



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 29, 2015

By Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent

Alaska National Guard

Release: 15-106

Senior leadership visits 168th Air Refueling Wing, shares goals, gratitude

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Col. Karen Mansfield, assistant adjutant general-Air, visited the 168th Air Refueling Wing Oct. 4-5, sharing messages of gratitude and goals looking forward.

In Mansfield's all-call, she shared what she called her "scattered background" spanning from Germany to Alaska, as an AWACS crew member to an active-duty tactics officer to serving as a drill status Guardsman in the 176th Wing. All of this led to opportunities for professional and personal development, she said.

"Always be prepared for unexpected opportunities," Mansfield said. "I challenge all of you to own that as you move forward in your careers."

Mansfield shared information on other topics of interest to Guardsmen and updated them on new and progressing items of importance.

"Moving forward into the new year comes the finalization of the proposed Alaska Code of Military Justice," said Mansfield.

The ACMJ is a state and National Guard specific code of military justice that will operate similarly to the Federal Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is undergoing a drafting process now and will be proposed before the state legislature in January, she explained.

"It's not a silver bullet," said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Calvin, Alaska Air National Guard state command chief. "It has to start on the lower level, with people writing letters of counseling. We still need to do the basic things first or we can't get there."

Another initiative in the works is a special committee on the Rural National Guard Program that will form in the coming year. Mansfield solicited potential augmentees to assist with the committee.

"If you are interested in career broadening, make sure that it's known," Mansfield said.

Other topics discussed during Mansfield's visit included initiatives to make professional military education courses more accessible for drill status Guardsmen, stat tour programs for officers, the Arctic Sustainment Package ensuring arctic capability, a KC-135 active association and the new enlisted performance report system.

Not 24 hours later, Hummel also visited the 168th ARW, spending time listening to Airmen, checking out shops, and learning about the challenges they face and goals they have achieved.

She visited the 168th Maintenance Squadron, Communications Flight, Logistical Readiness Squadron and Civil Engineering Squadron. In each section, she and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hildreth, the Alaska National Guard senior enlisted leader, compared the processes and career fields of the Air National Guard and Army National Guard. They noted efficiencies and similarities, highlighting that the two are not so different.

“What a healthy community of Airman you have here,” Hummel said. “Even on your worst day, you know it is just a temporary test.”

Hummel spent some time with the Top Three group that meets monthly. The group addresses methods for improvement that the Enlisted Advisory Council has identified as problematic in their work centers.

“It’s a pleasure to be your colleague. Thank you for your service,” Hummel said to members of the Top Three.

Her message, sincere and prefaced with both light-hearted conversation and earnest questions about how Guardsmen overcome challenges, left Wing members with an idea of what to expect in the next fiscal year.

Progress of the ACMJ bill may be tracked by searching “HB 126” online.

###

PHOTOS

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **DVIDS link** includes story and selected full-resolution photos. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is also generally accessible from .mil computers for individual users.)

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/179475/senior-leadership-visits-168th-air-refueling-wing-shares-goals-gratitude#.VjKe_03lupr

See next page for photos



151004-F-MQ741-020

Staff Sgt. Cody Nelson, 168th Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic, explains to Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, right, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, on Oct. 4 that when Airmen learn better ways to accomplish things, with approval from 168th Quality Assurance, processes can be changed to make tasks more efficient. "What are your aspirations?" Hummel asked Nelson. "I want to be the command chief. When my mentor, our last Command Chief Master Sgt. Tran Brunsberg, retired, she told me, I could become a command chief and that if I do, she'll come back for my ceremony. I'm going to hold her to it," Nelson said. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent)



151004-F-MQ741-108

Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, coins Staff Sgt. Bjorn Nielson, cyber security specialist, for his commitment and work with the Committee for Active Recruiting and Retention during her visit Oct. 4 to the 168th Air Refueling Wing. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent)



1004-F-MQ741-128

Airman 1st Class Daniel Vandevort, 168th Civil Engineering pavements and equipment specialist, shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, during a visit to the 168th Vehicle Maintenance shop Oct. 4, 2015. Vandevort transferred from the 200th Red Horse in the Ohio Air National Guard to study geological engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "When I found out they had a Civil Engineering Squadron here, I asked if I could join, and they said, 'yes,'" Vandevort said. He reenlisted later that day. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent)