

WINTER 2004 - 2005

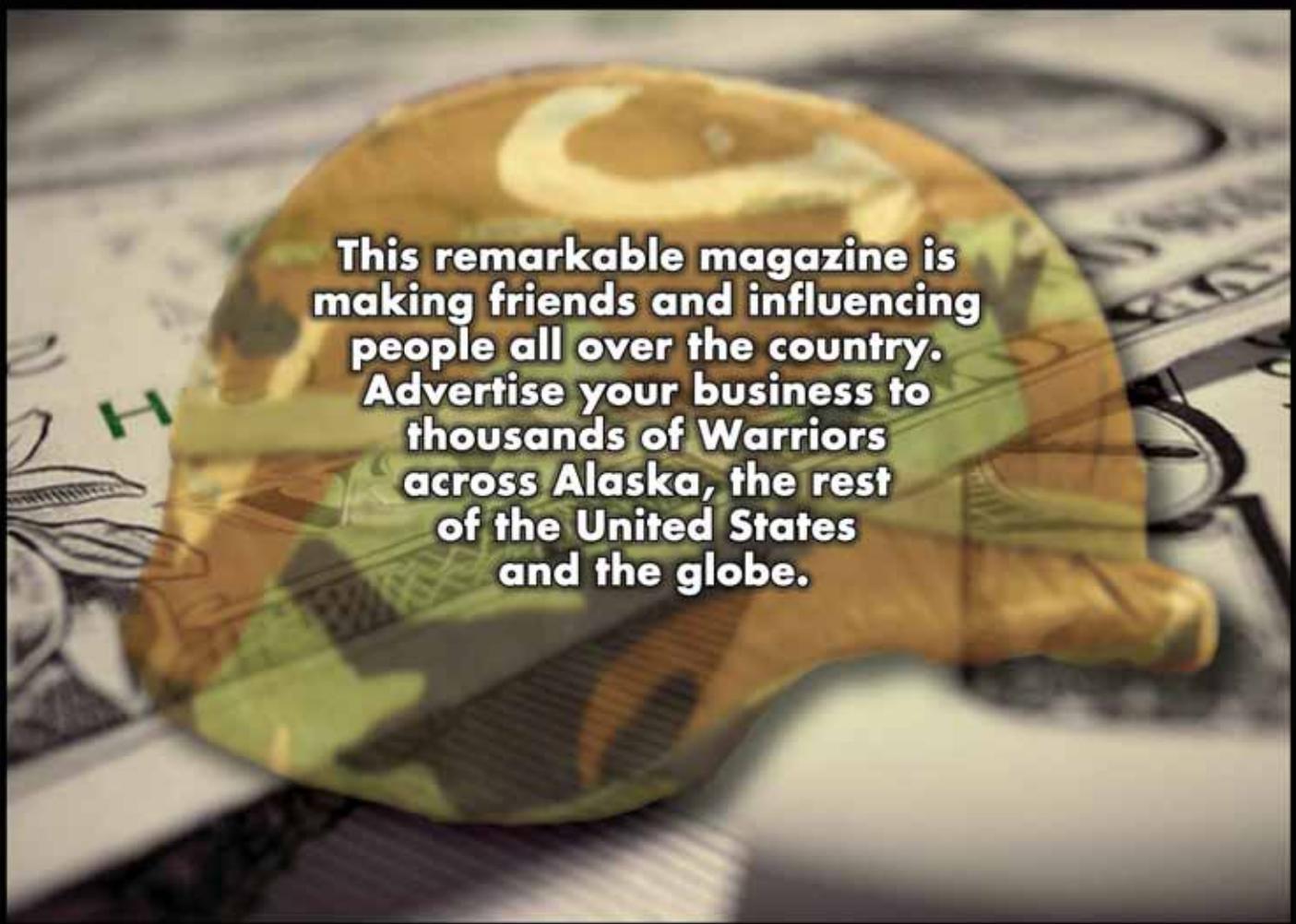
WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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Operation Santa Claus Arrives. Alaskan Artist Barbara Lavallee captures the overwhelming joy and pandemonium of what happens when Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive with their elves and the help of the Alaska National Guard in Alaska's villages. (See stories on pages 14-16).



Wow! What a Pumpkin!! Alaska Army National Guard Captain Eric Barlow and his wife, Silvia, search for the perfect pumpkin during the first traveling Military Commissary visit to Bethel. Commissary workers took nearly 30,000 pounds of low-cost groceries aboard an Alaska Air National Guard C-130H Hercules to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta city to make available for Guardmembers, military retirees, and their families. The next grocery lift is set for Nome. (See story on pages 10-11). Photo: Mark Farmer, Associated Press

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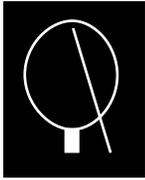


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Dispatches from the Front...

Injured Hunter Saved Near McGrath

McGRATH... A 60-year-old injured hunter near McGrath was rescued by the Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron in late September.

A representative with the Alaska National Guard Rescue Coordination Center, at Camp Denali, said the man was hunting with three friends when he fell and hurt his shoulder sometime Sunday, Sept. 19. The group had a satellite phone with them and called Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Air Taxi, the carrier that transported the hunters to the area, for assistance.

Extreme fog prompted Troopers to ask the RCC to recover the injured hunter. The RCC tasked an Alaska Air National Guard HC-130 Hercules fixed wing aircraft and an HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter shortly before 9:30 a.m., Sept. 20.

"It took awhile to reach the injured man because of the weather conditions," said Master Sergeant Carla Fielding, a controller with the RCC.

The hunter was taken to McGrath, and subsequently moved to Kulis ANG Base, then on to Providence Hospital in an ambulance.

"He was in severe pain but very happy to be rescued and out of there," said Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington, who assisted in the rescue. ■

Elementary Students Create Mars Base Prototype

Guard and NASA Promote Science in "Teaching from Space" Program

CAMP DENALI... Students from Mount Spurr and Ursa Major Elementary schools, in Anchorage and Ft. Richardson, took part in an absolutely out-of-this-world learning experience, working directly with NASA, thanks to the resources of the Alaska National Guard.



"As part of the National Guard's STARBASE program, two Alaska fifth- and sixth-grade classes video-linked with students from West Virginia, Virginia and Texas in space engineering design teams," said Kalei Brooks, public information officer for the Alaska National Guard.

They created a three-dimensional model for a Mars Surface Living Habitat that could safely house and protect a human crew from the Martian elements. After the exercise, students presented their conclusions to a panel of NASA educational facilitators via a video-conferencing link that is made possible through the National Guard's Distributive Training Technology Project.

The STARBASE program is designed for students ages 6 through 18 to enhance their math and science skills. The course principally exposes at-risk children and their teachers to real world applications of math and science through experiential learning, simulations and experiments in aviation and space related fields. ■

Alaskans Ensure Support to Hurricane Florida

PUNTA GORDA, Florida... A team of Alaskans, including staff with the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the Department of Health & Social Services, as well as the Division of Forestry provided the State of Florida assistance in the wake of four Hurricanes – Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. Emergency Management Specialist George Coyle returned home after serving two weeks as a logistics specialist, ensuring food and water got to the affected residents. Kerre Fisher and Jim Mackin (DHSS), and DHS&EM's Robert Goffre along with Janet Ladd (DOF) returned after fulfilling assignments in the Florida Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. ■

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Where in the World

Regimental Traditions Exchanged

Story by Colour Sergeant Ellis Charles, 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, Princess of Wales Royal Regiment

CANTERBURY, England... After a 27-hour overseas trip, I finally arrived in Anchorage from the United Kingdom to start an adventure of a lifetime.

I joined the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Group's Long Range Surveillance (Airborne) Detachment, and in turn, Sergeant First Class Troy Arnett took my place in the Close Reconnaissance Platoon, 3rd Battalion, Princes of Wales' Royal Regiment 'Tigers.'

This exchange program allows soldiers from the U.S. and U.K. to temporarily switch units to experience military service from another country's perspective.

I found my new Alaska detachment, which provides airborne entry capability, to be very similar to the British Close Recce Platoon. During the first week, I trained the detachment on various field problems while observing some of their training methods. I was quite surprised to see how similar our tactics were.

During the first few field exercises, bears and moose began to emerge. I found it certainly focused your field craft skills when you knew you were not the top of the food chain out there.

Weapon and vehicle checks were done during the first few days of Annual Training. The vehicles ranged from the HUMV to a vehicle they refer to as a SUSV (an articulated tracked vehicle) we know as a BV 206 used in Norway.

One interesting experience I had while part of the American detachment was going out in uniform at the end of the working day. On one occasion, I went with a group of soldiers to a restaurant in uniform – something I felt a little



Welcome Home. Ten Alaska Air National Guard members returned home after serving more than seven months in Iraq as truck drivers with the Army. Master Sergeant Jon Gibson, Technical Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Staff Sergeants Byron Lee and Bill Walden, and Senior Airman Jay Mendoza, of the 176th Logistics Resource Squadron at Kulis ANG Base, were among the first home. Five members of the 168th Air Refueling Wing also took part in the action. Photo: Senior Master Sergeant Paul D. Charron, 176th Wing



When in Mongolia. Camels, horses and jeeps are common transport in rural areas. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

odd doing because British soldiers seldom don their uniforms in public after work.

But that wasn't the only surprise during this outing. At the end of the meal, our waitress brought us the check and told us someone in the restaurant had paid for our meals. Written on the bill: "Your service is appreciated."

My next eye-opening experience was out on a civilian range at the end of the first week. The guys had the opportunity to bring their own firearms to the range for some instruction within the detachment. I fired pistols of every calibre from

.22 up to .44 and pump action to repeating shotguns.

I was lucky to go on one flight trip past Mount McKinley, highest mountain in North America. This was a fantastic flight – four ships practicing formation flying. It was an excellent chance to see more of the state – even if it was at 50 feet, at about 150 mph.

My exchange finished all too early. I have to thank my hosts for a truly excellent exchange. LRSD soldiers were excellent in their training methods and dedication. ■



Regimental Traditions. When the Princess of Wales' 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion Colour Sergeant Ellis Charles arrived at Camp Denali he found that he had more in common with the Scouts of the Alaska Army National Guard than he'd counted on. The Territorial Army, of which Ellis is a member, is similar to the Guard in that it is usual for family members and friends to serve in the same units for generations. The training, responsibilities, and expectations are similar as well. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD



of public affairs for the Alaska National Guard. "They are from Wasilla, Palmer, the Mat-Su, Anchorage and the Y-K Delta." ■

Scouts Head to Iraq

JUNEAU... A company of Army National Guard troops was mobilized Sept. 10 by President George W. Bush, with concurrence of Governor Frank H. Murkowski, as part of an involuntary call-up of Guard units from several states to support the war in Iraq.

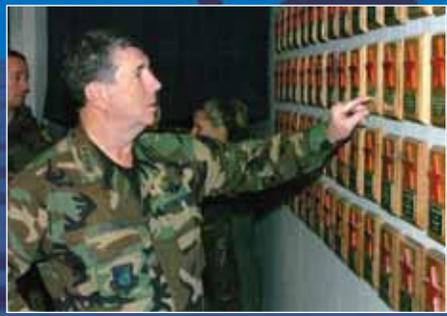
About 130 soldiers of A Company, Third Battalion (Scout), 297th Infantry, headquartered in Juneau, were activated by the call. Their activation is expected to last up to 18 months.

The Department of Defense issued orders for the call-up of nearly 60 National Guard and Reserve units from more than a dozen states. This is the first federal call-up of an Alaska National Guard infantry unit since World War II.

"The President has asked and I've concurred with the involuntary call-up of a portion of our Alaska Army National Guard troops for duty in the global war on terror. We're extremely proud of their selfless service in our communities, throughout our state and now to America in this time of need," Murkowski said.

"These are our families, our neighbors, our friends. They go forward with our thoughts and prayers and with the knowledge that Alaskans across our state await their safe return," the Governor said.

The battalion has elements located throughout Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. The unit had 30 days to gather at Fort Richardson for its pre-mobilization station before departing to their duty assignments. The unit was assigned to blend with the 29th Infantry Brigade from Hawaii that is bound for Iraq. ■



Red Star Wall. General Paul V. Hester, Commanding General for Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) inspects the plaques commemorating intercepts of Russian aircraft into Alaskan airspace. Hester was touring the Control Center of Alaska's North American Aerospace Command site at Elmendorf Air Force Base. The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th ACS recently took over operational activities from the Air Force. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD



Power of Friendship. Mongolia and Alaska's partnership is continuing to increase in depth and value as exchanges and visits move forward. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

Missile Defenders Increase

Story by Kalei Brooks

FORT GREELY... About 50 Alaska National Guardsmen were called to Federal Active Duty adding support of military police at the Fort Greely Missile Defense Site.

Soldiers from B Company, 297th Support Battalion, and C Company, 2nd Battalion (Scout), 297th Infantry began serving a 12-month deployment in October. They began their early train-up and pre-mobilization activities at Camp

Denali and Fort Richardson before moving north to Fort Greely.

These soldiers will be joining 40 guardsmen, from B Company, 1st Battalion (Scout), 297th Infantry, who previously deployed in April. They are working along with the Army National Guard's Military Police Company already on the ground at Fort Greely. The soldiers underwent training in preparation for working "inside of the wire" to help secure the site and will be extended for up to one year.

"This team of soldiers is among our very best," said Major Mike Haller, chief



My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



Ready to Serve – Our Simple Vision Statement Has Truly Become Our Motto As We Defend Our Homeland

It is no accident that our soldiers, airmen and our civilian employees are looked to for support in these days when the needs of our nation and our neighbors are so great. For our part, we are doing everything possible to be ready when called upon.

In recent months, our Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management answered calls from Florida to assist with its recovery from a series of terrible hurricanes and storms. And when you think about it, who better? We know about severe weather, earthquakes, tsunamis and the like. We were ready.

As the War on Terror continues, we're responding to the calls of our nation. For the first time in 63 years, we've deployed one of our Infantry units to a combat zone. Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry is headed to Iraq as part of the 29th Infantry Brigade.

Other Army and Air Guard units have been to Kosovo and Afghanistan. Individuals and small units went to Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Russia and elsewhere.

At home, as American scientists and military technicians have

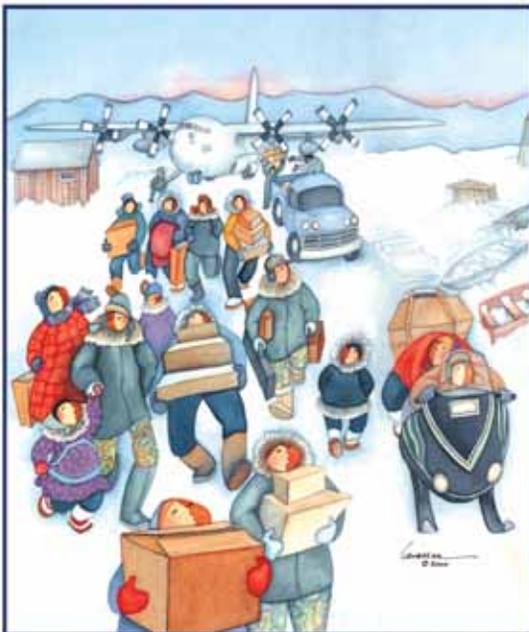
put the finishing touches on our Ground Based National Missile Defense program at Ft. Greely, we've risen to meet the challenges. More than 100 soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry and B Company, 297th Support Battalion were deployed to support the operational requirements of the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Space & Missile Defense Battalion.

At Clear AFS and the Regional Air Operations Center at Elmendorf AFB, Air National Guard airmen are integrating into the operational art of Space Defense of North America. Nearly 250 airmen and officers operate the two unique missions – representing our commitment to meet America's needs.

We know that there are other assignments and deployments coming our way. We also know our families, our neighbors, and employers of our traditional Guard members make our successes possible. Clearly, our nation would suffer without their commitment. Because of them, *we are Ready to Serve*. May God bless America. Always. ■

THE WORK OF ALASKAN WATERCOLOR ARTIST

BARBARA LAVALLEE



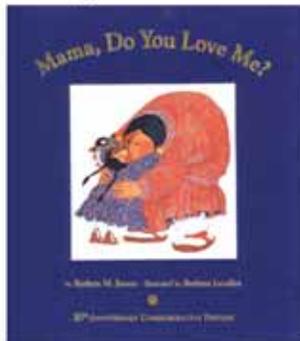
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Second Force Protection Exercise Challenges Fort Greely Soldiers

Story and Photos by Sergeant Sara Storey, 100th GMD Public Affairs

FORT GREELY... Soldiers from the 49th Space & Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) participated in the second Force Protection Exercise in September.

The unit is part of the nation's emerging missile defense program designed to protect the United States from ballistic missile attacks. The program is scheduled to have limited defensive capabilities this fall.

This Force Protection Exercise, the second of three, was designed to test security forces assigned to guard the Missile Field Complex. According to Sergeant Major Ramon Martinez, exercise observer and controller, the exercise was a continuation from the first one.

"The exercises are specifically designed to train and test the security forces by making each exercise increas-

ingly more difficult and challenging than the previous one," Martinez said.

Some of the difficulties faced by security forces during this exercise were cold weather, sustained 48-hour operations and reaction to a more determined group of protesters who had a history of destructive behavior. Mock protesters – soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard who volunteered to participate – picketed along the fence line of the Missile Field Complex while Department of the Army civilian police and Guard security forces protected the area.

Prior to the exercise, soldiers received training on the Rules of Engagement (ROE) and Rules of Use of Force (RUF) in a peacetime, non-armed conflict from Major Michael Burmeister, an operational law attorney with Space & Missile Defense Command.

The RUF provides for the use of deadly force if necessary, as a last resort, to defend property designated as vital to national security or to protect people from serious injury or death. The ROE is used when performing operations in combat situations or defending against an attack against the United States, according to Burmeister.

"This exercise built on previous training," Burmeister said. "Using the ROE and RUF properly requires security forces to think on their feet – this is a job for highly motivated and intelligent people. These Soldiers have shown dedication and haven't been responding with knee-jerk reactions – they've been thinking things through and properly using what they've been taught." ■



Missile Defense: Up Close and Personal. Alaska Army National Guard soldiers, assigned to help defend the Missile Defense Complex at Ft. Greely, use a wide range of techniques, technologies, and vehicles to get their mission accomplished. From armed Hummers, to all-terrain vehicles and snowmachines, soldiers are able to complete their tasks. Mock protesters are routinely used to help train troops during Force Protection exercises.



Good News for Soldier-Scholars

Tuition Support Increases to Meet Needs, Hopes, Dreams, Opportunities

Story by Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD

CAMP DENALI... Good news for soldiers pursuing higher education – the Alaska Army National Guard will now fund 100-percent federal tuition assistance for its soldiers.

“The Army National Guard has decided to award 100-percent tuition assistance to its members as a result of a decision about recruiting incentives,” said Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Kidrick, education officer for the Guard. Previously, Army Guard soldiers received 75-percent federal tuition assistance, and the remainder was covered by state tuition funds. The state money available was split between Army Guard, Air Guard and Naval Militia members.

“The effect on Alaska is that all state tuition assistance now will be available to solely the Naval Militia and Air Guard,” Kidrick said.

Air Guard and Naval Militia members attending a University of Alaska school must apply for tuition assistance starting Dec. 15, 2004, using TAG Form 621-5R and submitting the required documentation.

Army Guard soldiers must apply for tuition assistance as soon as they have registered using DA Form 2171 and the school-issued proof of registration.

For all members attending an in-state school other than a University of Alaska school or attending an in-state training or certification program, no application start date applies. Complete TAG Form 629-A, and submit it with the appropriate documentation as soon as you are registered.

Guard soldiers pursuing a master’s degree should speak with the Education Support Officer when applying for tuition assistance.

To clarify, all eligible Guard or Militia members applying for any form of tuition assistance are required to provide appropriate supporting documentation issued by the school. This documentation must include tuition and fees, class schedule and student identification number. For UA students, the best document is the UA-issued Schedule/Bill.

“The result of this change is there should be sufficient funding for education for Alaska Guard and Militia members in the future.” Kidrick said.

“Also important is member use of the program in accordance with policy guidance and directives. It’s important that service members take the time to accurately fill out forms and obtain the proper paperwork from their secondary and post secondary education facilities

and to get all the required signatures prior to submission.”

For all tuition assistance recipients, any changes in academic status must be reported to the ESO immediately. Failure to report such changes in status can jeopardize your continued use of the tuition assistance program.

“This decision by the National Guard Bureau to fund 100 percent of tuition and approved fees is a new era for Army Guard members. It’s a great recruiting incentive that we hope will have a positive impact on our organization,” he said.

“There are obvious benefits to a more educated National Guard – not only for our organization but for the state as a whole,” he said. “Additionally, many members can use the education acquired in the National Guard for post National Guard employment.”

Forms are available online at www.ak-prepared.com/dmva. They must be completed correctly to ensure that tuition assistance applications are processed in a timely manner. Contact Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Kidrick at 907-428-6403. ■



Photos: Courtesy of Nome Nugget Newspaper

\$20,000 JROTC Grant. Major General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General (right), with Brigadier General Craig Christensen (left) present Nome Junior ROTC with a special \$20,000 grant for their new program.



In-Step For Success. Nome High School Junior ROTC Program is well underway as one of the newest and most successful in America. Students are learning leadership, scholarship and citizenship.



Veterans



Jerry Beale Appointed Veterans Affairs Coordinator

True to the Homeland, True to Veterans. Governor Frank H. Murkowski appointed Jerry Beale to become Alaska's new Veterans Affairs Coordinator. Beale, who'd most recently served as a Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Communications, took up the post the newly appointed State Senator Charlie Huggins vacated. Beale previously served as a member of Mayor George Wuerch's administration. He is an Air Force veteran who retired as a Chief Master Sergeant.

Huggins to Fill Vacant Senate District H Seat

PALMER... Charlie Huggins was appointed Sept 24 by Governor Frank H. Murkowski to fill the State Senate seat for District H, vacated by the resignation of Scott Ogan.

"Charlie Huggins will serve the people of District H well," Murkowski said. "As a veteran, volunteer and public servant he has shown strong leadership and a desire to serve people. I look forward to working with Charlie in the upcoming session."

Huggins received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Florida State University in 1969 and a master's degree in personnel management in 1980 from Webster University. A decorated combat veteran, Huggins retired as a Colonel in 1994 from Fort Richardson where he served as Senior Army Advisor to the Alaska Army National Guard. He served as Alaska's Veterans Affairs Coordinator with the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

Huggins is a member of the Wasilla Bible Church and has been active in the community, serving on numerous veterans' and service organizations, school PTA's and coaching youth basketball and football.

Huggins will serve out the remaining two years of Ogan's four-year term. ■

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The Ultimate *Shopping Cart*

Story and Photos By Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD



Commissary Shopping – A Rarely Experienced Benefit. Guardsmen, their families and public health employees take advantage of low prices at the first-ever Bethel case lot sale. DeCA and the Alaska National Guard teamed up to bring groceries to the village at a substantial savings to residents.

BETHEL... It wasn't your typical stop at the local market, but then again, grocery shopping in Bethel, Alaska, never really is.

The Alaska National Guard and Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) joined ranks to deliver groceries to Alaska Bush residents for the first time ever.

"There was a lot of coordination with the Guard in terms of phone calls, e-mails and logistics," said Ermies (Ami) Hernandez, Anchorage Area Commissary Store Administrator. "Mr. Turpin, the previous store director coordinated the Memorandum of Understanding between Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, and the Defense Commissary Agency (Western Pacific Region/Anchorage Area Commissary). It took more than a year and a half to get it finalized."

That memorandum allows the commissary to deliver case lots of groceries to members of the Alaska National Guard in villages on a quarterly basis. The trial run was to Bethel, which is located on the Kuskokwim River, 40 miles inland from the Bering Sea. It lies in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, 400 air miles west of Anchorage. There are no roads to Bethel.

"The agreement is established to deliver goods three times a year, not just here, but to Nome and Kotzebue (above the Arctic Circle) as well," Hernandez said.

Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Perry, Bethel operations officer,

has been pushing for such an event since the mid-1980s. He is more than happy to witness the event—and do a little grocery shopping as well.

"This just lights me up. I am so happy," he said. "Compared to Bethel prices, it's at least a 50 percent saving on every item here – sometimes it could be as much as 80 percent. I wish everyone from the commissary could go down and check out prices downtown. It's very expensive."

Hernandez noted she had scheduled a pricing survey to be completed comparing the items brought in for the case lot sale with local items.

One of Perry's goals was to extend this benefit to the more than 50 surrounding villages.

"This is just a wonderful benefit that people in the Bush rarely get to take advantage of," Perry explained. "A few people have come up from villages and they're just shocked and happy at the prices. One person, a private pilot, flew himself up here, loaded up his plane and flew home." That person was retired Sergeant First Class James Charles of Tuntutuliak, a village approximately 50 miles south of Bethel.

"In the village, groceries are pretty high [priced]. For a can of evaporated milk, it costs \$1.75 per can—on sale—coffee is more than \$10 a can," Charles said as he glanced at his pile of goods including more than the average amount of cans of coffee

and evaporated milk. "I got some coffee and a lot of other stuff we use every day."

In Alaska villages, fruit and vegetables are a rarity and a treat. "I spoil my family buying produce out of the grocery stores here," he said. "I fly into Bethel every week when the weather is good. When the weather is bad, I take a snowmachine in the winter and a boat in the summer."

Commissary shopping is not new to Charles, but commissary shopping close to home is definitely different. "I have been shopping at the commissary in Anchorage since I retired from the Guard in 1982," he explained. "I fly in commercially and ship the stuff out from Anchorage, but the shipping gets expensive."

But there's another side to the story other than cheap groceries.

"One of the things we do here in Alaska is to provide an emergency disaster relief capability," explained Lieutenant Colonel Tom Lawrence, with the 176th Wing at Kulis ANG Base. "If we ever need to get into an area like this, this [commissary run] helps us to think of all the things we would have to do logistically to load the plane with supplies, and once we arrive to download those supplies and take care of the logistics upon arrival."

Another similar training exercise Alaska Guardsmen conduct yearly is Operation Santa Claus where they bring gifts, clothing, books and school supplies to approximately 18 villages across Alaska.

"We haven't done a mission like this – we do Operation Santa Claus and take Santa, and Mrs. Claus to villages, but they usually don't go shopping at the commissary ahead of time," he said. "I was surprised at the turnout, but I think it's one of those nice surprises that benefits everyone out here. It's nice to know that we can help take care of our fellow Guardsmen." ■



Fresh Pumpkins for Thanksgiving. Rebeca Flynn, 3, reaches in to find the perfect pumpkin at the first-ever case lot sale at Bethel's National Guard Hangar. Rebecca is the daughter of Sergeant First Class Felix Flynn of Bethel. Pumpkins are a rare food in rural villages – especially at such a bargain price.

An advertisement for the Alaska Air National Guard. On the left is a close-up profile of a man's face. In the center is a composite image showing a helicopter in flight, a cargo plane on a runway, and people in a snowy landscape. Text on the right includes the slogan "Your Country Your Community Now ... More Than Ever", the website "www.akanch.ang.af.mil", and contact numbers for Anchorage (249-1282) and Fairbanks (1-800-770-5387). At the bottom, the website "www.goang.com" and the text "ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD" are displayed in a large, bold font.

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ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

'EYES OF THE NORTH'

STEADY AS AIR FORCE MOVES MISSION TO GUARD

611th Air Control Squadron Deactivates; Mission Moves to Alaska Air Guard's 176th ACS

ELMENDORF AFB... Defending the Homeland is one of the key missions of the Air National Guard and on Oct. 1, the Alaska Air National Guard officially took over operations of the Air Force's Regional Air Operation Center.

According to officials, the mission of the air control squadron is to provide ready teams to operate and maintain the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Regional Air Operations Center.

"This represented a significant move forward on the part of our Air Force and the Alaska Air National Guard," said Brigadier General Tim Scott, Alaska Air National Guard commander.

"We're very proud of our partnership

with the 611th Air Control Squadron, and its willingness to make the transformation and transition of this mission from the active duty forces to the Air National Guard. This is a key element in defending our homeland.

"We witnessed the deactivation of the 11th Air Force's 611th ACS and celebrated the activation of the 176th Air Control Squadron as a significant mission and component of the Alaska Air National Guard," he added.

According to Col. Eugene O'Nale, 611th Air Operations Group Commander, the turnover from the active duty component to the Alaska Air National Guard is a positive step that will continue the success of the Alaska North

American Air Defense Region' mission.

"The Air National Guard is a force multiplier and vital component of our Air Force," said O'Nale. "This transition to Alaska Air National Guard was crucial for ensuring continuity in the air sovereignty mission by providing experts who will continue to live and work in Alaska."

Officials stated that during the past several years, both active duty and Alaska Air National Guard members have migrated into the unit to prepare for the change to an all-Guard unit. The new 176th ACS, with support from Canadian Forces elements, will continue to conduct 24-hour Alaska NORAD Region and 11th Air Force air sovereignty and theater air control operations. ■

The natural gas industry in the Cook Inlet is changing. Relationships that paid dividends to Alaska for years now face an uncharted future. Agrium Kenai Nitrogen Operations is caught in this evolution because it needs a new, long-term gas supply.

A Changing Marketplace

The fertilizer plant provides a strong economic anchor through its commitment to Alaska hire – 230 good-paying jobs – and local purchases – \$77 million from 384 Alaska businesses.

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'Eyes of the North'. The Alaska Air National Guard was on the receiving end of an Air Force initiative transferring the 611th Air Control Squadron to the Air National Guard. The new unit is now known as the 176th Air Control Squadron – part of the 176th Wing, of the Alaska Air National Guard. More than 120 airmen and officers are assigned with full time duties operating the Regional Air Operations Center at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Another two dozen Guardmembers will serve in their traditional, or part-time roles, with the Center. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

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OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Guard's Tradition Brings Holiday Gifts, Hope, Mirth, Sweetness and More

Story by Major Mike Haller, Alaska National Guard



Santa and Guard Elves Bring Joy to Young and Old Alike. Alaska's National Guard has provided the backbone of Santa's pre-Christmas warm-up flights for 48 years. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

In the Far North of Alaska... Winds blow a brisk whirling chill across the tundra. Temperatures have departed south. Snow is falling. Cocoa and cookies are at the ready. Telltale signs are all about.

If you're a child, or simply young at heart, you know where real warmth is to be found. And you can hardly form the words, lest you spill the magic into the air. The best season is upon us.

Once again, *Operation Santa Claus* is underway. Even now, legions of elves are readying the sleigh that will carry Santa and Mrs. Claus on their far-flung adventures.

The elves, and their friends at the

Alaska National Guard, have been busy preparing for the series of annual trips that bring a gift of the holiday spirit to children and families at remote villages across Alaska.

"It is always such a joy to share in the spirit of the season with our fellow Alaskans," says Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "We're very fortunate to have this privilege and so many kind partners to help us in this effort."

Operation Santa Claus, with its Alaska National Guard partners, delivers toys, clothing, books, school supplies and even water. "Our volunteer elves work year-round to bring all of this

together," Campbell says. "We simply could not do any of it without their generosity and selfless determination to see this succeed."

Elves, themselves, point out that they typically visit more than 3,000 youngsters, prior to the 'big day' each year. In recent times, as an example, Santa and Mrs. Claus and elves have visited Gambell, Ft. Greely, Venetie, Moose Pass and more than a dozen other villages across Alaska down into Southeast in their annual preparation for Christmas Eve.

Faith and works. Santa's Guard gift-lift began in 1956. It was, from the start, an answer to a kindly, simple prayer offered on behalf of nearly 200 children who wouldn't have had any Christmas.

Spring floods denied a fishing season that year. The drought that followed stole away the four-legged food that hunters and trappers would normally have gathered for their families and the children of the orphanage. Every bit of money the Mission had was used to pay for food to be shipped in. As Christmas loomed it appeared that nothing was left for the children – this weighed heavily on the hearts of the Sisters who ran the Mission.

It has been said, by those who knew her that the St. Mary's miracle began as a sweet prayer whispered by Mother Superior on behalf of *her family*.

The notion to write a letter explaining their extraordinary need came into her heart and the letter found its way to members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron in Anchorage.

The request was simple, much as her prayer, the children needed to have Christmas – the food, the basics were covered. However, there was a need for all children to have toys. Ask any kid and they'll agree.

She recognized the greater need: to have their spirits lifted with laughter on their lips, fun in their play, and a sense of the joy that overcomes both the giver and receiver of the gift.



WITH MORE THAN 48 YEARS OF SERVICE

Radio and television stations and the two Anchorage newspapers spread the word across the city. Within just a few days, Alaska Air Guard members received generous donations of both new and used toys from people all over the community. After fixing any worn parts and painting them like new, they handed them over to the elves for delivery aboard one of their own C-123J Provider, an aptly-named aircraft, to St. Marys Mission.

The truth is Santa liked this mission so well that he continued it for over 20 years as a single destination warm-up.

As time passed, other villages, schools and groups invited *Operation Santa Claus* to visit.

In the years since it began, literally tens of thousands of Alaskan school-children and their families have enjoyed

Santa and Mrs. Claus's company and the gracious gifts the elves prepared.

Not just a jingle-bell view. The enterprise could get overwhelming. "Your heart cannot help but smile, though, when you look into the eyes of each of these wonderful children – so full of joy and life," Mrs. Claus says.

"And it's the same way, only different, when the elders step forward – you can actually see the child-like sweetness settle upon their faces," added Santa.

"We want folks to know that just because the Alaska Air National Guard use their mighty C-130 Hercules aircraft and the Alaska Army National Guard use their rugged UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and the C-23B+ Sherpa fixed wing aircraft, doesn't mean the reindeer get a free ride in any of this," say the elves.

"Dasher, Dancer, Donner, and Blitzen are older, but they've not lost a step of quickness to get airborne at the right time when it's their turn."

Santa's whole body shakes as he laughs and nods his head in agreement. Yes, the telltale signs are all about.

* * *

Though St. Marys Mission closed many years ago, the memories of those who called it home linger still. Ask any one of them about *Operation Santa Claus* and the smiles onto their faces lead to a ready gleam in their eyes.

The prayers of a saintly Sister echo lightly on the ears and profoundly in the hearts of all who both give *and* receive. ■

(See editor's note on next page.)



Each Year Operation Santa Claus Visits 15 to 18 Alaskan Villages...as they warm up for the big event of Christmas Eve. Santa & Mrs. Claus took the elves and shared a great time with the children and families of the Bering Straits village of Wales during one recent trip. Photos: Mark Farmer, Associated Press



A Village-style Parade for Santa Claus. Operation Santa Claus had a dog-day in Venetie, well above the Arctic Circle. The dogs, who've really never been very fond of the reindeer, felt they had something to prove to Santa, and they did as they raced into the village. Photos: Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD

Editor's Note....

Operation Santa Claus...Behind the Curtain



The Santa Claus Show. Well-known radio personality Jim Robbins emcees much of the Santa Claus Show entertainment. He's been joined, at different times, by such headliners as the Air Force Band of the Pacific, Brigham Young University's Living Legends – Native American song and dance group, the Balloonatics, local story tellers and dancers and numerous performers. Santa and Mrs. Claus have also been joined by well known Alaska artists Barbara Lavallee, Chad Carpenter and James Morris. The K-Bear and other critters appear to delight the children.

Warming the Spirit. Toys, toys, toys! What would Christmas be like without special toys for the children? With the Salvation Army at the lead of collecting toys, and support from Canadian Forces, the Military Spouse's Club, the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and the Top Three Non-Commissioned Officer's group at Elmendorf AFB, Sam's Club, Costco, WAL-MART, and many others, toy collection is a great success. At least the kids think so.

Warming Heart & Hand. About nine years ago, *Operation Santa Claus* began collecting new and slightly used clothes. Anchorage's school children and young adults are very generous – most people consider it as lost and found – we like to think of it as gift giving. We acquire some 20,000 unclaimed items annually with the help of the Anchorage School District. Numerous churches donate as well.

Volunteers sort through and organize mountains of clothing that arrive at *Operation Santa Claus'* Workshop. It's moved on to one of several volunteer cleaners that include Candy's Cleaners, Peacock Cleaners and the military's QuarterMaster Laundry on Ft. Richardson.

Once cleaned, pressed and sorted, clothing is distributed in balanced amounts to some dozen or more villages. With a smile of appreciation, a volunteer or group takes it from there.

Warming the Mind. Eight years ago some of the elves took note of literacy challenges facing youth in our communities. *Operation Santa Claus* added books to the gift list. When Santa arrives, whether aboard a C-130 Hercules or his UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, he can be seen delivering large boxes of books to school or community librarians – more than 8,000 books – new or lightly read – each year.

Title Wave Books has handled the bulk of the book mission for five years. Three years ago, Scholastic Books began helping as well. Cook Inlet Books and many others have helped along the trail.

All of this is a key part of the Guard's Literacy Project focused in rural Alaska. The Elmendorf AFB Chapel Community continues to provide significant seed money that yields dynamic returns with the literacy efforts. Artique Limited, K-BEAR-FM, Alaska National Guard Officer's Association and the Enlisted Association make generous donations. Many others kindly donate time, effort and products in support of Santa's journey each year.

Supplying the Basics. In the past three years, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, Southside Bistro, Office Depot, Allen & Peterson, several local auto dealers, various church organizations, private individuals and youth organizations including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire have continued to help build-up the level of school supplies for rural youngsters.

The Goodies – and then some. Fresh fruit, bottled water, and candy canes are among the more prized items found in the 'Goody Bags' that the elves give to children who are in line awaiting an opportunity of a personal visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thanks to Coca Cola, Rick's American Café, Food Service of America and many, many others. ■

WWII Alaska Territorial Guard Members Recognized

Story and Photo by Specialist Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD



First Among Equals. Fifty-seven years after an estimated 6,500 members of the Alaska Territorial Guard completed their service to Alaska, Sam Herman, Sr. was the first to receive his official military discharge certificate at an outdoor gathering at the WWII Memorial in downtown Anchorage. He was just 12 years old when he joined the Alaska Territorial Guard. Here he salutes Major General Craig E. Campbell, while Senator Lisa Murkowski and Colonel (Retired) Bob Goodman look on. Officials believe that there are less than 300 former ATG members surviving.

CAMP DENALI... As we celebrated Alaska Day, Oct. 18, more than 6,500 veterans finally received recognition for serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard during WWII so that we, as future generations of Alaskans, would experience freedom and security.

"There are approximately 300 surviving members of the Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG)," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General for the Alaska National Guard. "It was a disgrace as members passed away without being recognized as ATG Veterans of WWII. I am elated to announce that from this point on, there will never be another Alaskan who does not receive the appropriate recognition."

For more than 30 years, members of the Alaska National Guard have been trying to get federal discharge authority and recognition for members of the ATG

who served between 1942 and 1947 to defend our state against Japanese invasion during WWII. The ATG is also the recognized progenitors of the modern Alaska Army and Air National Guard.

In 2000, Senator Ted Stevens had Public Law 106-259 added to Title 38. In December 2002, upon taking office, Governor Frank Murkowski made ATG recognition one of his top priorities. Subsequently, Campbell appointed Bob Goodman as special project officer to both reach out to identify and locate ATG veterans.

Goodman, along with Senator Charlie Huggins, who was the State Veterans Affairs Coordinator at the time, received numerous applications. A board of officers reviewed the submissions and recommended Campbell approve them. The approved applications were promptly forwarded to the Department

of the Army so discharge certificates and transcripts of military record could be produced.

Senators Stevens and Lisa Murkowski greatly aided the enterprise this past summer by directly requesting immediate action from the Secretary of the Army when the recognition effort got bogged down. Completed Discharge Certificates and transcripts were completed for an initial 23 members of the Alaska Territorial Guard and forwarded for presentation.

"These members will receive their long overdue honorable discharges from the Army and a big *Thank You* from Alaskans across the country," Campbell said.

To receive certificates, former ATG members may submit applications to Jerry Beale, with the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. ■



Environmental

Preserving the Land: Citizens & Soldiers

Guard's Transformation Extends to Environmental Management

Defending Homeland Means Stewardship of Land, Waterways, Improving Operations and Training

Story by Rick Brietenfeldt with photos by Mark Heayn, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Virginia...As Guard leaders in each of the 54 states and territories put their heads together to learn more about how to embrace a new federally mandated environmental management system (eMS), one common message continues to emerge – it's all about mission readiness.

"Our goal is to actively promote mission readiness by continually upgrading environmental performance," said Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Walter, chief of the environmental programs division for the Army Guard. "We want to improve the way environmental management supports the mission."

The Guard has been actively pursuing ways to meet the requirements of the environmental management system since President Bill Clinton signed the order requiring all federal agencies implement back in 2000.

Executive Order 13148, called "greening the government through leadership in environmental management" has been the driving force behind the Guard's efforts to integrate this management system into everyday operations. The new environmental management system takes effect Dec. 31, 2005.

For Alaska, "by adopting this Environmental Management System and better managing the environmental impacts from our operations, we ultimately enhance mission readiness through the ability to provide realistic training," said Bill Vagt, environmental program manager for the Alaska Army National Guard and Chairman of the National Guard Bureau's environmental management committee.

"Implemented correctly, eMS will lead to substantive changes," Vagt said. "If we do it right the first time, we won't

have to keep retaking the same hill."

In the Army Guard, each state and territory as well as two additional separate training facilities in Massachusetts and Idaho are developing their own specific eMS.

The Guard, according to Walter, "already has many strong environmental programs that include key elements of an environmental management system," but added, "more could be done."

"The importance of the Guard's mission and transformation demands a commitment to continual improvement in management practices," Walter said. "We have to use our best environmental management practices to enhance the Guard's overall mission."

According to Lieutenant Colonel Brian Rogers, strategic planning officer for the Army Guard's environmental programs division, eMS is a continual



Stewards with Energy Resources. Sergeant Mike Cortez, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic with the Alaska Army National Guard, stores used vehicle batteries for everything from Hummers to Arctic-unique tracked rigs such as the Small Unit Support Vehicle known as SUSVs, or the always popular snowmachine.



Recycling Equals Reuse. Sergeant Joel Duggins, an automotive mechanic with the Alaska Army National Guard, recycles antifreeze to be reused for other operations at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Denali, on Ft. Richardson.



Innovative Approaches. Sergeant Ramon Nichols supports mission readiness by focusing on pollution prevention and demonstrating innovative approaches to maintenance operations with the Alaska Army National Guard.

cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving the processes and actions of the Guard.

“Environmental Management System shifts the environmental focus from a defensive, reactive posture to one that is proactive and based on sound planning and decision making,” Rogers said. “This ensures that the Guard remains ready, reliable, and accessible by optimizing training lands and conducting realistic and effective training.”

Rogers also said eMS may offer the Guard many additional benefits including a reduction in the recurring cost of environmental compliance, increased worker safety, a cleaner working environment, increased operational readiness and improved community relations.

Training is being offered for key leaders and well as members of teams of soldiers and airmen representing major functional areas such as operations and training, maintenance, logistics and personnel support. And additional training is currently being developed to reach each and every Guardsman.

The current mindset of our troops is to accomplish the mission first and then come back and dispose of or recycle any waste materials or by-products associated with the mission, said Lieutenant Colonel Janet Noble, deputy human resources officer with the South Carolina National Guard.

The new mindset, according to Noble, is to revise the way we complete the mission so we eliminate, reduce, or reuse the waste or by-products without compromising the mission’s success, and wherever possible, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of mission accomplishment.

“We’re changing the course and taking out good ideas and applying them,” said Lieutenant General Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard. “In the end, it’s about a soldier – preparing them for battle focused duty and wartime missions. It’s a balance between our environmental priorities and mission readiness.”

“Environmental management is everyone’s responsibility,” said Eileen Chabot, eMS manager for the New Hampshire National Guard. “We want the ‘e’ on eMS to stand for everyone.” ■

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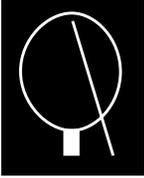
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- www.sba.gov/vets, information for small business owners.
- www.soc.aascu.org, information for college students.
- www.usmilitary.about.com/od/sscra, Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA).
- www.militaryonesource.com, on-line counseling, information and resources.



Family Assistance Center



Photo: National Endowment for the Arts

Not Just Letters Home... Writing About the Wartime Experiences

Story by Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

For centuries soldiers and families have written of their wartime experiences through letters, memoirs, essays, journals, poetry, novels and books. Most writers have had no previous experience. All come from varied backgrounds, each has stories to tell.

The National Endowment for the Arts sponsored a program called Operation Homecoming: Writing the wartime experience, a program designed for military members and their families that came to Ft. Richardson this fall.

"Write everything down," said Evan J. Wallach, federal judge and writer, who spoke at the seminar. "Experiences are the same, but the way they are perceived is different."

"There are things that you will run into throughout your life that will stimulate your memory: smells, sounds, photographs, even pieces of letters or packages in the bottom of a rucksack will be memory triggers," said Wallach, who served as an enlisted infantryman during Vietnam.

The human experience during war varies from soldier to soldier and from

person to person, each individual has a unique view of war. We cannot tell the story of our nation's history without telling the stories of our wars.

Good writers write about what they experienced, what they saw, how it felt, tasted, smelled and what was happening in the chaos around them.

"It's an exercise of reducing an experience to its purest form," he said as he recalled a time in Vietnam when his unit was under attack. "I was trying to hug Mother Earth, but discovered the buttons on my blouse were too thick to keep me from getting any lower. It's the reality of the soldier's own experience."

Wallach likes to ask military members what a mortar sounds like when it goes off. After waiting for answers he then tells them rhetorically, "It depends on what side of the mortar you're on."

You can learn more about writing of your experiences – as a soldier, airman, military member or a family member) – by visiting the Operation Homecoming Web site at www.operationhomecoming.org. ■



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Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Alaskan Leads National Emergency Management Association

Story by Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM

NEW YORK CITY... David Liebersbach, Director of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, was officially sworn in as the new president of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) during the organization's annual conference in New York City.

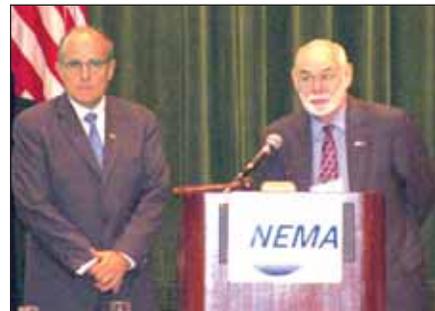
"NEMA is one of the premiere organizations for professionalism," Liebersbach said. "I applaud their strong interest in improving the security of this nation's people through emergency management and homeland security initiatives and I am extremely honored to have an opportunity to lead such a fine organization."

NEMA is the professional association of state and territorial emergency

management directors. Its mission is to provide national leadership and expertise in comprehensive emergency management, serve as a vital emergency management information and assistance resource, and advance the continuous improvement of emergency management through strategic partnerships, innovative programs and collaborative policy positions.

Liebersbach presided over this year's conference, stepping in for the ailing outgoing President Ed Jacoby, New York Emergency Management director. Liebersbach had been acting in the senior executive position since this past summer when Jacoby had become severely ill.

This year's conference featured



Dave Liebersbach named as new National Emergency Management Association president during annual gathering. Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani was among the speakers. Photo: Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM

homeland security and emergency management presentations and extraordinary guest speakers including Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. ■

Tips Prepare Alaskans for Onset of Winter Weather *Family, Home, and Auto Need Your Special Attention as Winter Arrives*

Story by Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM

ANCHORAGE... With the days getting shorter and the temperatures heading south, the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management has some tips for Alaskans on how they can prepare themselves for winter.

Preparing your family, your home *and* your car or truck for wintertime can save you from dealing with the impacts that severe winter weather can bring.

"A major winter storm can be lethal but preparing for the conditions and responding to them effectively can reduce the dangers caused by winter storms," said Dave Liebersbach, Director of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

The following are some tips on how you can prepare for the cold and the snow:

Preparing Your Family:

- Assemble a disaster supply kit that includes drinking water, canned food, a non-electric can opener, first aid kit, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can easily get to them, even in the dark. Have snow removal equipment available.
- Prepare for the possibility that you may need to stay in your

house for seven days or longer after a winter storm. Make sure you have enough heating fuel as well as emergency heating equipment in case the electricity goes out.

- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in the house knows how to use one.
- Know what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends or neighbors.

Preparation for Winter Weather a Must

- Maintain proper ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid a build up of toxic fumes and always refuel outside. Be sure to keep all heaters at least three feet away from flammable objects.
- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water-repellent. Wear a hat, mittens and sturdy waterproof boots. Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs from extremely cold air.

Preparing Your Home

- Winterize your home or any other structure that may provide shelter for you and your family, neighbors or equipment. Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away any dead tree



Who We Are...



What's Your Favorite Holiday Tradition?

Blitzen



"We reindeer always look forward to this holiday season. Our job is to get gifts to girls and boys – we love working with the Guard every Christmas."

"Buzzy" the Soldier Elf



"I love dressing up like Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and giving all my nieces and nephews presents."



Mrs. Claus



"Oh I have so many – decorating the tree and baking. But my very favorite tradition is visiting the villages in Alaska and seeing the children's faces light up when they see us."

Rudy, IV



"I don't know. Gramps and the others have been at this Christmas gig for a millennia – I can hardly wait until it's my turn. The elves are cool."

Suzy "Head Elf"



"I love gathering gifts for all the boys and girls in villages across Alaska."



branches that could fall on your house or other structures during a storm.

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow.
- Remove ice and snow from tree limbs, roofs and other structures after a storm passes.

Preparing Your Car or Truck

- Keep your cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair. Winterize your car by checking its battery, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashers, exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster and tires. Ensure that your car has adequate antifreeze, windshield washer fluid and oil. Check these levels regularly throughout the winter.
- Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes a shovel, windshield scraper, flashlight, battery powered radio with extra batteries, bottled water, snack food, extra hats and gloves, blankets, tow chain or rope, road salt and sand, booster cables, emergency flares and fluorescent distress flags.
- If traveling by car during a winter weather advisory or winter storm watch, do so in daylight hours, don't travel alone, keep others informed of your schedule and route and stay on the main roads. Avoid driving during a winter storm warning or blizzard warning. ■



Not sure if you've had too many?

I'll check for you.

THE FACTS:

- Impaired driving kills nearly 18,000 people each year.
- About 250,000 people are hurt and 1.5 million are arrested.
- Countless Americans will be affected by this violent crime in their lifetime.
- You, your friends, your family could be next.

SO BE PREPARED:

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



Remember: When You Drink & Drive. You Lose.



Legacy

Passages from *Soldiers of the Mists*

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

The Americans – Part III

The long coastline and the vast distances of Alaska were better suited to administration by the Navy than by the handful of soldiers stationed at Sitka, Fort Wrangell and a few other posts located in the southern half of the country. The Naval and Customs officials were able to improve conditions to some extent but the various Naval commanders often found themselves involved in settling minor civil disputes that could have been handled more effectively by a local government. The need for a militia for defense grew during those years the Navy took the responsibility of running Alaska.

A gold rush in British Columbia made the town of Wrangell a booming port of entry almost overnight. Captain Beardslee and the U.S.S. Jamestown arrived there on January 25, 1880. He reported that the whole population was found under arms to guard against Indians. The Hoodchenoo Indians had visited Wrangell on a trading expedition. They had been drinking the liquor which bore the name of their band when they became involved with a band of Sucheen Indians whom they tried to suppress by force. A fight broke out and several warriors were killed and wounded on both sides. The alarmed whites stored their powder and ammunition in a storehouse and established a system of armed militia guards for the town. Guardhouses were set up by the armed militia and maintained until the crisis had passed.



The 3rd Infantry Band entertains the citizens of Valdez at the turn of the century. A few years later the men of Valdez formed a home Guard Militia Company when the Army left for World War I duty. Photo: U.S. Army

A military code of sorts was established for the District of Alaska with the passage of the Organic Act of 1884. This act provided for a civil government for Alaska and appointed a governor who was made "the ex-officio Commander-in-Chief of the Militia." Although the act did little to advance Alaska's interests, it provided a platform upon which the governors could build a case for a National Guard or Militia.

The District of Alaska's first civil governor, John H. Kinkead (1884-1885) arrived in Sitka on September 14, 1884. The following day, Lieutenant Commander Henry Nichols, commander of the U.S.S. Pinta, formally relinquished all civil authority exercised by the U.S. Navy to the new Governor. The Commander also discharged the Indian Police Force the Navy had paid for several years to maintain peace and order in the villages. At that moment, the Governor realized he was losing naval protection and what little civil protection Alaska possessed. He recommended the Native Police Force be continued in his annual report for 1884.

For the most part, the Navy gave the early Governors support when called upon. In 1886, however, an attempt was made to blow up a house in Juneau in which some Chinese workers were living. The event was whitewashed by the local officials, but pressure began to increase during the summer to drive the Chinese

workers from Juneau and Douglas. It reached its apex on August 6th when the Deputy Marshal of Douglas informed Governor Alfred Swineford (1885-1889) he was unable to control the mob that had seized the Chinese mine workers. The Chinese were rounded up and shipped out to Wrangell. The Governor called upon the Navy to return the Chinese to Douglas.

The commander of the U.S.S. Pinta sent several letters to the Governor containing a variety of excuses for not carrying out the request. In the absence of cooperation from the regular military, the issue of a Militia or National Guard to handle civil unrest took on new importance. This incident may have influenced Governor Knapp (1889-1893) a few years later when he asked for and received \$8,000 to procure arms for the Alaska Militia. In 1892, the Governor was able to report that Company A of the First Regiment, Alaska Militia was organized. The words Adjutant General, Militia, Guard and Chief of Staff would become a part of the Alaska Government vocabulary as the end of the 19th century approached.

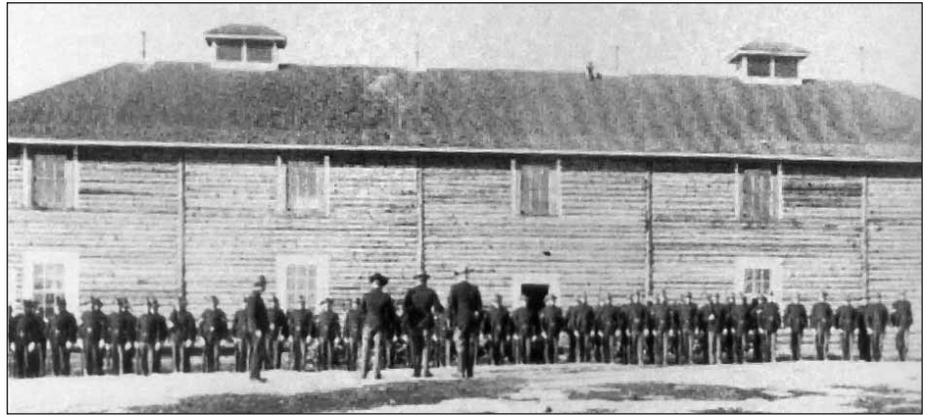
The term Alaska Militia first became a distinct separate entry in the Governor's annual report in 1893. Governor James Sheakley (1893-1897) noted: "The militia organization in Alaska is in a state of disintegration. The migratory habits of the people will

prevent any such organization from becoming permanent. Militia soldiers in Alaska could only be used as home guards, or for police duty in the immediate vicinity of their organization. To be of any service to the Territory at large, each organized company would be under the necessity of having and maintaining steamboat transportation for their full complement of men, there being no roads or land travel possible in the country."

The presence of a militia in Alaska became more probable during the tenure of Governor John Brady (1897-1906).

This former missionary and close friend of the legendary churchman, Reverend Sheldon Jackson, held office during two world class events—the Klondike Gold Rush of '98 and the Spanish American War. Both events would advance the fortunes of the Minuteman concept for Alaska.

Alaska's image changed forever with the discovery of gold in the Klondike district of the Yukon Territory and the subsequent rush by thousands of adventures through Alaskan ports to the rivers and mountain passes that promised access to fortunes. If Alaska had been overlooked by Americans for 30 years, it was now looked over by the world. The



Muster of Company L, 7th Infantry at Fort Egbert, Alaska, 1900. Isolated frontier posts attempted to maintain law and order in Alaska. A local National Guard would have been more effective but the U.S. Government refused to fund Guard units. Photo: U.S. Army

colorful mass of humanity that surged north on any floatable ships along the Pacific West Coast became bottlenecked at Dyea and Skagway, entry points to the Chilkoot and White Passes. Awaiting the newcomers at Skagway was the infamous Jefferson Randolph (Soapy) Smith and his gang of thieves, cutthroats, murderers and con men.

The story of the Gold Rush of '98 has been told well by Jack London, Rex Beach, Robert Service and thousands of miners who wrote home of their great adventure. A part of that story, but

hidden to some extent, is the lesser known story of the Gold Rush and its influence on the founding of the Guard and Militia in Alaska. ■

Next Legacy installment from Soldiers of the Mists series: The Great War – Part I

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.

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Awards • Decorations • Graduations

Bronze Star



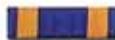
Lt Col Carlisle Lincoln III210th RQS
Lt Col Charles Foster210th RQS

Meritorious Service Medal



SFC William H. Amidon207th Grp
SFC Larry Ayapan2nd Bn
MSG Keith R. Bearsto2nd Bn
SSG Keith E. CoonrodJFHQ
SFC Felix M. Flynn2nd Bn
MSG William D. HouserRTI
MAJ Jeffery MuetzJFHQ
MAJ John V. PatrickRTI
SGT Billy F. Stone1st Bn
MSG Ralph M. TruettRTI
Lt Col Erik Grosch144th AS
Lt Col Terese LeFrancois176th MDG
CMSgt Timothy Tillman176th WG
MSgt Gregory McCormick176th MOF

Air Medal



Lt Col Carlisle Lincoln III210th RQS
Major Christopher Finerty210th RQS
Major Erika Sorum210th RQS
Major Richard Watson210th RQS
Capt Jennifer Beard210th RQS
Capt Russell Edwards210th RQS
Capt Jeffrey Meinel210th RQS
CMSgt Robert Garger210th RQS
CMSgt John Silsbee210th RQS
CMSgt Robert Carte210th RQS
MSgt Steven Fernandez210th RQS
SSgt James Gwin210th RQS
SSgt Terry Lammers210th RQS
SSgt William Younkins210th RQS
SRA Andre Marron210th RQS

Army Commendation Medal



SGT Leslie A. Dirkes207th Grp
SFC Fenumiai Ilalio Jr.R&R CMD

Air Force Commendation Medal



SSgt Paul Guzman206th CBCS

Air Force Achievement Medal



TSgt Eric Haugen176th WG
SSgt Jason Johnson176th WG
MSgt Peter Pratt176th LRS

Alaska Legion of Merit Medal



CSM Edward J. MasonJFHQ

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



SFC William H. Amidon207th Grp
SFC Larry Ayapan2nd Bn
MSG Keith R. Bearsto2nd Bn
CW4 Thomas D. BlakeOSACOM

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ANNUAL AWARDS

GRADUATIONS

SSG Keith E. CoonrodJFHQ
 SFC Felix M. Flynn2nd Bn
 MSG William D. HouserRTI
 MAJ Jeffery MuetzJFHQ
 SGT Billy F. Stone1st Bn
 CW3 Matthew L. ThomasAvn Bn
 MSG Ralph M. TruettRTI
 MSG Paul A. Wood Jr.JFHQ

Alaska Commendation Medal



SSG Brian J. Clay3rd Bn
 SGT Eyrk M. Crawford207th Grp
 SSG Michael L. Eastman207th Grp
 PV2 Trent S. Foldager207th Grp
 SSG Michael R. Grunst207th Grp
 SSG David C. Hockin207th Grp
 PFC Anthony D. Manacio3rd Bn
 SPC Michael W. Murray3rd Bn
 SGT Brian Palmateir207th Grp
 SSG John G. Phillips3rd Bn
 SGT Angel M. Piol3rd Bn
 SGT Robert W. Quates Jr.3rd Bn
 SPC Richard A. Rasch3rd Bn
 MSG Clyde SeawoodSpt Bn
 SSG Darin SwainSpt Bn

Alaska Homeland Security Medal



SSG Gary A. Cartwright49th MP

176th Wing

Paul W. Lindemuth Leadership Award
 Major John Oberst176th ACS

Officer of the Year - Field Grade
 Lt Col Donald Chiles176th MDS

Officer of the Year - Company Grade
 Capt Kay Spear-Budd176th CF

Senior NCO of the Year
 MSgt Royce Qualls176th ACS

NCO of the Year
 TSgt Andre Morgan176th MDS

Amn of the Year
 SrA Charlotte Sandstede176th MDS

First Sergeant of the Year
 MSgt Jennifer Keese144th AS

Unit Career Advisor of the Year
 TSgt Colleen Meredith176th MOF

Air National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association Leadership Award
 MSgt Michael Murphy210th RQS

Airman Leadership School John L. Levitow Award
 SRA Seth England176th MXS

Wing Organizational Excellence Award
 176th LRS

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
 176th MDS31 July 01—30 July 03
 176th LRS31 July 01—30 July 03
 210th RQS01 Aug 01—30 June 03

Guard Graduates New Infantry Soldiers

GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

SPC Michael R. Cepeda
 SPC Charles Chiguina
 SPC Jesse M. Fejeran
 SGT Andrew J. Terlaje

ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Anchorage & Southcentral

SGT Dwayne C. DeFreitas
 SGT Travis Kulp
 SPC Erich W. Reed
 SPC Clint W. Shahan
 SGT David L. Snyder
 SFC Bradford J. Quigley

Bethel & Southwest Alaska

SGT Thaddeus M. Tikiun
 SPC Henry H. Tikiun

Juneau & Southeast Alaska

SPC Jody J. Bean
 SPC Robert Bishop
 SGT William D. Kanuk
 SGT David R. Owens
 PVT John M. Parks
 SPC Dylan Saunders
 SPC Khris White



Deputy Commissioner Honored. Roger Schnell was awarded the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal to recognize his impact on programs and people nationwide. His award states, "He has mentored, encouraged and served others selflessly throughout his career in the Army National Guard for over 40 years." Major General Gus Hargett, chairman of the NGAUS board, presented the honor to Schnell, who is the first Alaskan to ever receive this medal. "I'm very humbled by it," Schnell said. "It's quite an honor to receive it because not very many people do. I view the award as something with my name on it, but a lot of people from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs deserve the credit for all their hard work." Photo: Courtesy of National Guard Association

RETIRED

SGT Michael AlfalroSpt Bn
 SFC William Amidon207th Grp
 SFC John D. Corning1st Bn
 SGT Oscar L. Evon2nd Bn
 SSG Conrad K. Koeing1st Bn
 SFC Randolph D. Larsen1st Bn
 SSG Demetrio S. Lumba3rd Bn
 MSG Matthew R. Mann207th Grp
 SGT Dennis R. Manson1st Bn
 SGT Michael S. Mendenhall2nd Bn
 SSG Joey Miller2nd Bn
 SGT Billy W. Stone1st Bn
 CW3 Matthew L. ThomasAvn Bn
 1SG Ralph M. TruettRTI
 SGT Peter P. Tunuchuk2nd Bn

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Start of the Trail

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Erik Oruoja
Henry Dehling
Matthew Matzinger
Clayton Mullins
Rivera Medina
Erik Vasquez
Stephen Major
Shane Moor
Rosa Ralls
Anthony Craidon
Deena Reasoner
Joseph Pentland
Russell Graig
Michael Manson

Lisa Druga
Nicholas O'Neil
Ortega Martinez
Ronnie Rogers
Arden Vestre
Malia Jeoinek
Thomas Lindsey
Victor Burgos
Richard Russett
Jordan Williams
Jessie Janes
Brandon Phillips
Ian Mullett
Loren Sands, Jr.
Zachory Taylor
Danny Anchetta
Randall Lemieux
Marcus Warren

Alaska Air National Guard

Zandra Teodosio
Tora Gore
Mathew McClurg
Michael Lyons
Ricardo Parks
Gabriel Gliniecki
Kenneth Lewis
Jonathan Smith
Kelli McKinley
John Swanson
Rebecca Thornton
William Thornton
Keenan Zerkel
Billy Hefner
Amber Johnson
Marcy Butler
Troy Freeman
Mark Malpass
Johnnie Johnson III
Mary Younkins
David Johnson
Santee Choat
Cameron Jones
Bryan Harley
Cyrus Cooper
Greg Rosemond
Chad McDeldery

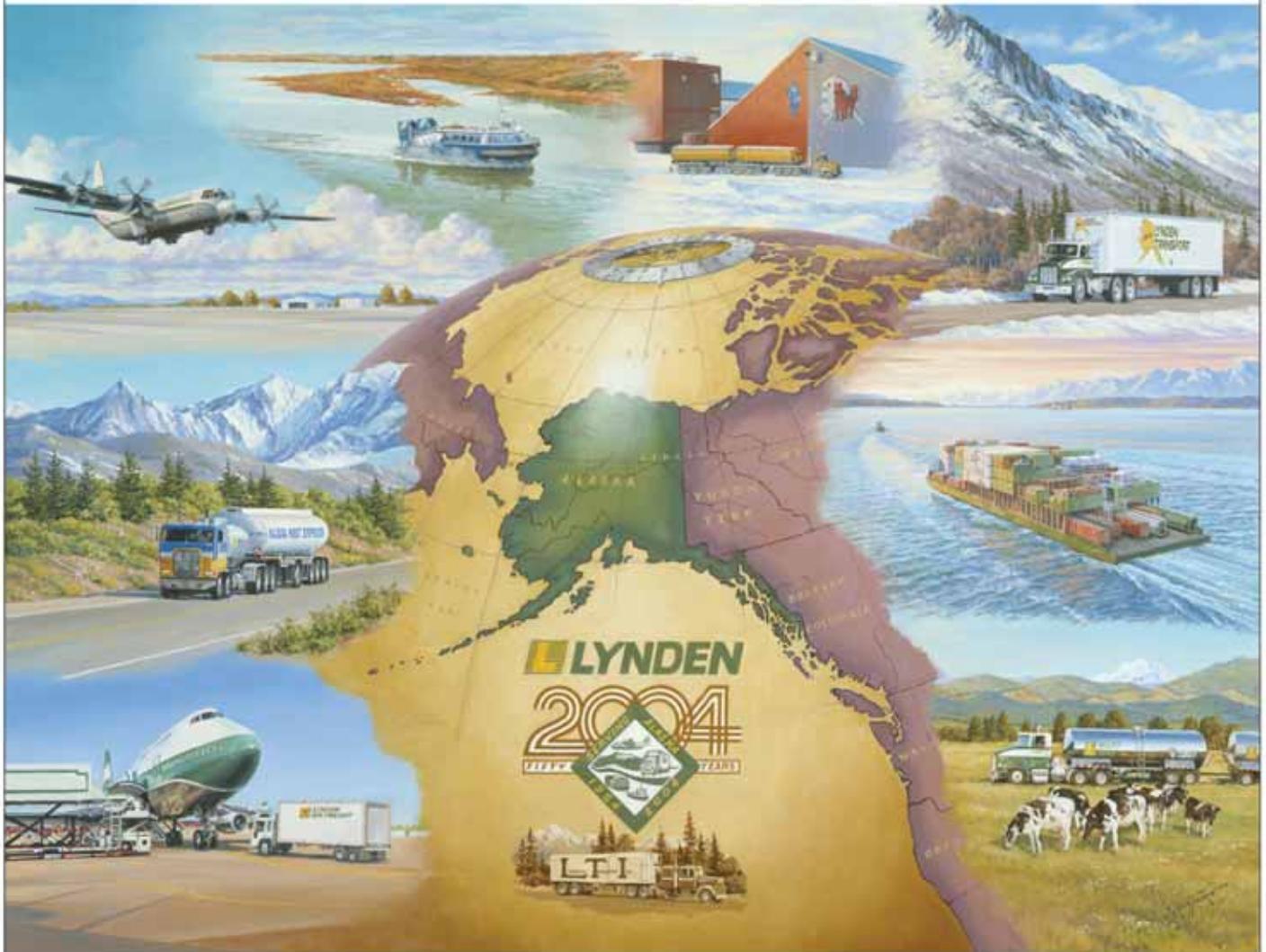
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Adam Muller
Zachary Kline
Rebecca Byers
Maria Freeman
Roy Thornton Jr.
Sherry Ferno
Kimberly Stoltz
Julie Williams
Marjorie Twitchell
Clifford Lien
Barbara Jackson
Michael Carruthers
Everett Emerson
Chad Parsons
Shaun Wehe
Ronald Ingreso
James Christenson
Courtney Johnson
Bilbai Silverin
Ryan McFadden
Derek Frazier
Jeremy Maddamma
Armando Soria
Karen Caldeira
Camela Lacoste
Lincoln Carlisle

Warriors Training Schedule

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

Alaska National Guard	December	January	February	March
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air only)	4-5	22-23	12-13	12-13
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army Element)	4-5	8-9	12-13	19-20
Alaska Army National Guard				
207th Infantry Group	3-5	7-9	4-6	28-29
1/207th Aviation Regiment	3-5	8-9	4-6	5-6
297th Support Battalion	4-5	7-9	5-6	11-13
Regional Training Institute	11-12	8-9	12-13	5-6
Alaska Air National Guard				
168th Air Refueling Wing	4-5	8-9	12-13	5-6
176th Wing	4-5	22-23	12-13	12-13
206th Combat Communications Sqdn.	4-5	22-23	12-13	12-13

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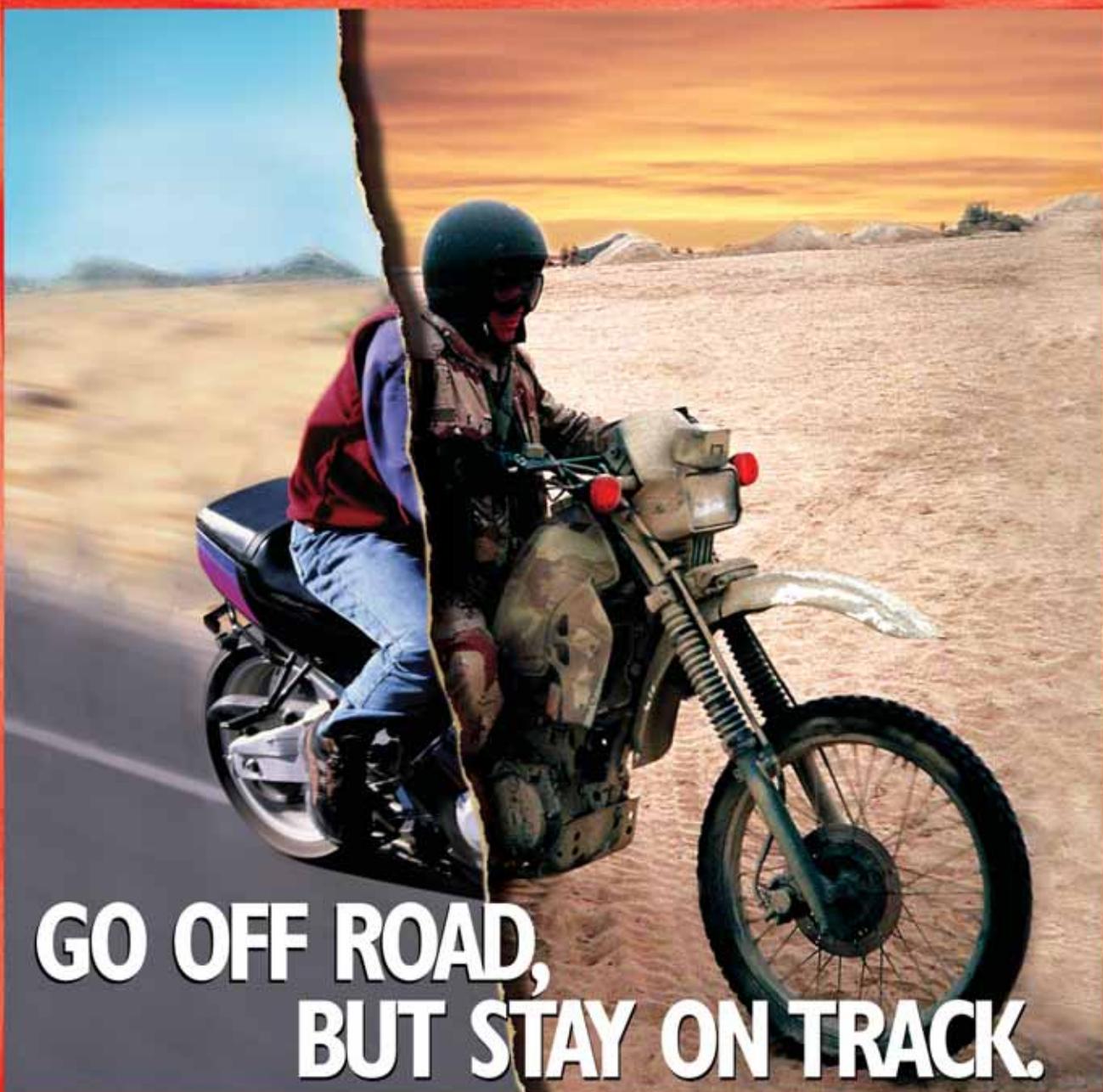
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