

## **MEDIA UPDATE: January 9**

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

### **—ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD IN THE NEWS—**

#### **No reported Alaska casualties in Iran attacks**

*Daily News Miner by Erin McGroarty/Jan. 9*

Details are still emerging from Iran's Tuesday night missile attacks on multiple Iraqi military bases housing U.S. troops, but NATO told the Associated Press on Wednesday its office has not received any...

**More at:** [http://www.newsminer.com/news/local\\_news/no-reported-alaska-casualties-in-iran-attacks/article\\_aea65720-32b0-11ea-b05f-fbc049fa4fe6.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/no-reported-alaska-casualties-in-iran-attacks/article_aea65720-32b0-11ea-b05f-fbc049fa4fe6.html)

#### **Sen. Sullivan says he urged president to negotiate with Iran after Tuesday's missile strike**

*KUUU by Lex Treinen/Jan. 8*

In an interview in Washington, Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, said that he urged the president in a phone call to take an opening to negotiate with Iran, the day after an Iranian missile strike on US-occupied military bases in Iraq produced no fatalities.

"The foreign minister's tweet essentially saying, 'We're done.' It looked like they in some ways may have purposefully missed hitting Americans," said Sullivan.

Foreign Minister Javad Zarif wrote that "We do not seek escalation or war, but will defend ourselves against any aggression" in a tweet on Tuesday.

**More at:** <https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Sen-Sullivan-responds-to-Iran-missile-strike-566819241.html>

#### **354th Fighter Wing commander maps out 2020**

*Arctic Warrior by Senior Airman Beaux Hebert/Jan. 8*

Col. Benjamin Bishop, 354th Fighter Wing commander, along with Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Hurt, 354th FW command chief, hosted two all-calls Jan. 2, 2020, to talk to Airmen about how the addition of F-35A Lightning II will change the culture of Eielson Air Force Base.

Bishop began with a look at what the Icemen team accomplished in 2019. The wing completed three large force exercises, increasing readiness across the U.S. Air Force and partner nations.

"This is how we operationalized our National Defense Strategy, by building a more lethal force, attracting new partners, and strengthening our alliances," Bishop said. "2019 was phenomenal. It was an amazing year at the 354th Fighter Wing. We did a lot. You did a lot."

**More at:** [https://www.frontiersman.com/arctic-warrior/th-fighter-wing-commander-maps-out/article\\_745dab78-3269-11ea-9426-ff952541f992.html](https://www.frontiersman.com/arctic-warrior/th-fighter-wing-commander-maps-out/article_745dab78-3269-11ea-9426-ff952541f992.html)

### **About 2,000 Alaska-based troops are in Iraq as conflict with Iran flares**

*adn by Alex DeMarban/Jan. 8*

Soldiers from Fort Wainwright who deployed to Iraq this summer — part of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division — will help protect Iraqi bases in the wake of missile attacks by Iran on Tuesday, a statement provided by the brigade said.

Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th wing based at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are also serving at an undisclosed location in the Middle East as tension in the region mounts, an official said.

Iran on Tuesday launched at least a dozen ballistic missiles against U.S. military and coalition forces in Iraq, targeting at least two Iraqi military bases at Al-Assad and Irbil, said Alyssa Farah, Department of Defense press secretary, on Twitter. The attacks came in response to the U.S. killing by drone strike of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

**More at:** <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/military/2020/01/08/alaska-based-troops-in-iraq-as-iran-launches-missiles-at-bases-housing-us-military/>

### **2,000 Alaska-based troops in Iraq as Middle East conflict escalates**

*KTUU by Kortnie Horazdovsky/Jan. 7*

A large Alaska-based Army brigade is serving in Iraq as tension in the area increased Tuesday with a strike on two Iraqi military bases that house U.S. troops.

A unit of the Alaska Air National Guard is also serving in the Middle East. A spokesperson for the 176th Wing could not give specific location details of the unit, but said that all members were accounted for.

Two thousand soldiers from Fort Wainwright's 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division were in the country as of Friday, Jan. 3, according to John Pennell, chief of media relations for the Army in Alaska. The unit deployed in August of 2019 and was scheduled to return to Alaska this summer. They are part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

**More at:** <https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/2000-Alaska-based-troops-in-Iraq-as-Middle-East-conflict-escalates-566796671.html>

### **Alaska base to receive first three F-35A stealth fighters in coming months**

*Stars and Stripes by Wyatt Olson/Jan. 6*

The 354th Fighter Wing in Alaska will receive its first three F-35A Lightning II stealth fighters early this year, a number expected to grow to 54 within two years, the wing's commander said.

"Our plate is getting bigger in 2020," wing commander Col. Benjamin Bishop said during an all-call at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, on Jan. 2, according to an Air Force news release.

With the dramatic increase in size, the wing's strategic significance will grow as well, he said.  
**More at:** <https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/alaska-base-to-receive-first-three-f-35a-stealth-fighters-in-coming-months-1.613739>

—TAGS AND HASHTAGS—

**KFOR Regional Command East/Dec. 27**

The KFOR 26 Kinetic Battalion conducted a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) drill at Camp Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny (CMLT), Kosovo, December 30, 2019. KFOR Soldiers practice CRC to maintain readiness in the event of civil unrest in Kosovo. Part of KFOR's mission to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in Kosovo is to act as the third responder, after the Kosovo Police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dayton Will, RC-East Public Affairs.)

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**Photos at:**

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*\*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.*