

## **MEDIA UPDATE: September 4**

### **--Alaska National Guard in the News--**

#### **1. Pilot, passenger rescued after weekend crash**

*apnews/September 4*

Rescuers say a pilot and passenger escaped injury when their plane crashed near Tyonek over the weekend.

Alaska National Guard officials say responders found the damaged Piper PA-18 aircraft Saturday about 28 miles northwest of Tyonek, located across Cook Inlet from Anchorage. The pilot and passenger were found nearby.

Officials say the search was launched following activation of an emergency locator transmitter signal designating it came from a previously destroyed Cessna 207.

**More at:** <https://www.apnews.com/e3f7ea0cdda8439a8002c4603749cd55>

#### **1. Inside the Gates: Alaska Organized Militia comes together to respond to wildfires**

*KTVA by Scott Gross/August 28*

When it comes to natural disasters and emergencies across the state, there are lesser-known organizations located deep within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs that play major roles: the Alaska State Defense Force and Alaska Naval Militia.

According to Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead with the Alaska National Guard, the Naval Militia are personnel in the Navy reserves that can be activated to support the state in times of dire need.

"These Naval Militia folks volunteered for the mission, including National Guard," Olmstead said. "So there's volunteer as in 'raising your hand to participate' and then there is volunteer as in 'unpaid.' Everyone providing support to this effort raised their hands to participate, and they will all be paid."

**More at:** <https://www.ktva.com/story/40971236/inside-the-gates-the-alaska-organized-militia>

#### **2. The Crucible of character: Former POW, Fighter Pilot Shares Leadership Wisdom**

*pacom.mil by David Bedard/August 26*

For several months, a dank 6.5-by-7-foot cell at the Hanoi Hilton served as a crucible that tested the limits of human endurance for retired Air Force Col. Leon Ellis and three of his fellow prisoners.

If it wasn't too cold at night to sleep, if he wasn't too hungry from slurping watery pumpkin soup, or wasn't worried about his parents who didn't know he was shot down over North Vietnam Nov. 7, 1967, Ellis was suffering torture at the hands of his captors.

The communists wanted compliance and useful information, but what they really wanted was written statements and filmed confessions denouncing the United States.

**More at:** <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/1944159/the-crucible-of-character-former-pow-fighter-pilot-shares-leadership-wisdom/>

**Also at:** <https://www.176wg.af.mil/Media/Article-Display/Article/1942114/the-crucible-of-character-former-pow-fighter-pilot-shares-leadership-wisdom/>

### **3. Inside the Gates: When the call comes in, National Guard is ready to help fight Alaska wildfires**

*KTVA by Scott Gross/August 23*

As firefighters tangle with wildfires across Alaska, the Alaska Army National Guard is on standby waiting to help when the call for assistance comes in.

"We operate under immediate response," Alaska Army National Guard Commander of the 207th Aviation Battalion Lt. Col. Michelle Edwards said. "So, it is when there's no other assets in state."

Despite possessing the state's largest fleet of rotary-wing aircraft, the Army National Guard is under a non-compete clause where they can't compete against civilian workers and companies.

**More at:** <https://www.ktva.com/story/40957222/inside-the-gates-when-the-call-comes-in-national-guard-is-ready-to-help-fight-alaska-wildfires>

*\*If you find Alaska National Guard news that was not included, please forward the link so it may be added to the next update.*

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