

MEDIA UPDATE: January 3

If links are broken in the body of the email, please see the attached pdf for links.

—ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD IN THE NEWS—

Inside the Gates: Alaska National Guard looks to defend the Arctic with more recruits

KTVA by Scott Gross/Dec. 29

Maritime traffic continues to increase in and around the Arctic.

"I think the 800-pound gorilla that everybody is ignoring is what's going on in the Arctic," Nome resident Thomas Vaden said.

As the region starts to warm up, the world will continue to take notice and make use of it.

More at: <https://www.ktva.com/story/41500538/inside-the-gates-alaska-national-guard-looks-to-defend-the-arctic-with-more-recruits>

Alaska's Adjutant General Continues Rural Hub Visits to Grow National Guard Capacity

Pacom.mil by Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead/Dec. 27

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- Members of the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs visited Nome, Alaska, Dec. 17-18, as part of the department's new rural operations hub concept to strengthen the department's ties with Alaska's rural communities, in an effort to grow upon disaster response measures and capabilities.

Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe, Alaska National Guard commander and adjutant general, and commissioner of the DMVA, took a team that included representatives from the state Office of Veterans Affairs, Air and Army Guard recruiters, members of the joint staff, the Alaska Military Youth Academy, Counterdrug Support Program, and the Alaska State Defense Force.

During the Nome trip, a sixth site visit in support of the hub concept, the group met with Nome Mayor Richard Beneville and other city leaders, tribal council and Native corporation members, and key personnel from Nome schools, the port, harbor and hospital. Plans to grow rural operations in Alaska have also included stops in the Alaska communities of Bethel, Kwethluk, Napaskiak, Galena, and Kodiak, and future visits include Utqiagvik and Kotzebue.

More at: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2047776/alaskas-adjutant-general-continues-rural-hub-visits-to-grow-national-guard-capacity>

Also at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/356863/alaskas-adjutant-general-continues-rural-hub-visits-grow-national-guard-capacity>
https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2046232/guard-visits-rural-alaska-communities-to-strengthen-ties/fbclid/IwAR2CkYNODW9xqEyxTvq2U_sTbcFBrzpr2Ms2jLQjjValc5lBrL1bWMIa4AA/

Commander of AK National Guard Visits Nome, Plans to Increase Rural Membership

KNOM by Davis Hovey/Dec. 26

Major General Torrence Saxe, who became the head of the Alaska National Guard (AKNG) in early 2019, is on a mission to grow the guard's presence in several rural hubs like Nome.

Saxe says with the Guard's history in the goldrush city, as well as the operational armory and aviation facility in town, it just makes sense to have more AKNG members in Nome.

"And so I would just ask for the community support in getting the word out that we do have openings. We want to hire local, we want them to drill local, and they would only have to drill back in Anchorage a few times a year. The focus really is on Nome."

More at: <https://www.knom.org/wp/blog/2019/12/26/new-commander-of-ak-national-guard-visits-nome-as-part-of-rural-operations/>

Also at: <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2019/12/27/national-guard-commander-aims-to-revive-service-tradition-with-new-hires-in-rural-alaska/>

Inside the Gates: Alaska National Guard wants more rural hubs

KTVA by Scott Gross/Dec. 19

Pfc. Molly Erickson started to really consider joining the Alaska Army National Guard when she was a junior at Mt. Edgumbe High School in Sitka.

"When I was like five years old I saw the uniform," Erickson said. "And then when I got older I saw it more and more."

Erickson says a parent of one of her high school friends was a helicopter pilot.

More at: <https://www.ktva.com/story/41473414/inside-the-gates-alaska-national-guard-wants-more-hubs-statewide>

—TAGS AND HASHTAGS—

The National Guard/Dec. 27

An Alaska National Guard Soldier reunites with family after a nine-month deployment to Kuwait. Approximately 80 [@alaskanationalguard](#) Soldiers from the 297th Military Police Company were assigned to the [@uscentcom](#) area of responsibility in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

(Photo by Lt. Col. Candis

Olmstead) [#alaska](#) [#nationalguard](#) [#milfam](#) [#family](#) [#homecoming](#) [#welcomehome](#) [#deployment](#)

Photo at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B6lT6LhByho/>

The National Guard/Dec. 23

"We want to get back to having strong relationships in the community, have more folks from this area who are serving in the Guard, and prepositioned to respond to emergencies and natural disasters when called upon to assist." [Alaska National Guard](#)

Northern Skies Aviation/Dec. 20

Photo at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B6U0MrtB2wl/>

100th Missile Defense Brigade/Dec. 19

Six U.S. Army Soldiers were honored for their successful completion of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Fire Control Qualification Course (GQC) during a graduation ceremony at 100th Missile Defense Brigade Headquarters in Colorado Springs Dec. 19.

Students of this seven-week program, which is led by instructors from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) School, learn how to defend the homeland from intercontinental ballistic missile attack. The Soldiers represent SMDC, the 100th MD BDE and the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska National Guard.

**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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