



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Aug. 27, 2015

By Sgt. Marisa Lindsay

**Alaska National Guard
Release: 15-085**

Alaska National Guardsmen aim to compete in marksmanship challenge

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — More than 25 Soldiers and Airmen with the Alaska National Guard came together to compete The Adjutant General's 2015 Match, hosted by the Alaska Army National Guard, held at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson range complex, Aug. 22-23

The Alaska National Guard TAG Match is an annual event, which promotes marksmanship training amongst Airmen and Soldiers by providing a competitive opportunity to test their marksmanship skills and weapons systems in a battle-focused environment.

"A joint event like the TAG Match enforces the bond and common thread we share with each other in the Alaska National Guard," said 1st Lt. Danny Canlas, the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade's Headquarters Headquarters Company executive officer and the officer in charge for the sports fire range for the event. "The event is unique because of the background that each competitor brings to the table—where they are from, the uniform that they wear and whether they are full-time Guardsmen—yet they hold onto that common theme in the name of the competition, which is service to our state and country and weapons preparedness."

Seven four-man teams completed advanced marksmanship tasks, to include combat rifle excellence-in-marksmanship, 500 special zero, combat pistol barricade and close quarter battle, all performed with either the M-9 pistol or M-16 rifle.

"It was evident that all teams came to win," explained Canlas. "Before each match, all the teams could be seen reviewing the handbook or performing range drills beforehand in preparation for that particular event."

For many competitors, this was their first time participating in the TAG Match competition.

"This competition has definitely lived up to my high expectations so far," said Spc. Sawyer Slavinsky, a vehicle mechanic with the 761st Military Police Company who also placed first novice in four individual events. "Everyone has been really supportive of each other, and it's cool to see the competitors giving advice, regardless of team or military affiliation."

At the conclusion of the high-pressure event, the competitors were recognized during an award's ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard armory on JBER's Camp Denali.

The TAG Match trophy, awarded to the overall winner, was awarded to the Alaska Air National Guard team. The team was made up of team captain Senior Airman Matt Larson with the 213th Space Warning Squadron from Clear Air Force Station, and fellow team members Senior Master

Sgt. Jamie Kurzenberger, with the 213th SWS; Master Sgt. Nicolas Blace, with the 213th SWS; and Staff Sgt. Jacob Gibson, with the 176th Wing.

“The event ran quite smoothly this year, and I could tell that the participants had fun,” remarked Canlas. “I would like to see more competitors next year, myself included. Who wouldn’t want to get paid to shoot weapons?”

###



150822-Z-QK839-002

Alaska Army and Air National Guardsmen survey their targets from 200 yards after firing their M16 rifles during the Adjutant General’s Match held at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Range Complex, Aug. 22-23. This annual event is designed to test the marksmanship skills of Alaska Guardsmen in a high-pressure, competitive environment.



150822-Z-QK839-007

Alaska Air and Army National Guardsmen operate a variety of weapons systems during The Adjutant General’s Match held at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson range complex, Aug. 22-23, 2015. This annual event is designed to test the marksmanship skills of Alaska Guardsmen in a high-pressure, competitive environment.



150822-Z-QK839-024

Alaska Army and Air National Guardsmen take aim while firing their M9 pistols during the Adjutant General’s Match held at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Range Complex, Aug. 22-23. This annual event is designed to test the marksmanship skills of Alaska Guardsmen in a high-pressure, competitive environment.