

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

SPRING 2007

# WARRIORS



AGAUS Conference 2007 • June 4-9



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**Major General Craig E. Campbell**  
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner of the DMVA

**Mr. McHugh Pierre**  
DMVA Director of Communications

**Ms. Kalei Brooks**  
Managing Editor/DMVA Public Affairs

*Contributors*

**Major Jeff Roach**  
207th Infantry Brigade

**Captain Kelly Mellard**  
168th Air Refueling Wing

**Sergeant First Class Rick Fleming**  
Alaska Army National Guard

**Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton**  
DMVA Public Affairs

**Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe**  
**Specialist Paul Norwood**  
3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

**Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III**  
49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)

**Sergeant Laura E. Griffin**  
134th Public Affairs Detachment

**Claude Denver**  
**Renee Nelson**  
DHS&EM

**Mayor Lou Adams**  
City of Platinum

**Lieutenant Colonel Lance Jennings**  
176th Wing Chaplain

**Giuseppe Zibordi**  
**Lieutenant Phillip Hall**  
NOAA Corps

**168th Air Refueling Wing**  
Alaska Army National Guard  
Alaska Department of Transportation &  
Public Facilities

Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Alaska Native Heritage Center**  
**Doug Lindstrand**

**Cathryn Posey**

**Greg Daniels**

**Pam Beale**

**Mark Farmer, topcover.com**

**Bob Ulin**  
Publisher

**Susan Harrington**  
Editor

**Gloria Schein**  
Art Director

**Darrell George**  
Advertising Sales



8537 Corbin Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907) 562-9300 • (866) 562-9300

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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**AGAUS 2007.** Anchorage is host to the Adjutants General Association of the United States Conference 2007. AGAUS is made up of the 54 Adjutants



**A Winning Team.** Sergeant First Class Rick Fleming, Alaska Army National Guard, and Wayne Martin celebrate their win in the Trail Class division of the Tesoro Iron Dog 2007. Teams in the Trail Class competition race their snowmachines 1,100 miles from Big Lake to Nome. Fleming and Martin survived bouts of overheating engines and brutal trail conditions to arrive first in Nome more than 12 hours ahead of second place.  
 Photo: Sergeant First Class Rick Fleming, Alaska Army National Guard

General of the sovereign states, territories and the District of Columbia. We welcome all attendees of the conference to the Last Frontier and hope everyone finds the stunning landscape a place to develop ideas and share as leaders.

Photos: Courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau; Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry; Doug Lindstrand; Alaska Native Heritage Center; and Mark Farmer, topcover.com

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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...

## 168th Air Refueling Wing Key to Search Success

By Captain Kelly Mellard, 168th Air Refueling Wing

**EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** . . . When a Super Cub went down northeast of Fairbanks in January, rescue coordinators turned to the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing to help in the search.

A KC-135R, call sign Chena 72, was launched to begin searching for the crippled civilian aircraft, and Fairbanks Approach asked the tanker to attempt to make contact with the downed plane.

Eielson command post controllers, representing both the Guard and Air Force, and pilots from the 168th ARW provided critical communications and assistance in the rescue efforts. The joint command post relayed communications via UHF radio between the airborne tanker and the Rescue Coordination Center in Anchorage.

When Chena 72 located the Super Cub on a mountainside about 100 yards

below the summit, the crew was able to contact the downed pilot on the radio. The crew then radioed back to the Eielson command post with the coordinates, names and conditions of the two stranded people, as well as other pertinent information.

Chena 72 initiated a rescue request to the Rescue Coordination Center through the Eielson Command Post. The tanker continued to orbit overhead until the command post passed word that a rescue helicopter from Fort Wainwright was on its way.

The coordinated actions between the operations staff and the command post were vital to the success of the search and rescue of the downed aviators. Through their successful coordination efforts, alert helicopters were dispatched from Fort Wainwright and the stranded personnel were safely recovered. ■

## Air Guard Rescues Two from Downed Plane

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** . . . Two men were safely brought back to Dillingham on Feb. 9 thanks to the Alaska Air National Guard who rescued them after their Aero Commander Lark 100 aircraft crashed the night before.

The search for the plane began after the wife of the passenger called the Kenai Flight Service station to report her husband had not returned from a scheduled trip from Dillingham to Togiak and back. The Kenai Flight Service station called the RCC to report the overdue plane.

Minutes later, the RCC's satellite picked up an Emergency Locator Transmitter signal halfway between Togiak and Dillingham.

"We called the Alaska State Troopers in Dillingham to see if the helicopter they have there locally was available to search for the missing aircraft," said Major Mike Stowers, of the RCC. "They didn't have any assets available at the time, so we launched a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue

Squadron, an HC-130 rescue tanker from the 211th Rescue Squadron and pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron.

"They made multiple attempts to locate the plane, but they couldn't get closer than an estimated two miles from the site because the weather was getting progressively worse," Stowers added. "They dropped several flares to illuminate the area, but they still couldn't see the plane."

The weather forced the rescue crews to head back to Anchorage. Replacement crews in Anchorage were alerted early the next morning to continue the search.

The next morning the RCC reported that the satellite no longer picked up the ELT signal. However, the crew aboard the HH-60 Pave Hawk located two men walking about one and a half miles from where the crash site was believed to be. The helicopter landed and picked up the two men.

"Luckily we found both the pilot and passenger in this situation, but we



**Snow Shoe.** Sergeant Duane Ostrowski, operations non-commissioned officer for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), Alaska Army National Guard, completes his 10 kilometer snow shoe event during the second week of the Cold Weather Leadership Course at the Northern Warfare Training Center 35 miles south of Fort Greely. Photo: Sergeant Jack Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

recommend you always keep your ELT on and stay with the wreckage," said Lieutenant Colonel Donald Keese, commander of the RCC. "Rescuers are likely more to find you if you stay put."

Alaska State Troopers report the cause of the crash was spurred by low level flying in poor weather conditions. Neither of the men appeared to be seriously injured.

The RCC awarded two saves to the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons. ■

# Where in the World

## Guardsmen Working with Mongolians Return from Iraq

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

### CAMP DENALI, Alaska . . .

Two of Alaska's Army National Guard Soldiers, who spent the past year as embedded U.S. liaisons with troops from Mongolia, have returned home.

Captain Dennis Dupras and Sergeant First Class James Young spent the past year helping train and advise Mongolian soldiers who are among Coalition Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This unique opportunity to put Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers with the Mongolian Armed Forces highlights the strength of our state partnership with Mongolia," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "Our Guardsmen are working with Mongolian soldiers on their combat skills and bridging the gap between social and cultural differences."

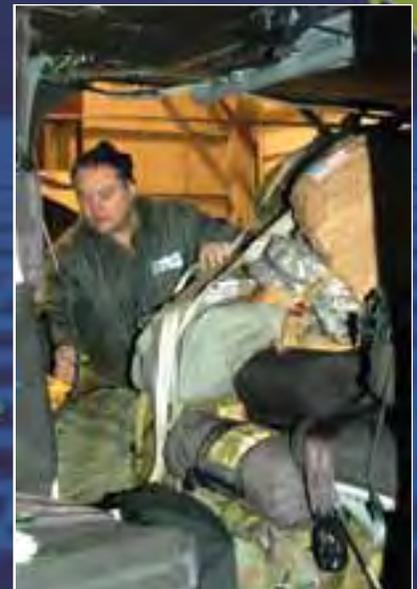
Dupras and Young are the third rotation of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to work with the Mongolians. Two other Soldiers, Captain Richard Doering and Sergeant First Class Michael Eastham, arrived in Iraq in January 2007 to continue the partnership in this current fourth rotation.

In Fairbanks, Dupras is an Alaska State Trooper and assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard.

Before this deployment to Iraq, Young was the senior instructor at the Alaska Army National Guard 207th Brigade's Regional Training Institute at Camp Carroll in Anchorage. This spring Young will become the readiness non-commissioned officer in Kotzebue. ■



**Honored Friends, Prestigious Honor.** Major General Mikhail Borbaatar, state secretary of Mongolia's Ministry of Defense, presents Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, the Mongolian Military Honorary Medal I degree, the highest of the three degrees of this honor. Borbaatar, along with a delegation of Mongolians, was in Alaska for the United States - Mongolia Bilateral Consultation Council. This is a semiannual council meeting that discusses United States and Mongolia defense interactions. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



**Packing Up.** Sergeant First Class Art Honea, of the 1/207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, packs some last minute items into the cargo area of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter before leaving en route to Arizona for Operation Jump Start. The Alaska National Guard is an active participant in the Southwest border patrol mission. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

## Alaska National Guard Supports Border Patrol

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska . . .** Alaska National Guard members have been actively supporting a presidential mission on homeland security down south.

Soldiers from the 1/207th Aviation Battalion took two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in January to Arizona to participate in Operation Jump Start, the Southwest border patrol mission.

"This training mission presents the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard with an opportunity to hone their skills while defending the homeland during such a critical mission," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "I am proud of our Guardsmen for stepping up and volunteering for an important national security operation."

The 1/207th Aviation Battalion is officially engaged in the operation until June. Individual Alaska Guard members from the unit will be cycling through



**Mission: Missile Defense.** Brigadier General James W. Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, stands in front of a Ground Based Interceptor ready to be emplaced into a silo at Fort Greely as members of the senior leadership brief him on missile defense operations. Nuttall visited Soldiers and families of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion GMD (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) in January during one of the coldest temperature snaps of the year with overnight lows at minus 48. He said he wanted to experience what Soldiers here go through on a day to day basis. Photo: Sergeant Jack W Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)

**Live Fire.** Members of the Griffin Squadron, 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, perform live fire training with the M2 50 caliber machine gun at the Fort Wainwright firing range. They are slated for a six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo: Captain Kelly Mellard, 168th Air Refueling Wing



**50-Mile Race and Still Running.** Captain Paulette Goodwin, 168th Communications Flight commander, Alaska Air National Guard, crosses the finish line of the 50-mile Sunmart Texas Trails Endurance Run. "My number one goal was to finish, and the second was to do it in 10 hours," Goodwin said. "I blew my 10 hour goal out of the water with a finish time of 9:38:48, earning a third place finish in my age group and 88th place out of 193 participants. I look forward to running another 50 miler, and somewhere in the back of my mind, I'm starting to wonder what a 100 miler would be like." Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing



Arizona on 21-day rotations, fulfilling their annual training requirements.

In addition, one company of approximately 60 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion also supported Operation Jump Start as part of their annual training.

A few Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard have also volunteered to individually augment operations on the Southwest border and have been supporting the mission since fall 2006.

Alaska National Guard members expressed their excitement about the mission and readiness to take on this

presidential task.

"It's an excellent training opportunity to get experience in night-vision-goggle operations, as well as support the president's mission to secure the Southwest border," said Lieutenant Colonel Tim Dehaas, state army aviation officer.

During the summer of 2006, President Bush called on the National Guard to support the Border Patrol in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, with the goal of deterring illegal immigration and increasing border security in the Southwest. ■

## Air Guard Completes Afghanistan Mission

By McHugh Pierre, DMVA  
Public Affairs

**KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska . . .** The Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron and the 176th Maintenance Group finished their year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan.

The final 55 deployed Airmen came home in January. The units had been supporting both military and civilian operations, as they moved hospital supplies, emergency response vehicles and ammunition across the country.

One of their most notable missions included dropping some much-needed ammunition to U.S. ground troops in the middle of a firefight with insurgents. This crucial air drop gave Coalition Forces the upper hand to win the fight.

"I'm extremely happy to welcome these outstanding Airmen back from Afghanistan," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "They have served admirably while leading the airlift operations at Bagram."

The 144th Airlift Squadron and 176th Maintenance Group have rotated Airmen on two-month cycles during the past year, and many Airmen have taken multiple deployments to Afghanistan. ■



# For the People

Governor Sarah Palin  
Commander in Chief



## Alaska Welcomes Adjutants General

Alaska has a strong and heralded military history. From the construction of the Alaska-Canada Highway to the home of our nation's missile defense, the military provides many unique opportunities for Alaskans.

Our location provides a strategic advantage for rapid deployment, and our people generously give land for training and support of military families. Alaska is truly a unique and friendly state.

This summer we will open our doors and show our hospitality to a highly respected group of visitors: the Adjutants General Association of the United States. This group of two-star generals is responsible for keeping our states and territories ready and prepared to protect our homeland from human threats and natural disasters.

Our own Adjutant General, Major General Craig E. Campbell, has overseen critical responses to possible tsunamis, isolated villages in distress and rescues in the Bering Sea.

Alaska has hosted some of the largest disasters in our country's history. From the Good Friday earthquake of 1964 to the summer wildfires in 2004 that scorched more than 6.6 million acres, we have relied upon the National Guard to support and augment our first responders to protect our people.

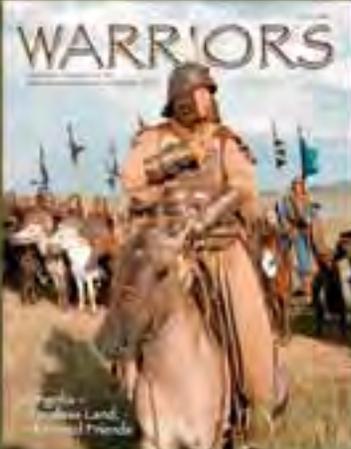
While these leaders visit our state, may they walk away with a better understanding of how a functional state-federal relationship can build friendships and how it takes multiple agencies to protect such a vast land. I hope our beautiful landscapes can provide an inviting atmosphere to share new ideas and help all of the participants grow as leaders.

To AGAUS and the millions of other visitors who choose to see Alaska this summer, may you feel the kindness and hospitality that lure veterans back to our state in record numbers, keep local families and communities strong and inspire a world to wonder about the Last Frontier. ■

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# My Turn

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



## A Time for New Beginnings

Spring is a time for new beginnings and with it comes excitement and anticipation. The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is facing a similar buzz as our senior leaders put the final touches on a strategic plan that will shape the next four years of the Alaska National Guard, the Alaska Military Youth Academy, the Division of Administrative Services and the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

Four years ago, department leaders were discussing the same types of ideas: How do we keep our borders secure? How do we provide a better environment for at-risk teens? How do we keep our Army and Air Guard relevant to national standards?

All of these questions have been answered and the results are staggering.

Homeland Security went from an afterthought to a front-runner, as multiple state agencies donated people and resources to make our state the premier example of success through cooperation. This spring, Alaska is hosting the second Alaska Shield/Northern Edge exercise, the largest joint state-federal exercise of its kind in the nation.

Interoperability is more than a buzz word at this event; it is a driving slogan and the foundation for success.

The Army National Guard has grown dramatically and has tremendous new responsibility. The Cold War "Scout"

organization is gone and the Battlefield Surveillance Brigade is here. The Army Guard has new training opportunities, new equipment and most importantly, a relevant new mission to serve the needs of the state while supporting the needs of the nation.

The Air Guard has one of the largest physical changes happening of all the divisions – physically moving the 176th Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Elmendorf Air Force Base. This move includes more C-130 aircraft and more opportunities for Air Guard members. Also, taking place this summer is the addition of an associate wing of C-17s with the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf.

The Division of Administrative Services is more efficient than ever. The final piece to this efficiency puzzle is combining information technology functions. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is receiving a record 300-plus applications each semester and continually graduating more cadets and setting new records each semester.

These accomplishments were not achieved by luck. Thorough planning and deliberation laid a solid foundation for the events of the past four years to unfold. After four more years have passed, I imagine our list of successes will be equally impressive. I have the confidence our current leaders will rise to the occasion with a solid strategic plan. ■



**Town Hall Meeting.** Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, speaks with members of the Alaska National Guard during a town hall meeting on the drill hall floor in February. Campbell spoke about the importance of keeping the numbers up in the Guard by ensuring that members continue to have the opportunity to serve their country in the War on Terrorism. Campbell also answered questions from several members in the crowd.

Photo: Sergeant Laura E. Griffin, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Top photos: Courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau, Doug Lindstrand, Greg Daniels, Cathryn Posey and the Alaska Native Heritage Center

# Joint Forces

Ready to Serve



## Adjutants General Association of the United States June 4-9, 2007 • Anchorage, Alaska

The Adjutants General Association of the United States is made up of the 54 Adjutants General of the sovereign states, territories and the District of Columbia. Each Adjutant General is the senior military official in his or her state, territory or district, and the modern embodiment of the concepts of the Citizen-Soldier,

civilian oversight of the military and protector of the checks and balances between the state and federal military functions that are rooted in the Constitution of the United States.

AGAUS is committed to a central leadership role in promoting and supporting adequate state and national security; in promoting the efficiency of the Army and Air National Guards of the respective states, territories and District of Columbia; and in facilitating and improving the administration of the foregoing National Guard affairs through the agencies of the Department of Defense and the several states.

To that end, AGAUS must insure the National Guard is organized, equipped, and postured to fulfill its responsibilities across the full spectrum of operations inherent in the National Military Strategy and the constitutions of the United States, the various sovereign states and U.S. territories.

At this year's spring conference in Anchorage, AGAUS will be looking at the new rules for mobilization of Army and Air Guard personnel, addressing equipment issues and discussing the impact of transformation on the National Guard. Alaska welcomes all attendees to the Last Frontier! We look forward to seeing you in June. ■





## AGAUS 2007 AGENDA

*(Agenda Subject to Change)*

### 4 June – Monday (Federal Day)

#### **Arrive in Anchorage**

**1830 hrs. – TAG's RECEPTION**  
*Anchorage Museum of History and Art*

### 5 June – Tuesday (Federal Day)

**0800 hrs. – OPENING CEREMONY**  
*Alaska Center for the Performing Arts*

All Day Business Meeting for TAGs – *Egan Center*

Visit Corporate Exhibits (Break/Lunch) – *Egan Center*

**1830 hrs. – GOVERNOR'S DINNER, SALMON BAKE**  
*Alaska Native Heritage Center*

### 6 June – Wednesday (State Day)

Half-Day AGAUS Business Meeting – *Egan Center*

Visit Corporate Exhibits (Break/Lunch) – *Egan Center*

Corporate Afternoon/Team Building Activities

Corporate Evening

### 7 June – Thursday (State Day)

Half-Day AGAUS Business Meeting – *Egan Center*

Visit Corporate Exhibits (Break/Lunch) – *Egan Center*

Executive Committee Meetings – *Egan Center*

Golf Tournament at Moose Run

Open Evening

### 8 June – Friday (State Day)

Half-Day AGAUS Business Meeting – *Egan Center*

Visit Corporate Exhibits (Break/Lunch) – *Egan Center*

Optional Afternoon Activity – *Crow Creek Gold Mine*  
*(Gold Panning/Hiking)*

**1900 hrs. – ALL STATES BANQUET**  
*Hotel Captain Cook*

### 9 June – Saturday (Federal Day)

**Travel to Home Site**

## AGAUS 2007 SPOUSES' AGENDA

*(Agenda Subject to Change)*

### 4 June – Monday

#### **Arrive in Anchorage**

**1830 hrs. – TAG's RECEPTION**  
*Anchorage Museum of History and Art*

### 5 June – Tuesday

**0800 hrs. – OPENING CEREMONY**  
*Alaska Center for the Performing Arts*

All Day Business Meeting for TAG Spouses – *Egan Center*

Visit Corporate Exhibits (Break/Lunch) – *Egan Center*

**1830 hrs. – GOVERNOR'S DINNER, SALMON BAKE**  
*Alaska Native Heritage Center*

### 6 June – Wednesday

Breakfast Meeting for TAG Spouses

Morning Walking Tour of Downtown Area (*Self-Guided*)  
Ulu Factory Tour (*Self-Guided*)

Visit Corporate Exhibits (Break/Lunch) – *Egan Center*

Corporate Afternoon/Team Building Activities

Corporate Evening

### 7 June – Thursday

All Day Activities – Casual Attire (All Spouses)  
*Bus Trip to Portage Glacier, Followed by Lunch and*  
*Alaskan Fashion Show at Alyeska Prince Hotel*

Golf Tournament at Moose Run

Open Evening

### 8 June – Friday

Tour of David Green Master Furrier (All Spouses)  
*Anchorage Coastal Trail (Scenic Walk/Run, Self-Guided)*

Optional Afternoon Activity – *Crow Creek Gold Mine*  
*(Gold Panning/Hiking)*

**1900 hrs. – ALL STATES BANQUET**  
*Hotel Captain Cook*

### 9 June – Saturday

**Travel to Home Site**



## C-5M Super Galaxy. New strategic airlift capability for America's warfighter.

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# Veterans

## NEW VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL ADDRESSES KEY ISSUES

The Alaska Veterans Advisory Council met at the National Guard Armory in Juneau for a two-day conference in early February to discuss significant issues relating to the state's veterans.

The AVAC consists of 13 members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The council was established to advise the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, and through the governor, other departments and agencies of the state on matters concerning state veterans, their dependents and their survivors.

The highlight of the conference was meeting with Governor Sarah Palin and Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, to discuss issues affecting Alaska's veterans and their quality of life. Palin also discussed several issues she had received from her transition team and expressed her commitment to meeting the needs of veterans and their families.

During the conference, committee reports were given on a Super GI Bill, benefits, veterans court, tribal veterans issues and a Blue Star Flag program. A work plan for 2007 was also developed.

"We have made a lot of progress recently," said Bert Hall, AVAC chairman. "With the completion of the Veterans Home in

Palmer, the development of a process to finally recognize and discharge members of the Alaska Territorial Guard, and the statewide participation in the Monument and Memorial Endowment Grant Program show me we are on the right track."

The challenge is to continue pushing for progress for the veterans who need it the most. One of the priorities is to ensure veterans in rural Alaska receive their benefits and healthcare treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I promised the families of our National Guard members fighting in the Global War on Terrorism beyond Alaska's border their sons and daughters would not be forgotten when they returned," Campbell said. "With the support of Governor Palin, the AVAC, and our congressional delegation, we can help the VA meet the needs and provide earned benefits for all rural veterans."

Hal Blair from the Anchorage VA Outpatient Clinic and Regional Office presented plans for the new VA facility to be built between Elmendorf Air Force Base and Bartlett High School. If everything goes as planned, ground breaking will happen in 2007, and the new building will become operational in late 2009.

The AVAC encourages veterans, military members and anyone who would like to address veteran issues to contact an AVAC representative for assistance. If you need additional information, contact the State Veterans Affairs Office at 428-6016. ■



**Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Members.** Back Row: Sergeant David Officer; Hal Blair, Anchorage VA; Dan McCrummen, Juneau; Vice Chairman Joseph Fields, Fairbanks; Richard Dworsky, Anchorage; State Veterans Affairs Administrator Jerry Beale. Front Row: Major General Craig E. Campbell; Robert Murray, Anderson; Ronald Huffman, Nome; Governor Sarah Palin; Chairman Robert Hall, Wasilla; Virginia Smiley, Juneau; Ronald Eller, Kodiak. AVAC members not pictured: Richard Frank, Fairbanks; Nona Johnson, Anchorage; Barbara Mee, Anchorage. Photo: Courtesy of the Office of the Governor

# Homeland Security & Emergency Management

## DHS&EM Mobilizes to Protect Lives, Provide Recovery

By Renee Nelson, DHS&EM Public Affairs

*After four federal disaster declarations in Alaska in 2006, high winds, flooding and threat of a tsunami have already mobilized support of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for three events in January this year. These situations demonstrate the DHS&EM mission to protect lives and property from terrorism and all other hazards and provide rapid recovery from all disaster events.*

### Southwest Storm

Officials reported wind speeds in excess of 100 mph when a storm hit the Alaska Peninsula, Lower Kuskokwim Bay and Bristol Bay area Jan. 30, causing widespread power and communication outages. Twelve communities suffered damage to private property and public infrastructure.

As part of its support to unincorporated areas of Alaska, DHS&EM coordinated assistance for the communities. Support included the purchase and delivery of roofing materials to Platinum for replacement of the roof on its generator plant.

As a result, the community avoided evacuation that would

have been necessary if power had not been restored. The storm presented no other life safety issues. However, the division's staff monitored the status of a medical evacuation for one resident with storm-related injuries.

"This is an example of the immense responsibility of the division to support the hundreds of communities across Alaska that have no intermediate level of government to depend on," said Jim Butchart, deputy director of Emergency Management.

As a result of this event, Goodnews Bay, Platinum and Tununak filed local disaster declarations. The division is now analyzing the declarations for a potential recommendation to the governor for state assistance.



**Ice Wall.** Andrew Carmichael, Parks and Recreation director for the city of Soldotna surveys the shore damage caused by rising ice jams on the Kenai River. Photo: Claude Denver, DHS&EM



## Kenai River Flood

Ice jams on the lower Kenai River prompted the National Weather Service to issue a flood warning for the Western Kenai Peninsula area Jan. 25. As these ice jams moved through the communities of Sterling and Soldotna, large pieces of ice scoured the river banks causing significant damage to riverside docks, walkways and other facilities. In a local disaster declaration, the city of Soldotna reported \$1.25 million in damages to city facilities, as well as significant damages to small businesses and imminent economic injury to businesses located on the Kenai River. The Kenai Peninsula Borough also issued a local disaster declaration expanding the impacted area of the event from Skilak Lake to the mouth of the Kenai River into Cook Inlet.

DHS&EM responded to assess damages and requested a Small Business Administration survey of the area for potential SBA Loan Assistance to eligible applicants. The division, in partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough, organized a joint federal, state, and local multi-agency meeting to outline a cooperative effort plan that would facilitate assistance and recovery in the area.

“Because the Kenai River is so critical to the economy of the Kenai Peninsula, it is uniquely managed by a multi-agency group,” Butchart said. “This underscores the necessity of cooperation and interaction. This vital natural resource impacts the entire Alaska economy.”

Ongoing assessment by multiple agencies will be necessary to determine eligible recovery programs and applicants. Officials will not know the full extent of damage until spring when the Kenai River is free of ice.

## Tsunami Warning

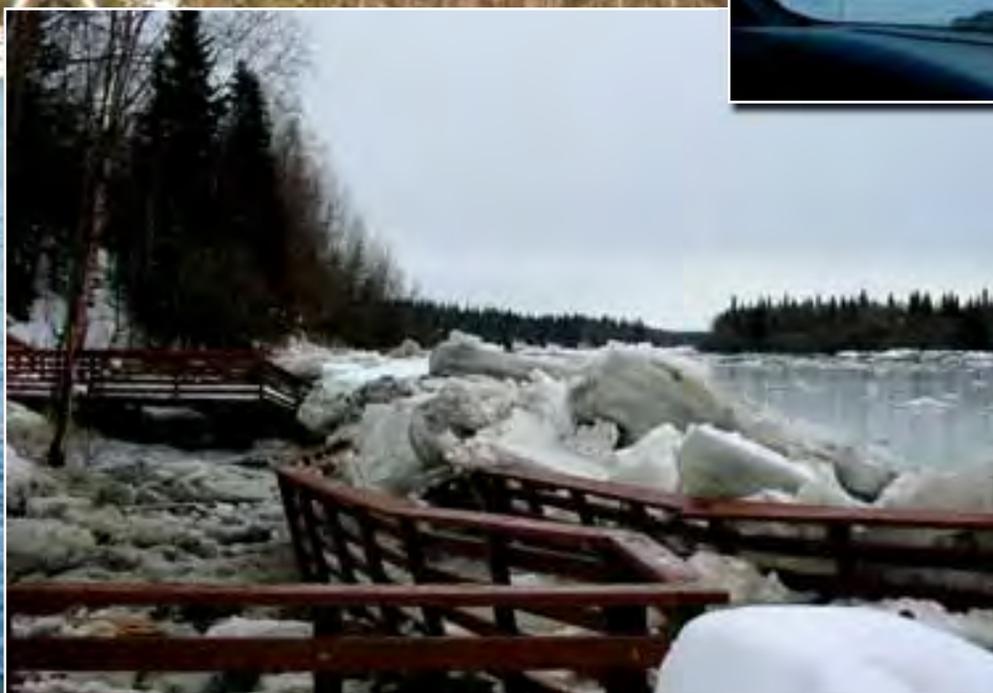
After an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 8.4 shook Russia, the West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer issued a tsunami warning for Alaska coastal areas from Nikolski to Attu on Jan. 12. About three hours later, the tsunami warning was cancelled when officials determined there was no destructive threat for Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon or California. Observers reported high currents and small surges at Shemya, Adak and Dutch Harbor. The earthquake was located east of the Kuril Islands, Russia, with a depth of 14 miles.

During the warning, the division activated the State Emergency Coordination Center and made contact with all designated representatives in the affected coastal communities to ensure they received the warning.

“The successful use of the tsunami warning system was in large part because of the division’s efforts to test the system with real codes prior to a real event,” said Bryan Fisher, Alert and Warning manager for the SECC. ■



**Wind Takes Roof.** High winds in excess of 100 mph caused major damage to the roof of Platinum’s generator plant. Twelve communities in Southwestern Alaska suffered damage to private property and public infrastructure as a result of the storm. Photo: Mayor Lou Adams, City of Platinum



**Ice Bulldozes Over Boardwalk.** Flooding in the Kenai River sends ice jams on shore and damages portions of the boardwalk along the shoreline. In a local disaster declaration, the city of Soldotna reported \$1.25 million in damages to city facilities, as well as significant economic injury to businesses located on the Kenai River. Photo: Courtesy of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



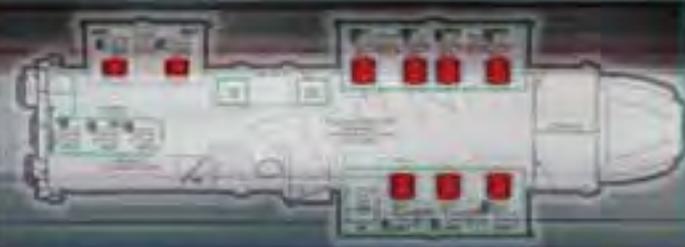
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# FROM THE ARCTIC TO THE ANTARCTIC: *Chaplain Goes to "the Ice" to Serve*

By Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton and Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

Since first accepting an assignment to Antarctica in 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Lance Jennings, the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing's senior chaplain, has served a total of three tours in the frigid continent, which many have nicknamed "the Ice."

Air Force chaplains from across the United States provide ministry to the military contingency in Antarctica and all the people stationed there. Other Guard members from Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage and from bases across America have come to the Ice to assist the overall program known as Support Forces Antarctica, which in turn aids the United States Antarctic Program. This government program aims to advance science, and military presence is there to provide airlift support.

Jennings' home congregation, Resurrection Lutheran in Seward, has been a "big supporter" of his work in Antarctica and grants him time away from the church to serve those on the Ice. Tours for chaplains are 60 days.

Some of Jennings' adventures accompanying this unique assignment have included meeting Princess Anne of the British royal family in 2002. She had come to the Ice (McMurdo Station, Antarctica) to dedicate a plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of British explorer Robert Falcon Scott's wintering over at this location.

Jennings also got to meet Sir Edmund Hillary, 87, this year. Hillary, a famed Antarctic explorer, came to the Ice for the 50th anniversary of his establishment of New Zealand's Scott Base, located about four miles from McMurdo Station. Jennings said he found Hillary to be "a chap of sharp wit and dry humor."

The McMurdo Station chapel is open around the clock for worship, personal meditation and as a gathering place for scripture study and counsel meetings. Once a month, each chaplain is sent to the South Pole, a three-hour flight from McMurdo, to provide services and counsel.

"In summer (Alaska's winter), McMurdo swells to more than 1,300 people, and the South Pole Station to more than 200," Jennings said. "In Antarctica's winter, McMurdo shrinks to a population of 120 or so, and the 'Pole' down to 58."

There is approximately 70 degrees difference in temperature from McMurdo, on the coast, to the South Pole, which is at 9,300 feet elevation. Mean temperatures in McMurdo in the winter range from 30 below to zero, and in the summer they rise between 29 and 43 degrees. At the South Pole, mean temperatures drop to more than 90 below zero and only rise in the summer to five below zero.

To learn of positions supporting the mission to the Ice, Jennings suggests contacting New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, which has provided airlift support to the National Science Foundation's South Pole research program since 1988. ■



**Friends in Cold Places.** 176th Wing Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Lance Jennings meets famed explorer Sir Edmund Hillary in Antarctica. This was Jennings' third tour to Antarctica since 2002. Photo: Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Lance Jennings, 176th Wing Chaplain

**Antarctica Adventure.** Standing at the South Pole, 176th Wing Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Lance Jennings braves the frigid temperatures during his recent 60-day tour to Antarctica. Photo: Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Lance Jennings, 176th Wing Chaplain



Background photo: Giuseppe Zibordi, NOAA Corps Collection  
Penguin photo: Lieutenant Phillip Hall, NOAA Corps Collection





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# TOP PRIORITY AT FORT GREELY: SOLDIERS & FAMILIES

Story and photos by Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)

**FORT GREELY, Alaska** . . . Lieutenant General Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, recently paid his first visit to Fort Greely since his assumption of command in December.

Campbell, accompanied by the command's top non-commissioned officer, Command Sergeant Major David Lady, spent two days in January at Fort Greely, touring the installation and Missile Defense Complex. He also met with Soldiers and families.

While eating lunch with Campbell, the Fort Greely Family Readiness Group spoke to the commander on various subjects including quality of life on post and community events.

"We work everyday as though our Soldiers are deployed to ensure the quality of life is met for the Soldiers and families," said Patricia Carson, FRG leader.

Following the FRG briefing, Campbell left the Family Readiness Group members with his commander's coin for excellence and also left some advice.

"The bottom line above all else is that taking care of Soldiers and their families has to be the top priority . . . if your families are happy, then so are your Soldiers," Campbell said.

The afternoon's business included a tour of the Missile Defense Complex during which Campbell went into a Silo Interface Vault, toured the Missile Assembly building and ended the day at the Readiness and Control building.

Once inside, the general met with the war fighters in charge of manning the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System and securing the Missile Defense Complex.

"Lieutenant General Campbell asked lots of questions and was very interested in how manning requirements effect Soldiers working on the Missile Defense Complex," said Sergeant Robert Carson, military police officer for Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD). ■



**Missile Defense.** Lieutenant General Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, discusses terrain features around the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely with Soldiers of Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD).





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# ARMY GUARD SOLDIERS

## *Improve Life* IN AFGHANISTAN

Story and photos by Major Jeff Roach, 207th Infantry Brigade

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** . . . Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers with the 207th Infantry Brigade, Task Force Grizzly, have been conducting operations to temper the impact of the anticipated increase in enemy activity around Kandahar Air Field, as the weather warms this spring in Southern Afghanistan.

Traditionally, as the snow melts down, the enemy is known to conduct offense attacks. In this region of the country, once the mountain passes clear up and the weather warms, the enemy has more freedom to maneuver tactically. Winters are a time when the Taliban extremists re-supply and reinforce. They typically use the winter months to stockpile supplies, train and infiltrate fighters.

TF Grizzly conducts shuras (meetings) with village elders and local government officials to better assist with humanitarian assistance supply distributions and future projects to improve the living conditions in these villages.

In addition to humanitarian aid, the U.S. Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) has played a tremendous part in the development of schools and other community services while also working to improve roads and bridges. Also, with CERP funds, farmers have received more than 50 tractors to improve food production and become more self-sufficient.

However, the security of Afghans and Coalition Forces comes first when it comes to operations in this region.

In February, TF Grizzly, along with Coalition Forces and Afghan National Police, established a temporary vehicle checkpoint near the village of Tahktah Pol where 23 vehicles were searched.

Colonel Stephen Williams, TF Grizzly commander, met with the ANP police chief and village elder in Tahktah Pol to discuss security in the village. During the visit, Coalition Forces provided humanitarian assistance to villagers and to the drivers of vehicles searched at the checkpoint.

In January, TF Grizzly, together with the Afghan National

Border Police, captured a suspected insurgent involved in many of the rocket attacks on Kandahar Air Field. The suspect was apprehended at the Kandahar International Airport where TF Grizzly Soldiers identified the suspect, and the ANBP detained him.

TF Grizzly was instrumental in capturing this insurgent by monitoring incoming flights with the Afghan civil aviation team that manages the airport. The success of this mission relied on coordination with a diverse group of military and civilian organizations. A recent operation with the British Royal Air Force field squadron resulted in the capture of additional leaders in the insurgent cell. These combined efforts removed key players in the enemies attempt to disrupt Coalition Forces and base infrastructure at Kandahar Air Field with indirect fire.

In late November, Afghans travel to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the annual Muslim pilgrimage (Hajj) out of Kandahar Air Field where TF Grizzly fully supported this fifth pillar of Islam.

More than 2,700 Hajj pilgrims traveled via Kam Air, a commercial airline based in Afghanistan, to Mecca with the assistance of the Ministry of Islamic and Hajj Affairs together with TF Grizzly.

TF Grizzly worked with the Afghan Ministry of the Hajj, Afghan Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation, ANBP and Coalition Forces to insure the Hajj participants had safe travels, while maintaining the security of the airfield.

"Kandahar's Hajj operations were reported to be the most organized and efficient of the movements originating from Afghanistan's major regional airports," said Major Scott Allison, TF Grizzly special projects officer, who closely monitored operations during the Hajj.

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**Cleared For Landing.** Staff Sergeant Ryan Weimer, of Wasilla, guides an Australian CH-47 Chinook helicopter in for a landing during a re-supply mission to Task Force Grizzly in Pashmul, Afghanistan.



Since the completion of the Hajj, civilian airlines have continued to offer domestic and international flights to and from Kandahar.

Another key element to the success of TF Grizzly is the Logistics Task Force, 297th Brigade Support Battalion or Task Force Denali, also part of the Alaska Army National Guard. TF Denali's main task is to provide logistical support to combat units in the field.

TF Denali has conducted several combat logistics patrols, which are ground logistics convoys planned and conducted as combat missions that are intended to deliver equipment and supplies. While conducting a CLP, equipment and material can be repositioned, and broken or damaged equipment can be recovered from the battlefield.

Some of the CLPs conducted by TF Denali Soldiers included movement of a wide variety of equipment, such as vehicles damaged by improvised explosive devices, even Canadian light armored vehicles. CLP missions are high risk due to suicide vehicle and roadside bomb threats in the area.

Major Kelly Nichols, TF Denali executive officer, expressed that without TF Denali pushing needed supplies out to forward operating bases, units would have to take time out of their battle rhythm to pick up supplies.

TF Denali also provides virtually all of the supplies and materials to support more than 15,000 Coalition Forces and civilians throughout Southern and Western Afghanistan. ■



**Not Your Typical Trailer Load.** Task Force Denali Soldiers hook up the trailer on a palletized loading system vehicle during a combat logistics patrol to Pashmul, Afghanistan.



**Prayer in Panjwayi.** Task Force Grizzly Chaplain Rick Koch, of Anchorage, conducts a field service for Task Force Grizzly Soldiers at Panjwayi, Afghanistan.

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**Mayor Shows Support.** North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson signs a Statement of Support during a City Council meeting. Pictured from left to right: Colonel John Griffin, commander of the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard; Billie Blanchard, president of MAC Federal Credit Union and Alaska ESGR committee member; Butch Stein, meeting and conventions manager for the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau and Alaska ESGR North Region vice chairman; Mayor Doug Isaacson, City of North Pole; Ramaona McAfee, director of the University of Alaska Statewide Office of Education Services for the Military and Alaska ESGR committee member; and Captain Kelly Mellard, 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard. Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing

The Alaska ESGR takes great pride in supporting all Guard and Reservists and wants to thank each of you, your employers and your families for your commitment. We also encourage Guardsmen and Reservists to nominate their employers for an award and recognize their support efforts. The Alaska ESGR welcomes its new administrative support specialist, Jamie Wunn, who will help you with nomination forms and any other ESGR functions. She is a great asset to the organization and can be reached at (907) 428-6287. The ESGR administrator is located in room D-105 of the Alaska National Guard Armory on Camp Denali.

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In Alaska, many employers go above and beyond to support their military employees. These employers need you, their employee, to recognize them for their support! With more and more deployments approaching, the importance of personal relationships between service members and employers is critical.

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### **Employers, Display Your Support!**

The following is an excerpt from General Peter Pace in his recent address before the Senate Armed Services Committee: "I'd also like to thank the employers of our Guard and Reserve. We could not be doing what we're doing without the Guard and Reserve. These military members are key parts of our team, and we recognize they are also key parts of business teams from where they come. And we appreciate the employers' patience and support, as they perform their duties for the nation."

***Statement of Support.*** The statement of support certificate is one simple but significant way of showing employer support to employees that serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Employers sign a full-color certificate (also pre-signed by the Secretary of Defense and National ESGR Chair). By signing a Statement of Support, the employer recognizes the National Guard and Reserve as essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities. ■

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# Army Guard Rescues Korean Hikers from Bering Strait

**Camp Denali, Alaska . . .** The Alaska Army National Guard rescued three men who were part of a Korean Polar Expedition team from an ice flow in the Bering Strait in early March.

Park Yough Seok, 46, Oh Hee Joon, 36, and Lee Hyeong Mo, 28, all from Korea, left Uelen Settlement, Russia, at the end of February; their quest to walk across the Bering Strait to Alaska. The expeditionary team was reported to be well equipped, but they became stuck when the sea ice had broken up during their trip.

Fearing the ice pan they were camped on would further break, leaving them stranded with no way to reach land, they called the Alaska State Troopers in Nome from a satellite phone.

The Rescue Coordination Center was contacted to help in the rescue, and the Alaska Army National Guard dispatched a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Nome to retrieve the hikers.

After two hours of flying time, the hikers were safely plucked from the ice about 17 miles southwest of Tin City in the Bering Sea and brought to Nome. The Alaska State Troopers coordinated with U.S. Customs for further transportation of the Koreans.

The three hikers appeared to be in good health. The RCC awarded three saves to the Alaska Army National Guard for the rescue. ■



**Rescued at Sea.** Hikers from a Korean expeditionary team appear to be in good spirits after being rescued by an Alaska Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter crew. Sergeant Ray Parker, right, was the crew chief onboard and Captain Franklin J. Bithos was the co-pilot of the UH-60. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

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**ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

# Family Closer than a Phone Call Away in Kuwait

## Grandparents Surprise at Camp Buehring

By Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait** . . . Specialist David Luntz had been at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, only a few days when a small bus pulled up next to him.

"It was one of our lieutenants, and he was pointing and saying something about a grandfather and I was wondering, 'What is he talking about?' Then I looked and it was Richard and Martha in the car and I was like, 'Oh my God,'" said Luntz, his voice still showing the emotion of the moment.

Richard and Martha Luntz are David's grandparents and both have combat support jobs in Kuwait with a private contractor. Richard is a security supervisor in Kuwait City and Martha is an office manager at Camp Buehring, where David is stationed with the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

"Last time I saw David was in Tennessee, and he was just a little guy. Now here he is a Soldier," said Richard, a retired Marine Corps non-commissioned officer.

Luntz was 12 the last time he saw his grandparents. He was living in Tennessee at the time, near his grandparents, but his family moved to Alaska, and the three have not seen each other since. When Luntz found out he was deploying to Kuwait, his father told him that his grandparents would be there too. But still, their reunion on Luntz's third day in Kuwait was a surprise.

"It was exciting," Luntz said.

Soldiering runs in the family, said Martha. "What we have is a Marine Corps father with three children who served in the Army and two grandchildren in the Army. So we are a military

family," she said.

Luntz, 21, joined the Alaska Army National Guard three years ago in Fairbanks where he lives with his wife and daughter. In his civilian career, he is a member of the Painter and Glazers Union but is thinking about a full-time career in the military.

Both Luntz's father and mother are retired from the active-duty Army. His father served in the Middle East during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Things have improved a lot for Soldiers since his father was in the Middle East, Luntz said.

"It's incredible what they've done to make Soldiers comfortable. They've got a movie theater on post, video games set up. Anything you've got on a normal military post, they've got here," Luntz added.

Martha has worked three years in Kuwait and Richard has almost four years in country. They are not sure how long they will stay but plan on making a decision before May. Luntz's unit is scheduled to spend one year in Kuwait and is expected back in Alaska around October 2007. ■



**Scanning Desert Tundra.** Specialist Robert Obrien, of Bethel, uses binoculars to search a border area in the Kuwait desert during a break period while on a patrol. Obrien is a member of Bravo Company. The battalion's mission is to provide security for Coalition Forces stationed in Kuwait. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

# UPDATE FROM KUWAIT

## Desert Duties Keep 3rd Battalion Soldiers Busy

By Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

The primary mission for Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard is to protect Coalition Forces in Kuwait. The missions break down into three main categories: Quick Reaction Force, Area Reaction Force and Entry Control Point.

During QRF and ARF missions, we are responsible for the security of Soldiers stationed at camps in Northern Kuwait. QRF responds to incidents in and around the immediate area of a camp. ARF responds to incidents away from the camp. Incidents can be anything from a report of suspicious activity or a car accident to an attack on the camp.

The QRF and ARF teams go to the site of the reported

activity or incident and secure the site while waiting for the proper authority/unit. For vehicle accidents, we wait for the police; for improvised explosive devices, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit responds.

The Soldiers also man Entry Control Points (gates where vehicles enter the camps) and guard towers associated with ECPs. The Soldiers check IDs, search vehicles and assess third country nationals who work in the camps.

In addition to the security mission, 3rd Battalion Soldiers are also busy with support missions such as maintenance for Humvees, intelligence and communications.



**Sharing Tea and Security Concerns.** Laafir Muziaz, left, a Kuwaiti soldier, shares tea and security concerns with Second Lieutenant Mario Barajas, a platoon leader for Charlie Company. Barajas is from Ketchikan and as a civilian works for the U.S. Forest Service.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



**Few Landmarks in Desert or Tundra.** Staff Sergeant Michael Uttereyuk, of Scammon Bay, checks his GPS for his location in the Kuwaiti desert. Like the tundra in Alaska, the Kuwaiti desert has few landmarks. Uttereyuk is squad leader with Bravo Company and was recently patrolling a sector of the desert.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



**Talcum Powder Desert Creates Mechanical Challenges.** The fine-as-talcum-powder Kuwaiti sand creates challenges for mechanics like Staff Sergeant Gary Stoaks, of Wasilla, seen here checking a Humvee engine for leaks. Stoaks is a member of Bravo Company, and it's his job to keep the company's Humvees serviceable. In Kuwait, that's a big challenge. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



**Lead Vehicle.** Corporal Theodore Kenney, of Fairbanks, listens to his radio after dismounting from his Humvee while patrolling the Kuwaiti desert. Kenney was commanding the lead vehicle during the patrol and is a member of Delta Company. As a civilian, Kenney attends the University of Alaska Fairbanks and is a member of the ROTC program. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



**Oil Check.** As Specialist Leemon Joe watches, Specialist Gavin Phillip checks the oil on a Humvee prior to leaving on a desert patrol in Northern Kuwait. The Soldiers are members of Bravo Company. The battalion's Humvees undergo extensive use, so maintenance checks are critical. Phillip is from Kwigillingok, and Joe is from Hooper Bay.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



**Falcons.** First Lieutenant Norman Carson, of Sitka, holds a trained saker falcon. Carson is a platoon leader with Charlie Company. During a routine patrol in the Kuwaiti desert, Charlie Company Soldiers befriended two Kuwaiti falconers. The falcon is trained to hunt houbara bustards, a large bird known for its delicate red meat, according to the falconers. The Kuwaitis trap their falcons by using a leather trap attached to pigeons. As a civilian, Carson is an Alaska State Trooper and a staff instructor at the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka.

Photo: Specialist Paul Norwood, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



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# Public Affairs Chief Retires

A special thank you goes out to Major Mike Haller, former chief of Public Affairs for the Alaska National Guard, who spent the past 20 years serving the state and the nation so admirably.

Haller officially retired from the Alaska National Guard Jan. 1, but his service to the organization continues. He swore into the Alaska State Defense Force and will don the uniform once again as a member of the 49th Military Police Brigade.

Throughout his career as chief of Public Affairs, Haller has told many unique Alaskan stories about the people who make this state such a great place to live and make us proud to call Alaska home. Haller has been instrumental in getting the real message out about search and rescue missions, emergencies, disasters and deployments – the courageous people and perseverance behind the headlines.

Haller served 35 years, 8 months and 11 days of federal service with the Alaska National Guard, Minnesota National Guard and the U.S. Air Force. He has many accolades to his name and even more friends.

We are grateful for his unwavering dedication and loyalty to the Guard. He will truly be missed but not forgotten. He will have more stories to tell and will continue to contribute content to *Warriors* as a member of the Alaska State Defense Force.

It is with great respect and esteem that we say thank you and congratulations on a successful career that has changed this organization for the better. ■



**Outgoing Awards.** Major Mike Haller shares a light moment with Mike Larson, ESGR executive director, during his official retirement dinner in March. Photo: Courtesy of Pam Beale



**A Token of Thanks.** Major Frank Veith presents Major Mike Haller with an American flag that was flown in Afghanistan by the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade.

Photo: Courtesy of Pam Beale



**Significant Support.** ESGR Executive Director Mike Larson, right, presents Major Mike Haller with a Seven Seals Certificate. The award is named for the seven seals that represent each of the seven branches of Guard and Reserve service. It is given to supportive individuals or agencies that do not directly employ National Guard or Reserve members, but have made significant contributions to the welfare of those that serve. Photo: Courtesy of Pam Beale

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# Family Support

## BIG Bargains Brought to Bethel

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

Forklifts offloaded three pallets worth of commissary goods, filling Bethel's National Guard hangar in less than an hour. Two cash registers were hastily set up and a third "spare" sat at the ready, awaiting the influx of patrons.

All the action was in preparation for a giant case-lot sale brought to the Bethel community by the Alaska National Guard and the Elmendorf commissary. The effort was the result of more than three months of coordination between the Guard, the Bethel Family Support Group and commissary personnel.

"In roughly one hour, we did nearly \$16,000 worth of business," said Don Fleck, the Elmendorf store administrator. "We brought in around 1,000 cases, and only 13 cases came back. We just didn't have enough product for them."

The commissary run is limited by the aircraft's capacity, typically 16,000 pounds.

"Volume's not the problem, so much as the weight" of the cargo, Fleck said. However, future sales events are hoping to utilize two planes to bring the goods, "one [plane of items] the day before, and one the day of the sale," to better meet the demand, he said.

"We'd like to have more product of a greater variety," Fleck said. "We'd like to better serve requests for canned vegetables, paper goods like toilet paper and paper towels, sodas, powdered detergents and dog food."

Forty-eight purchases were rung up that day, representing a significant value to those who participated.

"Normally, commissary patrons see a savings of about 30 percent in the Anchorage area," said commissary manager Scott Hill. "But in Bethel, the

savings are probably closer to 70 percent."

The most recent run marks the fifth in a series throughout the past two years, with another earlier trip to Bethel and three prior trips to Nome. The trips are typically coordinated to the week following a larger case lot sale at the Elmendorf commissary, and the products are airlifted via Alaska Air National Guard C-130s to the remote locations.

What's brought is the direct result of planning and coordination with patrons in Bethel and Nome. Products that don't sell well won't likely come back again, as was the case with the boxes of infant-sized diapers that had to be brought back. Other decisions are made as the result of lessons learned, such as the spare cash register.

"Maybe next time we'll bring some health and beauty aids," Fleck said, because usually those items are much more expensive in the Bush.

The next planned commissary runs are to Nome in May and to Bethel in September. ■



**Getting Set.** Anchorage area commissary employee Don Fleck maneuvers a pallet of goods into place in Bethel's Army National Guard hangar. In the background, Chief Warrant Officer Two Nyle Harrison uses a forklift to help move heavier pallets into position. More than volume, weight is a primary concern in determining how much can be airlifted in for Bush patrons.



**Shopping Patrons.** Bethel Guard members and other service members, retirees and their families choose amongst the bulk packaged commissary goods.

*"Normally, commissary patrons see a savings of about 30 percent in the Anchorage area. But in Bethel, the savings are probably closer to 70 percent."*

— Commissary Manager Scott Hill



# 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 1991 said, "It is important for present and future generations to understand the sacrifices our Minutemen and women have always made for Alaska." Our Legacy...

## BETWEEN THE WARS – PART III

While Alaska did not have a National Guard during the years between the wars, the interest in such an organization remained. There were in the territory many men who belonged to the Reserve Officers Association and the National Guard Association of the United States. Some attended national conventions and others maintained contact through the mail. The lifestyle of the nature of the land attracted a large number of veterans to Alaska. The basic ingredients for the building of a Minuteman Force were in place in the Last Frontier.

A rather unique problem developed following the Armistice of 1918. There were still Alaskans in the military service who thought they would never be civilians again. The governor was asked to use his position to get the Alaskans home. The majority of these men were miners and fishermen who could envision a whole working season slipping away while they sat idle at a military camp. The request for help came as far away as Pontoux, France, where Private Stanley G. Thomas lamented, "Could you use your influence to secure my release from the Army? During the period of the war the 20th Engineers operated a saw mill just behind the lines on the Alsace Front. Our company is operating one of the several mills in a large area of burned timber and our chances of getting home soon does not look very promising. We never complained during hostilities but now that hostilities have closed, we feel entitled to return to God's Country. It is a fact that Alaska is short of men for the mines and cannaries."

There were many Alaskans who volunteered for another uniformed service called the U.S. Guards. This organization called for prior servicemen to volunteer to serve at military bases in Alaska. The U.S. Guards would take men up to the age of 60, and many old-time Alaskans, particularly miners and fisher-

men, put on uniforms for the duration of the war. Company A was assigned to Fort William Seward while company B served its time at Fort Gibbon.

Second Lieutenant James H. McCarron had joined the U.S. Guards in San Francisco after leaving Seward. He was trained at Angels Island and served in Company A, 6th Bn, U.S. Guards at the Presidio until he was assigned to the 30th Bn, U.S.G. at Fort Gibbon, Alaska. He owned mining property near Seward and hoped to go overland by way of Nenana while the trail was good if the governor could obtain his release in April 1919. When he found out a discharge was not forthcoming, he dropped a bombshell on the governors desk. He informed the governor that some of his friends in the U.S. Guards at Fort William Seward were virtually prisoners of the Army and his own discharge was being held up at Fort Gibbon.

Governor Riggs held informal hearings with eight discharged Alaskan Soldiers concerning their friends still being held by the U.S. Army. They testified that the commanding officer, a Major White, had indeed used devious means to hold on to Alaskans in his rapidly shrinking command in Haines. The War Department circular concerning discharges was read at reveille and then posted on the post bulletin board, but the all-important Circulars 86 and 186, which outlined how to get a discharge, were withheld from the men. When the Alaskans realized what the Army was doing, they retaliated by having their plight published in the public press.

One of the requirements for discharge was a letter from an employer stating a position existed for the Soldier. Immediately, the Alaskans prepared wires to prospective employers within the Territory. The Army responded by creating new rules. All mail in any way soliciting outside aid to obtain discharges



**Governor Thomas Riggs, Jr. (1918-1921)** tried to keep the Home Guard intact following WWI. His efforts to form a National Guard and an Alaska Ranger Force were unsuccessful.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska State Library, Juneau

was censored and wires being sent off post had to be cleared by the post adjutant. All communications from the post by Soldiers concerning discharges were stopped. Major White said no more men could be spared by the command.

Private Thomas Running prepared his wire and found it in an outgoing basket five weeks later. He went to the company commander who said, "I'll send it through now but I'll mark it disapproved." The private replied, "That's just what I want you to do; I just want to find out if you can hold me here any longer." He then sat down and wrote a letter to the governor. Perhaps the governor could make it a trade off with the U.S. Army – Alaskans in exchange for the return of thousands of venereal disease pamphlets which had arrived for the Home Guard long after the war was over. The pamphlets were colorful affairs titled: VD, U-Boat #13 – A Modern Attack on an Old Enemy. ■

Next *Legacy* installment from *Soldiers of the Mists* series: *Between the Wars – Part IV.*

*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.



# Who We Are...

## What Makes Living in Alaska Unique?

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James Young**

*1st Battalion Readiness NCO,  
Alaska Army National Guard*



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**Second Lieutenant  
Linda Tomisser**

*Financial Liability Officer  
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"I see moose from my back door. They love the bushes we have at the condo. I found out that Kincaid Park is only one of two internationally accredited ski racing areas in the country."

**Rich Williams**  
*Family Readiness Assistant*



"A day in Alaska is like a day on the farm, where every meal is a banquet, every formation a parade and every paycheck a fortune. It's all about attitude ... if you're going to have one, pick a good one because they're all free."

**Private First Class  
Carrie Morgan**

*Aviation Pay Clerk  
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**Colonel Dave Lowell**  
*Alaska Air National Guard*



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 COL James M. Houseworth ..... Med Det  
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 COL Anne C. Moen ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Meritorious Service Medal



CMSgt Duane I. Beland .....168th MXG  
 SMSgt Richard C. Croteau .....168th MXS  
 SMSgt Brenda L. Nogueira .....168th LRS  
 MSgt Steven D. Guyton .....168th ARW  
 MSgt Kim J. Jucknath .....168th MOF  
 LTC Catherine F. Jorgensen .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SFC Rodger Morrison .....RRD  
 SSG Samuel D. English .....297th Spt Bn  
 SGT Barry C. Simpson .....297th Spt Bn  
 MSgt Rex C. Hasty .....168th MXS  
 Lt Col Allen B. Grunin .....168th ARS  
 Maj Robert Mackelprang .....168th ARS

SMSgt Donald A. Claveau, Jr. ....168th ARW  
 MSgt Scott D. Stewart .....168th MSF  
 TSgt Roberto J. Cardenas .....176th MXS  
 MSgt Kim T. Groat .....144th AS  
 TSgt Tiffany C. Gregory .....176th MDG  
 MSgt Jennifer S. Assenmacher ...176th ACS  
 MSgt Bradley W. Johnson .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Dennis Fox .....176th ACS

## Army Commendation Medal



MSG Jennifer E. Heffele ..... 207th Bde

## Air Force Commendation Medal



TSgt Daniel Grant .....168th LRS  
 TSgt Tracy J. Smith .....168th LRS  
 TSgt Michael P. McBarnes .....168th MXS  
 TSgt Paul E. Wright Jr .....168th MSF  
 SSgt Frederick G. Adams .....168th MXS  
 SrA Robert J. Ostrander .....168th ARS  
 SSgt William P. Irvine .....168th MXS  
 TSgt Jeremiah J. Johnson .....168th MXS  
 TSgt Edward N. Deal .....168th MXS

TSgt Robert R. Dubia .....168th MXS  
 TSgt Jeffrey C. Marsh .....168th MXS  
 SSgt Justin W. Olsen .....168th MXS  
 SrA James R. Prescott .....168th MXS  
 SSgt Kyla M. Root .....168th MXS  
 SSgt Scott F. Gracik .....168th MXS  
 MSgt Rex C. Hasty .....168th MXS  
 SSgt Eric Y. Shinsato .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Marsali A. Rundell .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Thomas J. Gregory .....176th MDG

## Army Achievement Medal



SGT Donald Gum .....RRD  
 SFC Lonnie A. Staib .....RRD  
 SGT Jarrett W. Carson .....RRD  
 SFC Felica Link .....RRD

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 SSgt George D. Bender .....168th MOF  
 SSgt Jason B. DeHeus .....168th LRS  
 SSgt Loren A. Dobberpuhl .....168th ARS  
 SrA Fredrick W. Smith .....168th MXS  
 SrA Alisa M. Ham .....168th LRS  
 SrA Cristal L. Webb .....168th LRS  
 SrA Fredrick W. Smith .....168th MXS  
 SSgt George D. Bender .....168th MOF  
 SSgt Jason B. De Heus .....168th LRS  
 TSgt Joseph T. Debano III .....168th MXS  
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 MSG Steven E. Otnes .....3rd Bn  
 SFC Homer K. Nunooruk .....3rd Bn  
 SSG Derek Teo Rabago .....3rd Bn  
 SSG Vernon M. Metcalfe .....3rd Bn  
 SSG Brent R. Mast .....3rd Bn  
 SGT Carlos R. Huff II .....3rd Bn  
 SSG George Heckaman .....3rd Bn  
 SFC William R. Hayes .....3rd Bn  
 SFC Michael T. Eastham .....3rd Bn  
 SFC Morris I. Carrillo .....3rd Bn  
 SSG Jay E. Baldwin .....3rd Bn  
 SSG Roy C. Brendible Jr .....3rd Bn

**Armed Forces Reserve Medal**



SGT Kim E. Derr .....Med Det  
 SSG Richard Sr. Togiak .....1st Bn

**Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal**



SGT Kim E. Derr .....Med Det  
 SSG Richard Sr. Togiak .....1st Bn

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Anita Porter .....DMVA

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 BG Thomas H. Katkus .....JFHQ-AK (SMD)  
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SPC Angela Carelock .....207th Bde  
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## PROMOTIONS

### Lieutenant Colonel

Molly Tartarka .....176th ACS  
 Toy Owen .....176th WG  
 Paul Vanderweide .....176th WG  
 Travis Penrod .....211th RQS  
 Scott Coniglio .....211th RQS

### Major

Kenneth Wiess .....176th SFS

### First Lieutenant

Ricardo Montana .....212th RQS  
 Eric Barlow .....144th AS  
 Scott Dickerson .....144th AS  
 Jay Randall .....211th RQS

### Master Sergeant (E-8)

Richard K. Hildreth .....RRD  
 David F. Drumm .....207th Avn  
 Diana G. Watson .....RRD

### Senior Master Sergeant

Brett S. Ayres .....168th ARS  
 Catherine A. Pointer .....168th MSF  
 Delmar J. Schaefers .....176th CF  
 Mark F. Eggleton .....176th ACS

### Sergeant First Class

Shannon M. Tallant .....207th Avn  
 Kevin T. Forster .....207th Avn  
 Ryan J. Weimer .....207th Bde  
 Glenn E. Fish .....207th Bde

### Master Sergeant (E-7)

David W. Hoskins .....168th MXS  
 Nathan P. Horne .....168th MXS  
 Ricky L. Case .....168th MDG  
 Brian C. Harlan .....168th ARS  
 Robert C. Dowler .....168th LRS  
 Julie K. Williams .....176th ACS  
 Nathaniel I. McElroy .....176th ACS  
 Tracy L. Glaze .....176th MSF  
 Todd A. Maynard .....176th SFS  
 Sherry L. Ferno .....176th SFS  
 Charles R. Rohe .....144th AS  
 Shannon L. Amos .....176th MSF

### Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Andreas Bohman .....1st Bn  
 Trudi G. Nickell .....207th Avn  
 Joel E. Duggins .....207th Bde  
 Bonnie L. Henning .....207th Avn

### Technical Sergeant

Charles A. Mitchell .....213th SWS  
 James O. Brownlee Jr. ....213th SWS  
 Andrew R. Webster .....213th SWS

Robert P. Wray .....176th LRS  
 Shaquita D. Long .....176th LRS  
 Roy A. Hemmen .....176th LRS  
 Jonathan T. Diel .....176th CF  
 Julie A. Arthur .....176th MOF  
 Michael C. Flynn .....176th CF  
 Scott A. Braley .....176th CF  
 Anthony M. Funsch .....176th SFS  
 David M. Schroeder .....176th SFS  
 Michael D. Pulanco .....176th SFS  
 Sara McReynolds .....176th MDG  
 Zandra O. Teodosio .....176th MSF

### Sergeant

Joshua L. Wheeler .....49th MDB

### Staff Sergeant

Sheri N. Lausen .....213th SWS  
 Timothy P. Munoz .....176th ACS  
 David M. Haupt .....176th SFS  
 Michael R. Daly .....176th MXS  
 Edward L. Lee .....176th AMXS  
 Richard T. Novy Jr. ....176th SFS  
 Kenneth W. Gillum .....210th RQS  
 Keri Larkin .....176th SVF  
 Gabriell D. Taylor .....176th SFS  
 Scott J. Ruta .....176th MXS

## RETIREMENTS

Brig Gen Timothy W. Scott... JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 COL Richard Thomas .... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 COL Anne C. Moen ..... JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SSG Carl White Jr ..... 2nd Bn  
 CW3 Paul J. Gerharz ..... RTI  
 SGT Raymon Nichols ..... 297th Spt Bn  
 W04 Danny Larson ..... 207th Avn  
 SFC Eric Peterson ..... 207th Avn  
 SFC Ferdinand Cleveland ..... 2nd Bn  
 SGT Ronald Peters ..... 2nd Bn  
 SGT Daniel Grota ..... 297th Spt Bn  
 SGT Douglas Rowe Jr ..... 207th Avn  
 CMSgt Duane I. Beland ..... 168th MXG  
 MSgt Kim J. Jucknath ..... 168th MOF  
 CMSgt Duane I. Beland ..... 168th MXG  
 TSgt John C. Boyer ..... 168th AMXS  
 MSgt Rex C. Hasty ..... 168th MXS  
 CMSgt Robert Garger ..... 210th RQS  
 CMSgt Robert McNeil ..... 211th RQS  
 CMSgt Mark McGrath ..... JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 SMSgt Clifford Cook ..... 176th ACS  
 SMSgt Seaborn Buckalew ..... 176th LRS  
 SMSgt Brian Hartley ..... 176th MSF  
 SMSgt Harold Wood ..... 176th AMXS  
 MSgt Eugene L. Demeter ..... 176th AMXS  
 MSgt John A. Goetz ..... 176th CES  
 TSgt Roberto Cardenas ..... 176th MXS  
 TSgt Brian A. Hessert ..... 176th MXS  
 TSgt Tony Houser ..... 176th LRS  
 TSgt Wayne Tinsley ..... 176th LRS



**A Career of Service.** Colonel Richard L. Thomas, special projects officer for the Alaska Army National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters, left, receives an Alaska Legion of Merit award and certificate from Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, during his retirement ceremony on Feb. 10. Thomas, who retired after serving for 33 years, was heralded for his service. "Colonel Thomas was a key player in the transformation of the Guard into a ready and relevant force in the War on Terror," Campbell said.  
 Photo: Sergeant Laura E. Griffin, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



# Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees



## 176th Wing

Jeffrey Schwengler  
Richard Vanerkolk  
Eric Peltier  
Jessica Parsons  
Nicholas Martin  
Wyatt Derner  
Sheldon Linton  
Shantavia Odom  
James Richardson  
Neil Barnack  
Natoya Harris  
Thomas Elliott

## 168th Air Refueling Wing

James Ostrander  
David Karras  
Warren Fraser  
Bryan Tappan  
Cristian Willey  
Patricia Ragland  
Michael Lamphere  
Charles Forquer  
Eric Warner

## 207th Aviation

Joshua Stroud  
Siana Stewart  
Adam Shafer  
Nicholas Abrams  
Kerry Rasmussen  
Michelle Sutherland  
Ashley Ellis  
Robert Stamper

## 297th Infantry

Matthew Beaver  
Kraig Logston  
Nathaniel Peck  
Thorsheim Johnson  
Michael Handley  
Michael Dunkle  
Michael Shay  
Timothy Yarbrough  
Terrell Durant  
Anthony Lee

## 297th Support Battalion

Lucy Carroll

Preston Alexander  
Timothy Sullivan  
Danielle Tolley  
Uriah Keith  
Andy Thompson  
Ted Harkleroad  
Robert Kitchen  
Trudy Williams  
Army Guard Medical Detachment  
John Hofbauer  
William Houser  
William Hartig  
Jordan Gray

## 207th Infantry Brigade

Jerry Issakson  
Thomas Hensley  
David Russell  
Jessie Ellis  
Trevor Keefe  
Magdalyn Tuuaga

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## 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.

	April	May	June
<b>Alaska National Guard</b>			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	14-15	19-20	9-10
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	14-15	5-6	9-10
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>			
207th Infantry Group	13-15	20	8-10
1/207th Aviation Regiment	13-15	No Drill	8-10
297th Support Battalion	13-15	20	8-10
Regional Training Institute	21-22	19-20	9-10
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>			
168th Air Refueling Wing	14-15	17-20	9-10
176th Wing	14-15	19-20	9-10
<b>Alaska State Defense Force</b>			
Headquarters	21-22	19-20	16-17



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