

## **MEDIA UPDATE: October 4**

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

#### **1. Alaska Air Guardsmen rescue pilot, passenger near river**

*whs.mil* by David Bedard/Sept. 27

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons rescued a pilot and passenger of a crashed Stinson 108 single-engine aircraft 7 miles northwest of the mouth of McArthur River Sept. 25.

The pilot of the crashed aircraft called Alaska State Troopers with a satellite phone and AST asked for help, according to Alaska Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Evan Budd, Alaska Rescue Coordination Center superintendent.

An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter with the 210th RQS diverted from training near Homer Airport with two pararescuemen (PJs) from the 212th RQS on board. Additionally, an HC-130J Combat King II with the 211th RQS, launched from Joint Base Elemendorf-Richardson.

**More at:** <https://www.whs.mil/News/News-Display/Article/1973614/alaska-air-guardsmen-rescue-pilot-passenger-near-river/>

**Also at:** <https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Pilot-reportedly-crashed-his-plane-near-the-McArthur-River-2-taken-to-the-hospital-561433471.html>

<https://alaska-native-news.com/alaska-air-national-guard-chopper-rescues-injured-pilot-and-passenger-from-cook-inlets-west-side/44857/>

<https://www.ktva.com/story/41106584/2-rescued-after-airplane-crash-on-west-side-of-cook-inlet>

[https://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska\\_news/rescued-after-airplane-crash-on-west-side-of-cook-inlet/article\\_fc5b93-fd23-5e88-a901-8289640397f7.html](https://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/rescued-after-airplane-crash-on-west-side-of-cook-inlet/article_fc5b93-fd23-5e88-a901-8289640397f7.html)

#### **2. Midnight Sun Guardians participate in Gobi Wolf 2019**

*af.mil* by David Bedard/Sept. 27

On Nov. 30, 2018, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake jolted South-central Alaska. In the temblor's crosshairs was Senior Airman Liana Chythlook, 176th Medical Group public health technician, who had just reported to work. The intensity of the quake's shock waves rocked the building like a Dixie cup in a tornado.

"I looked up and the doorway was shaking like paper," Chythlook said. "I just ran outside."

Miles away, 2-year-old, Adrik, couldn't understand what force of nature violently shook his daycare center with thunderous report. His father, Senior Airman Angelo Romano, 176th MDG bioenvironmental engineer, said the now 3-year-old boy still runs for the sanctuary of the bathtub when an alarm goes off.

**More at:** <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1973405/midnight-sun-guardians-participate-in-gobi-wolf-2019/>

### **3. Alaska Army Guard medevac two men from Haines for emergency medical care**

*Army.mil by Candis Olmstead/Sept. 23*

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska - Aircrew with the Alaska Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment provided medical evacuation for two men in Haines yesterday, ensuring they were able to get the emergency care needed as quickly as possible.

A civilian medevac unit was unable to reach Haines due to inclement weather, and the United States Coast Guard Sector Juneau-the primary military search and rescue asset for Southeast Alaska-was already conducting a SAR mission.

"The Coast Guard contacted the Rescue Coordination Center to request a medevac in Haines, and the RCC requested that we conduct the mission because Coast Guard was engaged in a SAR at the time," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua Claeys, pilot in command of the Army Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on the mission.

**More at:**

[https://www.army.mil/article/227535/alaska\\_army\\_guard\\_medevac\\_two\\_men\\_from\\_haines\\_f\\_or\\_emergency\\_medical\\_care](https://www.army.mil/article/227535/alaska_army_guard_medevac_two_men_from_haines_f_or_emergency_medical_care)

**Also at:** <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1967705/alaska-army-guard-evacuates-two-men-for-medical-care/>

### **4. Air Guard commander promotes to general officer, pinned with stars**

*DVIDS by Grace Nechanicky/Sept. 19*

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Alaska Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Scott Howard was promoted at a ceremony Sept. 18 in the National Guard armory on JBER, after holding the rank of colonel for three years.

Howard is commander of the Alaska Air National Guard and assistant adjutant general-Air for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Originally from a small town east of Columbus, Ohio, his desire for new and different experiences provoked him to join the Air Force.

**More at:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/342532/air-guard-commander-promotes-general-officer-pinned-with-stars>

### **5. Inside the Gates: Replacing aging recovery helicopters**

*KTVA by Scott Gross/Sept. 19*

Pave Hawk helicopters are vital resources when it comes to search and rescue operations in Alaska. The problem is, of the five on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, two are in hangars undergoing repairs.

The life expectancy of Pave Hawk helicopters is slated for around 6,000 flight hours. The current Pave Hawk helicopters on JBER are at 7,000 flight hours.

Tech. Sgt. Nathan Skains with the 176th Maintenance Squadron said it's a lot of maintenance, which takes a long time to get done.

**More at:** <https://www.ktva.com/story/41075131/inside-the-gates-replacing-aging-recovery-helicopters>

#### **6. Make it Monday focuses on contributions of national guard to Alaska**

*Youralaskalink by News Teams/Sept. 17*

Anchorage, AK - This week's Make it Monday focused on the Alaska National Guard and the contributions its members make in our community. Take a look.

**More at:** [http://www.youralaskalink.com/news/make-it-monday-focuses-on-contributions-of-national-guard-to/video\\_edad95b1-849f-5d41-84a0-862899e8d72d.html](http://www.youralaskalink.com/news/make-it-monday-focuses-on-contributions-of-national-guard-to/video_edad95b1-849f-5d41-84a0-862899e8d72d.html)

#### **7. Inside the Gates: Loadmaster's calculations get cargo off the ground**

*KTVA by Scott Gross/Sept. 13*

In order for the military to haul large cargo throughout Alaska and anywhere in the world, the size of the load is handled by loadmasters.

"This is our wheelhouse in the back of the airplane," said Master Sgt. Ryan Conti with the Alaska Air National Guard's 211th Rescue Squadron.

It's because of loadmasters that helicopters, SUVs, heavy cargo and people can be stuffed into a plane and shipped around the globe.

**More at:** <https://www.ktva.com/story/41047185/inside-the-gates-loadmasters-calculations-get-cargo-off-the-ground>

#### **8. Alaska Army National Guard names state-level Best Warrior winners**

*pacom.mil by Grace Nechanicky/Sept. 9*

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- Two Alaska Army National Guardsmen earned the title of Best Warrior in the state-level 2020 Best Warrior competition here Sept. 4-7 and will be continuing on to the regional competition.

The winners of this year's competition are Spc. Delany Pletsch, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, as the best Soldier, and Sgt. Hector Colon-Ramirez, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, as the best noncommissioned officer.

"Over the past three days, these Guardsmen have been through a series of 15 events designed to test the physical and mental toughness of Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Nyquist, the state command sergeant major for the Alaska Army National Guard. "They have moved to each event, usually not knowing how they placed among their peers and sometimes not knowing if they got a go or a no-go."

**More at:** <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/1955495/alaska-army-national-guard-names-state-level-best-warrior-winners/>

### **9. 'Nothing to do with me': President responds to Alaska service members staying at Trump-owned hotel in Scotland**

*KTVA by Shayne Nuesca/Sept. 9*

President Donald Trump says he had no role in a joint U.S. Air Force and Alaska Air National Guard unit booking an overnight stay at his Turnberry Resort in Scotland.

The president tweeted Monday morning he knew nothing about the service members landing in Scotland to refuel their plane. Trump confirmed, however, that he owns the resort where the Alaska crew stayed.

The president's response comes after a report originally published by Politico claimed a military aircraft flew from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in March, then spent a night at the Turnberry, 50 miles away from Glasgow. The service members were on their way to a mission in Kuwait.

**More at:** <https://www.ktva.com/story/41023070/nothing-to-do-with-me-president-responds-to-alaska-service-members-staying-at-trumpowned-hotel-in-scotland>

### **10. Air Guard combat rescue officer promotes to colonel**

*Alaska Native News by Balinda Dresel/Sept. 8*

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Brig. Gen. Torrence Saxe, the Alaska National Guard adjutant general, presided over the promotion of Col. Matthew Komatsu, incoming director of plans and strategy on the Joint Staff, during a ceremony here Sept. 4.

The ceremony marked the first time an Alaska Air National Guard combat rescue officer donned the silver eagle insignia.

Saxe described the symbolism and importance of the rank of colonel by depicting the position as flying high at 10,000 feet and having talons ready to use, if needed. The insignia also parallels experience – as a colonel must have 22 years of service and a minimum of three years as a lieutenant colonel for the position.

**More at:** <https://alaska-native-news.com/air-guard-combat-rescue-officer-promoted-to-colonel/44458/>

### **11. Air Force disputes report that Trump's Scottish resort was favored as overnight stop for Alaska-based crew**

*adn by Mark Thiessen, Associated Press/Sept. 7*

Military officials are disputing a report that claims a joint Air Force and Alaska Air National Guard unit on a refueling mission to Kuwait went miles out of their way to spend the night at a resort in Scotland owned by President Donald Trump.

Politico first reported that the military transport that took off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage in March spent the night at the Turnberry resort, about 50 miles outside Glasgow.

The disclosure comes as Trump last week denied he had any role in Vice President Mike Pence booking a room at a Trump resort in Ireland or Attorney General William Barr booking at holiday party at a Trump property in Washington, D.C., actions which Democrats and critics claim enrich the president at taxpayer's expense.

**More at:** <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/military/2019/09/08/air-force-disputes-report-that-trumps-scottish-resort-was-favored-as-overnight-stop-for-alaska-based-crew/>

**Also at:** <https://www.ktva.com/story/41017814/air-force-disputes-alaska-crew-favored-trump-scottish-hotel>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/air-force-crew-stopped-by-trumps-luxury-resort-2019-9>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2019-09-07/air-force-disputes-alaska-crew-favored-trump-scottish-hotel>

<https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Air-Force-disputes-Alaska-crew-favored-Trump-Scottish-hotel-559711331.html>

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

*\*This is a product for internal use. It is a snap shot of media coverage (favorable, unfavorable, true, false) and not a validation by the PA office.*