, and Fort Wainwright Army Post outside of Fairbanks ■



An Army of Two. During a formal swearing-in ceremony, Christine Wainwright, 36, and her son, Andrew, 17, enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard April 15. The Army National Guard and Reserve this year increased the enlistment age limit to 39 from 35 for civilians who have no prior military service but wish to join. Christine was the first Alaskan to take advantage of this new opportunity. She plans to become a health care specialist, and Andrew aims to become an aviation maintenance technician. Both mom and son went to South Carolina this summer for basic training. Christine is a special education teacher and volleyball coach at Palmer High School, where Andrew is a senior this year. Photo: Major Mike Haller, AKNG Public Affairs

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# Homeland Security & Emergency Management



## FEMA Deploys Preparedness Containers to Alaska

Story and photos by Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM Public Information Officer



Diverting Disaster. DHS&EM Director Dave Liebersbach talks about the deployment of the Pre-Positioned Disaster Supplies trailers.



Staying One Step Ahead. FEMA Region X Director John Pennington explains why Alaska was one of the first states chosen to participate in the PPDS program.

Most of us who live here in Alaska know it takes a few days for things to reach us from the Lower 48. It's the same situation when it comes to getting help from the Outside after a disaster strikes. That's why the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) has teamed up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to pre-position essential disaster supplies in the Last Frontier through the Pre-Positioned Disaster Supplies (PPDS) program.

"The PPDS trailers are designed and filled with supplies that will help respond to pretty much anything that can occur here," said John Pennington, Director of FEMA's Region X. "Disasters are disasters; people get hurt and they need those basic necessities to get them through those first critical hours."

FEMA's PPDS program is designed to station large trailer-sized connex containers filled with supplies such as cots, generators, tents, blankets and other items as close to a potential disaster site as possible. This positioning substantially shortens the response time from incident to delivery of initial critical disaster supplies to 24 hours or less from

hit Florida and the southern United States, and witnessing the long response times that occurred before victims were able to receive needed supplies. Since then, 11 of the PPDS trailers have been pre-positioned across the nation.

"The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and FEMA have formed a very strong working relationship when it comes to providing disaster response and recovery assistance to Alaskans," said Dave Liebersbach, director of DHS&EM for Alaska.

"These containers are only one example of how the federal government

and the state government work together to make sure individuals and families are prepared for times of disaster. We also train and exercise together to make sure we, as government agencies, are ready to respond to every need." ■

***"Disasters are disasters; people get hurt and they need those basic necessities to get them through those first critical hours."***

**—John Pennington, Director of FEMA's Region X**

72 hours. Anchorage was chosen to receive the first of three PPDS canisters that are coming to Alaska. Additional connex containers will be stationed in Fairbanks and Juneau.

FEMA developed the PPDS program after seeing the widespread devastation caused by last summer's hurricanes that

# Officials Conduct Test of Tsunami Warning System

Story and photos by Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM Public Information Officer

Picture this... you're living in a community along the coast of Alaska. It's the middle of the night and all of a sudden the earth begins to shake violently. The shaking lasts for more than a minute and a half before it stops. You think that the worst is over... but is it? Could a devastating tsunami be on the way?

In a situation like that, it's a good possibility a tsunami was generated. That's why officials at the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) conducted a test of the Tsunami Warning

television and radio and different state and local communication links. Even cable television providers teamed up to make sure the test message reached the widest audience possible.

"This test was a critical first step in testing the entire tsunami warning communications system to ensure the safety of all Alaskans," said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Launtenbacher, the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "We're confident the results of the test will not only help protect Alaskans from future tsunamis, but will serve as a testing model for other states and territories that could be



In Case of Emergency. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is one of several agencies that help broadcast an Emergency Alert System message. They also have procedures in place to double-check that all possibly affected communities receive that alert.

***"This test was a critical first step in testing the entire tsunami warning communications system to ensure the safety of all Alaskans."***

**– Retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Launtenbacher**

System in late March. While officials hold monthly tests of the state's Emergency Alert System, this test was the first time the tsunami warning portion of the system had been broadcast. And unlike the regular monthly test messages, the real tsunami warning codes were used.

"The only way to truly test our warning system is to use the live codes," said Jim Butchart, deputy director of Emergency Management for DHS&EM.

The test message was broadcast all over the state via NOAA Weather Radio, Emergency Alert System messaging on

impacted by these destructive waves."

The test, which was conducted as part of Alaska's Tsunami Awareness Week, coincided with the anniversary of the Good Friday Earthquake of 1964 that claimed the lives of 132 Alaskans, 122 of which were killed by tsunamis. It also comes just months after hundreds of thousands of people were killed in Southeast Asia after devastating tsunamis were generated by a massive earthquake centered off of the coast of Sumatra.

"The deadly tsunami that occurred in Indonesia last December illustrates the extreme importance of having a tsunami

warning system," said Governor Frank Murkowski. "When an actual tsunami warning is issued, we have to be ready to give all Alaskans that could be in danger as much notice as possible so they can seek safety."

The results of the test are still being analyzed, but officials are calling the test a success.

"Initial feedback from the test has been quite positive," Butchart said. "All of the feedback will be evaluated by the various agencies involved in the test, and the findings will be released when completed. Alaska will ultimately be much safer from the threat of tsunamis in the future thanks to the improvements that will occur due to this test." ■



Seismic Central. The West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center monitors seismic activity and makes predictions on whether or not tsunamis are generated.



On Shaky Ground. Alaska experiences more than 100 earthquakes every day, most of them too small for anyone to feel.



# YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA

## THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

### REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ☆ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ☆ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ☆ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ☆ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

### RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

If you:

- ☆ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- ☆ have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- ☆ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you any of the following because of this status:

- ☆ initial employment;
- ☆ reemployment;
- ☆ retention in employment;
- ☆ promotion; or
- ☆ any benefit of employment.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

### HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION

- ☆ If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- ☆ Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

### ENFORCEMENT

- ☆ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- ☆ For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at **1-866-4-USA-DOOL** or visit its **website at <http://www.dol.gov/vets>**. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <http://www.dol.gov/claws/userra.htm>.
- ☆ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, depending on the employer, for representation.
- ☆ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. This notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.pdf>. Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.



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Publication Date—February 2005



# Family Support

## Summer Camp is Summer Fun

By: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Information Officer

Calling all campers! This summer proved to be a fun-filled adventure for kids who participated in the "United We GROW" Cooperative Camp at the Meier Lake Conference Center in Wasilla.



The Alaska National Guard Child and Youth Program and the Anchorage and Mat-Su/Copper River District 4-H collaborated to offer a four-day residential camp in mid-July. Camp highlights included camp fire songs and activities, shooting skills workshops, paddleboat and swimming sessions, Ultimate Frisbee games, fishing outings, kayaking and water safety instruction and flag ceremonies.

More than 50 youth attended the camp, with 26 youth representing the Guard. The high turnout was due in part to a grant that paid for travel expenses for campers coming from as far away as Nome, Bethel and North Pole.

"Just watching the kids interact and actively participate in an array of activities made the camp worthwhile," said Joan Boltz, youth program coordinator with the Alaska National Guard Family Programs. "Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to doing it again next year."

If you would like to help with the Alaska National Guard Family Programs, Child and Youth Program, call Joan Boltz (907) 428-6668, or toll-free at (888) 917-3608.



**Summer Singalong.** Alaska National Guard youth and the Mat-Su/Copper River District 4H youth came together at Meier Lake Conference Center in Wasilla for the "United We GROW" Cooperative Camp. One of the nightly activities was a campfire singalong (with lots of audience participation).

**Cast Away.** One of the many volunteer instructors for the "United We GROW" camp helped one of the campers with casting techniques while others practiced and checked out the waters for signs of fish.



**Splish Splash.** Youth from as far away as Chefnak, Alaska, enjoyed water activities such as swimming, canoeing and paddle boating under the supervision of a trained lifeguard and other camp chaperones.

Photos: Courtesy of 4-H and AKNG Family Programs

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# Environmental

Preserving the Land: Citizens & Soldiers

## Alaska Army National Guard Wins the National Environmental Stewardship Award

Story by Bill Vagt, Environmental Specialist



The Alaska Army National Guard's Environmental Section has a new trophy to add to its accolades. On June 24, the shop won the prestigious Environmental Stewardship Award, which is presented annually to the best Guard environmental program in the nation.

The trophy was presented to Bill Vagt at the National Guard's annual National Environmental Workshop in St. Louis, Mo. "It was a great team effort," Vagt said in the acceptance speech.

All fifty-four states and territories' environmental programs were ranked by the coveted award. The selection criteria include conservation, resource and compliance programs, with Alaska's programs scoring the highest in the nation.

The conservation portion ranks and grades a state's natural resource management, cultural resource management, geographical information system, plus a state's consideration of

environmental issues in future development plans. Alaska's winning conservation team is headed by Kent Richter, with Jerry Walton managing cultural resources, Emerson Krueger managing natural resources and Aaron Richins managing the geographical information systems.

Kristin Lemieux heads Alaska's outstanding resource section. This portion of the judging looks at how effectively a state or territory applies its resources such as people, time and money to prioritize environmental concerns.

The compliance portion takes into account each state's performance on compliance audits. The number of findings is considered, but more important is how quickly and effectively noncompliant situations are corrected. Repetition of similar infractions is also an important element, i.e. "Once fixed, does it stay fixed?" This winning section is headed by Norm Straub, with Tim Roy managing hazardous waste and Gretchen Grekowicz managing spill response and countermeasures.

The final consideration before the award is given is a state's contribution to the national program. Has a state contributed personnel, time, and has it hosted meetings for the National Guard Bureau's standing committees and working groups? Colonel Jerry Walter, chief of the National Guard's Environmental Section, cited this element as the one that really distinguished Alaska from all the other states.

The Alaska Army National Guard's command and soldiers appreciate the natural wonders of this great state and know that Alaska is a special place. By working together the Alaska Army National Guard has garnered the national recognition its outstanding environmental programs has earned. The support of command and the soldiers for Alaska's winning environmental team will allow this coveted award to be appreciated by everyone in the Alaska Guard during the coming year. ■



# Who We Are...

***In your present job, where have you been deployed, or if you haven't been deployed, where would you like to go?***

**Margorie Keene**  
Facilities Management Office



"I would like to go to Thailand because I would love to see their beaches, eat their great food and have a massage on the beach."

**Major Russ Wilmot**  
176th Wing  
Sr. Intelligence Officer



"I'm the deployment king – that's what they call me at Kulis. In almost 10 years in the Guard, I've been deployed to Italy, Turkey (two or three times), South Korea (twice), Bosnia (twice), Kuwait, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Japan and Mongolia."

**Irene Lee**  
Deputy Director  
Alaska Military Youth Academy



"We don't get deployed anywhere, but I'd like to go to Spain. I've been trying to get there for a couple of years ... my great grandparents came from northern Spain."

**Kent Richter**  
Environmental Section  
Facilities Management Office

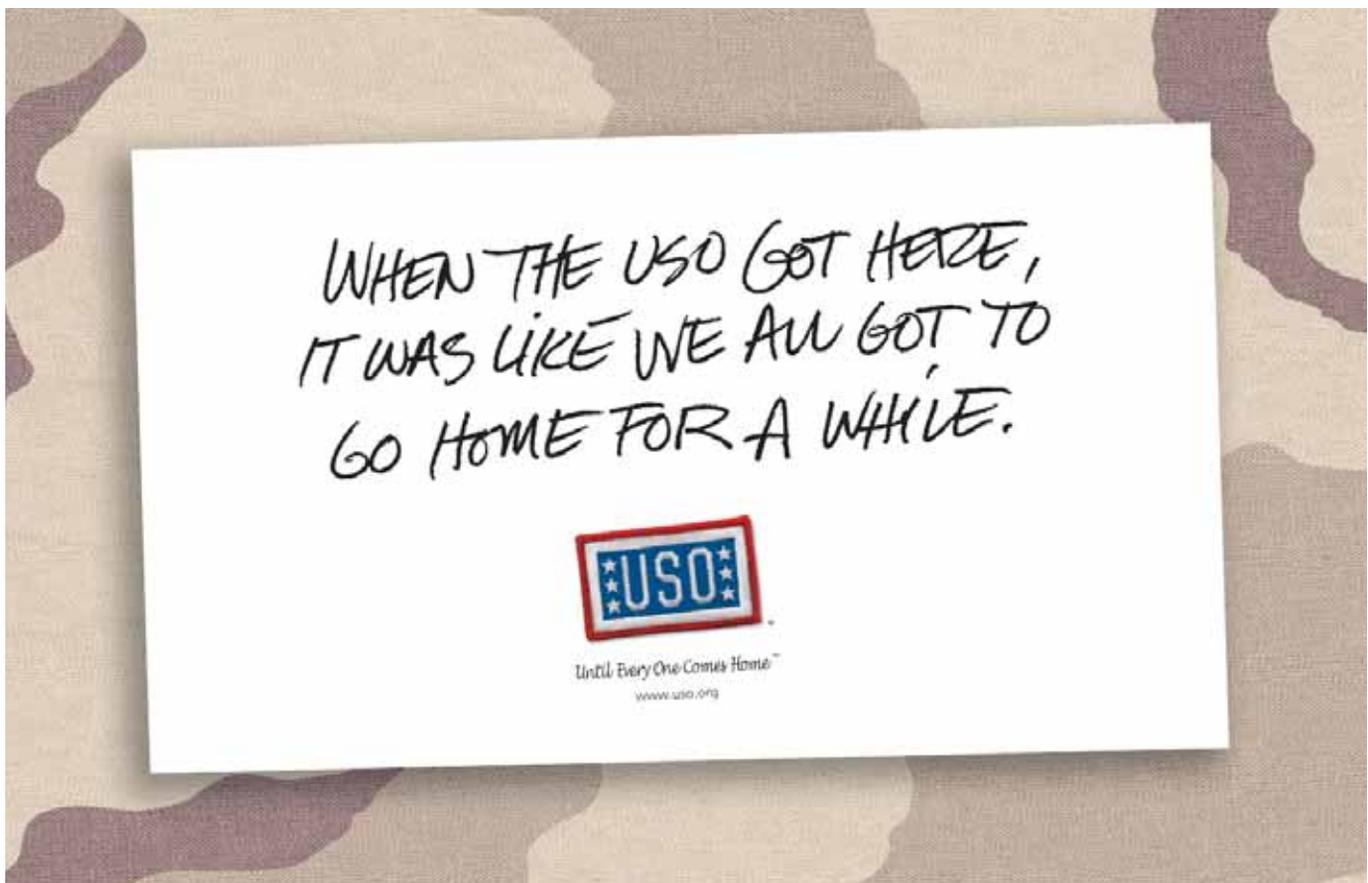


"Stewart River, 30 miles north of Nome – it's a training area for the Army Guard and we have done environmental baseline surveys, erosion control action and permafrost surveys, spending three weeks in the field. I've gone every summer since 2000."

**Private First Class Heidi Williams**  
1/207th Aviation Battalion



"I was in Port au Prince, Haiti, as part of operations for the UH-60 Medivacs for about four months. I'd like to go to Africa – I've heard it's a lot like Haiti – to see more outside the United States."





# Legacy

Passages from *Soldiers of the Mists*

*We are continuing to share passages from Alaska National Guard Historian Emeritus Cliff Salisbury's book, "Soldiers of the Mist." Major General John Schaeffer, the Adjutant General from 1986 to '91 said, "...it is important for present and future generations to understand the sacrifices our Minutemen and women have always made for Alaska." Our Legacy...*

## The Great War – Part II

Alaska's wartime commitments could be roughly broken down into six major categories: the National Guard, the Home Guard Militia, the regular army, the Selective Service, the civilian war effort and the use of Alaskan resources for the nation. Interestingly enough, the Minuteman concept came first. The man who had to fit all the pieces together was Governor Strong. Ironically, he was not to see the project through to the end of the war. The man who did him in politically was John Troy, who was running Strong's newspaper. Troy discovered that the Governor of Alaska was not a naturalized citizen of the United States and the Canadian born Strong was replaced by President Woodrow Wilson on May 1, 1918. The new governor, Thomas Riggs, Jr., was equal to the task on the programs which had been started by Governor Strong. The man who had ruined Strong's political career purchased the Juneau newspaper and used it as a power base which eventually brought him the governorship in the 1930s.

The issue of a National Guard unit for Alaska preceded the outbreak of war on April 6, 1917. As the stories of the carnage taking place in No Man's Land filtered back from the Front to every hamlet in America, Alaskan's became painfully aware of how unprepared the country was for war. Professional soldiers in the United States Army began to realize there was a wide gap between

what was occurring in France and the tactics learned from chasing Pancho Villa along the Mexican border. By 1916, the big offensive mentality of the top brass in Europe who were chasing the phantom of one big victory was beginning to make inroads on American military thought. Once more the nation would have to gear up and train millions of citizen soldiers.

The attempt to organize a National Guard in Alaska had preceded the First World War by many years without success. Late in 1916, the idea surfaced again as huge armies pushed each other back and forth in France to gain or lose a few yards at the horrendous cost in human lives. As early as March in 1917, people in Alaska with a military background were aware that a bill to create a National Guard in Alaska was before the Territorial legislature and that the position of Adjutant General would be available. Even before the Declaration of War, Governor Strong began to receive letters of the non-existent Alaska National Guard. One of the earliest applicants submitted a letter to the Governor on April 14, 1917.

D.W. Figgins had been the Adjutant General of Idaho during 1896-98. He held the rank of Colonel within the state when he formed the First Idaho Infantry, U.S. Volunteers. He resigned his office and accepted an appointment as a Major in the First Battalion when the Spanish American War broke out in 1898. He accompanied the regiment to the Philippine Island where he served as Regimental Commander during the Insurrection. He was promoted to his former rank of Colonel before being mustered out. Figgins also wrote to Senators Heckman and Sulzer to

advance his case and urged A.G. Shoup of Juneau to support his cause. The Ketchikan soldier would not get the job.

Fred C. Schiller, proprietor of "Fred's Place the Place to Eat in Cordova," wrote to the Governor in March of 1917. He offered his services as a company commander based on his wartime services with the Second Massachusetts Volunteers. He gained his experience while on active duty in Cuba. He urged the governor to consider a National Guard unit at Cordova and claimed he could muster between seventy-five and a hundred "Strong healthy young men." The proposed bill, however, would authorize only two companies of infantry – one at Juneau and one at Fairbanks.

The man designated to organize the first National Guard unit in Alaska was Major Peter W. Davison. Major Davison, a trained engineer, had spent some time in the Territory on road construction. When he received his order to organize the National Guard he was a member of the Alaska Road Commission. The Army Engineers had always furnished trained officers to the Territory. They had explored the land, manned the outposts, built the roads, constructed the telegraph lines and maintained the law and order as time would allow. ■

*Next Legacy installment from Soldiers of the Mists series: The Formation of the Alaska Guard.*

*Soldiers of the Mists was published by Pictorial Histories Publishing of Missoula, Montana, March 1992. It is available through fine bookstores throughout Alaska and online.*



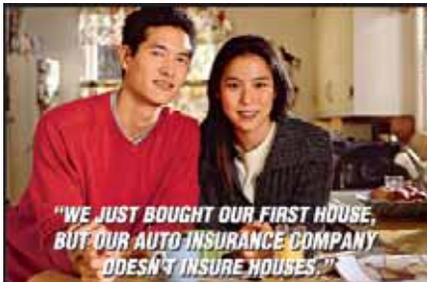
**Space & Missile Defense Leader Becomes a One Star.** Brigadier General Thomas Kalkus, the leader of the Alaska National Guard's Space & Missile Defense program, was promoted to Brigadier General in August, and his wife, Jo, pinned on his new rank. Kalkus manages both the Alaska Army and Air National Guard and their involvement in space and missile defense programs. "It takes a special kind of leader to become a general officer and Tom Kalkus not only meets those standards, he truly personifies the very best qualities found in America's National Guard," said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

Photo: Major Mike Haller, AKNG Public Affairs



**Seeing Stars.** The leader of the Alaska Air National Guard's oldest and largest air wing was promoted to Brigadier General and pinned by his daughters Captain Amy Brown and April Sawhill. Brigadier General Tony Hart serves as the commander of the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. "He is making a significant difference with his contributions at Kulis Air National Guard Base, Elmendorf Air Force Base and Clear Air Force Station, on behalf of the Alaska National Guard," said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

Photo: Technical Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Communications Flight



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# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Legion of Merit



CSM Harold Tolan .....1st Bn  
 MSG Patrick Meegan .....RTI  
 CW4 James Hill .....207th Avn  
 1SG James Dittlinger .....207th Avn  
 CW5 Charles Hamilton .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 COL Dennis Kline .....207th Grp

## Meritorious Service Medal



CPT Donna Hoopes .....Med Det  
 MSG Patrick Meegan .....RTI  
 CSM John Barlow Jr. ....Spt Bn  
 SSG Ernes Holt .....Spt Bn  
 SFC Anibal Jorge .....RTI  
 SFC Michael Nuernburg .....RTI  
 SFC Michael Phillips .....RTI  
 MAJ Jeffery Roach .....207th Avn  
 SFC Viner Wade .....1st Bn  
 SFC Lawrence White .....R&R  
 SMSgt Steven Fogue .....168th OG  
 SMSgt Cindy Gollwitzer .....168th CF  
 Capt Paulette Goodwin .....168th ARW  
 SMSgt Keith McDonough .....168th CF  
 Capt Kelly Mellard .....168th CF  
 SMSgt Paul Nunemann .....168th ARS  
 Lt Col Martine Pommenville .....168th ARW  
 MSgt Stephen Shugars .....168th LRS  
 MSgt James Durr .....176th WG  
 SMSgt Kerry James .....176th WG  
 CMSgt John Savina .....176th WG  
 TSgt Keith Wilson .....176th WG  
 MSgt Ronnie Valdez .....176th WG  
 MSgt Frank Shaffer .....176th WG  
 MSgt Paul Bobby .....176th WG  
 TSgt Linwood Parker .....176th WG  
 Maj Christopher Kobi .....176th WG  
 CMSgt Brian Shaffer .....176th WG  
 MSgt Ronnie Stocks Sr .....176th WG  
 MAJ Simon Brown .....3rd Bn  
 SGT Alfredo Bernal .....207th Grp  
 MSG Jane Dennis .....207th Avn  
 CSM Daniel Goodwin .....3rd Bn  
 MAJ J.R. Lawenpowski .....3rd Bn  
 SFC Andrew Swanston .....3rd Bn  
 CPT Eric Van Heel .....207th Avn  
 SSG Irene Washington .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SGM Barbara Zanders .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MSG Debbie Bullock .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CW4 Terry Cartee .....207th Avn  
 MSG David Castle .....207th Grp  
 CSM Richard Eigelis .....2nd Bn  
 CSM Russell Port .....207th Grp

SFC Thaddeus Tikiun .....2nd Bn  
 SFC Jimmy Whitmore .....Spt Bn

## Army Commendation Medal



CPT Cheryl Anderson .....207th Avn  
 CPT Eric Barlow .....207th Avn  
 SMSgt Jeffrey Beelman .....176th WG  
 MSG Teddy Chipley .....1st Bn  
 SFC Billie Dutton .....207th Grp  
 CPT Robert Gawrys .....207th Grp  
 SGT Gab Gonzalas .....207th Avn  
 CPT Charles Knowles .....Spt Bn  
 CW4 Danny Larson .....207th Avn  
 SFC Michael Lundvall .....207th Avn  
 SPC Christopher McHugh .....207th Grp  
 TSGT Bryan Morberg .....176th WG  
 TSGT Shannon Olsen .....176th WG  
 SPC Sean Robles .....207th Grp  
 CW2 Jabob Russell .....207th Avn  
 2LT Timothy Smith .....207th Grp  
 SSG Stephen Young .....207th Avn  
 CPT Dollie Waters .....207th Grp  
 CPT Amy Riggs .....49th Space  
 CPT Rosemarie Rotunno .....Med Det  
 CPT Gary Rowe .....49th Space  
 CPT Miles Tenbroeck .....49th Space  
 SGT Rick Fields .....JFHQ-TN (Army)

## Air Force Commendation Medal



TSgt Lynett Dubia .....168th LRS  
 MSgt Duncan Edwards .....168th MXG  
 SMSgt Mark Renson .....168th MXS  
 SMSgt Thomas Sawyer .....168th MXS  
 TSgt Dawn Vargo .....168th MOF  
 SMSgt Phillip Hunt .....168th MXS  
 Maj Daryl Peterson .....176th WG  
 TSgt Lisa Poplar .....176th WG  
 MSgt Christopher Widner .....176th WG  
 MSgt Mario Romero .....176th WG  
 SSgt Nicholas Dillon .....176th WG  
 TSgt Donna Keib .....176th WG  
 SSgt Miguel Cruz .....176th WG  
 MSgt Robert Gullory .....176th WG  
 TSgt Anthony Stoddard .....176th WG  
 Maj Kevin Schnell .....176th WG  
 Maj Mark Welborn .....176th WG  
 SSgt Matthew White .....176th WG  
 MSgt Christopher Widner .....176th WG  
 CMSgt Robert McNeil .....176th WG  
 MSgt Kevin Martin .....176th WG  
 Capt Matthew Harper .....176th WG  
 CMSgt Van Grainge .....176th WG

MSgt Brian Bowman .....176th WG  
 MSgt Paul Barendregt .....176th WG  
 Maj Joseph Kley .....176th WG  
 TSgt Scott Owen .....176th WG  
 SSgt Mario Martinez .....176th WG

## Army Achievement Medal



PVT Thomas Akpik .....1st Bn  
 SPC Anthony Andrews .....1st Bn  
 PFC Steve Augline .....1st Bn  
 SPC Gabriel Ayoliak .....1st Bn  
 PVT Harold Blue .....1st Bn  
 SGT Noel Brown .....207th Grp  
 SSG William Brown .....1st Bn  
 SSG Joseph Brunsvold .....1st Bn  
 SPC Aren Callahan .....1st Bn  
 SPC Evan Charles .....1st Bn  
 SGT Joey Coffee .....1st Bn  
 SGT Kurt Dinsmore .....1st Bn  
 CPT Richard Doering .....1st Bn  
 PVT Levi Dull .....1st Bn  
 SGT Troy Godwin .....103rd CST  
 SPC Jonathan Goree .....1st Bn  
 SSG Rhame Grubbs .....1st Bn  
 2LT Terrance Harris .....207th Grp  
 SPC Thomas Hopson .....1st Bn  
 SPC James Kinchen .....1st Bn  
 SSG Rufus King .....1st Bn  
 SPC Virgil Klein .....1st Bn  
 SSG Dick Kugzruk .....1st Bn  
 PFC David Luntz .....1st Bn  
 PVT James Messer .....1st Bn  
 SGT Dennis Moore .....1st Bn  
 SSG Daniel Nanalook .....1st Bn  
 SGT Owen Nowpakahok .....1st Bn  
 SGT Joshua Parker .....207th Grp  
 SGT Neil Paskewitz .....1st Bn  
 SSG Jason Phillips .....103rd CST  
 SSG Michael Pulanco .....176th WG  
 SSG Gary Pullon .....1st Bn  
 SPC William Scott .....1st Bn  
 SGT Samuel Sibley .....1st Bn  
 SPC Luke Sinclair .....1st Bn  
 SPC Paul Teeluk .....1st Bn  
 SSG Richard Togiak Sr. ....1st Bn  
 SPC Moses Toyakuk Jr. ....1st Bn  
 SRA Mandy Ulery .....207th Grp  
 PVT Jeffrey Unok .....1st Bn  
 SGT Brian Warren .....1st Bn  
 PVT Leonard Westlock .....1st Bn  
 SPC Samuel Youngblood .....1st Bn  
 SSG David Canter .....Spt Bn  
 SSG Henry Casto .....Spt Bn  
 SPC Charles Chinnis Jr. ....Spt Bn

SGT Missy Diaz . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SFC James Fox . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SSG Charles Hooper III . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SFC Novrell Horn . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SPC Jeanette Padgett . . . . .49th Space  
 MAJ Dawn Pate . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SGT Nicholas Power . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SPC Martha Quirk . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SPC Matthew Scarborough . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SGT Todd Schwarz . . . . .Spt Bn  
 SPC Vincent Salzbrun . . . . .207th Avn  
 SSG Archibartdo Tirado . . . . .207th Avn  
 SFC Troy Arnett . . . . .207th Gp  
 SPC Jeffery Bogle . . . . .207th Gp  
 SSG Rhame Grubbs . . . . .49th Space  
 SGT Duand Middleton . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 CPT Jimmy Peter . . . . .207th Gp  
 SPC Jason Rafael . . . . .207th Gp

SPC Joseph Robinson . . . . .207th Gp  
 SSG Lawrence Ryan . . . . .207th Gp  
 SPC Charles Stiver . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 PFC Stephanie Weimer . . . . .207th Gp  
 CW4 James Keyes . . . . .207th Avn  
 MSG Manuel Lopez . . . . .207th Gp  
 CW5 Terry Rollie . . . . .JFHQ-AK(Army)  
 SFC Curtis Stull . . . . .Med Det

**Air Force Achievement Medal**



SSgt Pablo Montes . . . . .168th CF  
 MSgt Boyd Moring . . . . .176th WG  
 Lt Col David Lowell . . . . .176th WG  
 SRA Howard Venable . . . . .176th WG  
 MSgt Vincente Mandeville . . . . .176th WG  
 TSgt Paul Jenkins . . . . .176th WG

SSgt Andrea Rogers . . . . .176th WG  
 SSgt Conrado Colins . . . . .176th WG

**AK Legion of Merit**



COL Dennis Kline . . . . .207th Gp  
 CW5 Charles Hamilton III . . . . .JFHQ  
 1SG James Dittliner . . . . .207th Avn  
 COL Jose Torres . . . . .ALCOM

**AK Distinguished Service Medal**



SFC Lawrence White . . . . .R&R  
 CPT Eric Van Heel . . . . .207th Avn  
 SSG Irene Washington . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SGT Alfredo Bernal . . . . .207th Gp

**PROMOTIONS**

**Brigadier General**

Thomas Katkus . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Space)  
 Tony Hart . . . . .176th WG

**Colonel**

Donald Wenke . . . . .168th OG

**Major**

William Hunstein . . . . .168th OSF  
 Darrin Dorn . . . . .207th Avn  
 Michael Golub . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Keith Poorbaugh . . . . .Med Det  
 Rebecca Tully . . . . .Med Det

**Captain**

Benjamin Jones . . . . .168th ARS  
 Janice Golub . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Joel Kondas . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 April Sapp . . . . .Med Det

**1st Lieutenant**

Kevin Geese . . . . .168th MXS  
 Christopher Greene . . . . .168th ARW  
 Jamie Campbell . . . . .207th Avn  
 James Johnson . . . . .Spt Bn  
 David Jurva . . . . .49th Space  
 David Kang . . . . .207th Avn  
 Christopher Raabe . . . . .3rd Bn  
 Brian Bussell . . . . .1st Bn

**2nd Lieutenant**

William Yeo . . . . .103rd CST

**Warrant Officer**

Steve Lewis . . . . .207th Avn  
 Nathan Maplesden . . . . .207th Avn  
 Johnathon Goodwin . . . . .207th Avn

**Sergeant Major**

Jane Dennis . . . . .207 Avn

**Chief Master Sergeant**

Karen Johnson . . . . .176th MSF  
 Charles Sutton . . . . .176th CES  
 Rudolph Kula . . . . .212th RQS

**Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (E-8)**

Andrew Bodnar . . . . .103rd CST  
 Mark Dudek . . . . .1st Bn  
 Robert Francisco . . . . .RTI  
 Edward Lopez Jr. . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Billie Dutton . . . . .49th Space

**Senior Master Sergeant**

Stacy Catania . . . . .176th MDG  
 Annette Banks . . . . .176th APF  
 Frank Shaffer . . . . .176th WG  
 Darlene Anderson . . . . .176th LRS  
 David Shuman . . . . .212th RQS  
 Jerome Hanson . . . . .168th AMXS  
 Keith McDonough . . . . .168th CF

**Sergeant First Class**

Kevin Earl . . . . .1st Bn  
 Williams Giese . . . . .R&R  
 Rhame Grubbs . . . . .49th Space  
 Michael Kinville . . . . .207th Avn  
 Betty Bell . . . . .207th Avn  
 Michael Eastham . . . . .3rd Bn  
 Phillips Davis . . . . .207th Avn  
 Richard Debilzan . . . . .49th Space

**Master Sergeant (E-7)**

Theresa Johnson . . . . .176th MDG  
 Kevin Pitchford . . . . .176th MXS  
 Scott Peterson . . . . .176th CES  
 Erik Haugen . . . . .176th WG  
 Sonny Dean . . . . .176th ACS  
 Lisa Kantor . . . . .176th ACS  
 Ricardo Castro . . . . .176th CES  
 James Assenmacher . . . . .176th CF

Lorraine Guthrie . . . . .176th MXS  
 Christopher Tellsworth . . . . .212th RQS  
 Rodney Hansen . . . . .206th CBCS  
 Jason Doty . . . . .176th CES  
 Kevin Johnson . . . . .176th LRS  
 Ashley Hill . . . . .176th MSF  
 Curtis Gipson . . . . .168th ARW  
 Daniel Hauer . . . . .168th MXS  
 Ashley Hill . . . . .176th MSF  
 Michael Malatek . . . . .168th MXS

**Staff Sergeant (E-6)**

Gabriel Gonzales . . . . .207th Avn  
 William Gallagher . . . . .49th Space  
 Dermott Howard . . . . .207th Avn  
 Robert Nunnally . . . . .207th Grp  
 John Obrein . . . . .207th Grp  
 Desiree Chambers . . . . .207th Grp  
 Raymond Vasofski . . . . .207th Avn

**Technical Sergeant**

Gloria Rucker . . . . .212th RQS  
 Eugene Lazar . . . . .176th SFS  
 William McCormick . . . . .176th MXS  
 Phillip Almeda . . . . .176th WG  
 Jennifer Buehner . . . . .212th RQS  
 Mack Schwalm . . . . .176th CES  
 Thomas Gregory . . . . .176th MDG  
 Peggy Thielking . . . . .210th RQS  
 Jason Phillips . . . . .103rd CST  
 Luz Brown . . . . .176th LRS  
 Todd Talladay . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 Steven Bills . . . . .176th ACS  
 Armando Soria . . . . .176th WG  
 Frank Sinerius . . . . .176th CES  
 Jeremy Lilly . . . . .212th RQS  
 Armond Herndon . . . . .176th MXS  
 Maxwell Whitacre . . . . .DET 1

*Continued on page 28*

## PROMOTIONS

Continued from page 27

### Technical Sergeant (continued)

Michael Church . . . . . 168th MXG  
 James Johnson. . . . . 168th SF  
 Jeremiah Johnson . . . . . 168th MXS  
 Kenneth Lane . . . . . 168th MXS  
 William McIntosh . . . . . 168th AMXS  
 Sheila Simmons . . . . . 168th MDG  
 James Stansell . . . . . 168th MSG  
 Paul Wright . . . . . 168th MSF

### Sergeant (E-5)

Michael Ingham . . . . . Spt Bn  
 Matthew Scarborough. . . . . Spt Bn  
 Diane Singh. . . . . 207th Avn  
 Rodney Spaulding. . . . . Spt Bn  
 Orlando Bautista . . . . . 207th Avn  
 Edward Jones. . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Tyson Drew . . . . . 207th Grp  
 Ricky Freeman . . . . . 207th Avn  
 Bonnie Henning . . . . . Med Det  
 Eric Lumba . . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Nicholas Power. . . . . Spt Bn  
 Joshua Ross. . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Dylan Saunder . . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Ribert Stauffer . . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Bruce Temmis . . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Khris White . . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Amy Bown . . . . . 207th Gp  
 Phillip Chang . . . . . 117th MPAD  
 Travis Cook. . . . . 207th Gp  
 James Corbin . . . . . 207th Avn  
 Ian Mullett. . . . . 3rd Bn  
 Matthew Okerlund . . . . . 1st Bn  
 Clinton Shahan . . . . . 207th Grp  
 Kenton Ward. . . . . 3rd Bn

### Staff Sergeant

Kristopher Warren. . . . . 176th CES  
 John Callahan . . . . . 176th WG  
 Gary Weir . . . . . 144th AS  
 Melissa Doty. . . . . 176th APF  
 Laveita Talison . . . . . 176th APF  
 Scott Braley . . . . . 176th CF  
 Joshua Ray . . . . . 176th CES  
 Shandie Choate. . . . . 176th WG  
 Mandy Ulery . . . . . 176th SFS  
 William Taylor . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 Paul Zagorski . . . . . 144th AS  
 Chad Mcelderry . . . . . 176th ACS  
 Helen Arvites . . . . . 176th SFS  
 Eric McQueary . . . . . 176th APF  
 Joseph Beneke. . . . . 176th MXS  
 Kelli McKinley . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Loren Dobberpuhl. . . . . 168th ARS  
 Diana Holmes . . . . . 168th MSG  
 Dakonya Lemke. . . . . 168th MSG  
 Nathan Outten . . . . . 168th AMXS



# Start of the Trail

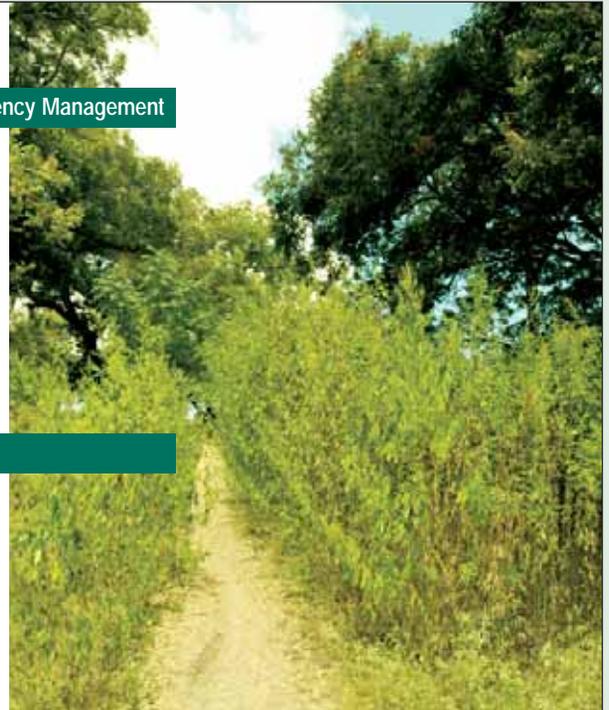
Welcome our newest members & employees

### Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Kelly Allman-Chatterly  
 Patrick Bonser  
 Greg Gould  
 David Kang  
 John Madden  
 Jill Missal  
 Tiffany Passmore  
 Ana Rico  
 Patricia Winn

### Family Support

Angela Jost



## Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for all Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. Dates for subordinate units are the same as their parent headquarters, unless otherwise indicated. All dates are subject to change. Most Alaska Army Guard units perform annual training (AT) through the winter.

Alaska National Guard	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	6-7	24-25	15-16	5-6
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	6-7	17-18	15-16	5-6
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>				
207th Infantry Group	8-9	None	15-16	5-6
1/207th Aviation Regiment	5-7	None	15-16	4-6
297th Support Battalion	15-20 AT	None	14-16	4-6
Regional Training Institute	5-7	17-18	22-23	4-6
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>				
168th Air Refueling Wing	6-7	24-25	13-16	5-6
176th Wing	6-7	24-25	15-16	5-6

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