



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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Commander in Chief



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DMVA

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Main photo:

Pave Hawks. A pair of Alaska Air National Guard 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters train over Alaska in February. Photo: Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell, Alaska Air National Guard

Bottom Photos (left to right):

Guardian Angels. Major Jesse Peterson, left, and Technical Sergeant Chris Uriarte, both of the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, conduct tactical training in the mountains of Afghanistan in April to keep their skills sharp.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Bill Cenna, Alaska Air National Guard

Dangerous Ice. Large ice chunks are lifted over the banks of the Kuskokwim River in Crooked Creek. The ice chunks, propelled by fast moving flood waters, can push homes off foundations, crush vehicles and bury swaths of land under massive ice. Once flood waters drop, the ice remains and prevents access to damaged areas. Photo: John Madden, DHS&EM

Graduates. Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets stand at attention during their graduation ceremony held at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage in August. Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

Soldiers. Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers with B Company, 1-143rd Infantry (Airborne) Regiment march towards a C-130 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in November prior to their departure for a yearlong deployment in support of operations in Afghanistan. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



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Ready to Serve

This document was printed at no cost to the State of Alaska.



For the People

Governor Sean Parnell
Commander in Chief



Service to Our State and Nation

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs epitomized selfless service to Alaskans and Americans in 2011. Whether it was helping fellow Alaskans prepare for and recover from natural disasters or deploying overseas to defend freedom, the DMVA came to the aid of many others throughout this past year.

The response to the Bering Sea storm in late 2011 proved that Alaskans work well together executing the state's emergency response plans. Although the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management helped communities take protective measures to reduce the destruction from the storm, more than 35 communities reported major damage. State Disaster Declarations activated the State's Public and Individual Assistance programs and enabled the state to provide grant funding to individuals and families for damages to their homes and property, as well as to help restore public facilities to their pre-disaster condition. Local, state and federal agencies continue to work together to assist these communities in getting back to full operations as quickly as possible.

I am proud to report that the FY2013 budget released on Dec. 15, 2011, prioritizes state disaster and emergency preparedness. I have included budget proposals that will fund emergency food supplies to be securely stored for disasters throughout the state, as well as emergency power and water purification to help communities prepare and provide critical emergency services.

We highly value our service members; Alaska Guardsmen remain a critical component to protecting freedom overseas. The Alaska National Guard completed several successful deployments in 2011 to Iraq, Afghanistan and in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's efforts during the Libyan civil war. On behalf of all Alaskans, we are extremely grateful for your selfless service and sacrifice.

As we show our support for our current hometown warriors, we remember to honor those who served in the past. I appreciate the work of all those in the Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, as they continue to provide improved services and benefits for our veterans. The state VA office reached a significant milestone in

2011, as they achieved the goal of recognizing all living Alaska Territorial Guard members with honorable discharge certificates. Last year, they also began providing ATG veterans who have passed away with full military honors if they did not receive it previously.

The future of the military in Alaska remains strong. I recently signed Administrative Order 260, extending the Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team. This team provides recommendations on how to best retain and build on the state's current military force capability. Your commissioner and adjutant general, Major General Thomas H. Katkus, is a member of this eight-person team, which will continue to ensure that Alaska plays a vital role in defending our nation. Several notable projects have emerged from the team's recommendations, including funding for the Tanana River Bridge and the Kodiak Launch Complex.

To all the men and women of the DMVA, thank you for your continued investment in our communities and your outstanding service to our state and nation. We are safe and free because of the work you do.



Moving Day. Governor Sean Parnell speaks at the ceremony welcoming the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in February. The 176th Wing moved from its home on Kulis Air National Guard Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson as a result of a decision in 2005 by the Base Realignment and Closure commission.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



The Adjutant General



Major General Thomas H. Katkus
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Executing Every Mission

The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs had a phenomenal 2011, continuing a tradition of excellence in assisting citizens in our state, while deploying overseas in support of our nation.

Members of our Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management were quick to react, leading efforts to execute the state's emergency response plans to support the residents of western Alaska during the November Bering Sea storm and in Crooked Creek after ice and water rushed over the banks of the Kuskokwim River during spring breakup.

Their professionalism and ability to synchronize efforts with private, local, state, and federal agencies were key to assisting the affected citizens, and their planning ensured that communities were safe and secure. It was a cooperative effort that helped save lives.

Your citizen Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard also had another extremely busy year protecting Alaskans here at home and overseas.

We welcomed home more than 70 Alaska Army National Guardsmen after they logged 4,000 hours flying our nation's top leadership assigned in Iraq. They led the charge, supporting every tasking, while never canceling a mission during their yearlong deployment.

In 2011, the Alaska Army National Guard enhanced our capabilities to support our federal and state missions by completing a new state-of-the-art facility in Bethel and fielding new vehicles and equipment to support emergency response. The Alaska Army National Guard now owns the youngest fleet of trucks in the entire Army National Guard and are at the forefront to respond to our federal and state missions.

The Alaska Air National Guard was at the forefront, deploying five C-130 Hercules aircraft, and 125 Guard members to Afghanistan this summer to airdrop food, fuel, water, ammunition and other critical supplies to Soldiers during night operations. These missions reduced the requirement to drive dangerous convoys and were critical to supporting our fellow American Soldiers.

The National Guard is also a critical component in supporting federal missions in Alaska. Every day, Guardsmen perform missile warning and space surveillance at Clear Air Force Station, an air sovereignty mission in support of the Alaskan Regional Air Operations Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Missile Defense at Fort Greely.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to graduate near record numbers, averaging more than 140 cadets per class, totaling 3,500 graduates in 17 years of operation. There's a reason the AMYA is considered one of the best programs in the nation producing graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

Our Veterans Affairs office is engaged with our veteran community, assisting the many challenges our 77,000 veterans face here in Alaska. They continue to work hard, helping to fill the gaps between federal and state benefits, an effort noted by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki as a best practice when he visited Alaska this fall.

There are new challenges ahead, but we will continue to prepare for deployments in support of federal missions while maintaining our ability to respond to natural disasters and civilian emergencies here in Alaska.

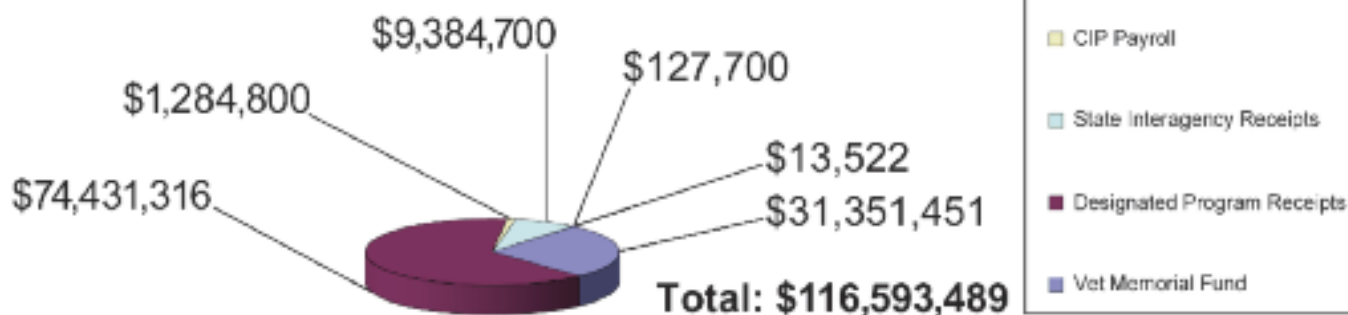
The nearly 4,500 members of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs stand ready to execute every mission asked of them and will continue to be ready in 2012.



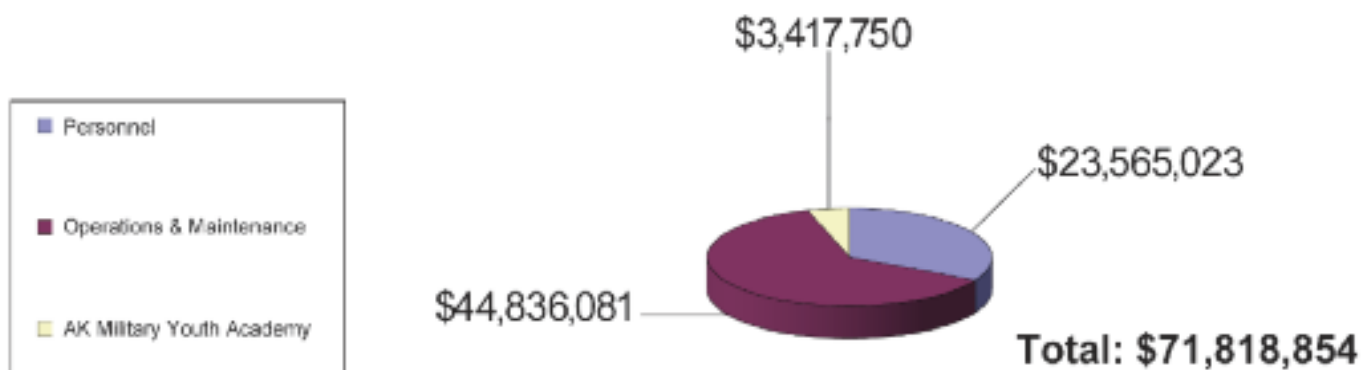
Adjutant General. Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, speaks to employers, veterans and their spouses at the kick-off the 2011 Alaska Veterans and Military Spouses Job Fair held at the University Center in Anchorage in November. The event included more than 120 employers from across Alaska. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

DMVA... By the Numbers

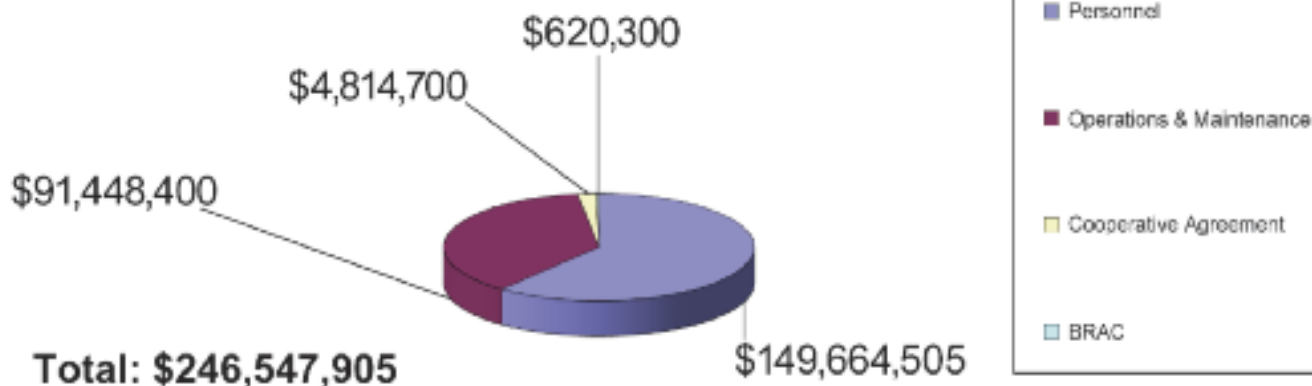
DMVA SFY2011 State Operating & Capital Actual Expenditures

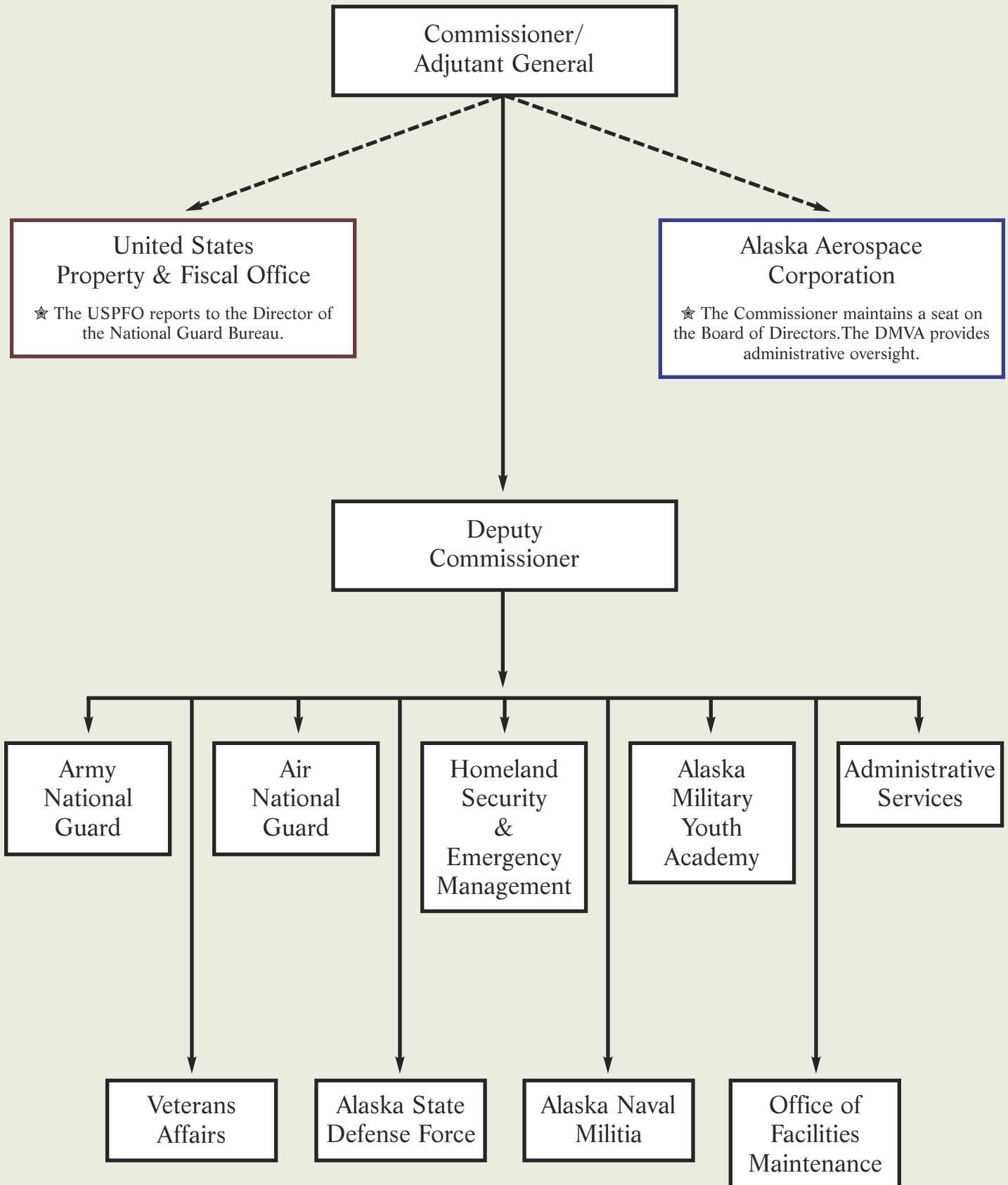


Army Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY11



Air Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY11







Veterans

Improving Services and Benefits



This is yet another exciting year for the Office of Veterans Affairs. We continued our efforts in awarding discharges to Alaska Territorial Guard veterans, enhanced our Veteran Service Officer corps, hit all the challenges head on with changes to the Post 9-11 GI Bill, and traveled all across Alaska helping veterans. The Office of Veterans Affairs was able to meet and exceed all the 2011 goals while providing stellar support to the state's 77,025 veterans and 89,000 family members. Our prime mission is to develop and sustain comprehensive statewide veterans advocacy programs; we completed this year's mission on a very high note.

Alaska Territorial Guard

The Alaska Territorial Guard Recognition Program passed a major milestone in 2011. We finally have recognized all living ATG members with an honorable discharge for their service. We are now moving into the next phase of the program, which is to ensure that every ATG veteran has a discharge document on file in the National Archives. This new program will take some time, and we will be working closely with the National Archives to ensure that all records are fully completed. What makes this new phase of the ATG program unique is that we will represent past ATG members without living family members. We plan to have all 4,400 remaining ATG discharges completed by December 2012. This schedule will ensure that future generations have access to this honorable service and that the records and accomplishments will forever be on file in our nation's archives.

Veteran Service Officer Grant Management

Veteran Service Officers are another success story for the Office of Veterans Affairs. In order to give the best service to our veterans, we provide 14 VSOs across the state. They provide services to veterans free of charge. The VSOs represent veterans and their families while processing claims to the government for benefits earned while on active duty or in the Guard. We currently have the following VSO organizations certified through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, The Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Disabled American Veterans. We have added one more organi-



Honoring Alaska Territorial Guard Veterans. Verdine Bowen, director of state Veterans Affairs office, and Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, join Alaska Territorial Guard veterans Harold Bahr, Holger Jorgensen and Earl Wineck in front of the newly unveiled ATG statue in front of the Alaska Veterans Museum in downtown Anchorage on Veterans Day 2011. Photo: Jeff Slaikeu, DMVA

zation to our veterans service officer ranks, the Vietnam Veterans of America. They are placing one service officer at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and one service officer at UA Southeast. The Military Order of the Purple Heart will locate a service officer at UA Anchorage. This will go a long way toward filling the shortfall we have in supporting our veterans while they attend school.

In 2011, our service officers were very successful in assisting our veterans by returning \$43.7 million in past payments owed to veterans while filing more than 14,000 new claims. This \$10 million increase in funds is directly attributable to our Vietnam War veterans receiving back pay for presumptive illness due to Agent Orange exposure. The continued success of this program is also measured through state veterans receiving annual compensation and pension payments. This year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent more than \$144 million to veterans and their families who reside in Alaska. Also, Veterans Affairs and our VSO staff assisted veterans to receive medical care at our five federal VA clinics. We currently have more than 29,000 veterans enrolled in the VA medical

program, and out of the 29,000, the federal VA treats 16,336 patients annually with a managed care cost of \$129 million. We still have a long way to go to have all our eligible veterans treated at the federal VA, but what has occurred so far for our veterans is outstanding.

The Alaska State Approving Agency

This has been a very challenging and stressful year for our sole state approving officer, Mercedes Angerman. Again, we have seen a huge change in the State Approving Agency program.

In FY2010, Alaska had an average of 637 students per month attending higher education programs in the state. We expected this number to increase to more than 900 in FY2011 because of the expansion of education benefits to the trades programs and the establishment of the Post 9-11 GI Bill. By the end of FY2011; however, there were more than 7,000 veterans and family members enrolled per month in Alaska. This is the largest increase in veteran-utilized education benefits since the end of World War II. The bill provides educational opportunities to our veterans and their families while adding federal dollars to the higher education system.

The total VA expenditures in the state of Alaska for GI Bill and vocational rehabilitation is \$13 million. Because of new changes in the GI Bill, we have graduated out of this program. What has occurred is that the VA has moved to automatic approvals of all accredited public and private not-for-profit post-secondary schools/programs, all registered FAA Part 141 programs and all U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship programs. We will continue to support our veterans with the addition of three new service officers located on our campuses, and with the number of veterans and dependents attending higher education, this will provide critical services where they are educated.

Other Significant Accomplishments

Last year, we added a program to the National Guard honors program. This program provides full military honors to ATG veterans who passed away years ago and

did not receive this honor. As of today, this team has performed 158 military honors. When performing the honors ceremony for ATG veterans, the team presents the families with a United States flag, an Alaska state flag and an Alaska Territorial Guard Service Medal. This provides honor and respect for the ATG veterans and helps build a bridge between our children and the past.

This year, the Office of Veterans Affairs has introduced a new coin to be presented to all veterans in the state of Alaska. This coin was presented at the third annual Veterans Summit and to veterans at the Alaska State Fair. It has been well received by all recipients and has proved to be a great way to honor those who served our nation and state.

The two Stand Downs in the state this year were outstanding. One was accomplished in Fairbanks and one in Anchorage. We were able to meet and speak with more than 800 veterans. Our veterans were provided with medical and job placement assistance and introduced to several social programs. At a Stand Down, we are able to fast-track veterans' requests for assistance and social security.

As part of a joint outreach, the Office of Veterans Affairs partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and sponsored a rural outreach trip for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki. With the assistance of the Alaska Army National Guard, we were able to fly the secretary to Bethel and Kwigillingok, Alaska. We were able to show the secretary the issues Alaska has in providing quality health care to our remote veterans. Also, he was able to personally experience the challenges of getting our veterans to larger population centers. The visit ended with a town hall meeting facilitated by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and U.S. Senator Mark Begich.

The state of Alaska Veterans Cemetery has moved off hold into the area of possibility. We have selected 100 acres off Gold Mine Trail Road just outside of Fairbanks. We received a letter from the federal U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notifying us that we were approved for federal funding in FY2012; this approval has moved the program into high gear. We are required to have by July 15 several completed documents, a development plan and the final bid in order to receive the \$6.5 million. This is a very exciting time, and we will soon see a 40-year dream completed for veterans and our state.

We have entered into several partnerships with the VA and this has proved very fruitful for our Alaska veterans. This past summer, we supported the VA's Tribal

Veterans Representative program to train local veterans who reside in remote villages across the state. We incorporated this program into the VSO grants to assist in the validation of this volunteer force. Now the VA is on track to train 100 more TVRs in 2012.

Veterans Affairs' second partnership was in the area of remote health care. We participate in the VA's 13th working group in setting policy and treatment programs for rural Alaska veterans. The policies currently under review are payments for rural health care at our village clinics. Using health care where a veteran lives will save lives and a great deal of travel funds.

Next, we have partnered to end veteran homelessness in Alaska through the VA Homeless Veterans in need program. This program has helped us to leverage federal funds to bring more U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development/ Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers to Alaska and have more veterans in homes and off the streets.

Last, we completed a Memorandum of Understanding between the VA and the Alaska Department of Corrections. This will allow any incarcerated veterans to receive a disability physical before release. This will help veterans two ways: first, if the veteran has time to serve, then the family could be eligible for a portion of the disability payment; second, it will provide funds and



Veterans. Alaskan veterans attend the Veterans and Remembrance Day ceremony at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in November. Photo: Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding, U.S. Air Force

medical assistance to a veteran within 30 days of release.

This report closes on a very high note for our veterans. It was not that long ago our federal veterans benefits failed a major inspector general inspection. They were rated last in the nation on disability claims processing. This helped us to set up our first VA partnership. We put in place a strong training program that allowed our service officers to train with their federal counterparts. The result of this program moved our claims processing to fourth in the nation. The success of this program has opened the door to bringing several key VA leaders to Alaska and has indirectly impacted all of our care and benefits.



Salute. Left to right: Lieutenant General Steve Hoog, Alaskan Command and 11th Air Force commander; Major General Raymond P. Palumbo, U.S. Army Alaska commander; Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Canadian Air Force Colonel Daniel S. Constable, Alaska NORAD Region deputy commander, salute during the Veterans and Remembrance Day ceremony in November at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery.

Photo: Senior Airman Cynthia Spalding, U.S. Air Force

Alaska Army National Guard



Throughout the year, the Alaska Army National Guard renewed emphasis on individual readiness in order to maintain our most valuable resource – our Soldiers. Similarly, new facilities and better equipment made Alaska a more rewarding place to serve.

Readiness

The Medical Detachment focused on maintaining and improving the medical and dental readiness for the Alaska Army National Guard and ensured that deploying units were medically prepared. The unit primarily focused on conducting periodic health assessments and dental exams, as well as physical exams for flight and military schools. In addition to our mission support, we maintained our medic and dental skills via sustainment training at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

During the past year, the Medical Detachment also provided Medical Readiness support to remote areas of Alaska. Three teams traveled to Bethel, Fort Greely, Fairbanks and Juneau. A major accomplishment for these teams was ensuring that B Company, 1-143rd Airborne, met all pre-deployment medical requirements.

Facilities

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Bethel Readiness Center took place in November 2011. The state-of-the-art facility will be a great asset for the Soldiers and community. It has plenty of classroom space along with a distance learning center that will help increase training capabilities for the unit.

In October, construction was completed on a new Regional Training Institute administrative facility to replace one decimated by fire. The \$1.8 million facility is adjacent to the Mandregan Building on Camp Carroll allowing instructors to be close to the students. The facility design complies with the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver standards for energy efficiency.

A vast amount of work was completed on Bryant Army Airfield. Projects ranged from replacing roofs to increasing energy efficiency,



Medical Support. Lieutenant Colonel John Brady, Alaska Army National Guard Medical Detachment flight surgeon, examines Batbayar Sukhbat, an Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, resident, during a medical civil assistance exercise as part of Exercise Khaan Quest 2011 in August. Photo: Specialist Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard

which reduces our footprint on the environment and lowers utility costs. The Air Traffic Control Tower is having a sizeable amount of work completed on it to bring it up to standards. The work conducted on the airfield has resulted in the removal of numerous existing waivers and has helped the airfield to meet rigorous standards.

Throughout 2011, our environmental section worked diligently on many projects to help our environment including numerous Defense Environmental Restoration Program projects. Various sites throughout the state have received remediation or are currently undergoing remediation, and 21 sites had characterizations completed during the summer of 2011.

Equipment

In a strong follow-up to 2010, the AKARNG continued to receive huge amounts of new equipment in 2011, including more than 130 medium- and heavy-lift trucks and trailers. As a result, the AKARNG now has the youngest fleet of trucks in the entire Army National Guard, with the oldest truck less than four years old. High water and rough terrain cargo vehicles with the best technology available provide a huge capability for federal and state response missions.

Our logistics posture continues to thrive. With positive results from 2011 inspections, the Department of the Army accepted the AKARNG nomination to compete at the national level in its Supply Excellence Award program. This is the first time in years that the AKARNG has competed for this prestigious award.

The ongoing equipment modernization of our units includes extensive training opportunities, placing the AKARNG at the forefront of training within the U.S. Army.

49th Missile Defense Battalion

The 49th Missile Defense Battalion provides defense against incoming ballistic missile threats and continuous site security at the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska.

In 2011, the 49th Battalion participated in several major exercises. In April, Global Lightning 11 involved elements from the Space & Missile Defense Command and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade evaluating the 49th. Global Defender involved the Battalion



Welcome Home. Brigadier General J. Randy Banez, assistant adjutant general-Alaska Army National Guard, welcomes home Captain Todd Miller, commander, B Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, as Miller steps foot back in Alaska at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in July after a one-year deployment in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq. While in Iraq, the unit's mission entailed transporting high-ranking dignitaries throughout the theater of operations via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

Photo: Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

Fire Direction Center crews and crosstraining scenarios with Space and Missile Defense Command, U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Strategic Command elements. In October, the battalion participated in Global Thunder 12 to exercise command and control capabilities between the battalion and its subordinate commands. Additionally, the Fire Direction Center crews successfully completed two Operational Readiness Evaluations in which the 100th Missile Defense Brigade evaluated the crews on specific training scenarios and tactics.

The Soldiers of the 49th Battalion continue an outstanding tradition of community outreach. The battalion officers established a mentorship program with the local high school. The battalion actively participated in the annual Relay for Life event by sponsoring a 49th Battalion team that raised more than \$2,000. A battalion team also participated in the annual Delta-Greely School District Soccer Tournament fundraiser, raising more than \$2,000 for the high school soccer team. Another team played an annual benefit hockey game against the Delta-Greely High School hockey team, raising more than \$600 in their last game.

Alaska Army National Guard Aviation

Alaska Army National Guard aviation units continued to demonstrate their value to the state and nation in 2011.

Crews from the C-12 unit, Detachment 54, learned to fly a new aircraft, the Super King Air 300, and embarked on a one-year deployment to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. In a change from their normal duties transporting passengers around Alaska, in Afghanistan, they helped collect vital intelligence as a part of Task Force Odin.

In August, B/1-207th returned from a yearlong deployment to Operation New Dawn in Iraq where they safely flew more than 4,000 UH-60 hours supporting the commanding general U.S. Forces – Iraq. Their mission of transporting high priority passengers also involved flights for the Secretary of Defense, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the vice president of the United States.

In Alaska, UH-60 and C-23 crews flew more than 450 hours for medical and dental support to more than a dozen interior villages as part of Arctic Care 2011. Black Hawk crews operating out of Bethel provided logistical support to Navy and Marine engineers all summer as they worked to relocate the village of Newtok to higher and drier ground to be safe from flooding. Soldiers in Nome and Bethel also assisted the Coast Guard in maintaining navigational beacons and markers along the entire west coast of Alaska.



Iraq. Left to right: Chief Warrant Officer Two Joshua Cormier, aviator with B Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, and Captain Todd Miller, company commander, perform flight checks on their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter before a mission. Photo: Sergeant T.J. Moller, U.S. Army

Finally, Bryant Army Airfield took a significant step toward improved service with the national level approval of an airfield staff and approval to reactivate the control tower.

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

During 2011, Soldiers from the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, trained in, deployed to or supported operations in four different countries – Uganda, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Germany and six states – Alaska, Hawaii, California, Georgia, Iowa and Kansas.

The largest event was a Full Spectrum “Warfighter” Exercise with the 35th Infantry Division at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in September 2011. “Our priority focus was to shape how we utilize the Intelligence Enterprise to answer the supported commander’s critical information requirements,” said Colonel Mike Thompson, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade commander.

Additionally, Long Range Surveillance Company elements trained with Special Forces at the National Training Center. They trained in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with U.S. Marine Corps sniper instructors at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. The Network Support Company traveled to Hawaii for a domestic operations exercise and planned for a support mission in the Horn of Africa with AFRICOM headquarters.

OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT TRAINING

Khaan Quest

AKARNG Soldiers took part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise in Mongolia in August. Khaan Quest 2011 included contingents from more than 20 nations in four major facets of U.N. missions – command post exercise, medical care, civil infrastructure and platoon lane training.

More than 30 AKARNG officers and noncommissioned officers participated in the command post exercise. Alaskans constituted the core of the multinational brigade staff and a battalion staff. The exercise tested staff procedures, but more importantly, Soldiers gained exposure to multinational facets of operations and the civil assistance aspect of U.N. missions that could apply at home or abroad.

Six Medical Detachment Soldiers were part of a 60-member medical team of U.S., Mongolian, Korean, Indian and Canadian Armed Forces that treated nearly 5,000 patients in an austere Mongolian environment.



Partnership. State Command Sergeant Major Gordon Choate, right, Alaska Army National Guard, shakes hands with Lieutenant General Ts. Byambajav, chief of general staff, Mongolian Armed Forces, prior to the closing ceremony of Exercise Khaan Quest 2011 held at Five Hills Training Area, near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Behind them, U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia Jonathan S. Addleton also greets the military representatives.

Photo: Specialist Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard

JOINT OPERATIONS

State Partnership Program

The Alaska Mongolia State Partnership Program continues to set the standard for depth and breadth of engagements and is consistently cited as one of the most successful partnerships in the National Guard Bureau.

Alaska units have participated in multiple military and civil exercises with Mongolia throughout the last year. Activities included an Emergency Management & Policy Exchange, the Exercise Gobi Wolf disaster response, Arctic Care Observer Exchange and a Hazardous Materials Exchange. Approximately 50 Soldiers participated in the annual Khaan Quest overseas deployment exercise at Five Hills Training Area in Mongolia. These exchanges helped build capacity within each of the respective organizations and further strengthen our mutual commitment to the relationship.

It is with this commitment and trust that the Mongolian Minister of Defense first requested that an Army advisory team deploy to Afghanistan with the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force in 2009. To date the Army Guard has deployed 10 officers and non-commissioned officers to serve with the Mongolians in Afghanistan. This shared experience and implicit trust has taken our relationship to the next level and solidified our mutual commitment to our affiliation.

Fiscal year 2012 is going to be exciting, with numerous exchanges scheduled throughout the year, including senior leader visits to Mongolia. In addition, the Alaska National Guard will host the annual Bilateral Consultative Conference with participation from the Mongolian Armed Forces, Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

103rd Civil Support Team

Members of the 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction provided assessment and assistance to first responders, industry members and the military in response to potentially hazardous material releases. The 103rd CST also provided information and assistance to the Anchorage Fire Department and FBI, while helping to protect residences of a South Anchorage apartment complex in 2011.



Training. Alaska Army National Guardsmen from C Company, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, and the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade train at the National Training Center, Calif., while assisting an active-duty unit preparing for a deployment.

Photo: Command Sergeant Major Clinton K. Brown II, 1-297th Cavalry, Alaska Army National Guard

Talisman Saber

Thirteen Soldiers from the 49th Theater Gateway participated in a multinational exercise called Talisman Saber during summer 2011 in Australia. The unit's mission was to conduct reception operations for 3,000 U.S. Marines, Soldiers and Airmen who took part in the exercise. Receiving the troops, tracking their movements and reporting their status honed the wartime skills of the 49th Theater Gateway in a challenging environment.

Full Spectrum Exercise

Twenty-seven Guardsmen from A and B Troops, 1-297th Cavalry (Reconnaissance and Surveillance) performed as opposing force scouts in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's Full Spectrum Exercise in Hohenfels, Germany. This Full Spectrum Exercise was the first of its kind, combining high-intensity combat operations with stability operations as part of the Army's new emphasis on conventional combat.



Warriors. Alaska Army National Guardsmen fire the M-4 rifle during the Alaska National Guard's Best Warrior Competition held on Joint-Base Elmendorf Richardson in May.

Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska Army National Guard



Joint Patriot. Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team members train during the Joint Patriot exercise held at Volk Field, Wis., in July. Joint Patriot was a national exercise that tested the Alaska Guardsmen's ability to respond to various chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological threats. Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

The team was a vital participant in the Joint Patriot exercise in Wisconsin by providing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear explosive response teams, liaisons with civilian authorities, and command and control elements.

The team also provided subject-matter experts for liaison and work with first responders of the commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and the country of Mongolia, promoting cooperation and improved emergency response capabilities.

Alaska Counterdrug Support Program

Despite a budget decrease of \$3 million, our Drug Demand Reduction section taught our nationally accredited 12-week drug education/ positive life choice curriculum to more than 1,000 middle school students in 10 different schools. Our DDR section also provided "Gateway" drug presentations to more than 2,000 elementary school students and "Inside Dope" presentations to more than 500 high school students.

DDR instructors, using our "Encounter, Experience, Encourage" high ropes challenge course, continued to provide adventure-based education and served more than 200 participants representing eight community-based organizations from throughout the state. This no-cost summer camp offered a saving to these organizations of more than \$100,000.

The Alaska Counterdrug Support Program continued to provide support to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across Alaska. These agencies were supported by operational case

support, criminal analysis support or both. In addition to personnel embedded with these agencies, many specialized counterdrug assets and resources were used to assist these agencies in the successful completion of their investigations. The combined efforts of this support resulted in the arrest of 268 drug offenders and the seizure of more than \$5 million worth of controlled substances and drug proceeds.

Along with direct case support and assisting with drug related seizures, the Counterdrug Program also facilitated and sponsored training to more than 100 law enforcement professionals. The training included managing and operating nine different tactical and firing ranges, providing tactical officers and role players during a Department of Public Safety Trooper Academy and facilitating training in our classroom. Additional funds from FY10 were used to build a new storage and classroom facility. This new facility will be equipped with tables and chairs as well as wrestling mats which will give opportunity for both law enforcement and military units to conduct combatives or defensive tactics training.

Always an active community contributor, CDSP members participate semiannually in Operation Take Back – the Drug Enforcement Administration's program providing a venue for the dropoff and collection of unwanted and unused prescription drugs.

Lesser known but vitally important are the CDSP's canine program, administration of the joint substance abuse policy, and the newly implemented prevention, treatment and outreach program. Tok, a yellow labrador trained in drug detection, and his handler provide a vital force multiplier to several agencies involved in drug interdiction. The joint substance abuse policy coordinator is responsible for implementation and administration of the National Guard substance abuse testing and prevention policy. A newcomer to CDSP is the prevention, treatment and outreach program coordinator. While still in the early stages of implementation, the program's purpose is to provide prevention training, outreach to military families and treatment resources to military members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance and combat readiness.

Since the inception of the Alaska National Guard Counterdrug Support Program, Alaska Guardsmen have become a critical component in supporting law enforcement and community-based organizations across the state in combating drug offenders and educating Alaskan youth about the harmful effects of drugs. This program has shown that joint operations within the Alaska National Guard can make a significant impact on developing coalitions and partnerships as well as building relationships in Alaska communities.

Chaplain

The Chaplain Corps of the Alaska National Guard has been a vibrant force in providing spiritual care and support for our Soldiers, Airmen and their families. Strong Bonds is one of our premier programs, which has been very popular for several years, and 2011 was no exception. This year we held five events for couples, hosting a total of 130 couples; three family training events that drew in 180 people from 45 families; and 45 people came to our two singles venues. Our traditional and full-time chaplains from the Army and Air National Guard forces have remained busy ministering to our service members and their loved ones in every region of Alaska. Additionally, we have strengthened our ties with our active duty counterparts which has helped make 2011 one of the most dynamic years in terms of religious support for all of our people as we continue to help everyone meet the challenges of life and their missions in the Guard.

Alaska Air National Guard



Supporting Alaska on the Home Front and the United States Overseas

The mission of the Alaska Air National Guard is to recruit, train, equip and maintain America's finest Airmen. Tasked with this vital mission, we support worldwide contingency operations, state of Alaska emergency operations, daily homeland security and defense missions, and

provide rescue forces on continual alert to protect life and property for the citizens of Alaska.

Alaska Air National Guardsmen answer the call to defend not only Alaska, but the United States in the Global War on Terrorism, while supporting humanitarian and good will missions around the world.

Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The Alaska Air National Guard also saw a great deal of change in its senior leadership in 2011, ensuring that the mission and end goals of the organization continue to be met and exceeded, and that the mission continues to move forward. Two new wing commanders were appointed, and Colonel Carlisle Lincoln was appointed as the Joint Forces Headquarters chief of staff.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 213th Space Warning Squadron celebrated 50 years of intercontinental ballistic missile warning at Clear Air Force Station, near Anderson, Alaska, in August. Nearly 100 full-time Guardsmen, assigned to the 213th Space Warning Squadron, performed daily missile warning and space surveillance tracking more than 400,000 space objects.

Final Pass. C-130s, HC-130s and HH-60 Pave Hawks from the 176th Wing of the Alaska Air National Guard make one final pass over Kulis Air National Guard Base in February. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Boom Operations. Master Sergeant John Dunhaime, an in-flight refueling technician with the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, controls the boom while an F-16C Falcon with the 18th Aggressor Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, receives fuel during the Northern Edge Premier Joint Training in June.

Photo: Lakisha Croley, U.S. Air Force



Eye Exam. Colonel Ron Kichura, an optometrist and commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Medical Group, performs an inner ocular pressure test on Hayneville, Ala., Mayor Helenore Bell in May. Thirty-five members of the Alaska Air National Guard deployed to Hayneville for training as part of the National Guard's Innovative Readiness Program. Photo: Captain John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs, Alaska Air National Guard



Home Landing. An Alaska Air National Guard crew chief assists a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter after landing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in February. The U.S. Air Force C-17 behind the HH-60 is also flown by the Alaska National Guard in a joint relationship with the active duty Air Force. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

They also coordinated \$220 million in federal funding to enhance current radar capabilities and modernize the system within the global network for the next 20 years.

The 168th Air Refueling Wing, home to the KC-135 Stratotanker and based in interior Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base, had a successful year flying more than 4,090 mishap-free hours while delivering more than 17.5 million pounds of fuel in more than 462 missions.

The 168th Air Refueling Wing continues its close working relationship with the active duty. Nearly all of its "customers" are active-duty aircraft, many of them on operational missions. This spring was no exception, as the 168th Air Refueling Wing supported NATO Operation Unified Protector during the Libyan civil war, off-loading an average of 332,000 pounds of fuel per day to coalition forces.

The 168th also deployed more than 30 168th Security Forces members to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn to provide security near Baghdad International Airport, helping to end the American presence in Iraq.

Approximately 150 Alaska Air National Guardsmen assigned to the 176th Air Control Squadron performed a daily air

sovereignty mission in support of the Alaskan Regional Air Operations Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Created to defend against potential bomber attacks from now-former Cold War foes, the Air Control Squadron, today, keeps tabs not only on continued probing by the Russians, it also identifies and directs response to incursions of other unknown aircraft into Alaska airspace. In 2011, the Air Control Squadron was credited with 13 intercepts and 24 aircraft operations.

The 176th Air Control Squadron maintains the highest NORAD mission readiness status and is continually recognized for its outstanding performance. In February 2011, the 176th Air Control Squadron received a rating of "Mission Ready," the highest rating available. Also noteworthy in 2011, the 176th ACS participated in an exercise called Vigilant Eagle. Two of its members were deployed to Russia for this unique Joint-NORAD exercise.

In May, 35 members of the 176th Medical Squadron deployed to Hayneville, Ala., to host a free medical clinic for area residents. The group deployed as part of a joint-services mission organized by the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training program.

In just seven and a half days, the team received valuable medical and annual training while assisting nearly 1,000 citizens in the community.

The highest profile of all Alaska Air National Guard missions remains search and rescue. The 176th Wing's rescue components consist of three squadrons.



SSPARS Radar Clear Air Station. A Solid-State Phased Array Radar System radar in a protective dome stands 11 stories tall on Clear Air Force Station. The station's primary duty is to provide an early warning of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Photo: Courtesy of 213th Space Warning Squadron



Ready to Serve. Alaska Air National Guardsmen walk across the flight line at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson before boarding a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III headed to Charleston, W. Va., to assist search and rescue efforts in response to Hurricane Irene. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

The 210th Rescue Squadron flies six HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, highly modified search and rescue variants of the well-known Black Hawk. The 211th Rescue Squadron flies four HC-130s specially equipped for aerial refueling and search

and rescue missions. The 212th Rescue Squadron comprises the famed “Guardian Angels,” elite rescuers trained in combat medicine, marksmanship, special tactics, mountaineering, scuba diving and a wide variety of wilderness survival skills.

Search and rescue missions are coordinated through the 11th Rescue Coordination Center, a high-tech Air Guard facility on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Together, the Alaska Air National Guard rescue squadrons were credited with saving 73 lives in Alaska during a total of 59 missions executed and 161 sorties flown during the first 10 months of 2011. That’s an average of almost five missions per month.

Approximately 125 Alaska Guardsmen from the 176th Wing’s 144th Airlift Squadron, 176th Maintenance Squadron and 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, for 90 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Operating C-130 tactical airlift airplanes, these men and women supported U.S. efforts throughout the region with intratheater airlift and airdrops of men, supplies and equipment. Working in austere environments, these Alaska Guardsmen helped save lives by delivering the necessary resources and equipment to our Soldiers on the ground.

Members of the Alaska National Guard again supported Operation Arctic Care here in Alaska. This year’s operation marked the 17th year medical teams have deployed to remote areas of Alaska to treat general health patients, in addition to providing dental care, eye exams and veterinary care.

In 2011, more than 300 government and military medical professionals and specialists from across the country were airlifted by Alaska National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, C-23 Sherpas and C-130 Hercules aircraft to support the medical exercise.

Operation Arctic Care is sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. The Alaska National Guard will be the lead agency for Arctic Care 2012.

Awards and Recognition

Although many members of the Alaska Air National Guard in 2011 have been recognized for their achievements and excellence in all that they do, it is noteworthy that at least two members be especially recognized in this year’s report.

Staff Sergeant Jimmy Settle received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during combat operations in Afghanistan in November 2010. Settle was on a mission to recover six wounded Soldiers when he was struck in the head by a 7.62 mm round fragment. In order to continue to support the operation, Settle had the round fragment stitched into his forehead so he



Airborne. An Alaska Air National Guard airborne pararescueman looks back into a Coast Guard Air Station, Kodiak-based HC-130 Hercules while three other pararescuemen, prepare to jump out the back of the plane during a joint rescue deployment exercise held north of Anchorage in June. Photo: Petty Officer 1st Class David Mosley, U.S. Coast Guard

could return to duty and support his fellow servicemen, later having the fragment removed.

Captain Erik Boltman, with the 176th Air Control Squadron, received the Airman's Medal for his actions while off duty. At great personal risk, Boltman saved the lives of two people after their light aircraft crashed near Merrill Field in Anchorage. The Airman's Medal is the highest award given to a military member during peacetime.

Summary

The Alaska Air National Guard never missed a beat with its commitment to the state of Alaska, maintaining a 24-hour/7-days-a-week/365-days-a-year alert in space, air refueling, air control and rescue missions. All this while successfully completing inspections, deployments and the 176th Wing's base realignment move from Kulis to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



Security Forces in Baghdad. Members of 168th Security Forces stand together for a group photo in October at Sather Air Base in Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq. More than 30 Guardsmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing, based at Eielson Air Force Base, provided security near Baghdad International Airport.

Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing



Thumbs Up. Master Sergeant Mark Larroque, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules aircraft loadmaster at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, gives a thumbs up while loading a C-130 with supplies bound for a forward operating base in Oruzgan Province in June. Larroque is a member of the Alaska Air National Guard stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Photo: Senior Airman Krista Rose, U.S. Air Force



Rescue Training Exercise. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter approaches the bow of the F/V Kittywake to lower a pararescueman to help the victims on board during a water training exercise in June. The training was documented by a camera crew from the Discovery Channel's "Surviving the Cut" show.

Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



QR Code:
Crooked Creek housing rebuild time-lapse video.

Blueprint
Crooked Creek 4 BR home floor plan. Blueprint: Cole Green Housing Research Center.



Explorer Conference (Valdez)
Explorer demonstrates skills at a weeklong DHS&EM-sponsored training for youth age 14-20 statewide. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM

The Annual Youth Explorer Conference, in its third year, invests in Alaska's next generation of first responders and emergency managers.

CROOKED CREEK HOUSING MISSION STATISTICS

104	49	9
DAYS TO PLAN, DESIGN, PROCURE & TRANSPORT	DAYS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD HOMES	CUSTOMIZED R-60 INSULATED HOMES BUILT

STRATEGIC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The Mobile Emergency Operations Center is now used routinely in incidents accessible by road, such as the 2011 East Volkmar and Hastings fires. Two aircraft-transportable Type 4 Communications Trailers provide remote robust satellite and radio communications capabilities. Department of Natural Resources Firefighter Communications Technicians will deploy with the trailers.

Communication Backpacks bring emergency communications capabilities to remote areas. Equipped with VHF- and ALMR-capable radio and laptop, satellite Internet and satellite VOiP phone, backpacks powered via batteries or solar panel. The Alaska State Troopers C and D Detachments in Western Alaska and Fairbanks will utilize eight backpacks; two will remain with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Communications To Go. DHS&EM Operations Chief Bryan Fisher demonstrates new Communications Backpack. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM



CROOKED CREEK RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: ELEVATING PARTNERSHIPS TO A NEW LEVEL RIVERWATCH & RESPONSE

Annual Riverwatch flood monitoring began May 4, 2011. On May 9, 54 Crooked Creek residents evacuated to Donlin Creek Mine. The Kuskokwim Riverwatch team assisted local officials and assessed conditions. Residents returned May 13 to temporary shelters. Thirty-nine homes (66%) were damaged or destroyed. May 17, Governor Parnell declared a State Disaster; however, the FEMA Individual Assistance program was not approved. The State Individual Assistance program, along with a generous donation from Samaritan's Purse, funded nine homes in the first state-funded housing mission, completed on Oct. 7.

Crooked Creek Housing Mission.
A pictorial timeline from response to recovery. Photos: October, DHS&EM; Samaritan's Purse

R E C O V E R

"Along side the houses and food and money, the best thing you brought was hope. Hope to this tiny village, hope to the families, and hope to me."
Allison Zaukar, Age 14
Crooked Creek, September 2011



BUILDING A STRONGER ALASKA

P R E P A R E



Savoonga Disaster Assistance Center. DHS&EM staff provide disaster assistance following a cold weather power outage that damaged homes in Savoonga. Photo: DHS&EM



EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami PREPAREDNESS

Response to three tsunami warnings demonstrated the strength of state and local response times, decision-making and evacuation plans. Nine new Tsunami Sirens in seven communities, three Earthquake/Tsunami educational outreach kiosks, and two regional Tsunami Operations Workshops in Unalaska and Sitka. Six months following its workshop, Unalaska successfully evacuated its entire community when warning sirens sounded.

MITIGATING AGAINST FUTURE EVENTS

Embankment armoring for the Alaska Railroad minimizes future flood damage. Seismic isolation of transformers at the Beluga Power Plant, seismic gas valves in Anchorage schools, seismic retrofits in Kodiak, and burying of power lines along the Whittier tunnel enhance earthquake and avalanche hardiness.

RECOVERY: HOUSING MISSION

Critical issues with no local housing:

- * Provide in-place emergency housing
- * Address immediate and long-term housing
- * Recruit partnerships and resources
- * Identify and secure alternate home sites
- * Rebuild homes two feet above flood of record
- * Design climate-appropriate housing deliverable in three months
- * Coordinate material manufacturing and barge, airfreight and helicopter transport

CRITICAL PARTNERS

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Financial, logistic, staff, and volunteer support

CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE (CRWRC)

Volunteer support

COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

Climate-appropriate, energy-efficient house design

Unalaska Evacuates.

Community evacuation following June 26 tsunami warning demonstrates Unalaska's "Tsunami Ready" status. Photo: Jane Eyer, The Sun

\$16

MILLION TO JURISDICTIONS FOR LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CATASTROPHIC PLANNING

BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDATIONS

With the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Earthquake less than three years away, and disaster preparedness a key governor's initiative, catastrophic planning builds on a foundation of individual and family preparedness that includes the Governor's Cabinet. Jurisdictions participated in DHS&EM-offered Emergency Operations Center position-specific training and elected official workshops.

DHS&EM revised the State Emergency Operations Plan, adding a Catastrophic Annex, and conducted monthly internal staff and external liaison training. DHS&EM developed Task Forces in six major areas to ensure advance problem-solving, decision-making and develop relationships among subject matter experts critical in large events. DHS&EM continues its Continuity of Operations planning internally and in support of other state agencies.

M I T I G A T E



Alaska Military Youth Academy



Runner's Delight. Cadet Reanna Stauffer, cadet Soupharak Sisoukpanthong, team leader Leslie Wiemer and cadet Kyla Herndon participate in 2011 Alaska Run for Women in June. Photo: Courtesy AMYA



Paintball. A cadet from Class 2011-02 participates in Paintball Greenline training with National Guard recruiters. This is part of the adventure and confidence training that also includes training on the rappel tower and jump tower, as well as snowshoeing and winter survival. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA



Kitchen Patrol. From left: Cadets Kenya Sumpter-Boyd, Jordan Lewis, Raelle Roderick and Mam Nhial, all from Class 2012-01, are on kitchen patrol duty, which entails serving meals, cleaning dishes and assisting staff with the overall cleanliness of the dining facility. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA

Community Involvement. Cadet Venny Perez, with the Honor Guard, leads the Alaska Military Youth Academy 2011-02 Corps during the Fourth of July parade through downtown Anchorage. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA

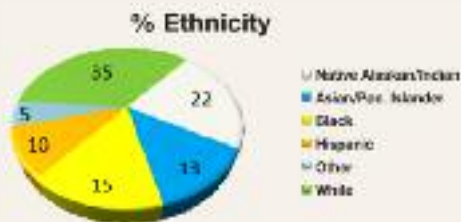
"To meet the life coping skills and educational needs of 16- to 18-year-old Alaskans who are at risk of not completing their secondary education and to provide them with the values, skills, education and self-discipline to succeed as adults."

The National ChalleNGe program, operated under the auspices of the National Guard, was established as a result of the increasing high school dropout rate and concern about this as a national security issue. The Alaska Military Youth Academy, one of the original 10 pilot programs in 1994, has grown along with the national program. There are now 34 programs nationally in 28 states and the territory of Puerto Rico. The original AMYA class graduated 44 cadets; the most recent program class (2011-2) graduated 168 cadets.

The Youth ChalleNGe proven model uses a quasi-military, full-time, tuition-free residential environment to facilitate education and training via instruction in the eight core components of the program. This structure allows a geographically, racially, age and gender diverse group of cadets to strengthen their social and academic skills while encouraging blended emotional, physical and academic growth during the

physically demanding 22-week residential phase. The full cycle is a 17-and-a-half-month, tuition-free program divided into two distinct segments; two annual residential phases (April-August and October-February) are each followed by a yearlong non-residential phase. AMYA is physically located at Camp Carroll on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and maintains two satellite recruiting offices, one at the Dimond Center in Anchorage and the other at the National Guard Armory in Fairbanks. A recruiting presence in Juneau is also envisioned.

The residential phase of the program is a 22-week holistic experience conducted in residential facilities, with separate quarters for male and female cadets. The residential phase begins with a two-week acclimation period during which candidates are further assessed to determine their potential for successfully completing the program. While in the acclimation period, candidates have an opportunity to adjust to the physical,



mental and social discipline of the program. Focus is on teamwork, close order drill, code of conduct, leadership and followership, and physical fitness training while a tough but caring staff provides medical service, support, dining facilities, counseling and instruction. The candidates who successfully complete this phase earn the distinction of becoming a cadet. More than 80 percent of cadets successfully complete this rigorous program.

During the remaining 20 weeks of the residential phase, daily activities and experiences such as academics, vocational technical education and service to the community build the cadet's job skills and self-concept.

A major part of the ChalleNGe program, academics prepare cadets for the General Education Development exam given at the end of the residential phase. Cadets can earn up to seven credits toward their secondary education and the academic section (accredited with the Northwest Accreditation Commission) can award a high school diploma if appropriate. Cadets also develop a life plan that outlines their plans during their 12-month post-residential phase.

The Academy has developed an expanded vocational technical education program with such offerings as small engine repair, home repairs, and basic plumbing and soldering. These and other classes can



Tradition. Fourth Platoon from Class 2011-02 follows the tradition of diving into the mud pit following the obstacle course run. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA

provide cadets with the initial ideas, confidence and skill sets to immediately move into the work force. The Academy is expanding their outreach to the business community to better understand what skill sets will be desired by state employers.

On weekends, cadets are afforded the opportunity to support the community with community service activities and engage in outdoor and military-style events such as rappelling, the obstacle course, paintball and parade participation. Mentors are matched with cadets midway through the residential phase. The mentors support the cadets during the remainder of the

residential phase and help them prepare to reenter community life. Mentors continue their responsibilities during the entire 12-month post-residential phase.

The 12-month post-residential phase begins when graduates return to their communities to enter the workplace, continue their education either in high school or higher education, or enter the military. Gratifying to mentors and staff, 100 percent of the graduates of 2011-2 successfully placed in one of these categories. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase. In addition, they must continue to develop and implement their life plans. The mentors, matched with cadets during the residential phase, play a critical role in ensuring their continued success. They help youth transition from the structured environment of the residential phase to self-management. The mentors also support and guide the cadets through implementation of their life plans.

Throughout the course of the 17 years of operation since 1994, AMYA has graduated 3,528 cadets and awarded 2,361 high school diplomas or GED certificates. The average class graduation for the national program is approximately 100 students per class. Each class at AMYA typically graduates an average of 144 participants. The winter class, 2012-1, has 149 cadets in the Camp Carroll residential facility. The Academy's proven track record of success demonstrates the continuing importance of the great work of assisting the youth of Alaska.



Shock Indoctrination. During the first morning of Class 2011-02, cadets wake early, drill, and learn the position of attention and the push up. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA

STARBASE Alaska

Department of Defense STARBASE, sponsored locally by the Alaska Air National Guard, is a partnership between the military, local school systems and communities.

DoD STARBASE is a premier educational program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. STARBASE students make connections with the “real world” and participate in challenging “hands-on, mind-on” activities in STEM – science, technology, engineering and math. Students also learn teamwork and are exposed to Air National Guard members who use STEM in their jobs.

DoD STARBASE Alaska’s goal is to motivate students to explore STEM options as they continue their education, supporting a STEM-aware and -capable workforce.

DoD STARBASE is a world leader in introducing the latest STEM concepts: physics, including Newton’s Laws of Motion, fluid mechanics, and aerodynamics; chemistry science, covering the building blocks of matter, physical and chemical changes, and atmospheric properties; technology, focusing on innovations such as nanotechnology, and navigation and mapping; engineering, introducing the engineering design process used in the Eggbert rescue and 3-D computer aided design; mathematics, stressing numbers and number relationships, measurement, geometry and data analysis; and STEM careers, exposing students to STEM careers on military facilities, and working with them to identify their learning styles and careers that might be of interest to them. The program is rigorous, relevant, and engages students in exciting activities, giving a “wow” factor to achieve maximum learning.

During the 2011 school year and summer sessions, STARBASE Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson reached almost 1,200 students in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna areas. This diverse group of young people included students from: grades 4-8; more than 20 public and private schools; about half of the Anchorage School District’s Title I schools; the JBER Force Support Squadron’s EDGE program; and 21st Century Community Learning Center schools.

In the summer months, we offered programs focused on technology and use of the 3-D CAD program and space exploration. We partnered with the Federal Aviation Administration to offer an Aviation Career Education Academy. We also continued to offer teacher kits to reach more classrooms and support the Matanuska-Susitna School District.



2011 Highlights:

- Held a weeklong ACE academy focused on STEM careers in aviation
- Held a weeklong technology academy focused on 3-D technology
- Held two off-site STARBASE classes for schools that couldn’t raise transportation funds for onsite classes
- Partnered with four 21st Century Community Learning Center schools to offer after-school classes twice a month
- 1,170 teacher hours and 1,520 chapterone hours during 46 STARBASE sessions

Ethnicity of Students	Percent
Caucasian	45
Native American/Alaska Native	15
Asian/Pacific Islander	14

Number of Students Registering:
1,184

Ethnicity of Students	Percent
Multiracial/Other	11
Hispanic	9
African American	6

Female52
Male48

Economically Disadvantaged Students Served 44

We're invested in the
success of Alaska.
Because we live
here, too.



ExxonMobil has been a committed partner since Alaska's statehood. As such, our employees and their families are active participants in the community, volunteering for such events as the United Way Day of Caring, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement and the Citywide Cleanup. We hope our involvement in these programs will help improve the overall quality of life in the state of Alaska. Because after all, we live here, too.

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YOUR ROUTINE KEEPS YOU TOGETHER,
AND FROM THE OUTSIDE YOU LOOK HEALTHY.

YOU TELL YOURSELF THAT CHEWING IS A
SAFE ALTERNATIVE TO SMOKING. IF IT
IS, WHY DO YOU TELL YOUR DAUGHTER IT'S
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