



PRESS RELEASE
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Alaska National Guard

Alaska National Guard continues building on reforms

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — An independent report by retired Superior Court Judge Patricia Collins to the attorney general for the state of Alaska on allegations surrounding the Alaska National Guard was released by the Alaska Department of Law today. The Alaska National Guard is using the report to ensure organizational compliance with doctrine-based solutions and will build on the progress toward reform that has already been made.

The report is consistent with past information provided to the Alaska National Guard by the Office of Complex Investigations in September 2014. The Alaska National Guard continues to implement new processes and procedures and is using the amplifying information contained in the latest report to further address issues that do not support the organization's standards of excellence.

"We are in the midst of great change in the Alaska National Guard as we address how we got to our low point and focus on establishing paths to excellence in serving this great state and nation," said Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "We continue to strive to make this organization one that everyone can take pride in, with each decision at every level based in applicable doctrine and on a foundation of moral, ethical and legal correctness. We will strive to achieve fairness for all and transparent processes."

Here are some of the changes and progress made:

1. To address the challenges associated with sexual assault, the Alaska National Guard has strengthened the sexual assault prevention and response program with increased confidentiality mandates, heightened awareness and education for Guard members on services available, and no-notice, scenario-based exercises testing units and commanders on the reporting process. These are just a few of the improvements the Alaska National Guard has made to ensure victims feel safe and comfortable reporting incidents of sexual assault and that prevention is a priority.

2. The Equal Employment Opportunity/Equal Opportunity office has a new state manager, as of January 2015, leading the program and correcting inefficiencies within the office. There are now record keeping redundancies in place, new policies established emphasizing professional workplace behavior and environment, implementation of training throughout the organization from the lowest levels through senior ranks, and the state manager has welcomed an external entity for quality control and monitoring of the Alaska National Guard program.

3. In response to law enforcement concerns, a new Provost Marshal Office has been created to enhance partnerships between the Alaska National Guard and law enforcement agencies. The Alaska National Guard's new full-time provost marshal has been given a special commission as a state police officer to facilitate the exchange of police intelligence and continues to build strong working relationships with local, state and federal agencies. Internal policies and procedures have been created

to help identify criminal activity within the Alaska National Guard while memorandums of understanding are being drafted to solidify the information sharing processes amongst law enforcement and the Alaska National Guard so that all allegations of misconduct can be properly investigated and tracked.

4. This past legislative session, the Alaska National Guard worked in collaboration with legislators in the drafting of an updated Alaska Code of Military Justice. This is an important priority of the Alaska National Guard that, when complete and enacted into state statute and accompanying regulations, will open up avenues of discipline beyond administrative actions to address misconduct. In addition, the National Guard Bureau has provided a full-time special victims' counsel to the Alaska National Guard to assist Alaska National Guard members and their dependents who may be the victim of sexually-motivated incidents. In an effort to support a foundation of moral, ethical, and legal correctness, the Alaska National Guard Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is conducting administrative boards and other administrative actions to address cases of misconduct within the organization. The Alaska National Guard Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is also working towards achieving Brig. Gen. Hummel's initiative of fairness and increased transparency throughout the organization and is publishing the final determinations on adverse administrative actions, while still preserving individual Privacy Act rights by protecting personally identifiable information.

5. Much of the leadership within the Alaska National Guard has changed, and there is a renewed effort to evoke trust and teamwork amongst all members of the organization. There is a new open door policy, which allows Guard members to discuss concerning issues at any level of command without negative repercussions for bypassing a level. There has also been great work in creating transparency in hiring, promotion and discipline processes while respecting individual privacy.

The Alaska National Guard has devoted great resources, time and effort into enacting all of these changes. There is still work to do, but the Alaska National Guard is committed to reforming its culture to reflect the honorable service and missions of its more than 4,000 members.

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