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Alaska National Guard

*Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs*

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

020-094

October 19, 2020

By Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey

168th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska Air National Guard unveils new tail flash on Stratotanker aircraft at Eielson AFB

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — A KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Wing was unveiled showcasing a new tail flash on the wing's aircraft, Oct. 15.

The 168th Wing continues to have strong ties to local communities in interior Alaska as the "hometown Air Force." In collaboration with Tanana Chiefs Conference, the 168th Wing established a commitment to honor interior communities on the wing's aircraft. The first KC-135 revealed last week honors the village of Minto, one of nine Alaska interior communities that will be represented on 168th Wing Stratotankers.

According to the Tanana Chiefs Conference website, Minto residents are mainly Tanana Athabascans. Minto is in the western-most portion of traditional Tanana Athabascan territory, located on the west bank of the Tolovana River, 130 miles northwest of Fairbanks.

The next aircraft to be unveiled will honor Gwichyaa Zhee, Grayling, Huslia, Tetlin, Telida, and Tanana. Additionally, Fairbanks and North Pole will be displayed on the final two aircraft.

A polar bear stands strong on the wing's tail flash representing the arctic region and spirit of Alaska. The geometric design of the polar bear highlights the wing's culture of innovation.

"The support and partnership of our community are what allows us to succeed," said Col. Richard Adams, 168th Wing commander. "The interior Alaska communities will be proudly displayed on the tail of our KC-135 as we refuel our nation's military aircraft above the skies of Alaska and around the world. It is an honor to dedicate our first aircraft to the tribe of Minto."

More information about the community of Minto may be found here:
<https://www.tananachiefs.org/about/communities/minto/>.

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1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **Please visit the following DVIDS for photos and video:**
<https://www.dvidshub.net/search?q=Alaska+Air+National+Guard+unveils+new+tail+flash+on+Stratotanker+aircraft+at+Eielson+AFB&view=grid>

The 168th Air Refueling Wing exemplifies the spirit of Total Force teamwork, and is the only Arctic region refueling unit for all of PACAF. The mission of the 168th Wing is to “train Alaska Guardsmen to provide a constant Air Force Capability of Global Reach and Vigilance, by means of the KC-135 aircraft and early warning space systems, and stand ready to protect American resources and Alaskan communities.” The 168th Wing transfers more fuel than any other Air National Guard tanker wing, due to the fact that nearly all receivers are active duty aircraft, many of which are on operational missions. The 168th Wing is YOUR Hometown Air Force and Guardians of the Last Frontier.



201015-Z-UF872-017

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard’s 168th Wing was unveiled showcasing a new tail flash on the wing’s aircraft, Oct. 15, 2020. A polar bear stands strong on the wing’s tail flash representing the arctic region and spirit of Alaska. The geometric design of the polar bear highlights the wing’s culture of innovation. The 168th Wing continues to have strong ties to local communities in interior Alaska as the “hometown Air Force.” In collaboration with Tanana Chiefs Conference, the 168th Wing honors interior communities on the wing’s aircraft. The first KC-135 revealed honors the village of Minto and is one of nine total aircraft representing Alaska interior communities. The next aircraft to be unveiled will honor Gwichyaa Zhee, Grayling, Huslia, Tetlin, Telida, and Tanana. Additionally, Fairbanks and North Pole will be displayed on the final two aircraft. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey)



201015-Z-UF872-006

Airman 1st Class Abbey Miller, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Barker, Col. Richard Adams, 168th Wing Commander, Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Renson, 168th Wing Command Chief, and Senior Airman Joshua Fine (left to right), take a photo as a KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Wing was unveiled showcasing a new tail flash on the wing's aircraft, Oct. 15, 2020. Miller, Barker and Fine, aircraft structural maintenance technicians, were responsible for applying the vinyl decals to the wing's new tail flash. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey)



201015-Z-UF872-012

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Wing was unveiled showcasing a new tail flash on the wing's aircraft, Oct. 15, 2020. A polar bear stands strong on the wing's tail flash representing the arctic region and spirit of Alaska. The geometric design of the polar bear highlights the wing's culture of innovation. The 168th Wing continues to have strong ties to local communities in interior Alaska as the "hometown Air Force." In collaboration with Tanana Chiefs Conference, the 168th Wing honors interior communities on the wing's aircraft. The first KC-135 revealed honors the village of Minto and is one of nine total aircraft representing Alaska interior communities. The next aircraft to be unveiled will honor Gwichyaa Zhee, Grayling, Huslia, Tetlin, Telida, and Tanana. Additionally, Fairbanks and North Pole will be displayed on the final two aircraft. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior by Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey)