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297th Signal Company cases the colors for the last time

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The 297th Signal Company, Alaska Army National Guard, deactivated during an Aug. 5 ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory here.

Col. Peter Mondelli, commander of the 297th Regional Support Group, and Capt. Timothy Cooper, commander of the 297th Signal Company, were the official party.

“The company’s time may be ending but with that there is a new season for the Soldiers of this company,” said Cooper. “They can take the skills that were practiced and honed by their NCOs [non-commissioned officers] and spread that throughout the Alaska Army National Guard.”

Most of the Soldiers in the 297th SC have been transferred to other units within the Alaska National Guard.

The 297th SC was created Sept. 1, 2009 to support the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade with tactical internet, combat re-transmission and improved high frequency global broadcast service with the ability to provide imagery and maps.

“It is always sad to case the colors and see a unit go away,” said Mondelli. “I’ll make a prediction that we will see, sometime in the near future, that we will be standing up some kind of signal unit again here in Alaska because it is a capability that we are definitely going to need in the state and in the country to defend our nation.”

Cooper received an Army Commendation Medal for his service as the commander of the 297th SC.

The unit will be officially deactivated Aug. 31, 2018, as part of the Army restructuring initiative.

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PHOTOS

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **Flickr link** includes an event album with the complete selection of full-resolution, free downloadable images. (May not be accessible from all military computers.)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard/albums/72157699497522434>

3. **DVIDS link** includes story and selected full-resolution photos. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.) <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/287382/297th-signal-company-cases-colors-last-time>



Capt. Timothy Cooper, 297th Signal Company commander, receives the unit colors from 1st Sgt. Glenn Fish, 297th SC first sergeant, prior to casing the colors, signifying the unit's deactivation Aug. 5, 2018, at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mike Risinger/Released)



Capt. Timothy Cooper, 297th Signal Company commander, and 1st Sgt. Glenn Fish, 297th SC first sergeant, case the unit colors, signifying the unit's deactivation Aug. 5, 2018, at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mike Risinger/Released)



Col. Peter Mondelli, 297th Regional Support Group commander, receives the cased colors of the 297th Signal Company from Capt. Timothy Cooper, 297th SC commander, signifying the unit's deactivation Aug. 5, 2018, at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Mike Risinger/Released)