



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Alaska National Guard**

**FOR November 16, 2017**

Release: 17-067

## **National Guard hosts town hall to discuss Guard presence in Southeast Alaska**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — The Alaska National Guard will host a town hall meeting this Thursday in Juneau to provide an update on the Alaska National Guard in Southeast Alaska, present some of the challenges facing the Guard, and hear concerns from citizens in the community.

Maj. Gen. Laurie Hummel, adjutant general for the Alaska National Guard, will host the meeting and will be accompanied by several Army Guard and Air Guard senior leaders, a chaplain, a recruiter and a representative from the state's Office of Veterans Affairs.

The focus of the town hall will be about how to enhance Guard presence in the area and will include brief presentations with current information about the Alaska National Guard. Guard presence, number of units and personnel, and mission sets have changed over the years. The factors that converged to force structural change will be explained at the town hall.

The Alaska National Guard is currently working on several initiatives to help revitalize the Guard in rural communities, including a reassessment of where units should be located in order to maximize Guard participation and reduce the financial burden of Guard member travel in rural areas.

The Alaska National Guard has a long and proud heritage of service and membership throughout the state. Rural Alaska has always been on the vanguard of the Nation's defense starting with the Alaska Territorial Guard in WWII and further protecting our shores during the Cold War. With threats materializing around the globe, Guard members remain crucial in the role of defending North America.

The Alaska National Guard truly values the role of our state's citizens and extends an open invitation to all who want to understand more about the Guard, and provide feedback and ideas. The National Guard team is looking forward to meeting and speaking with citizens in the Capital region of our state.

The town hall is from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Juneau Armory in Room 116. The address is 12300 Mendenhall Loop.

Please see the attached fact sheet for additional details that will be discussed at the town hall.

###

### **FOR MEDIA**

Alaska National Guard Town Hall

**5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 16**

12300 Mendenhall Loop

Juneau Armory, Room 116

Maj. Gen. Hummel will be available for media interviews immediately following the meeting.

Please contact Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead in public affairs with any questions. 907-428-6030,

candis.olmstead@alaska.gov