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Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

FALL 2009



Air Guard
Lifts Bear Grylls
Man vs. Wild Survives Alaska



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Air Guard Lifts Man vs. Wild. Bear Grylls, host of the Discovery Channel's hit show *Man vs. Wild*, rides in an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk from the 210th Rescue Squadron on his way to Spencer Glacier. The Alaska Air National Guard partnered with *Man vs. Wild* in June to film the opening sequence of the Alaska episode. In that episode, Grylls touts the search and rescue credentials of the Alaska Air National Guard.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Morning March. As the sun starts to rise, 2nd Platoon, Military Police Company Soldiers from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, begin an early morning ruck march from the missile defense complex heading out to a weapons qualification range. Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

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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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For the People

Governor Sean Parnell
Commander in Chief



Truly Securing the State and Defending the Nation

I want to convey how proud I am to serve as your commander in chief. Securing Alaska and defending our nation poses many challenges in a rapidly changing world. Transformation, mobilization and joint cooperation continue to be critical components of our day-to-day activities as we strive to be a fighting force that can expeditiously deal with the rapidly changing threats to our state and nation.

Our Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers keep the peace in Kosovo with more than 140 soldiers flying and maintaining Black Hawk helicopters and patrolling the streets as part of the United Nations' mission to ensure that the nation reaches a peaceful democracy. This mission started the deployment cycle of the Army Guard aviators in Alaska more than five years ago, and now our troops are back in theater setting the standard for all other military forces.

The Alaska Air National Guard Airmen just deployed a cargo rotation to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Our Airmen fight the terrorists by supporting the ground troops directly engaged in combat. These C-130 pilots and crew chiefs

have dropped critical ammunition supplies into fire fights that turned the tide to help our Soldiers win.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs also plays a very important role in strengthening our economy by protecting our infrastructure at home. During significant disasters, like the Yukon River flood this spring, emergency response personnel helped communities prepare for disasters, respond to and evacuate people from the threat, and then rebuild and recover from the damage.

Catastrophic disasters can do long-term damage to the economy, and this directly affects the strength of our families. We can help our families with a strong and decisive disaster recovery plan, and I commend the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for having a great plan in place.

Together we can make Alaska a better place to live and work, and I am thankful for all of the professionals at DMVA who dedicate their lives to serving the residents of our state and our friends around the globe. You truly secure this state and defend our nation, and we sincerely appreciate all of your efforts. ■

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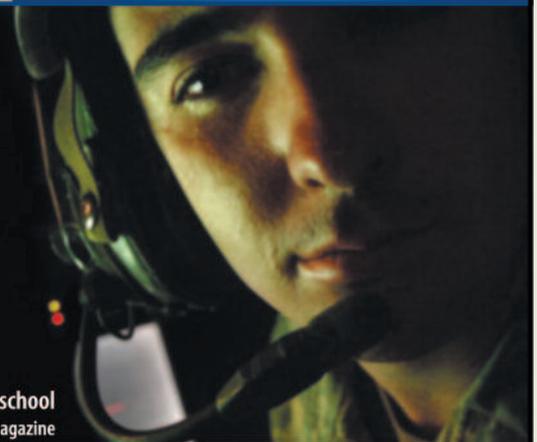
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My Turn

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



Moving Forward to Accomplish Our Missions

I would like to start this *Warriors* message with a sincere and exceptionally heartfelt expression of thanks to the great men and women of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Our civilian and military workforce, along with our family and retiree volunteers, all contribute to make this among the best departments in the State of Alaska government. I am truly proud to be a member of this incredible organization.

This summer ushered in some of the most significant challenges and changes we have ever faced in such a short time span. The last three months highlighted the amazing volume and disparity of missions that we accomplish in spite of every possible adversity.

Our Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management worked feverishly to address the largest flood in our state's history and get the victims housed and stabilized.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy graduated one of its largest classes and has since started yet another.

Army National Guard Soldiers returned safely from a year-long Embedded Transition Team mission, while Air National Guard members from the 176th Wing deployed to Afghanistan.

We continue to prosecute this nation's overseas contingency operations with our F Company fixed-wing unit in Iraq and our rotary wing aviation battalion in Kosovo.

All are contributing a Herculean effort and increasing the Alaska National Guard's already great reputation even further. We solidified our relationship with Mongolia through extensive training exercises in that region, while continuing exhaustive preparation for the upcoming Vigilant Guard exercises. All the while, we had a host of major inspections as we finished both the state and federal fiscal years in a superior manner.

On Aug. 11 2009, I began serving as the acting commissioner and adjutant

general. Although it is a daunting assignment, it has been easier than I anticipated because of the great employees and the work ethic of this outstanding organization. Our workforce stretches out not only across the state but also around the world. Despite all this, I attribute our tremendous success to the fiscal year 2008-2012 Strategic Plan and the clear path set out by our former commissioner and adjutant general, Lieutenant Governor Craig E. Campbell. His hard work and planning set the foundation for the DMVA to confidently move forward and conduct our mission to Secure the State

and Defend the Nation in the face of all adversity.

Today, we are about 75 percent through this important road map. With Governor Sean Parnell's leadership, vision and involvement, we will finish our established agenda and continue to develop plans that assure our continued success. The residents of our state are proud of the work that all of you do for them for them every day.

I am especially fortunate to be your leader during this historic time. You are what make this state and nation great. Thank you! ■



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Dispatches from the Front...

Joint Forces Conduct Operation Arctic Response

By Airman First Class Christopher Gross, 3rd Wing Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Active and Air National Guard Airmen provided assistance to Army Soldiers in August during Operation Arctic Response at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Members of the 517th Airlift Squadron from Elmendorf Air Force Base and the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron supported the operation, an emergency deployment readiness exercise that tested the capabilities of the military to rapidly respond to crisis situations within the state.

"This is a pretty unique training opportunity for us," said Major Benjamin Nealy, a 249th Airlift Squadron pilot. "With this exercise, we can integrate the active duty and the Guard forces to support the Army."

As part of the exercise scenario, U.S. Army Alaska officials were alerted about a person in the state intending to harm the local installations. The Rapid Reaction Force from Fort Richardson quickly responded. They contacted Elmendorf

officials requesting air support for their troops and supplies to a location somewhere in Alaska.

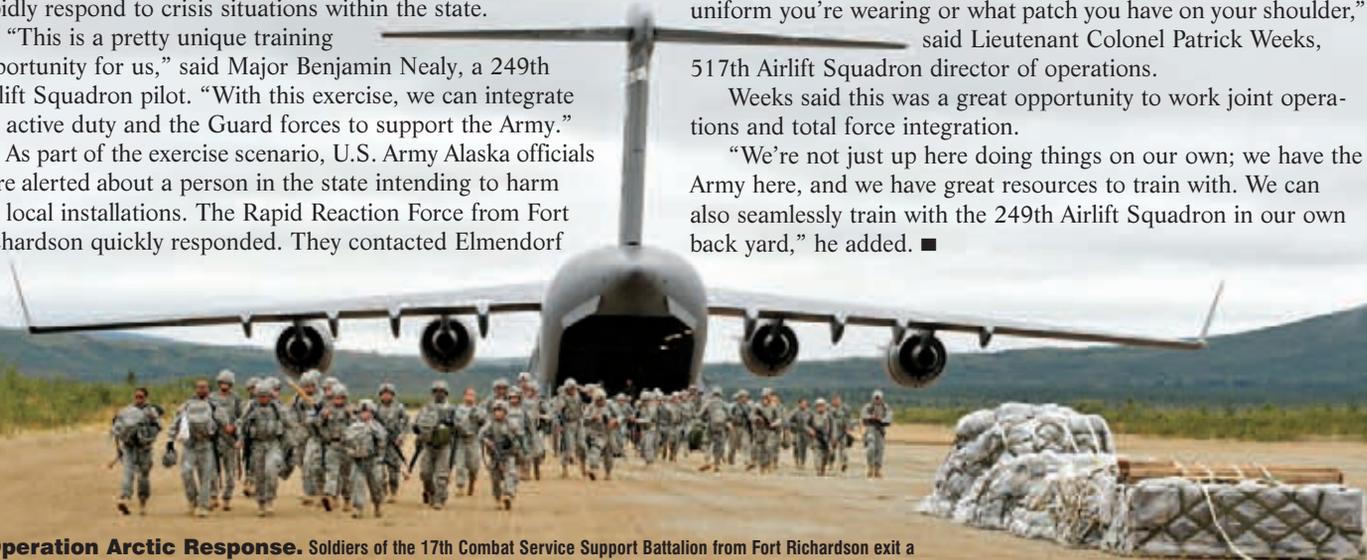
Airmen from the 517th Airlift Squadron and 249th Airlift Squadron deployed about 120 Soldiers along with five pallets, two Humvees, one trailer and one passenger carrier to a designated area.

The 517th and 249th aircrews each flew one of their C-17 Globemaster IIIs to the site. They performed a semi-prepared runway operations landing and deployed the Soldiers and their supplies.

"We're basically one team, one fight, regardless of what uniform you're wearing or what patch you have on your shoulder," said Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Weeks, 517th Airlift Squadron director of operations.

Weeks said this was a great opportunity to work joint operations and total force integration.

"We're not just up here doing things on our own; we have the Army here, and we have great resources to train with. We can also seamlessly train with the 249th Airlift Squadron in our own back yard," he added. ■



Operation Arctic Response. Soldiers of the 17th Combat Service Support Battalion from Fort Richardson exit a C-17 Globemaster III at the Donnelly Landing Zone. The 517th Airlift Squadron from Elmendorf and the 249th Airlift Squadron from the Alaska Air National Guard assisted in deploying 120 Soldiers for Operation Arctic Response, an Army emergency deployment readiness exercise. Photo: Senior Airman Laura Turner, U.S. Air Force



New Computer Lounge Connects Guardsmen. Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard's 490th Military Police Company were able to use the new Guard lounge during annual training this August. In an effort to help Soldiers and Airmen stay connected when they are away from their hometowns during training, the lounge has been equipped with Common Access Card-enabled computers, multiple electrical and LAN lines so that laptops may be used and a 42-inch flat-screen television. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Where in the World

Army Guardsmen Return from Afghanistan

By Public Affairs Staff

FORT RILEY, Kansas ... Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's Embedded Transition Team returned to U.S. soil in August. Family members welcomed them home in an official ceremony at Fort Riley.

The 13 Guardsmen, part of the Embedded Transition Team across southern Afghanistan, were trained to specialize in the mentoring and training of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police.

"Our task was to assist the ANA in reaching a higher level of independence and skilled mission operability," said Lieutenant Colonel Peter Savage, ETT commander. "We also assisted in improving and organizing the infrastructure of the ANA and ANP."

When ANA battalions, or kandaks, were considered proficient, raids on suspected Al Qaeda locations were carried out by U.S. and ANA forces side by side. On several occasions, Alaska Army National Guard members assisted in successful raids, including capturing arms and munitions and at least one Al Qaeda officer.

"It was an eye-opener," said First Lieutenant Ronald Savok, ETT member and ANA mentor. "I did my duty while I was over there, but there is a lot of work to be done still."

"We saw definite improvements in the ANA kandaks, but we still have a long way to go before we can consider the job done," Savage said. "With the kind of dedication that our team gave to the ANA, I believe that is certainly an attainable goal."

Thirteen members of the 16-man team arrived safely home to the United States; three chose to extend their tours overseas. ■



Welcome Home. Members of the Alaska Army National Guard's Embedded Transition Team are led onto the drill hall floor in Fort Riley, Kan., by Major Mark Melson for a welcome home ceremony in August after a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The 16-man team was deployed to assist in the training of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police.

Photo: Courtesy of Fort Riley Public Affairs



Keeping Tankers Air Safe Overseas.

Senior Airman Naomi Butler, 168th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, gathers tools to use during the boom replacement on a KC-135R aircraft at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in June. Butler, of North Pole, is an aircraft hydraulics system journeyman assigned to the 376th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. She is a member of the 168th Air Refueling Wing out of Eielson Air Force Base. Photo: Technical Sergeant Elizabeth Weinberg, U.S. Air Force

Air Guardsmen Deploy to Afghanistan

By First Lieutenant John Callahan
176th Wing Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... Approximately 200 Alaska Air National Guard members deployed in early September to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Victory! Team "Air Guardians" celebrate their finish in the "Ride for Life" bicycling fundraiser from Anchorage to Seward in July. Pictured from left, retired Colonel Dave Lowell, retired Master Sergeant Kim Stoltz and team captain Master Sergeant Everett Johnson, all of the Alaska Air National Guard. The team contended with 123.88 miles of rain, headwinds and hills to raise money for cancer research. Photo: Courtesy of Master Sergeant Everett Johnson, Alaska Air National Guard

The deploying Guardsmen are Citizen-Airmen with the 176th Wing based at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. The deploying group are flight crew members and support personnel from the wing's 144th Airlift Squadron, maintenance specialists with the 176th Maintenance Group and a variety of support personnel from other wing units.

From September 2009 through January 2010, they will deploy in stages, rotating through the Middle East area of operations in "shifts" of 30 to 60 days. They will provide airlift, via C-130 Hercules aircraft, ferrying people,

Hot Range. Sergeant First Class Seth Gordon and Sergeant Zach Carbaugh, 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, board a UH-60 with firefighting backpacks to stop a blaze downrange on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The unit has been deployed since December 2008.

Photo: Sergeant Ann Hayden, 1/207th Aviation.



Chillin' Villains. Members of F Company, 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, stand in front of a C-23 Sherpa at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Guard members, also known as Alaska's Chillin' Villains, have been deployed since April 2009 transporting high-priority equipment, supplies and personnel. Photo: Courtesy of 1/207th Aviation

Alaskans in Mongolia.

Alaska Army National Guard Major Wayne Don, left, Mongolian Armed Forces Major Javkhanbayar Dondogdorj, center, and Alaska Army National Guard Master Sergeant Eric Schlemme meet outside a ger at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia, in August. Don and Schlemme deployed a month later to Afghanistan as embedded U.S. liaisons with Dondogdorj's unit, the Mongolian Expeditionary Force. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



equipment and supplies throughout the region.

They join more than a dozen individual Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard currently deployed overseas supporting a variety of units and operations mainly in the Middle East.

The deploying Airmen are primarily "traditional" Guard members – that is, they train and serve with the Air Guard on a part-time basis. For the remainder of the time, they are members of the civilian workforce and part of the fabric of our communities. ■

Guardsmen Meet Mongolian Counterparts

By Captain Amy B. Slinker
134th Public Affairs Detachment

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ... Two Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers took advantage of a rare

opportunity to meet, ahead of time, the Mongolian troops they are now embedded with in their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Major Wayne Don and Master Sergeant Eric Schlemme deployed in mid-September as U.S. liaisons with the Mongolian Expeditionary Force. The unit is providing base security at Camp Eggers for approximately six months.

Don and Schlemme were able to travel to Five Hills Training Area outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as part of Khaan Quest 2009, a multinational peacekeeping operations training exercise in August. The Mongolian Expeditionary Force was conducting simultaneous training at the Mongolian Armed Forces training center to prepare for their deployment.

Don and Schlemme are the sixth rotation of Alaska Army National Guardsmen to volunteer to deploy with the Mongolians. The previous five rotations have all been to Iraq.

The liaison program is part of the Alaska National Guard's ongoing relationship with Mongolia through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

Normally embeds from the Alaska National Guard don't get a chance to meet with their receiving unit until deployed in country, so Don and Schlemme were pleased to meet their Mongolian counterparts in advance. They met with key leadership, observed training and built relationships with members of the unit.

"We're both excited about working with the Mongolians and look forward to a good deployment," Don said. "It's a really unique opportunity to deploy as advisers to a foreign army."

The Alaska Guardsmen will be the Mongolians' direct link into the U.S. command at Camp Eggers. They will work as tactical advisers, consult on base security operations, and serve indirectly as mentors – offering insight into the U.S. command structure and operational tempo. ■



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Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell RETIRES

By Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... A retirement ceremony for Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, was held in July at the Alaska National Guard Armory.

The ceremony honored his 35 years of outstanding service to the state and country. He officially retired on Aug. 31 from the Alaska National Guard.

As adjutant general and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs for the state of Alaska, Campbell was responsible for emergency services, homeland security, veterans affairs, a counterdrug support team, a civil support team, and the Alaska Military Youth Academy, as well as being charged with providing Army and Air National Guard military forces, a State Defense Force and a Navy Militia that were fully prepared to protect Alaska from any threat, disaster or emergency. He was also responsible for ensuring that Alaska's National Guard forces were ready to deploy worldwide and accomplish military missions in support of the national defense strategy.

"I am so proud to have had the honor of serving with the men and women of the Alaska National Guard," Campbell said. "I have dedicated much of my life to the military and can say without a doubt that the troops of the Alaska National Guard are among the finest, and I want to thank them, not only for their support, but for what they continue to do."



A Career of Merit. Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force General Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler, left, presents Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, with the Alaska Legion of Merit during Campbell's retirement ceremony. Campbell had been the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard since 2003.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Prior to joining the Alaska National Guard, Campbell held assignments in numerous operational and staff positions in the active duty Air Force.

In 1981, he joined the California Air National Guard; and in 1990, he was selected as the commander of the 168th Resource Management Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard at Eielson Air Force Base.

Campbell's career with the Alaska Air National Guard has extensive accomplishments, including serving as vice wing



Congratulations! Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, left, is congratulated by former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens after Campbell's retirement ceremony. Campbell retired after serving as Alaska's adjutant general and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs since 2003.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

commander of the 168th Air Refueling Wing, a position he held until 2003.

In January 2005, Governor Frank Murkowski selected Campbell to serve as the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. He was reappointed in December 2006 by Governor Sarah Palin.

In 2008, Palin promoted Campbell to lieutenant general (Alaska), the highest such rank permitted in state law.

Campbell culminated his military career when he was confirmed as Alaska's lieutenant governor in August, after Sean Parnell became Alaska's tenth governor. ■



Honors All Around. Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force General Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler, left, honors Anne Marie Campbell during the retirement ceremony for her husband, Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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Joint Forces

Ready to Serve

COMMUNICATION EXERCISE Tests National Guard Capabilities

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska National Guard, the State of Alaska, the Washington National Guard and emergency management personnel tested their communication ability during the Midnight Sun communication exercise in July.

With a limited road system, large mountain ranges, deep valleys and high latitudes, the size of Alaska makes it difficult to communicate effectively – especially when a disaster strikes. However, the Midnight Sun communication exercise tested a variety of communication assets, including the National Guard Joint Incident Site Communications Capability and other state assets.

The Joint Incident Site Communications Capability is a mobile system that gives

Mobile Communications. Exercise participants test out the communication link set up at Eielson Air Force Base using the Washington National Guard Joint Incident Site Communications Capability mobile system. Guard members from the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron, Washington Air National Guard, and the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, staffed the JISCC. Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Guard personnel the capability to set up voice, data, video and radio communications between local, state and federal first responders within one hour of a disaster.

“The JISCC provides all the capabilities you need. It includes a 20x20 tent, computers, wireless internet, radios, generators and satellite communications,” said Lieutenant Colonel David McPhetres, of the Alaska National Guard Joint Operation Center. “It allows you to set up virtually in the middle of nowhere and provide communication capabilities during a disaster.”

According to the National Guard Bureau, the JISCC is in response to communication problems experienced during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and again after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Throughout the last five years, more than 70 JISCC systems have been issued by the National Guard Bureau, with Alaska receiving one earlier this year.

The Alaska National Guard JISCC was deployed to Valdez as part of the communication exercise testing the Guard’s ability to respond to a major earthquake with subsequent aftershocks. The Washington National Guard JISCC operated out of



Testing Communication Assets.

Members of the Air Combat Command work to get a communication system up and running as part of the Midnight Sun exercise, an exercise designed to test a variety of communication assets in July. Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



Eielson Air Force Base with additional Guardsmen and state emergency personnel at Camp Denali on Fort Richardson coordinating the efforts.

“With any exercise, we expect to identify shortfalls, but the goal of this exercise was to identify those issues and fix them before the real thing happens,” said retired Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, then adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “The lessons learned will help us improve our capabilities when disaster strikes, and the Alaska National Guard will be ready to respond.”

Alaska is known for its unique challenges and potential for many natural disasters. Earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, forest fires and volcanic eruptions are a few of the possible life-changing events that Alaskans face every year. However, with Guardsmen and other state responders exercising communications interoperability, Alaska stands ready and reliable to effectively mitigate any state emergency. ■

Veteran Pilot Retires Wings from Army Guard



By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... With more than 14,000 flying hours spent behind the controls, 43 years in the military and four deployments overseas, Alaska Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Five Jim Noe has decided to hang up his hat and officially retire his military pilot wings.

Noe's military career is a long and storied one that began in 1966 when he joined the

U.S. Army in his hometown of Baltimore, Md. He joined to go to flight school and follow his dream of flying.

"On Sundays, when I was a kid, we would go down to the airport and watch planes take off," Noe said. "Back then, I dreamt I could fly ... literally, not in a plane, just fly."

So, off Noe went to flight school, and soon after graduating, he embarked on his first deployment. He spent 1968-1969

deployed to Vietnam in what would be the first of many deployments that would take him flying around the world.

More than 20 years later, the Gulf War was raging, and Noe got the call to deploy again. He left in 1991 for Desert Storm as an AH-1 Cobra helicopter pilot. A decade passed, and in 2003 he returned to Iraq for six months, piloting the first group of C-23 Sherpas to fly into Southern Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"After I got back from Iraq, I got orders to come to Alaska," Noe recalled. "This was like a present. I had been trying to get up here."

When he got to Alaska, he flew the UC-35 Cessna Citation for the Alaska Regional Flight Center – Operational Support Airlift Agency. Three years later in 2006, he was asked to join the Alaska Army National Guard as the command chief warrant officer for the state of Alaska. With him, he ferried in a new found level of leadership and an abundance of experience.

"Chief Noe was a positive addition to our command team," said Brigadier General Thomas Katkus, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "He brought with him a wealth of institutional knowledge and a military professional bearing and attitude that were unmatched."

That knowledge and experience adds up. Noe is a certified pilot on the UC-35, C-23, Beechcraft King Air twin-turbo prop, Queen Air twin-engine piston aircraft, Beechcraft Baron twin-engine light aircraft, AH-1 Cobra and every model of the UH-1 Huey helicopter, to name just a few in his repertoire. That amounts to more than 14,000 hours of flying in rotary and fixed-wing aircraft, all of it for the military or for recreation, with the exception of a short stint flying for a commercial helicopter operation in Maryland.

"The military was too much fun. I never wanted to fly commercially," Noe said.

In the military, new opportunities were continually cropping up. In 2008, at the age of 61, Noe was asked to return to Iraq for a six-month tour. He was requested by name to join a unit built from a group of aviators from all across the country. It would be his last deployment and goodbye to the desert.

"I was so honored to go. Knowing it was my last deployment, I had fun," Noe



Desert Mission. Chief Warrant Officer Five Jim Noe, left, Alaska Army National Guard, looks at ammunition and other explosives in a bunker complex during his 1991 deployment to Iraq. This was his first of three deployments to Iraq.

Photo: Courtesy Chief Warrant Officer Five Jim Noe, Alaska Army National Guard

said. "We each flew 650 hours apiece, all night-vision goggles with no incidents."

Throughout all his deployments and through years of working his way up the ranks, Noe has become an advocate for the warrant officer corps, passing up officer opportunities to hone his craft and serve as a role model.

"The reason I turned down a commission is because I wanted to fly; my whole desire in life was to fly," Noe said. "To lead from the middle is just as important as leading from the front. It's been a great experience to help shape young warrant officers."

The feeling is mutual. Ask the warrant officers in the Alaska Army National Guard, and they will tell you how instrumental and inspirational Noe has been in developing the warrant officer corps.

"He's an honorable man and a gentleman; I really appreciate his complete outlook on warrant officers – both ground and aviation warrants," said Alaska Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Two Jeff Arnold. "He truly looks out for the benefit of the Guard and the Soldiers and instills a great respect among us."

"He brought a new level of professionalism and respect to the warrant officer corps across the board," Katkus added.

"He also created a pride within the warrant officer corps that we had not seen before."

That pride comes from a lifetime of experiences and close calls. From being shot down a couple of times to flying former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld around Fort Greely, Noe has seen pretty much everything.

Noe has also compiled quite the list of accolades during his career – the Distinguished Service Medal, Alaska Legion of Merit, 24 Air Medals, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and numerous other awards. But it isn't his military credentials that he finds most rewarding; he lists his proudest accomplishment as raising his three children, Danielle, 45; Frank, 42; and Jason, 35.

Noe's children live out of state, but these days Noe calls Eagle River home and plans on staying in Alaska to enjoy his retirement. He officially retired Aug. 1 but hasn't gone far from the Alaska National Guard. He's now the airport manager at Bryant Army Airfield on Fort Richardson, so he can keep tabs on the aviators who have become a second family to him.

"He demonstrates his continued professionalism as a military member; even out of uniform he continues to serve in a very valuable capacity to accomplish the Alaska National Guard mission," Katkus said.



Proud Family. Flanked by his two sons, Chief Warrant Officer Five Jim Noe, Alaska Army National Guard, celebrates with family, friends and colleagues during his retirement dinner in Girdwood in August. His son Jason, left, and Frank, right, flew in from South Carolina and Maryland to attend the retirement celebration.

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

What's more, he gets to be around his passion in life – aviation.

"There's no better place or prettier place to fly than Alaska," Noe said. "I've been all over the world and this is the only

place I really feel at home. This is where I belong, and I plan on staying up here for the rest of my life."

And the members of the Alaska National Guard couldn't be happier. ■

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Alaska Guardsmen Participate in

KHAAN QUEST 2009

Training Before Deployment. Members of the Mongolian Expeditionary Force execute a training scenario at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia. The unit deployed to Afghanistan in September and has two Alaska National Guardsmen embedded with them as U.S. liaisons. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Tracking Movement. Alaska Army National Guard Master Sergeant Andrew Kennedy, left, and Mongolian Armed Forces First Lieutenant Ulambayar Togtokh track a food relief convoy during the command post exercise at Khaan Quest 2009 at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia. The command post exercise provided battalion level staff training in peacekeeping operations. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

By Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, and Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Approximately 40 Alaska National Guardsmen participated in Khaan Quest 2009, a multi-national training exercise in August at the Five Hills Training Area, Tavan Tolgoi, outside the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Guardsmen from the Alaska Army National Guard's 38th Troop Command and the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Medical Group joined 250 members of the Mongolian Armed Forces, 150 members of the U.S. military and 150 international military representatives for peace support operations training.

"For a lot of the Soldiers, they had never had the opportunity to train with foreign nations. Even though we were mainly training with the Mongolians, there were several other nations participating, such as South Korea, Taiwan, India and Japan," said Lieutenant Colonel Simon Brown, 761st Military Police Battalion commander. "It gave our Soldiers the chance to work with other countries, learn about different cultures and trade ideas on how to do command staff."

The exercise was hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces and sponsored by the U.S. Pacific Command. Mongolian, multinational and U.S. forces conducted a command post exercise, field training exercise, humanitarian civic assistance project, medical readiness training exercise and a peace keeping operations seminar. A family support exchange conference was held simultaneously during the exercise.

"It was a great experience to train the Mongolian Armed Forces on the NATO-style command and control," Brown said. "It was also an important educational experience for the Alaska National Guard to learn about peace keeping operations. As we deploy more and more around the world in different conditions and capacities, the knowledge they gain from Khaan Quest will be a tremendous asset to them."

Since 2003, the Alaska National Guard and Mongolia have been forming a relationship and plan to build on this relationship far into the future through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

"The primary focus of the Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program is to develop a close relationship with our partner country that promotes stability, disaster response preparedness and better governance," said Lieutenant Colonel



Talking Tactics. Alaska Army National Guard Master Sergeant Eric Schlemme, left, and Mongolian Armed Forces Senior Sergeant Battulga Baatar discuss tactics and techniques used by the Mongolian Expeditionary Force executing a traffic control point training scenario at Five Hills Training Area in Mongolia. Schlemme deployed in September with the Mongolian Expeditionary Force as an embedded U.S. liaison. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Stephen Wilson, state partnership coordinator for the Alaska National Guard. "Our interaction with Mongolia's military forces, health care providers, education system and other aspects of Mongolian society benefits us both with new experiences and learning opportunities."

The purpose of Khaan Quest was to increase interoperability and planning expertise among participating nations and to further develop the Mongolian Armed Forces' training center at the Five Hills Training Area. ■

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Alaska Air Guard Stars in **MAN VS. WILD** TV Show Sensation



Into the Wild. Bear Grylls, host of the Discovery Channel's hit show *Man vs. Wild*, rides in an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk from the 210th Rescue Squadron on his way to Spencer Glacier. The Alaska Air National Guard partnered with *Man vs. Wild* in June to film the opening sequence of the Alaska episode.



Flight Crew. Left to right: Technical Sergeant David Torrance, Lieutenant Colonel Darrin Slaten, Bear Grylls, Captain Matt Calabro and Technical Sergeant Eric Langerman stand in front of an Alaska Air National Guard 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter before heading out to Spencer Glacier. The Alaska Air National Guard partnered with *Man vs. Wild* in June to film the opening sequence of the Alaska episode.

Story and photos by Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... On a sunny afternoon in June, the Alaska Air National Guard was on a mission: fly to Spencer Glacier in the heart of Chugach National Forest and leave someone to fend for himself and navigate out on his own.

It might sound odd, but that is exactly what the Alaska Air National Guard did, all in the name of promoting survival and search and rescue. The Alaska Air National Guard partnered with the Discovery Channel's number one show in the United States – *Man vs. Wild*, with Bear Grylls.

Man vs. Wild is a survival television series where the host, Bear Grylls, demonstrates how to survive in the wilderness, overcoming wild animals, lack of food and sterile drinking water, all while navigating back to civilization or attracting rescue help.

Partnering with the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons was a perfect fit. The Alaska Air National Guard's rescue units provide on-alert civilian search and rescue support 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

In fact, the Alaska Air National Guard rescues 10 times as many people each year than all the other rescue squadrons in the United States combined. In 2008 alone, the Alaska Air National Guard saved 54 lives and spent 383 hours on search and rescue missions.

For the show, the 210th Rescue Squadron flew Grylls in an HH-60 Pave Hawk following the ridgeline of scenic mountain tops before hovering about 10 stories over Spencer Glacier, while Grylls rappelled out of the helicopter down to the ice.

"The opening of the show was spectacular," wrote the show's assistant director, Duncan Gaudin. "High octane!"

What better a way to deliver a world-renowned survival expert into the depths of Alaska's wilderness than with an actual rescue helicopter and crew familiar with the state's rugged terrain and the perilous positions people find themselves in. The Alaska Air National Guard played a starring role in the opening sequence and even more, viewers around the world now know a little more about the Alaska Air National Guard's capabilities and rescue specialties.

The *Man vs. Wild* Alaska episode aired in early September and will be repeated throughout the season.

But if you want even more of the high-adrenaline action, the Alaska Air National Guard just may be for you. The Alaska Air National Guard can have you in Alaska's playground saving people and exploring the wilderness year round – no cameras or television stars needed. ■



Veterans



Alaska Territorial Guard Recognition in Barrow. General Gene Renuart, left, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, congratulates Wesley Aiken during a ceremony in Barrow in August and presents him with an official U.S. Army discharge certificate in recognition of his service in the Alaska Territorial Guard. Aiken's daughters, Martha Stackhouse, left, and Iqi Aiken, pictured behind him, attended the ceremony to support their father's accomplishments. Renuart was in Alaska to meet with military leadership and discuss the state's capabilities in emergency response. Photo: Captain Uriah Orland, Alaskan Command Public Affairs

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STAND DOWN 2009 *is Great Success*

By Verdie Bowen, State Veterans Office

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ... Stand Down 2009 was a massive success. It has evolved through time, and this year we held the one-day event in August for the 17th year. We supported 215 veterans of all services and conflicts.

The event's success could not have occurred without the dedication of our community. Volunteers worked with veterans, government entities, nonprofit agencies and businesses – all with the goal of assisting our homeless veterans. Each group accomplished this effort by providing a supportive encampment at Camp Carroll to connect veterans with services that can assist them with a hand-up to break the cycle of homelessness while enhancing their self-esteem and sense of purpose.

The groups working together to make this event a success were Alaska Veterans Affairs, Municipality of Anchorage, State of Alaska, federal agencies, faith-based agencies, nonprofit groups, Alaska Military Youth Academy and many others. They provided meals, clothing, and services that included housing and legal services, employment information, medical/vision/dental health screening, free cell phones, mental health referrals and haircuts.

Stand Down's continued success shows Alaska's veterans that the community supports them. ■



Veterans Proudly Represent. Stand Down 2009 opened on Camp Carroll with the posting of the colors, which were presented by veterans from each of the five branches of service. Stand Down is a veterans outreach program designed to give a helping hand to veterans in need through multiple veteran services. Photo: Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Stocking Up. Veterans receive winter clothing and supplies during Stand Down 2009, a veterans outreach program hosted by the Anchorage Stand Down Committee. Photo: Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs



Crushed Home. Old Eagle Village was completely demolished during this spring's Yukon flood. New homes have been constructed far from the river's reach.

Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs



State Helps Communities Recover, Rebuild from Spring Flooding

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... As winter approaches, homes along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers affected by spring floods are being repaired or rebuilt. A massive effort was needed to accomplish the flood recovery in the short summer construction season. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management formed the Alaska Disaster Housing Task Force to spearhead the coordination of the rebuilding effort in the affected communities.

"The goal of the task force was to bring local, state, federal, tribal and voluntary groups together to discuss what each organization could offer to the recovery effort," said Merry Carlson, DHS&EM individual assistance officer. "It gave the communities a clear picture of what help was available; then the communities formed plans that met their needs and stretched each recovery dollar."

DHS&EM held the first DHTF meeting June 1 and pulled in more than 50 agencies with roles in providing housing in Alaska. Communities talked about what

they would need to rebuild before winter arrived; national and local volunteer organizations outlined the number of volunteers they could provide; FEMA discussed federal recovery programs; tribal organizations committed continued support of the communities and a variety of state agencies outlined their resources.

"We knew that the Disaster Housing Task Force would be instrumental in the recovery effort, so we held the first meeting as soon as flood water subsided," said John Madden, DHS&EM director. "We are always committed to helping Alaskans regardless of the assistance offered by the federal government."

A federal disaster declaration was declared June 11 for the most severely affected areas along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. The declaration established what level of funding would be available to individuals and what federal programs would be available to communities. The proactive efforts of the DHTF allowed the communities to enact their recovery plans immediately.

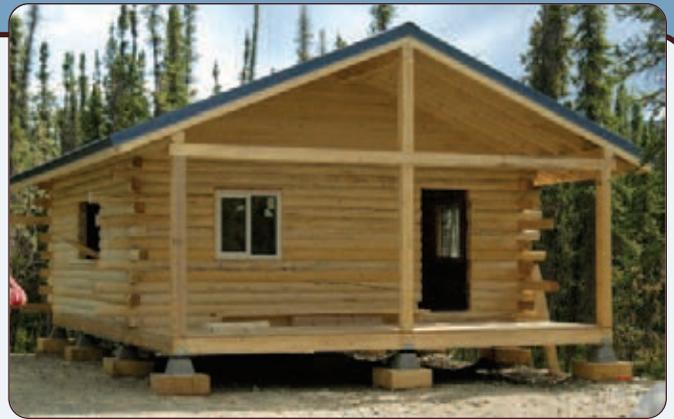


Hard Working Volunteers. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee members are among the hundreds of volunteers who worked to repair flood-damaged homes in Tanana. Photo: Benjamin Brennan, FEMA

Communities took advantage of different recovery options. Fifteen flood victims in Eagle acted as a group and purchased log cabin kits from Tok. Other communities pooled resources and barged in material to repair structures. After DHTF discussions with the communities, FEMA decided to fund shipping to the remote communities because rebuilding supplies could not be purchased locally.

Volunteers throughout the state and nation began to mobilize and make their way to affected communities. Mennonite Disaster Services, Samaritan's Purse, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and a mix of other volunteers paired with villages and took responsibility for reconstruction. Small communities were prepared to receive and support dozens of volunteers.

"The Alaska Disaster Housing Task Force was critical to the recovery mission," said Federal Coordinating Officer Doug



Roof, Walls Go Up. The shell of a new log home stands proudly in Eagle. In a few short days, Mennonite volunteers were able to erect the start of a flood victim's new home. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs



Foundation for a New Beginning. Mennonite Disaster Services volunteers work with locals to assemble the first log cabin kit foundation in Eagle, Alaska. Photo: Courtesy of DHS&EM

Mayne. "Good communication is essential when we are trying to accomplish goals quickly. The fact that we have gone from homes destroyed to homes rebuilt in a few short months is a testament to the communication established by the task force."

By Sept. 1, more than 500 volunteers from 27 organizations participated in the recovery effort. FEMA distributed more than \$5 million in grants to individuals and households with damages to their homes or personal property. More than 250 public infrastructure repair projects were identified and are in some phase of the recovery process.

Flood victims are settling into their repaired or rebuilt homes. To some, this task seemed impossible during the waning days of this spring's historic flooding. Under DHS&EM leadership, the DHTF was able to lay the foundation from which the recovery effort was built. ■

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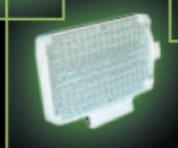
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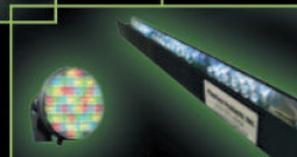


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Missile Defense

49th Missile Defense Battalion Wins Tournament

By 49th Missile Defense Battalion

FORT GREELY, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) from Fort Greely won the All Army National Guard Combatives Tournament in August at Fort Benning, Ga.

Many individuals placed well in their individual categories. The team captured three first-place individual wins and one third-place individual win.

Submission Strength. First Lieutenant Ryan Skaw, top, Alaska Army National Guard, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, applies a submission hold on Staff Sergeant Martin Chavez, of the Arizona Army National Guard, in the light heavy-weight championship match during the second annual Army National Guard Combatives Championship at Fort Benning, Ga. Skaw won first place in the 205-pound division. Photo: Clint Wood, GX Magazine



- Private First Class Sean Davis – 1st place in the 125-pound weight class
- Sergeant Matthew Campbell – 1st place in the 155-pound weight class
- First Lieutenant Ryan Skaw – 1st place in the 205-pound weight class
- Specialist Joshua Hanson – 3rd place in the 220-pound weight class

First Place Showing. Sergeant Matthew Campbell, right, Alaska Army National Guard, won the welterweight championship match during the second annual Army National Guard Combatives Championship at Fort Benning, Ga.

Photo: Clint Wood, GX Magazine

Other contributing team members were Private First Class Matthew Briand, Staff Sergeant Ruben Vargas, Staff Sergeant Larry Martin and Staff Sergeant Adam Emmons. The team's outstanding performance gave them an overall team win by 50 points. ■



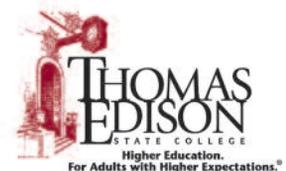
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Education

How to Transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits – Next Steps

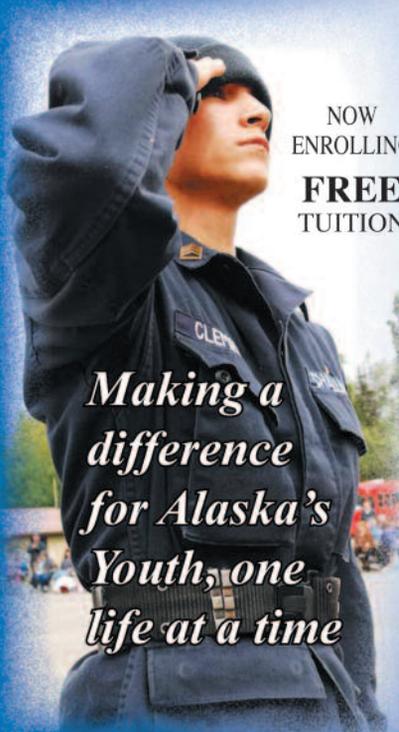
By Sergeant Marisa Diaz-Rivera, Education Services

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... If you received an e-mail stating you've been approved to transfer the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit to your dependent(s), and your dependent(s) are ready to use the transferred benefit, listed below are the next steps to transferability.

1. Your dependent needs to request a certificate of eligibility from the Veterans Affairs office by submitting a VA Form 22-1990E. The form, which can be completed and submitted electronically, is available on the Veterans Online Applications Web site, <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.
2. It is recommended that your dependent attach supplemental documentation, e.g., your DD214, with the electronic submittal of the VA Form 22-1990E.
3. After the VA has reviewed and approved Form 22-1990E, your dependent will receive a certificate of eligibility from the VA.
4. Your dependent will then need to go to a VA certifying official at the school and turn in the certificate of eligibility.
5. The VA certifying official at the school will verify that your dependent is registered for courses, complete a VA Form 22-1999 and then send the form to the VA.
6. Once the VA Form 22-1999 is processed by the VA, your dependent and the school should start receiving payment. Tuition funds will be sent directly from the VA to the school. Dependents using transferred benefits will receive the appropriate percentage of the monthly living stipend and the books and supplies stipend as determined by your Title 10 active duty time served.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please e-mail your Alaska National Guard Education Office at NGAK-EDUServicesOffice@ng.army.mil.

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Graduates of Alaska Military Youth Academy Top 2,800

Story and photos by Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Military Youth Academy graduated 136 cadets in late August.

"I am proud of all these men and women, for their work ethic and positive determination," said Governor Sean Parnell. "They chose discipline, they chose life and they are preparing for the biggest adventure of their lives – their future. I've said before that the youth are our future, but this group of young men and women are our present and our future."

The 136 graduates are part of the more than 2,800 cadets that have graduated from the ChalleNGe program since it started 15 years ago in 1994. The AMYA ChalleNGe program helps young Alaskans achieve high school completion and develop the life skills necessary to become successful, productive community members.

"The Alaska Military Youth Academy never ceases to amaze me," said Dr. James Jones, deputy director of the Alaska Military Youth Academy. "We had nine who earned their high school diplomas, 83 received their GEDs, 23 returned to high school or enrolled in correspondence courses; of those, we already had five cadets who went on to attend the University of Alaska, and more than 100 of these students received career readiness certificates."

The cadets completed five-and-a-half months of academics, military-style discipline, and training and community service as part of the AMYA ChalleNGe program.

"Overall, I'm very proud that I came here," said cadet Nichole Barnes, honor graduate and corps first sergeant, AMYA. "Before I came here, I wasn't on the right track at all. I've gained so much confidence since being here; before, I couldn't stand in a room with a few people and speak, but now, not only can I stand in front of my platoon, but in front of the entire academy and speak."



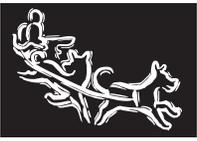
Honor Graduate. Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet Nichole Barnes, honor graduate for the cycle and corps first sergeant, shakes hands with Governor Sean Parnell after graduating from AMYA in August. Barnes, from Palmer, and 135 other graduates are part of the more than 2,800 cadets that have graduated from the ChalleNGe program since it started 15 years ago in 1994.

Through discipline and hard work, the cadets strove to take charge of their lives and become more like their team leaders and role models, the kind of people who make a difference.

"Above other classes, these young men and women really stood out in the area of community service," Jones said. "In a time of economic hardship in our country, these cadets learned early on about giving back and self-sacrifice. We saw this group actively looking for ways to help their community. I've had the privilege of seeing them grow, develop and transform into exceptional young adults; I expect to see that continue." ■



Graduation Jubilee. Alaska Military Youth Academy Commandant Vicky Gardner, left, dismisses class 2009-02 after graduating in August.



Family Support

FAMILY SUPPORT EXCHANGE WITH MONGOLIANS

Story and photos by Captain Amy B. Slinker
134th Public Affairs Detachment

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ... Alaska National Guard and Mongolian Armed Forces leaders and spouses exchanged ideas on caring for and supporting soldiers' families at an August conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The family support conference coincided with Khaan Quest 2009, a multinational peacekeeping operations training exercise at Five Hills Training Area. During the family support conference more than 20 Americans and Mongolians discussed concerns Mongolia faces and looked into aspects of the U.S. family support system that Mongolia may want to adopt.

Lieutenant Colonel Batbold Isheekhuu, senior officer for strategic planning with the Ministry of Defense, said that with deployments for the Mongolian Armed Forces on the horizon, now is a good time to consider formalizing a family program.

"I found that it would be very good to have such a program to support the families of soldiers," Isheekhuu said. "It's a good time to gather information about the American Army and Air Force family support program."

The conference brought experts on family support issues to Mongolia from Alaska, where conditions are very similar to Mongolia in many respects. Senior military leaders from the U.S. Army, Army National Guard, U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard also attended to present their perspectives on the importance of various aspects of family support. It was the first time the Alaska National Guard and Mongolia exchanged ideas on this issue.

Discussions explored several facets of family support in the United States, including family readiness groups, volunteers, chaplains and support from the business community. Participants also talked about the impact officers, noncommissioned officers and spouses can make within family support programs.

Jan Myers, Alaska National Guard State Family Program director, said that as Mongolia's Armed Forces becomes increasingly professionalized and as Mongolian military units undertake increasingly more and larger international missions abroad, the issue of family support will become more critical.



Promoting Family Support. Jan Myers, Alaska National Guard State Family Program director, talks about family support systems used by the Alaska Guard during a Family Support Exchange Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Myers was part of a team from the Alaska National Guard who met with Mongolian Armed Forces leaders and spouses to discuss methods for supporting and caring for soldiers.

"If they have a program that's back in their hometown taking care of their family, their mind will be in the right place and increase safety for all," Myers said.

Among the group of U.S. experts who responded to these concerns was retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General Richard E. "Tex" Brown, who addressed the prospect of adding chaplains to the Mongolian Armed Forces.

"The chaplain is the one who is there to boost up and help bring spiritual wellness," Brown said. "We want to convey that freedom of religion is absolutely essential. In our chaplain programs, we can offer all types of religions and help people meet their spiritual needs however they want to have them met."

Alaska National Guard Chaplain Richard Koch reflected on the potential impact of this initial discussion of adding chaplains to the Mongolian Armed Forces.

"This is a historical event," Koch said. "If they actually do succeed in establishing a chaplaincy, it's kind of neat that I was here to give a small shove and push them toward the future."

One of the biggest obstacles the Mongolians face is stimulating community support from businesses. Isheekhuu noted that current Mongolian culture and perception brings challenges; it would be difficult to obtain funding, recruit volunteers and engage businesses for support.

Rich Owens, chairman of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve in Alaska, shared his experiences as a business owner who supports the military in his community.

"In Alaska there's a feeling of appreciation and esteem for our professional military," Owens said. "I think if we take something out of this meeting, it would be to come up with a better understanding of how Mongolian businesses work, look at their capabilities, and think of ways to suggest how to incorporate a cooperative agreement between the business community and the military community." ■



Sharing Ideas. Retired Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, then adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, center left, speaks at the Family Support Exchange Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Campbell gave his perspective from a senior leader's view on the importance of family support programs in the military.



Who We Are...

How do you prepare for the changing weather?

**Chief Master Sergeant
Daniel Siekawitch**
Alaska Air National Guard



"I winterize and store my summer toys and prepare my winter items like the snowplow and snow blower. I involve my family so they know how to do it in case I'm unable."

Hans Klodt
*Alaska Military
Youth Academy*



"I wax my skis, pull out the sweaters and start chopping wood. I also start running my sled dogs more."

**Specialist
Tara Gardner**
207th Aviation



"I put studs on my truck, pull out my winter gear and get my snowboard ready."

**Lieutenant Colonel
Lee Knowles**
Alaska Army National Guard



"I wander down to the creek and eat salmon to prepare for hibernation."

**Major
Paulette Goodwin**
168th Air Refueling Wing



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Owens Named Alaska State Chairman

By Stephanie Garrard, ESGR Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is proud to announce that Rich Owens has been named the Alaska state chairman for the organization.

Owens has a long-standing tradition of supporting Alaska communities through his business ventures. He is the owner and “chief ice cream taster” of the Jewel Lake Tastee Freez and is a partner and vice president of operations at the H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark.

“Rich Owens’ years of community service have made him one of Alaska’s most recognized and respected leaders,” said Chris Nelson, former executive director of the Alaska committee for ESGR. “He is an experienced and effective ESGR volunteer who will provide outstanding leadership to the Alaska committee as the new chairman.”

For more than 15 years, Owens has been supporting military organizations. Most notable is his support of the Alaska National Guard’s Operation Santa Claus, which delivers food, gifts and Tastee Freez ice cream sundaes to rural villages throughout Alaska. Additionally, he supports the military’s Armed Services YMCA Operation Snack Attack and the veterans outreach program Stand Down.

Owens’ outstanding leadership and dedication to his community is recognized



Military Supporter Steps into New Role. Rich Owens, center, stands with retired Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, then adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Jan Myers, State Family Program director, after receiving the Community Volunteer of the Year award at the Family Programs Volunteer Workshop in April 2009. Owens has been a long-time supporter of the Alaska National Guard, the military and Alaska’s communities. He was recently named as state chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for Alaska.

Photo: Private First Class Michelle Nash, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

“Rich Owens’ years of community service have made him one of Alaska’s most recognized and respected leaders.”

– Chris Nelson, Former Executive Director of the Alaska Committee for ESGR

and honored by several local and national organizations. He is the recipient of the National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award, the Alaska Command Robert B. Atwood Award, the

ESGR Seven Seals Award, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan Award, as well as the Seymour Award from the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In addition, he received the University of Montana’s Community Service Award in 2004. The Anchorage School District School/Business Partnership recognized him for “Best Practices 2005.” Owens went on to receive the Alaska Catholic Social Services Volunteer of the Year award in 2006 and the Saint Francis of Assisi Award from the Archdiocese of Anchorage for exemplifying the “spirit of love, humility and service.” He was selected as Tastee Freez “Operator of the Year” for 2006 by the corporation’s national headquarters.

In his 15 years as a small business owner, Owens has employed more than 450 people, has sat on several boards and worked alongside many organizations to improve the life of so many. ■

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Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Army Distinguished Service Medal



CW5 James Noe JFHQ-AK (Army)

Meritorious Service Medal



TSgt Shaun R. Loeffler 168th AMXS
 MAJ Charles Nesloney 297th CAV
 SSG Robert Spinks 297th SPT BN
 SFC Troy Arnett 297th BFSB
 SGM Clinton Brown R&R
 SFC John Sztajar R&R
 CPT Oscar Urdininea 49th MDB
 MAJ Paul Lincoln 38th TC
 1SG John Drew 297th CAV
 SMSgt Kristine Joyce 176th MSF
 MSgt Tod Hemmert 176th ACS
 Maj Eric Aarseth 176th MSF
 LtCol William Kupchin 210th RQS

MSgt Amber Oneal 176th MSF
 LtCol Karen Mansfield 176th MSF
 SMSgt Steven Slagle 212th RQS
 SMSgt Paul Barendregt 212th RQS
 Col Timothy Grams 176th OG
 MSgt Terry Kurth 176th WG
 LtCol Richard Cavens 176th WG

Air Force Commendation Medal



MSgt Margaret Krize 176th WG
 Capt Kelly Murphy 176th ACS
 A1C Steven Kean 176th CES
 CMSgt Timothy Tillman 176th WG
 TSgt Brian Johnson 176th SFS

Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA Wyatt Derner 176th SFS
 SSG Jack Barker 176th SFS
 TSgt Helen Arvites 176th SFS

TSgt Michael Zener 176th SFS
 SSG James Rash 176th SFS
 MSgt Zandra Fox 176th MSF
 TSgt Shannon Gragg 176th MSF
 SSG Steven Cherry 176th MXS

Alaska Legion of Merit



CW5 James Noe JFHQ-AK (Army)

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



LTC Nathan Burnham 38th TC
 COL Clinton Foster Med Det

Alaska Commendation Medal



Jamie Ahkinga . . Municipality of Little Diomede
 SSG Rodney Spaulding 207th INF

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Deployment Decorations. Sergeant First Class Jack Bertino, left, Sergeant Melissa Stevens, center, and Specialist Damien Tserlentakis, all of the 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, wear their campaign ribbons proudly during a July ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Each Soldier deployed with the 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, received the National Defense Service Ribbon, Kosovo Campaign Medal, War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the NATO Non-Article Five Medal.

Photo: Sergeant Ann Hayden, 1/207th Aviation

PROMOTIONS

Colonel

Edward Hildreth AKARNG
 Hunt Kerrigan AKARNG
 Edith M. Grunwald JFHQ-AK (Air)
 Carlisle A. Lincoln III 176th OG
 Ronald M. Kichura 176th MDG

Lieutenant Colonel

Julie M. Robinson 176th MDG
 Richard G. Adams 144th AS

Major

Michel Jones AKARNG
 Alexys X. Lang 176th WG

Captain

Christopher Raabe AKARNG

First Lieutenant

Scott D. Owen 249th ALS
 John M. Romspert 212th RQS
 Paul N. Rauenhorst 210th RQS

Second Lieutenant

David A. Victory 176th WG

Chief Warrant Officer Four

Pamela French 207th AVN

Chief Warrant Officer Three

Jason Malone 207th AVN

Chief Warrant Officer Two

Ross Wise 207th AVN

Sergeant Major

Richard Hildreth R&R
 Larry White RTI
 Timothy Dughman 207th AVN

Chief Master Sergeant

Charles E. Sears 168th SFS
 Beverly J. Robotkay JFHQ-AK (Air)
 David C. Shuman 212th RQS
 Stephen L. Burris 176th ACS
 Timothy M. Delph 144th AS

Master Sergeant (Army)

Felicia Link R&R
 Thomas Riley AKARNG

Senior Master Sergeant

Chad E. Parsons 213th SWS
 Antonio Lucchesi II 168th AMXS
 Shannon D. Hanks 168th ARW
 Steven Fernandez 210th RQS
 Curtis D. Brenton 176th SFS

Sergeant First Class

Arturo Bautista 207th AVN
 Bryant Cox 207th AVN
 Frederick Williams RTI

Master Sergeant (Air)

Neal J. Waltman 168th MXG
 Todd R. Talladay 213th SWS
 Frederick G. Adams 168th MXS
 Trojan L. Smith 213th SWS
 Lynett C. Dubia 168th ARW
 Joseph M. Donoghue 168th ARW
 Michael W. Mashburn 168th LRS
 Charles H. Hixon 168th CF
 Jason B. De Heus 168th MSF
 Jeffrey A. Ling 168th LRS
 Alan S. Lankford 212th RQS
 Michael S. Cooper 212th RQS
 Ralph D. Taylor 176th SFS
 William B. Younkings 176th OG
 Kelly E. Burdick 176th MXS
 Frank P. Bauder 176th MXS
 Garry A. Barnett 176th AMXS
 Jeffrey A. Austin 176th ACS
 Bobbi J. Baker 176th ACS
 Kenneth P. Kotelman Jr. 176th ACS

Staff Sergeant (Army)

Billy Austin 207th AVN

Technical Sergeant

Justin W. Olsen 249th ALS
 John J. Martin 249th ALS
 David W. Torrance 210th RQS
 Kenneth W. Gillum 210th RQS
 Joshua P. Jones 176th WG
 Michelle Sabala 176th SFS
 Jorge A. Camarillo 176th SFS
 Amy M. Anderson 176th SFS
 Tyler J. Mullen 176th SFS
 Junnale D. Courtright 176th MSF
 Sergio G. Cerda 176th MDG
 Troy A. Freeman 176th MXS
 Paul R. Deguzman 176th MXS
 Joann A. Vlasoff 176th MOF
 Patrick W. McGrain 176th MOF
 Anthony L. Kretz 176th MOF
 Steven M. Cherry 176th MXG
 Laveita E. Talison 176th LRS
 Steven R. Medina 176th AMXS
 Adam M. Muller 176th ACS
 Christopher S. Cordiner 176th ACS
 Jimmy M. Rojas 176th ACS
 Samuel T. Cooper 144th AS

Sergeant

Evan Davila 207th AVN
 Aric Wilkins 49th MDB

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 James Bates 49th MDB
 Joshua Anderson 49th MDB
 Michelle Meza 297th BFSB

Staff Sergeant

Abraham A. Cook 168th MXS
 Joshua J. Fiorenzi 168th MXS
 Fredrick W. Smith 168th MXS
 Zachary A. Kline 212th RQS
 Robert D. Richardson 211th RQS
 Jason R. Collins 176th MXS
 Jerry D. Sisemore 176th MXS
 Daniel H. Schramm 176th MXS
 Casey L. Hall 176th AMXS
 Martin J. Inda 176th AMXS
 Mandy L. Weidig 176th ACS
 Timothy P. Munoz 176th ACS
 David Torres 144th AS

RETIREMENTS

SMSgt Douglas D. Hubbartt . . . 168th MXS
 MSgt Leona C. Conner 168th MOF
 Maj Theresa D. Pulsifer 168th MDG
 MSgt Michael J. Young 168th MXS
 Lt Col Richard J. Villars 168th ARS
 MSgt Javier R. Hinojosa 168th MXS
 SFC Paul Bekoalok 1/297th CAV
 LTC Nathan Burnham . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG Clifford Minkler 297th INF
 MAJ Mark Turner 297th INF
 CPT Oscar Urdininea 49th MDB
 SFC David Hayes 297th R&S
 COL Antonio Shumate 38th TC
 SGM Kerry Averett JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGM Jane Dennis JFHQ-AK (Army)
 CW5 James Noe JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSgt Matthew A. Moore 176th MXS
 TSgt Patrick L. Davis 176th LRS
 TSgt Ricardo R. Castro 176th AMXS
 TSgt Todd J. Loudon 176th LRS
 MSgt Cheryl A. Sweet 176th LRS
 MSgt Chris D. Oberlender . . . 176th MDG
 MSgt Evelyn E. Mayer 176th WG
 SMSgt Steven A. Slagle 212th RQS
 LtCol Timothy R. Grams 176th OG



Alaska National Guard's Newest General Officer. Retired Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, left, then adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and retired Lieutenant Colonel John Dieffenderfer, right, pin Brigadier General Sharon S. Dieffenderfer, chief of staff of the Alaska National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, with her general's star in August at the Alaska National Guard Armory. Dieffenderfer is responsible for providing command and control of National Guard forces in executing homeland defense, defense support of civil authorities and other domestic emergency missions within the state of Alaska. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

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 Heather Kelly
 Tiffany Klett
 Michel Majchrowicz
 Brittney Menzel
 Julia Meyer
 Sae Na
 Sean Nakada
 Justin Padgett
 Audrey Page
 Ryan Pierce
 Benjamin Scotti
 Issac Searles
 Brittany Simpson
 Collin Schmitt
 Patrick Trometter
 Seth Tuia
 Brian Washburn

176th Wing

Deborah Aaron
 Dennis Alston
 Taylor Boaks
 Ivan Chatham
 Caitlin Chenoweth
 Skiy Detray
 Emily Erickson
 Forrest Farley
 Christopher Follante
 Shannon Garris
 Erica Glass
 Nancy Goldberger
 Anthony Guedea
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 James Holmes

Jeremy Jensen
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 Bobby Phillips
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 Dustin Read
 Adrian Rice
 Lucy Richardson
 Daniel Roberts
 Lonnie Staib
 Laura Segovia
 Jerry Sisemore
 Rebecca Szahowski
 James Talcott
 JT Thompson
 Fidan Thornburg
 David Torres
 Anastasia Tunilla
 Arthur Valdez
 Jacob Weatherby

Joe Winningham
 Melissa Woolley

490th Military Police Company

Jeremiah Grinnell
 Curtis Huffman
 Kyle Kelderman
 Michael Miller
 Dustin Sobieski

297th Long Range Surveillance Company

William Bobcast
 Jessie Bradshaw
 Korey Grimes
 Wade Hays
 Ryan Johnson
 Rigoberto Orozco
 Julio Pelliciercruz
 Jopeel Quimpo
 Michael Thrall
 Robert Vandenburg

207th Aviation

Jose Capo

Derick Guzman
 Han Lee
 Jared Ramey
 Brittany Sisson
 Joshua Williamon

207th Brigade Support Company

Matthew Brown
 Christopher Chrzanowski
 Chelsea Furman
 Jacob Millette
 Matthew Rodriguez

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Anothai Boutsomsi
 David Fountain
 Nicholas Heise
 Joshua Ruiz
 Samuel Sullivan
 Christopher Tilling

297th Signal Company

Dustin Hayden

Warriors Training Schedule

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

	Nov	Dec	Jan
Alaska National Guard			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	7-8	5-6	9-10
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	13-15	5-6	9-10
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	13-15	4-6	8-10
38th Troop Command	14-15	5-6	9-10
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	7-8	5-6	9-10
176th Wing	7-8	5-6	9-10
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	14-15	12-13	9-10

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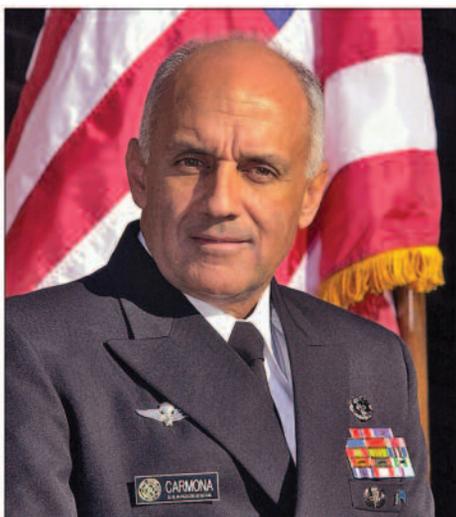
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The debate is over. The science is clear.

SECONDHAND SMOKE KILLS



AP Images/Mark Duncan

Vice Admiral Richard Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS
United States Surgeon General 2002-2006

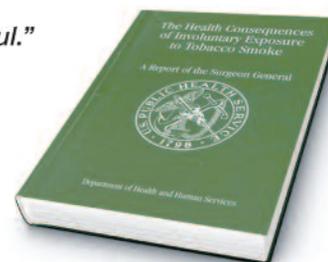
The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that secondhand smoke kills nearly 50,000 non-smokers each year.

"Even brief exposures can be harmful."

"The only way to fully protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke-free environments."

"Opening a window, sitting in a separate area, or using ventilation, air conditioning, or a fan cannot eliminate secondhand smoke exposure."

"Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers."



U.S. Surgeon General's Report

CONSIDER THE FACTS

- Even brief secondhand smoke exposure can have an immediate adverse effect on the cardiovascular system, trigger a fatal heart attack, or damage the cells and set the cancer process in motion.
- Secondhand smoke contains thousands of chemicals – like arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde and cyanide.
- Secondhand smoke contains more than 50 known cancer-causing substances.
- Every year more than 120 Alaskans die from this killer – that's more than deaths caused by motor vehicle accidents and about **three times as many as homicide.**



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For more information about the harm caused by secondhand smoke, contact the Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance, 1-888-474-4635.