



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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By Staff Sgt. Daniel Bellerive

### **Alaska Air National Guard fosters fulfilling careers in the Last Frontier**

The C-130 Hercules has more than 10,000 wires spanning over 40 miles in length. Each wire plays a crucial role in the aircraft's performance and safe operation, with functions ranging from blade de-icing to fire suppression hinging on the viability of the plane's electronics. The Air National Guard entrusts electrical-environmental specialists with the diverse and pivotal responsibility of managing aircraft electronics, helping to ensure our Airmen come home safely.

The Alaska Air National Guard has numerous critical careers for which the capabilities and potential of Airmen may be matched. When Airman 1st Class Jimmy Stemper learned where his strongest aptitudes were, he knew where his skills could best serve his country.

"When I took the ASVAB I didn't score exceptionally well overall, but I performed above average on the electrical section," said Stemper. "That drove me to become an electrical-environmental technician."

Serving as a full-time electrical-environmental technician in the 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Stemper has had ample opportunities to apply his training and abilities to use. The tasks and skills required of his trade set electrical-environmental technicians apart from others specialists, demanding an in-depth knowledge of a broad range of systems.

"Our career field specializes in AC and DC power generation and distribution, as well as environmental systems such as aircraft bleed air, fire protection, air conditioning, anti-ice, blade de-ice and more," Stemper explained. "To excel in this career, you need to be more than just mechanically inclined or good at changing parts—you need to be a problem solver, capable of thinking outside of the box."

The importance of being able to troubleshoot and problem solve is made obvious by the complex nature of electrical systems in the C-130; incorporating over 125 wiring harness bundles, some of which measure nearly six inches in diameter, means that often times problems won't be straightforward and isolated.

"Electrical power runs through so many wires and components on an aircraft that it can be easy to lose sight of what you're working on amidst a rat's nest of cables," Stemper described. "We have to become detectives, tracing down probable suspects and linking them to the problem."

On the rare occasion that the shop doesn't have an aircraft to work on, electrical-environmental Airmen are diligent in improving their own education and training.

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“If we have no call outs, I go back to the shop and do back shop work, career development courses, or complete additional training until we have a call out,” Stemper noted. “You must improve yourself daily, and make yourself an asset to others around you. In order to become successful in life, and not just in the military, you have to be dedicated and hard-working.”

In addition to taking time at work to advance his professional development, the opportunity to advance his education was a motivating factor for Stemper to join the Alaska Air National Guard.

“The idea that I was going to be able to stay in Alaska, go to school up here, and still be a part of the military really made it clear that the Air National Guard was the right branch for me,” Stemper affirmed.

Stemper said that regardless of how Airmen choose to serve, being a part of the Air National Guard can serve as a foundation to build a successful career well into the future.

“However you choose to serve,” Stemper concluded. “The Alaska Air National Guard is a great way to kick start you career.”

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**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, free downloadable images. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.)



Airman 1st Class Jimmy Stemper, an electrical-environmental technician for the 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, inspects electrical components on an HC-130J at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, June 28, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Bellerive)



Airman 1st Class Jimmy Stemper, an electrical-environmental technician for the 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, removes a maintenance panel on an HC-130J at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, June 28, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Bellerive)



Airman 1st Class Jimmy Stemper, an electrical-environmental technician for the 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, inspects electrical components on an HC-130J at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, June 28, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Bellerive)