



# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs





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Commander in Chief



Major General Thomas H. Katkus  
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner of the DMVA



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Main photo:

**Catching Air.** Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron perform a free-fall jump from a 144th Airlift Squadron C-130 over the Malemute Drop Zone on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October 2012.

Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

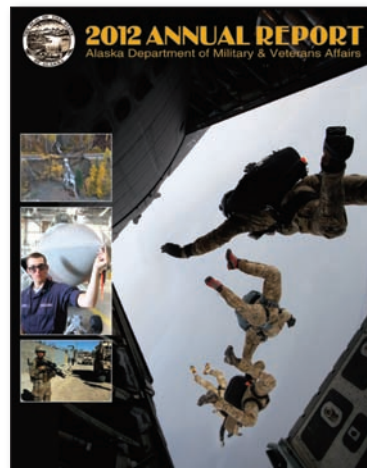
From top to bottom:

**Disaster Strikes.** A portion of the Alaska Railroad was washed out by heavy rains and high winds, which created disaster conditions in many communities across the state in what became known as the 2012 September Severe Storms.

Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sean Parnell

**Cadet Confidence.** Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet Cy Lewis of Anchorage tours the 3rd Maintenance Squadron, Fighter Aircraft Fuels System Repair Facility on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and holds the nose of an F-22 Raptor in his fingertips. Photo: Roman Schara, Alaska Military Youth Academy

**Deployment Success.** Sergeant Benjamin Angaiak, a security force member from B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, provides security during a key leader engagement in Farah City, Farah province, Afghanistan, in September 2012. Photo: Lieutenant Benjamin Addison, U.S. Navy



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Scan the QR code above to head straight to our YouTube page and view the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs 2012 Year in Review.

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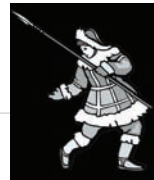
Ready to Serve

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# For the People

Governor Sean Parnell  
Commander in Chief



## Dedication to Alaska

The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and Alaska National Guard have some of the nation's finest first responders and Guardsmen and women.

When 16 feet of snow buried Cordova last January, the Alaska National Guard moved to help. More than 50 Alaska National Guard members arrived in Cordova with snow shovels in hand to help clear emergency access to buildings and remove snow from roofs of schools and other important buildings. The efforts of our military first responders helped keep the community safe.

This past fall, severe storms ravaged parts of the state, triggering flooding in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Kenai Peninsula and setting off widespread power outages with wind damage. However, extreme damage was minimized by the execution of good planning in advance of these storms. The Division of Homeland

Security and Emergency Management has provided emergency preparedness training to communities across Alaska to improve emergency operations plans and strengthen partnerships with local governments and first responders. The State has invested in emergency preparedness measures such as emergency generators, water purifiers and emergency communication equipment across the state. We will continue to work together to ensure the safety of Alaskans.

Our Alaska National Guardsmen have been busy overseas. It was an honor to welcome home members of the 176th Wing last fall as they returned from Afghanistan. This deployment was the wing's largest since 2005. They saved hundreds of lives during combat search-and-rescue missions. Alaska Army National Guard members also deployed to Afghanistan where they provided security to provincial reconstruction teams who were helping to rebuild the

war-torn country. In a deployment to Sinai, Alaska Army National Guard aviators performed aerial observation and verification flights throughout the border region between Egypt and Israel. We are proud of all our Guard members for their dedicated service.

As part of my commitment to the military in Alaska, I have extended the Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team. This group provides recommendations on how best to retain and build on our current military force capability. Members have focused on strategies to educate Department of Defense leadership on the strategic importance of Alaska to our nation.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Alaska. You have made us proud this past year, and we know you will rise to future challenges in the years ahead.



**Welcome Home.** Alaska Governor Sean Parnell welcomes home Staff Sergeant Jerry Sisomore, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, in October 2012 after he returned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson from a deployment to Afghanistan. More than 140 citizen-Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing returned to Alaska after deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during the wing's single largest deployment of personnel since 2003. 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

## Serving Alaskans at Home and Abroad

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is an organization focused on operational excellence, safety and outreach to military families, veterans, Alaska's youth and the citizens of Alaska.

With more than 4,700 professionals working in unison across the state and around the world, DMVA employees embodied our mission of "Securing the State, Defending the Nation" in 2012.

In January, Alaska National Guard members were called in to support the community of Cordova to dig out from a series of winter storms after experiencing weeks of heavy snowfall. After exhausting all local resources, the city of Cordova issued a disaster declaration. Working with the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the National Guard quickly responded to the situation, which threatened the safety of the citizens in this small Alaska town.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management was also critical in assisting the citizens of Alaska after a fall storm with heavy rain and winds of more than 130 miles per hour caused severe flooding, loss of power and damage to homes.

Affected communities immediately stood up their emergency operation centers and mobilized local personnel to respond to the floods. Because these communities had committed themselves to disaster preparedness and worked closely with the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, they were able to quickly address the needs of their community and ensure public safety.

The Alaska National Guard continues to focus on safety as it builds and sustains a ready and relevant force. This May, the Alaska National Guard held a stand-down day in which Guardsmen and their families attended classes and took part in activities that promote safety in our daily lives, in addition to the work environment. It was a huge success!

Overseas, our Alaska National Guard members were exceptional in support of federal missions throughout 2012, deploying personnel to many locations around the world, with most deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than 180 Alaska Air National Guard members deployed to Afghanistan to provide combat search and rescue from late May to October. Risking their own lives, these Guardsmen dedicated themselves to helping fellow service members get the critical help they needed, resulting in 226 lives saved.

In November, more than 100 Alaska Army National Guardsmen returned home safely to Alaska, following a year-long deployment to Afghanistan providing security forces for provincial reconstruction teams operating in dangerous areas across the country. I was fortunate to meet these returning heroes, along with U.S. Senator Mark Begich, Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell and other senior Alaska National Guard leaders, upon their return to the United States in Indianapolis. We are proud to welcome all of our accomplished Alaska National Guard members home and are grateful for their service to our state and nation.

Honoring America's heroes and providing the care and recognition they deserve also continues to be the role of the Alaska

Office of Veterans Affairs. Through partnerships and outreach programs, Veterans Affairs was able to meet all of its 2012 goals, while providing support to the 77,000 veterans living in Alaska. Their efforts have ensured the utmost support for Alaska's veterans.

Alaska's future looks bright as the Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to assist young men and women through the National Guard Challege program resulting in 291 graduates in 2012. Through the course of 18 years, the Alaska Military Youth Academy has produced program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. It is an incredible program that has made a difference in thousands of America's youth.

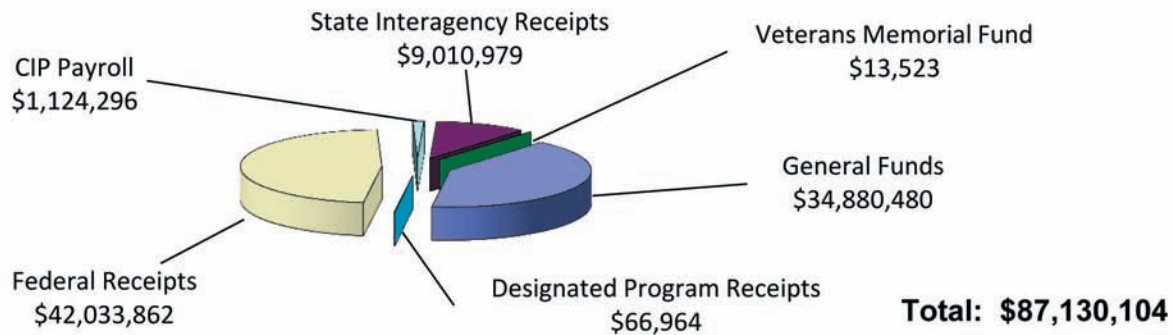
The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs had an exceptional 2012, focused on safety, veterans, families, citizens in our state and deployments overseas in support of our nation. We are composed of extremely talented people, and we will continue to work diligently for the citizens of Alaska in 2013.



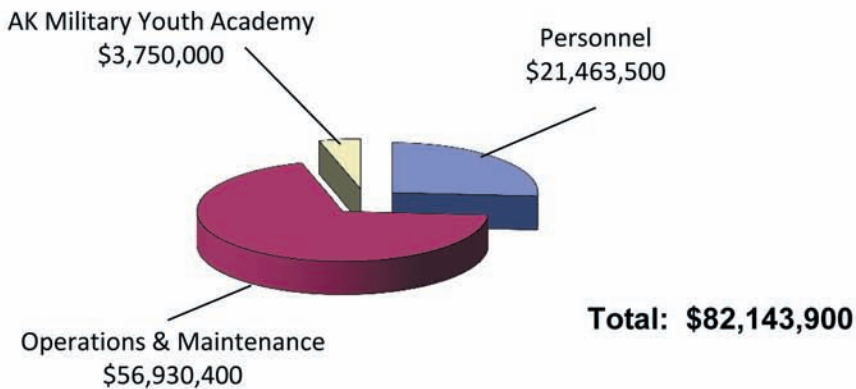
**Excellence in Mongolia.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, presents the Army Achievement Medal to Private First Class Chantal Miller, medic, Alaska Army National Guard, and the Army Commendation Medal to Staff Sergeant Joshua Clark, medical readiness noncommissioned officer, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, during the closing ceremony for the Medical Humanitarian Civic Action Outreach Project portion of Khaan Quest 2012. Photo: Sergeant Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

# DMVA... By the Numbers

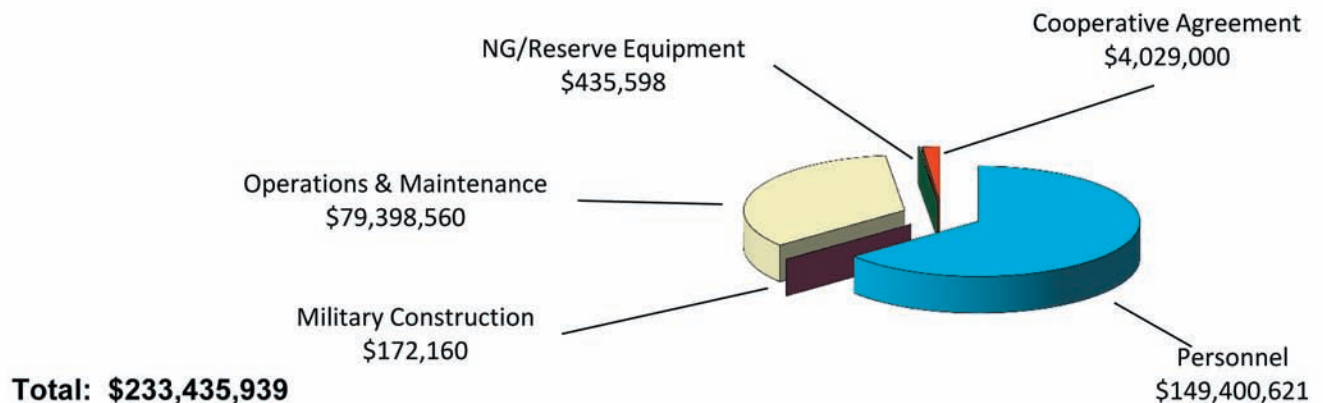
## DMVA SFY2012 State Operating & Capital Expenditures

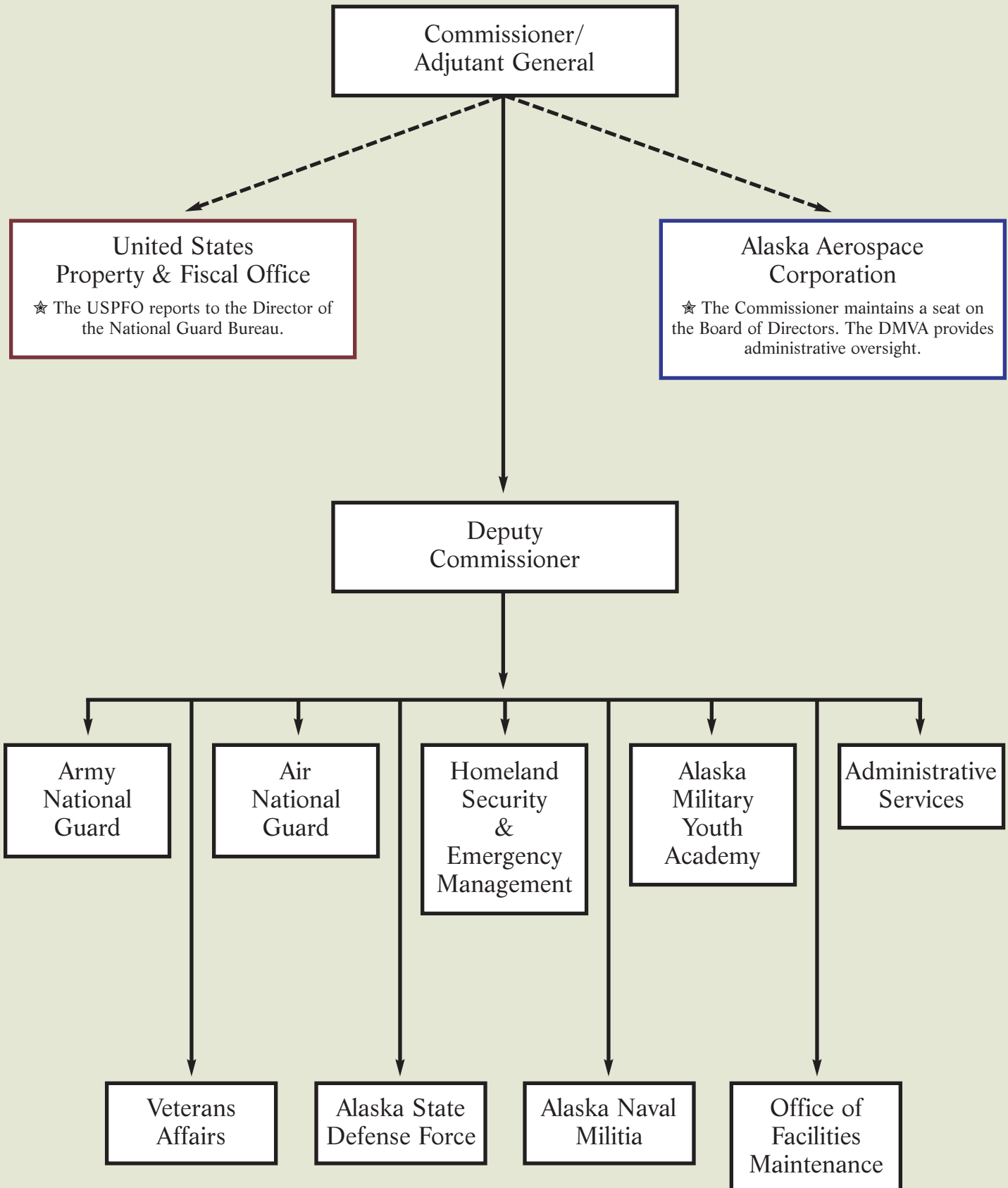


## Army Guard Funding in Alaska - FFY12



## Air Guard Funding in Alaska - FFY12







# Veterans



The Office of Veterans Affairs has continued its efforts to award all Alaska Territorial Guard veterans their honorable U.S. Army discharges, added more veteran service officers to our support cadre, continued to enhance our partnership agreements with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, participated in several new Stand Downs around the state, supported the Vietnam Veterans Memorial half-size replica "The Moving Wall," hit all new challenges head-on with changes to the GI Bill and traveled all over Alaska helping veterans. The Office of Veterans Affairs was able to meet and exceed all the 2012 goals while providing stellar support to the state's 77,866 veterans, 27,000 active duty and National Guard/Reserve members and 126,000 dependents. Our prime mission is to develop and sustain comprehensive statewide veterans advocacy programs.

## Alaska Territorial Guard



In 2012, we moved into a new phase of the Alaska Territorial Guard project. Our efforts were centered around

ensuring that every veteran who served has a discharge document on file in the National Archives.

Our first challenge was ensuring that we had an authoritative list of names of ATG members. Mercedes Angerman, the ATG Task Force chief, researched 70 years of records. She authenticated the list of 6,410 ATG veterans and also added the military rank of each ATG member. This list was approved and accepted by the U.S. Army, allowing for a streamlined process in issuing discharges. Since the list was published, the ATG Task Force has researched 600 names and issued 300 discharges, and through this process, has discovered an additional 10 living ATG members. All members were issued their discharges in honorable ceremonies around the state.

We are still accepting applications by family members on behalf of ATG veterans. In addition, we are working with online programs to find information about our past ATG members and are submitting discharges on their behalf in the absence of family members. Our final goal in this program is to ensure, in the absence of family, that all future generations will have access to this honorable service and all ATG members' records and accomplishments will forever be on file in our nation's archives.

## Veteran Service Officer Grant Management

In order to provide the best service for our veterans, we have 17 veteran service officers located across the state. They provide services to veterans free of charge. Some states deliver these services through state employees. In Alaska, we use grants through the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America. All our service officers are nationally certified and are tested annually to keep these certifications current.

This year, our service officers and our staff at Veterans Affairs were very successful in assisting veterans by returning \$53.2 million in past payments owed to the veterans/dependents, at the same time assisting more than 20,000 with claims and benefits questions. The continued success of this program is also measured through veterans receiving annual compensation and pension payments. This year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent more than \$214 million for disability compensation and pensions to veterans and their families residing in Alaska.

Veterans Affairs and our veteran service officer staff assisted veterans in receiving medical care at our five federal Veterans Affairs clinics. We currently have more than 31,000 veterans enrolled in the VA medical program, and out of the 31,000, the federal VA treats 16,336 patients annually with managed care that costs nearly \$153 million per year. 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.

## Memorial Grant Management

Our first memorial grant this year went to help Bethel establish an Alaska Territorial Guard memorial park at the Bethel Veterans Cemetery. The groundbreaking occurred in July, and the project is well under way. Once this is completed, it will reflect great honor on our ATG veterans and the veterans who reside in and around Bethel. Our next memorial project was the creation and development of an Attu memorial plaque that reflects the civilians who were killed or captured there by the Japanese during World War II. This plaque was placed at Attu in August. Additionally, a grant was issued to the Gustavus Historical Archives and Antiquities to create a memorial that



**Alaska Territorial Guard.** Retired Private Paul C. Charles receives a U.S. Army discharge certificate in Bethel from Brigadier General Mike Bridges, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, recognizing Charles' service as a member of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II. Charles, lying about his age, enlisted at 12 years old into the ATG to protect the Territory of Alaska from potential Japanese invaders. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



honors the four Alaska National Guard members who died in a 1957 plane crash in Gustavus. Our last project provided funds for the veteran totem pole to be located in Klawock Totem Pole Park. This is a huge honor for us to be part of this program and will help honor all veterans who live on Prince of Wales Island.

### ***Moving the Office of Veterans Affairs***

The Office of Veterans Affairs relocated to 4600 DeBarr Road in east Anchorage from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson this year. This move now gives thousands of people direct access to service providers and allows us to increase services to our eligible population.

### ***Veterans Education Programs***

This year we have moved several mountains to help the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs deliver education packages.

Our first challenge was with the H2H or Hero to Hired Act. This act allowed veterans between the ages of 30 and 60 to apply for a monthly stipend at the Montgomery GI Bill rate. This program could be utilized only in a two-year degree program. In Alaska, our junior colleges utilize the same school numbers as the university and thus made most of our schools ineligible for this program. Once this was addressed by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, this oversight was corrected, and the VA extended this program to all junior colleges in Alaska that support these education tracks.

Our next and greatest issue was helping all qualified participants receive benefits. We set in motion a two-pronged approach. First, we placed two full-time veteran service officers with the University of Alaska system – one at the University of Alaska Southeast and one at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This has proved to be a great help to the students and cut the distressful calls in half. At the University of Alaska Anchorage, the VA has placed a full-time “Vet to Success” employee who performs the same duties as our veteran service officers. We also place a veteran service officer at UAA during enrollment surges. The results of all these efforts are extremely successful. We now have more than 6,000 students receiving education benefits from the VA each month using one of the following programs: education under the GI Bill, vocational rehabilitation or compensated work therapy. The total funds paid to institutions and to the eligible members for 2012 is more than \$49 million.

We continue our search for ways to improve our education outreach and are



**Thank You For Your Service.** Alaska National Guardsmen shake the hand of Korean War veteran Bob Messinger following a ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September honoring Messinger for his service during the 1950-53 Korean War. Messinger had previously never been recognized for his service in that conflict. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

also partnering with the Alaska National Guard to ensure that all eligible members are aware of what they have earned before the benefits expire.

### ***Statewide Stand Down***

Stand Down is an annual program to provide veterans in need with various types of assistance, such as medical and dental screening, assistance with housing, employment and finances. We supported Stand Downs in Juneau, Barrow, Fairbanks and Anchorage twice. We were able to meet and speak with more than 2,200 veterans. Our veterans were given access to nearly 40 social service agencies, including federal organizations, the state of Alaska, local government and faith-based programs. These events are critical because they bring key staff members together who can move fast to assist our veterans in need. This is another great way our community comes together to honor our veterans.

### ***Other Significant Accomplishments***

As part of a joint outreach, the Office of Veterans Affairs partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and sponsored several rural outreach efforts to assist our veterans in Alaska by providing services close to home. This year we traveled to Valdez, Barrow, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Juneau, Sitka, Kodiak, Seward, Kenai, Soldotna, Anchor Point, Talkeetna, Nome, Cordova, Tok, Glennallen, Delta Junction, North Pole, Dillingham, Haines, Wasilla, Fairbanks, Ninilchik, Kotzebue, Craig, Willow, Sutton, Fort Yukon, White Mountain, Homer, Metlakatla, Wrangell and Prince of Wales Island. Some of these communities had repeat visits as required and requested by the veterans. While visiting these communities, our teams provided services in claims processing, education information, medical needs and vocational

rehabilitation. We also train tribal veteran representatives – these are volunteer veteran service officers selected by community elders – and celebrated the milestone of our 100th trained tribal veteran representative this summer. These partnerships have been very successful in reaching our veterans.

Last year, the Office of Veterans Affairs introduced a new honor coin to be presented to all veterans in Alaska. The Office of Veterans Affairs has presented more than 5,000 coins personally to Alaska’s finest. In the presentation, we ensure that we provide honor and dignity to those who serve and welcome each member home.

The State of Alaska Veterans Cemetery has moved back to a holding position until suitable land is purchased. The land we had for the program was not suitable for development. We have not lost our place in the federal program, and once a new location is found, the cemetery will be back on track. This is still a very exciting time for veterans of the state, and we will soon see a State of Alaska Veterans Cemetery developed.

The Alaska Veterans Advisory Council and Office of Veterans Affairs supported “The Moving Wall,” a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Memorial, by bringing the display to Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Ninilchik and Anchorage.

Throughout the past three years, Alaska has moved into a new era in regard to veteran services. We have seen the development of a new 198,000-square-foot U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility in Anchorage and two new community-based outpatient clinics. Veterans now have the choice of local or Seattle-based health care for critical illnesses. We have also expanded education benefits, home loans and access to assistance. We went from last in the nation on disability claims processing to one of the best. We will continue “Serving Alaska, One Veteran at a Time.”

# Alaska Army National Guard



The Alaska Army National Guard changed commanders in 2012 and renewed the emphasis on Soldier readiness in support of our state and federal missions. The trained and ready citizen-Soldiers of the Alaska Army National Guard are an incredible asset to Alaska.

## Readiness

The Medical Detachment focused on maintaining and improving the medical and dental readiness of 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. With support from the Alaska Army National Guard command, the Medical Detachment was a major player in the significant improvement of the overall medical readiness of the organization.

In addition to mission support, the Medical Detachment sustained provider, medic and dental skills during Arctic Care 2012. In that exercise, the unit provided medical and dental care to patients in 15 remote villages located in the Norton Sound region of Northwest Alaska. This was the largest Individual Readiness Training exercise and included more than 300 troops from the National Guard, Army, Air Force and Navy. The multi-agency teams provided medical, dental, optometry and veterinary services that involved more than 10,000 procedures.



**International Medicine.** Lieutenant Colonel John Brady, Alaska Army National Guard Medical Detachment flight surgeon, treats a patient at the medical clinic as part of the Medical Humanitarian Civic Action Outreach Project during Khaan Quest 2012 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Khaan Quest is a regularly scheduled, multinational exercise. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Another highlight for the unit included major support during the medical capabilities exercise of Khaan Quest 2012 in Mongolia. Seven members of the Medical Detachment were part of a 30-member medical team of American, Mongolian, Korean and Canadian armed forces who treated more than 4,000 patients in the Chingeltei District of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

## Facilities

Throughout the past year, the Alaska Army National Guard made significant strides in improving facilities records, databases and management procedures. The AKARNG directed a vast amount of effort in correcting deficiencies in the Planning Resource for Infrastructure Development and Evaluation database and the Facility Information Folder system. By correcting these deficiencies, we updated our Statewide Master Plan.

The Statewide Master Plan is the mechanism used to develop a facilities footprint and significantly reduce overhead costs of facilities. As part of this effort, the AKARNG identified 58 legacy federal Scout readiness centers and two major readiness centers for divestiture. These actions will reduce the AKARNG's facility footprint by more than 110,000 square feet, resulting in significant cost savings. In addition to divestiture, the Statewide Master Plan identifies numerous opportunities for the AKARNG to modernize and expand facilities in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas. These projects will greatly increase our efficiency and ability to meet mission requirements.

As the Construction and Facilities Management Office built projects based on the deficiencies identified in the Statewide Master Plan, the AKARNG obtained \$4.37 million in end-of-year funds for five modernization projects. We received and executed \$1.54 million in end-of-year funds for miscellaneous construction projects (i.e., energy upgrades, future facility planning, etc.). In addition, the AKARNG implemented measures to obtain other states' unobligated funds from the National Guard Bureau.

The AKARNG completed a \$1.3-million sustainment project that resulted in the upgrade of 38 different AKARNG facilities on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. This project reduced the backlog



**Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership.** Alaska National Guardsmen stand in formation during the Khaan Quest 2012 opening ceremony held at the Mongolian Armed Forces Peace Support Center near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Khaan Quest is a multinational training exercise focused on peacekeeping operations, co-sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific Command and the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

of work orders and unfunded sustainment projects; additionally, we completed projects by utilizing other entities – active-duty and Reserve component engineers. We are currently building additional sustainment projects based on the Capital Investment Plan, a piece of the Statewide Master Plan that helps identify facility lifecycles and gives us the ability to forecast future sustainment plans. A major part of the modernization and sustainment projects is the coordination with the AKARNG environmental department.

In 2012, sites across the state received environmental attention as the Guard worked to clean up and close out sites with environmental concerns. Included in this effort was the completion of site investigations at 17 military munitions response sites. These sites received “no further action” determinations from the regulatory community, resulting in 100 percent conformance with Department of Defense program objectives. Furthermore, the AKARNG is preparing to remediate more than 20 Defense Environmental Restoration Sites throughout the next several years.

### **Information Management**

Nine armories were migrated to a flexible cloud-based multi-protocol line switching solution, giving the AKARNG more effective use of network resources and increased reliability. We expanded our voice over internet protocol system to five remote armories and upgraded the capabilities of its main server to handle 100 percent migration of all existing AKARNG users. A statewide wireless system will be installed during fiscal year 2013.

To increase data backup reliability, the AKARNG virtualized the reserve component automation system server and installed a storage area network system. We expanded capabilities of six existing classrooms around Alaska with additional workstations and upgraded software, and we installed a seventh classroom in Kodiak. Our visual information section began the certification process for adding Department of the Army photos as an official service. Our help desk worked to migrate to Windows 7 operating system as the new desktop standard and installed an upgraded secure video teleconference system.

### **Logistics**

The Alaska National Guard continued to improve its logistical position in 2012 by fielding more modernized equipment, increasing logistics personnel training opportunities and meeting mission demands. This year, the AKARNG won two prestigious regional supply excellence awards in property book record keeping, a first for Alaska. During Operation Arctic Care 2012, logistics and aviation personnel moved nearly one million pounds of cargo and flew more than 600 missions to provide medical care to remote villages along the Bering Sea coast. The mission was a success and our Soldiers received first-hand experience in performing logistic support operations in remote Alaska.

We continue improving the number of well-trained personnel to manage logistics operations and to field the most sophisticated electronics equipment and vehicles that the Army has in its inventory. These systems have increased ground movement capability with the latest in cargo hauling, recovery and maneuver operations. Units now work with the most advanced electronic systems the Army has to offer from radio and satellite communications to sophisticated personnel and equipment tracking systems.

### **38th Troop Command**

The year began in Southcentral Alaska with record snow in Cordova and led to a request for Alaska Guardsmen to help dig out the homes and businesses there before an oncoming storm arrived. In less than 20 hours from the initial request, half of the Juneau-based 297th Military Police Company was on the move northwest



**Support to Civil Authorities.** Members of the 297th Military Police Company, Alaska Army National Guard, work to clear snow from a roof in Cordova in January 2012. The Alaska National Guard was activated to assist the snow-buried city after nearly 18 feet of snow dropped in the region. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

to Cordova. Once there, they worked endlessly to remove tons of snow just in time before the next storm would have caused costly and possibly life-threatening damage. The unit moved vehicles, troops and equipment in record time, utilizing the maritime highway with unprecedented coordination by both state and private agencies.

Following this unprecedented mobilization, the 38th Troop Command successfully deployed 126 airborne infantrymen to southern Afghanistan. They served as security forces for three provincial reconstruction teams, which provided much needed assistance and development to the Afghan people.

The 38th Troop Command worked diligently on the home front focusing on providing support to the families and employers left behind. That commitment was shown through many outreach activities stretching from Hooper Bay to the company’s headquarters in Bethel to events in Anchorage and Southeast Alaska.

### **49th Missile Defense Battalion**

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

In 2012, the unit participated in several major exercises including Global Lightning 12 and Global Thunder 12. 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.

This year was the first that the 49th Missile Defense Battalion sent a team of military police to participate in the Annual MP Warfighter Competition held at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Also of note this year was the induction of two 49th Missile Defense Battalion Soldiers into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, a private U.S. Army organization for enlisted noncommissioned officers.

The battalion continues a strong tradition of community outreach. This year’s efforts included collaborating with the Counterdrug Program to organize Red Ribbon Week at the local elementary school, joining with Recruiting and Retention to raise \$4,000 for the local high school hockey and soccer teams, as well as providing tutoring, mentoring, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test preparation and resiliency training.

## Alaska Army National Guard Aviation

Alaska Army National Guard aviation units play a vital role in providing for the safety and security of the citizens of Alaska and the nation. Alaska Army National Guard aviators from F Company, 1-207th Aviation deployed to the Sinai region in 2012, flying the C-23 Sherpa aircraft in support of diplomatic efforts in Egypt and throughout the Middle East. Flight crews from Detachment 54 returned in 2012 from a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan, flying intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Members of A Company, 1-207th Aviation are training and preparing for a yearlong deployment to Kuwait, set to begin in early 2013. This company will deploy with 10 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and more than 60 Soldiers from Alaska to support the ongoing missions in the region.

Here at home, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, C-23 Sherpa aircraft and C-12 Huron airplanes provide the state continuous aviation support from units stationed in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel and Nome. The remote areas of Alaska are served by UH-60 helicopters, primarily used to provide training support to Alaska National Guard members in rural Alaska. These helicopters and aircrews provide medical evacuation and rescue support when state and civilian agencies are unable to do so.

In 2012, C-23 aircraft flew hundreds of Army paratrooper missions in support of the active-duty Army in Alaska. These missions help the Army maintain proficiency in the critical skills the Soldiers need to perform their missions overseas.

Bryant Army Airfield is one of the Alaska Army National Guard's primary facilities. This year, the addition of professional, full-time air traffic controllers operating in the newly renovated Bryant Army Airfield tower provided the state with an increased level of aviation safety in the Anchorage area. Ongoing property improvements and new construction will keep this valuable resource relevant for years to come.

## 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

2012 was an unprecedented year of training for 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Soldiers. The brigade focused on the importance of creating a realistic, joint/combined operating environment for its units and ensuring that leaders are skilled in coordinating combined arms maneuver, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. In addition, the BfSB is prepared to conduct domestic response operations in support of the state.

The 297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron's real-world support to Alaskan citizens during storms and power outages on the Kenai Peninsula demonstrated the capabilities of the BfSB. The 207th Combat Support Company began its training



**Afghanistan Deployment.** A local Afghan man rides a bicycle by members of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team from the Alaska Army National Guard's B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, while they conduct a site survey in May 2012 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Kandahar PRT was a joint team of U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy service members and civilians deployed to the Kandahar province of Afghanistan to assist in the effort to rebuild and stabilize the local government and infrastructure. Photo: Staff Sergeant Timothy Chacon, U.S. Air Force

year at Camp Dodge, Iowa, one of the nation's premier maintenance training centers. The brigade and squadron headquarters elements received new maneuver command post systems this year and were trained and validated using this technology.

In May, the brigade performed a consolidated annual training at Fort Greely. The convoy to Fort Greely was the largest ever placed on Alaska's highways by the Alaska National Guard. Brigade Soldiers conducted 24/7 operations including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Route clearances were complex with opposing force role-players emplacing improvised explosive device simulations. It was a true simulation of a combat deployment.

Additionally, in August, the brigade and squadron headquarters had a highly successful deployment to Mongolia where they took command of U.S. forces participating in Khaan Quest 2012. Highlights from Khaan Quest 2012 included a command post exercise, field training exercise, engineer subject matter exchange and medical outreach to the civilian population of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The exercise hosted high-level visitors including the president of Mongolia, U.S. Secretary of the Army and U.S. Secretary of the Navy.

## State Partnership Program

The Alaska Mongolia State Partnership Program continues to mature and provide real change, influencing the defense reform efforts of the Mongolian Armed Forces. Fiscal year 2012 was a challenging year with implementation of new budget and funding guidance that affected all partnership programs across the country and our ability to execute exchanges. In spite of these fiscal challenges, the Alaska National Guard executed quality exchanges with the National Emergency Management Agency and Mongolian Armed Forces. These exchanges helped build capacity within each of the respective organizations and further strengthened our mutual commitment to our partnership.

Alaska's participation in Khaan Quest annually provides another means to build on those relationships. Khaan Quest is a joint, multi-national training exercise with the Mongolian Armed Forces. This annual training demonstrates the continuing effort of the United States to strengthen ties and cooperation among nations in the region under the U. S. Pacific Command Theater Security Cooperation Program. Peacekeeping operations are intended to improve interoperability among our forces to provide security and build the capacity to deter hostile threats affecting populations around the world.

With this commitment and our enduring relationship, we have deployed Soldiers to stand by our Mongolian partners in Afghanistan and have shared burdens and hazards of serving in an active combat theater. To date, we have deployed 14 officers and non-commissioned officers to serve with Mongolians in Afghanistan. This shared experience and implicit trust has taken our relationship to the next level and solidified our mutual commitment to our partnership.

## 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction

Members of the 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction provide assessment and assistance to first responders, emergency managers, industry and the military in response to potentially hazardous material releases of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear nature.

In November 2011, the 103rd supported the state of Hawaii and U.S. President Barak Obama's Asia Pacific Economic Council. In February 2012, the 103rd led the first team into Cordova for Operation Deep Dig, the removal and clearing of snow from the city. While there, they worked with the local incident commander, prepared for the arrival of additional National Guardsmen and



**Weapons of Mass Destruction.** Three members of the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team monitor radiation levels during a training exercise with the Matanuska-Susitna Fire Department in June 2012. The 103rd CST is in place to respond to chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear attacks. Members augment local and regional terrorism response capabilities in events known or suspected to involve such weapons of mass destruction. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

conducted communication support. This past winter, the 103rd CST supported the FBI and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation by responding to four "white powder letters" mailed across the state. The team deployed to Volks Field, Wis., for the annual Joint Patriot Exercise where the team validated tactical transport via military aircraft, integration with Region 10 homeland response force partners and collaboration with an FBI hazardous material response unit.

### **Alaska Counterdrug Support Program**

The Counterdrug Support Program focuses on two main functions: drug interdiction and civil operations (formerly called drug demand reduction). The CDSP provides unmatched professional support to the Alaska counterdrug community by using unique military skills and capabilities in operations, technology, communications and criminal analysis to address drug supply. The CDSP also delivers civil operations coalition support to facilitate and promote community improvement to address drug demand.

Despite inconsistent federal funding during state fiscal year 2012, the civil operations section presented drug education messages to 2,264 students in 16 schools. They taught 349 students in two middle schools the nationally accredited 12-week drug education/positive life choice curriculum. The Encourage, Encounter, Experience high- and low-ropes challenge course continued to

provide adventure-based experiential education to students, community-based organizations, military units, and military spouses and children. Civil operations served 1,213 participants. This no-cost summer camp offered a saving of more than \$36,000 to 18 community-based organizations throughout the state.

The Alaska Counterdrug Support program continued to provide support to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across Alaska. During state fiscal year 2012, Tok, a yellow labrador retriever dog trained in drug detection, and his handler continued to provide a vital force multiplier to several agencies involved in drug interdiction. The combined efforts of this support resulted in the arrest of 133 drug offenders and the seizure of more than \$30 million 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 140 law enforcement professionals. The training included managing and operating 10 tactical and firing ranges; providing training, assistance, and counseling officers and role players during a Department of Public Safety Trooper Academy; and facilitating training in our classroom. A new storage and classroom facility has been completed and now supplements CDSP's ability to support law enforcement training in Alaska. This facility is equipped with tables, chairs and wrestling mats, which give law enforcement and military units the opportunity to conduct combatives or defensive tactics training and civil operations in an indoor classroom. In addition, our main headquarters facility has computers used for training and video teleconferences.

The Joint Substance Abuse Prevention coordinator is responsible for implementation and administration of the National Guard Substance Abuse Testing and Prevention Policy. The prevention, treatment and outreach coordinator provided prevention training, outreach to military families, and treatment resources to military members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance and combat readiness.

The Alaska National Guard Counterdrug Support program serves as a critical component of law enforcement and community-based organization support across the state by assisting federal, state and local law enforcement in the fight against drug offenders and by educating Alaskan youth about the harmful effects of improperly used and illegal drugs. The enduring effects of CDSP's civil operations program are that more students will remain drug free and therefore have the opportunity to become ideal candidates for the Alaska Performance Scholarship program.

### **Chaplain**

The Chaplain Corps of the Alaska National Guard remains a vibrant force, providing spiritual care and support for our Soldiers, Airmen, their families and civilians. The Strong Bonds program continues to strengthen and provide relationship skills to single Soldiers and Airmen, couples and families. This program has remained strong in the face of continued deployments for both branches. In fiscal year 2012, we held seven couples events that trained 150 couples (300 people), three family events that trained 225 people from 48 families, and four single events that trained 55 single Soldiers and Airmen.

The eight traditional chaplains and three full-time chaplains in the Army and Air National Guard have done an outstanding job ministering to our service members and their loved ones in every region of the state. Ministry opportunities include Strong Bonds events, pre-, mid- and post-deployment Yellow Ribbon events, suicide prevention training, chapel services during drill weekends, multiple military ceremonies, countless hours of counseling, and numerous community events. All these have helped make 2012 one of the most dynamic years in terms of religious support and has been substantial help toward developing a highly resilient force ready to meet any challenge.

# Alaska Air National Guard



**Training Mission with a View.** An Alaska Air National Guard HC-130 "King" aircraft flies high above the Alaska landscape while on a training mission in October 2012. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

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.

## Mission Success

In 2012, Alaska Air National Guardsmen serving throughout the globe were tried, tested and found exceptionally worthy of that mission by executing an extremely high operational tempo, deployment pace and inspection program – this while achieving high levels of recognition for both individuals and units.

The Alaska Air National Guard also said goodbye to three senior leaders in 2012. Brigadier General Deborah McManus, director of the joint staff, retired after 30 years of service, and Colonel Carlisle Lincoln III, Alaska Air National Guard



**Volunteerism.** Members of the 213th Space Warning Squadron hold a new American flag that was sent to Annette Cook, a childhood friend of Alaska Air National Guard Technical Sergeant Ricky Ramos, to replace a flag damaged in an explosion that destroyed Cook's Butler County, Kan., home. Pictured back row, from left, Staff Sergeant Joseph Brokus, Staff Sergeant William Stead, Technical Sergeant Christoph Albritton and Staff Sergeant Benjamin Drake. Middle row, from left, Staff Sergeant Matthew Powell, Staff Sergeant Thomas Elliott and Staff Sergeant Robert Ives. Front row, from left, Technical Sergeant Ricky Ramos and Senior Airman Justin Smith. The team dedicated hours of volunteered time, money and effort to replace the military awards that Cook lost in the explosion. Photo: Courtesy of Technical Sergeant Ricky Ramos, 213th Space Warning Squadron

chief of staff, retired after nearly 35 years of service. Brigadier General Charles Foster, special assistant to the adjutant general and former 176th Wing commander, officially retired in January 2012.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 213th Space Warning Squadron continues to stand watch at Clear Air Force Station near

Anderson. They actualized nearly \$240 million in upgrades to early warning systems and its nuclear missile defense system. The unit achieved a 99.9-percent mission capable rate and supported Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed Olympic Titan, a short-notice reconnaissance mission, ensuring homeland security.



**Engine Maintenance.** Staff Sergeant Josh Thompson, 168th Air Refueling Wing aircraft engine mechanic, takes measurements on the engine of one of nine 168th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 tankers to ensure that the plane is ready for flight. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

*“The Guardians of the Last Frontier are proud to represent the great state of Alaska. Never content to rest on past success, your Guardians have continued to prosecute and improve our enduring missions of global reach and space vigilance. The patriotism and professionalism of our Airmen is beyond reproach. After a year of inspections, the record shows our adherence to compliance and standards is unrivaled. Yet, I am proud of our accomplishments abroad. The impact of your hometown Air Force has been felt as far away as Nepal and the streets of Iraq. Our Arctic refueling experts ensure that our state and nation can provide air power anywhere in the world when tasked. On the ground our security forces defenders were among the last Americans out of Iraq and will never fail to protect our homeland. The Airmen of Clear Air Force Station tirelessly watch the heavens ensuring that Alaskans can sleep safely. Know that it is an honor to serve, the Guardians of the Last Frontier are on duty and ready wherever needed.”*

– Colonel Timothy O’Brien, 168th Air Refueling Wing commander

The 168th Air Refueling Wing, home to the KC-135 Stratotanker and based in interior Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base, excelled as it earned an Outstanding rating in one exercise and Excellent ratings in three more. The wing earned an Outstanding during its Occupational Safety Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program, with the description “top-rated flying and weapons safety programs – absolutely perfect!”

The 168th Wing’s accolades continued through its Logistics Compliance Assessment Program where it received an impressive 97 percent. Its health services inspection garnered a 92 percent, and the Pacific Air Forces aircrew standardization evaluation yielded zero findings. The high rate of inspections only scratched the surface of the 168th’s ability to perform its global mission.

The 168th Air Refueling Wing continues its close working relationship with the active duty. Nearly all of its customers are active-duty aircraft, of which 67 percent were on operational missions. The Guardians of The Last Frontier, as the 168th is known, served with distinction throughout the globe.

The 168th closed out missions in Iraq under Operation New Dawn with the return home of 30 security forces members. Airmen stood watch in the Central Command area of responsibility and the Pacific Command area of responsibility. From the home station of the 168th, Guard members defended the homeland as they provided on-demand support to F-22 missions supporting operation Noble Eagle.

The 176th Wing’s Midnight Sun Guardians maintained equally grueling inspections, deployments, training and homeland security missions in 2012. Positive results in the seemingly endless string of inspections highlighted both the “quality of leadership” and “strong working relationships” with the 176th Wing’s host/partner wings and culture of compliance. The wing is a Pacific Air Forces total force enterprise model.

Approximately 150 Alaska Air National Guardsmen assigned to the 176th Air Control Squadron performed a daily air sovereignty mission in support of the Alaska Region 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 2012, they maintained watch throughout northern sovereignty missions as they directed intercepts of Russian



**Heading Out.** Arctic Care participants load onto an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in April before heading to Nome to take part in the medical readiness exercise Arctic Care. Medical professionals from the Alaska National Guard, Arizona National Guard, Colorado National Guard, Army Reserves, Navy Reserves and active duty spent two weeks providing medical care to Alaskans in 15 remote communities during Arctic Care.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Excited Alaskans.** Six Alaska Air National Guardsmen are elated as they walk quickly down the flight line on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to their waiting families as they return from a deployment in October 2012. The Guardsmen deployed to Afghanistan in May in support of combat search and rescue. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

military aircraft approaching Alaska's borders.

The 176th Air Control Squadron maintains the highest North American Aerospace Defense Command mission-readiness status and is continually recognized for its outstanding performance. On the training front, the unit designed and implemented a Pacific Air Forces theater-wide live virtual constructive template and was on the lead-

ing edge of distributed mission operations with the ability to connect warfighters worldwide in a virtual arena for a fraction of the cost of similar live exercises.

In April 2012, the 176th Wing supported the largest recurring innovative readiness training operation in the nation, Arctic Care. Thirty-two C-130 Hercules aircraft sorties carried more than 240 passengers and delivered 67 tons of medical cargo

to underserved villages in western Alaska. Members of the 176th Medical Group led a joint services force of more than 180 medical professionals to provide more than 10,000 medical, dental and optometry procedures to residents in 15 remote villages, while receiving valuable hands-on training and experience. 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 was the lead agency in 2012 for Arctic Care – the largest operation to date.

Search-and-rescue missions did not slow in Alaska in 2012, and the 176th Wing's rescue squadrons didn't skip a beat despite the nearly five-month deployment of all three rescue squadrons in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This was the largest deployment of the 176th Wing since 2003. While deployed, Guardsmen flew into combat zones, frequently under fire, to pull 226 wounded coalition service members to safety and transport them to treatment facilities. Each of the squadrons brings a unique capability, which when partnered together, yields the preeminent rescue capability in the world.

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



**Home Sweet Home.** Captain Hans Jagow, 176th Wing, smiles as his wife, Tamera, touches his face for the first time after his return from Afghanistan in October 2012. Altogether, more than 180 Alaska Air National Guardsmen returned to Alaska after deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was the wing's single largest deployment of personnel since 2003. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



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 Air Force 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 54 lives in Alaska during 109 missions executed and 209 sorties flown during the first 10 months of 2012. That's an average of more than 10 missions per month.

### **Awards and Recognition**

Three Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 176th Wing's 212th Rescue Squadron were each awarded a Bronze Star medal with Valor at a decoration ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October 2012. Surrounded by the support and appreciation of friends and family, Captain Koalii C. Bailey, Technical Sergeant Shane J. Hargis and Staff Sergeant Theodore M. Sierocinski had their stories of valor read aloud to the crowd, and in turn, were pinned with the medal.

A Bronze Star medal is the fourth-highest combat award presented in the United States since the start of World War II.

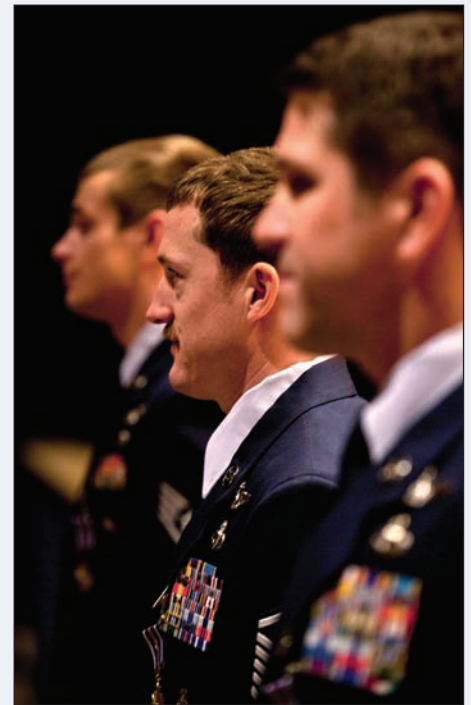
It is only awarded to those who perform acts of valor within areas of hazardous duty, as laid out in U.S. law. These warriors received their medals for an act of heroism or meritorious achievement in a combat zone during a 2010 or 2011 deployment.

In November 2012, three more Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 212th Rescue Squadron were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor during a ceremony at the Talkeetna Theater on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Senior Master Sergeant Doug Widener, Master Sergeant Brandon Stuemke and Staff Sergeant Aaron Parcha received the medals for having distinguished themselves in combat by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

Conducting actions in the face of extreme danger, these Guardian Angels flew 25 missions retrieving a total of 49 U.S. and coalition personnel, with 11 of those personnel deceased, during Operation Bulldog Bite in November 2010. The operation involved some of the largest rescues and evacuations since Operation Anaconda in 2002 and was conducted by hoist insertion and extraction, often under heavy fire from the enemy during a five-day period.

All six of these Airmen illustrated the bravery that the members of the Alaska Air National Guard stand for every day.



**Distinguished Flying Cross With Valor.** Master Sergeant Brandon Stuemke, center, Senior Master Sergeant Doug Widener, right, and Staff Sergeant Aaron Parcha are awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor in November 2012. The three pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron conducted more than 20 missions in five days, including treating a fellow pararescueman from a gunshot wound while under enemy fire, during a deployment to Afghanistan performing combat search-and-rescue missions. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



**Bronze Star With Valor.** From left, Technical Sergeant Shane J. Hargis, Staff Sergeant Theodore M. Sierocinski and Captain Koalii C. Bailey stand during a ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October 2012 after they received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for their heroic actions in Afghanistan. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

*“I am proud of our Airmen, their dedication to duty and professionalism! 2012 was a banner year for the 176th Wing Midnight Sun Guardians, who vigilantly executed constant 24/7-alert search-and-rescue and command-and-control missions, all while providing global strategic and tactical airlift. They accomplished all this while integrating operations with our Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson partners and demonstrating compliance in multiple Pacific Air Forces, Air National Guard, Air Force Inspection Agency and North American Aerospace Defense inspections. Proud to be Alaska Air National Guard members, we are honored to serve our state and nation. We look forward to increasing our strength, championing the standards, while safely and effectively executing our 2013 missions!”*

– Colonel Scott Wenke, 176th Wing commander

# Homeland Security & Emergency Management



## Creating a Culture of Preparedness

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management's ongoing challenge is to prepare the state for the next big disaster, such as the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. Preparing for numerous known hazards is complicated by the need to prepare for the unknown.

DHS&EM has approached the problem by creating strong partnerships with emergency response and management organizations in Alaska with a focus on preparing local governments. The ongoing effort to strengthen these partnerships has included developing emergency response plans, providing training, conducting joint exercises, and responding to local and regional disaster events throughout the state. This year's disaster events gave DHS&EM and our partners ample opportunity to apply ongoing preparedness initiatives to real life disaster events.

In November 2011, the National Weather Service warned of an impending storm, which became known as the 2011 West Coast Storm. The 40 Western Alaska communities in the path of the storm took action to prepare for it, including activating their local emergency operations plans, establishing shelters within their communities, notifying residents, and protecting private property and public infrastructure.

A major focus of DHS&EM is to provide emergency preparedness training and support to remote Alaska communities.

During the 2011 West Coast Storm, small- and medium-sized communities showed that with the right information, training and support they can handle a disaster event requiring skilled emergency response.

As 2012 began, Cordova and other areas of Southcentral Alaska experienced

heavy snowfall with some breaking annual snowfall records. On Jan. 6, 2012, after exhausting all local resources and facing



**Ocean Fury.** High winds and sea surges battered 40 communities in Western Alaska in late 2011. Little Diomed and other remote communities called upon their emergency management capabilities to weather the storm.

Photo: Courtesy of city of Little Diomed

### Division Of Homeland Security and Emer



imminent structure collapse. The city of Cordova issued a disaster declaration and activated its Incident Management Team.

In the years leading up to this event, DHS&EM worked with Cordova to improve the community's emergency management capabilities. Cordova made improvements to its emergency operations plan, took advantage of Incident Command courses both in and outside of the community, participated in the Alaska Shield 2010 statewide exercise and attended DHS&EM's twice yearly preparedness conferences. Cordova's internal preparedness activities and DHS&EM's support enabled the community to swiftly assess its situation, request help and then manage the necessary assistance.

Fall storms are always a concern in Alaska, and each year, DHS&EM helps communities prepare. Fall 2012 saw a massive storm that brought high winds and heavy rainfall to a wide swath of the state. The flooding was most severe in the Matanuska-Susitna and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs. The impacted communities called upon the Incident Command System, activated their Emergency Operations Centers and mobilized their local emergency management assets to address the immediate needs.

Each year, through the Citizen Corps Program, State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Emergency Management Performance Grant, the state funds local government emergency preparedness efforts.



**Snowpocalypse.** Record snowfall nearly buried the city of Cordova in January 2012. In order to deal with the overwhelming amounts of snow, the city of Cordova quickly requested additional emergency management staff, shelter support, snow removal personnel, heavy equipment and operators. Cordova's timely and efficient actions saved critical community buildings and restored emergency access. Photo: Kim Weibl, DHS&EM

By carefully allocating grant funding throughout the state, DHS&EM has been able to increase local emergency response capabilities.

In addition, the Kenai Peninsula and Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs participated in the 2010 and 2012 Alaska Shield statewide exercises that tested the communities'

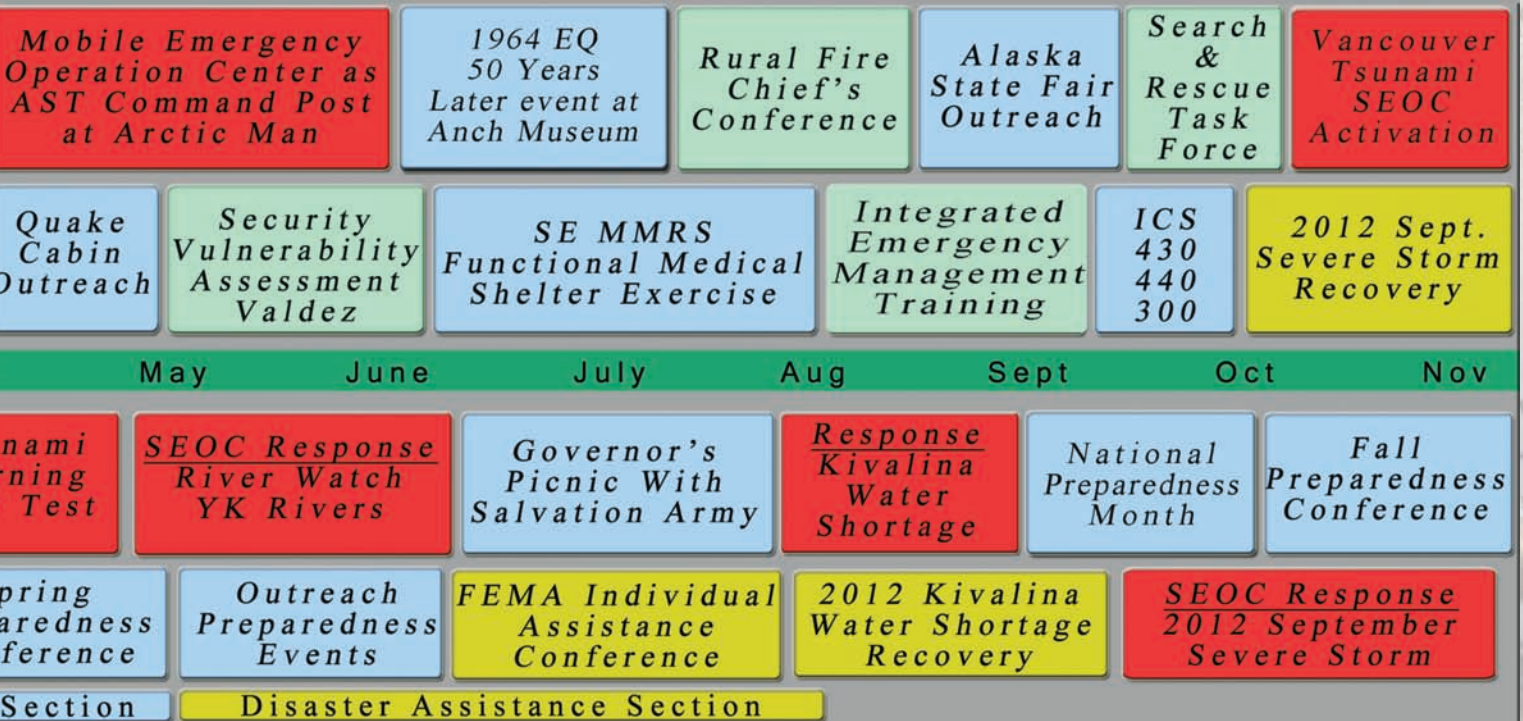
ability to stand up their emergency operations centers.

The 2012 September severe storm showed that local governments have the capabilities to respond to a significant and widespread event. With confidence in our local jurisdictions' capabilities to assess and handle emergency situations, the state can focus on areas of the state overwhelmed by disaster events or prepare for the disaster recovery effort.

"While we are constantly striving to increase our division and state's response and recovery capabilities, we understand that we will never be able to respond to a disaster alone," said John Madden, director of DHS&EM. "An effective response and recovery calls upon all partners to do their part. This past year, we have seen DHS&EM's efforts to strengthen community readiness result in communities that are ready to manage significant events.

"As Alaskans, we know that we can rely on one another to come to each other's aid when a desperate need arises, but the willingness to help is not enough. An effective response requires swift and orchestrated efforts, coordinated to ensure that those in greatest need receive assistance first, and all available assets are used to their greatest effect. Each and every day, DHS&EM works to strengthen these partnerships and create a culture of preparedness that will serve the state tomorrow and in the years to come."

## Emergency Management Annual Report Timeline



# Alaska Military Youth Academy



Mission: "To help 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 when an increasing national high school dropout rate was identified as a potential 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 33 active sites nationally in 26 states and the territory of Puerto Rico. The original AMYA class graduated 43 cadets; the most recent program class, 2012-2, graduated 161 cadets.

The proven Youth ChalleNge 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. The full cycle is a 17-and-a-half-month, tuition-free program, with a five-and-a-half-month residential phase followed by a 12-month post-residential phase. This structure allows a diverse group – by ethnicity, age, gender and home – of cadets to strengthen their social and academic skills while encouraging emotional, physical and academic growth.



**Smiles.** Cadets of 1st Platoon Eagles, class 2013-01, receive their first issue of boots and cold weather gear during the acclimation phase (first two weeks) of the Alaska Military Youth Academy. Photo: Roman Schara, Alaska Military Youth Academy

AMYA runs two residential classes per year, beginning in October and April.

The residential phase of the program is a 22-week experiential model conducted on a military-style campus, with separate quarters for male and female cadets. The residential phase begins with a two-week acclimation period during which candidates

are assessed for their potential and desire to successfully complete the demanding 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/followership, and physical fitness training, while a tough but caring staff provides medical service, support, meals, counseling and instruction. The candidates who successfully complete this phase earn the distinction of becoming a cadet of the corps.

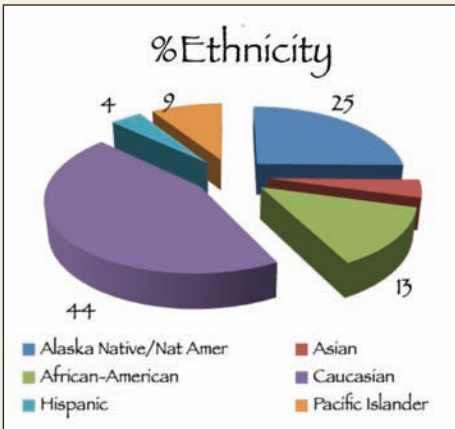
During the remaining 20 weeks of the residential phase, daily activities and experiences such as academics, vocational technical education, and service to the community expand on the lessons already learned and build the cadets' education



**Outstanding Showmanship.** The Alaska Military Youth Academy proudly marches in the 2012 Fourth of July Parade in downtown Anchorage. Before the start of the parade, the cadets performed in-place cadences in front of event judges and numerous spectators. For their extraordinary efforts, the cadets were presented with the Outstanding Showmanship Award for the third year in a row. Photo: Roman Schara, Alaska Military Youth Academy

## Eight Core Components

- Educational Excellence
- Physical Fitness
- Leadership/Followership
- Job Skills
- Life Coping Skills
- Community Service
- Responsible Citizenship
- Health and Hygiene



level and job skills while contributing to a growing sense of community involvement and commitment.

The AMYA academics section is dedicated to increasing the educational attainment of every cadet, and in the most recent class (as is typical), raises the average math and reading levels of the corps of cadets by 1.3 grade levels during the short but intense 17 weeks of instruction and testing. Cadets can earn up to seven credits, a full third of the 21 credits required for graduation in the state of Alaska, toward their secondary education. This typically puts students returning to high school back on track toward graduation with their peers. The Academy is accredited with the Northwest Accreditation Commission and can award an AMYA high school diploma to those cadets who earn the 21 credits required and have passed the State of Alaska required High School Graduate Qualifying Exam. AMYA also provides preparation and

testing for the General Education Development test for those students who prefer that certificate or in addition to their diploma.

The Academy has developed a vocational technical education and cooperative work experience program with such offerings as small engine repair, carpentry, culinary arts, home repairs, Microsoft A+ certification and interior/exterior painting. These provide cadets with the initial ideas, awareness of job safety, confidence, technical knowledge and skill sets to immediately move into the work force. In our most recent class, 2012-2, all of the students in our culinary arts program, taught by Mario Martinez, passed their food service industry ServSafe regulatory certifications, a first for this challenging examination. On weekends, cadets are afforded the opportunity to support the community with service activities and to engage in outdoor and military-style events such as rappelling, jump tower and parade participation.

Support in the 12-month post-residential phase begins when graduates return to their homes and communities to continue high school or begin college education, enter the civilian workplace or join the military. Gratifying to mentors and staff, 100 percent of the graduates of 2012-2 placed in one of these categories. The goal of the post-residential phase is to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase. In addition, graduates must continue to develop and implement the life plans they have initiated while resident at the Academy. Mentors play a critical role in ensuring that the graduates have continued success. They help transition the



**Confidence Training.** Cadet Ryan Savok, class 2013-01, of Wasilla, excels during rappel tower training on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October 2012. With the guidance of Alaska National Guard recruiters, all of the cadets challenged themselves to rappel from the three-story platform at Camp Carroll.

Photo: Roman Schara, Alaska Military Youth Academy

former cadets from the structured environment at the Academy to self-management of personal resources and goal achievement. Mentors are volunteers from the community, and Academy success depends heavily on the time and efforts of these valued partners.

The Academy's staff is among the best in the country, and excellence in customer service is both a hallmark and an ongoing goal. Roman Schara, who works in the headquarters section, was honored this year with an Honorable Mention for Customer Service in the prestigious governor's annual Peak Performance Awards. Additionally, our recruiting, placement and mentoring section was chosen by the national ChalleNGe program to participate in a benchmarking summit to identify best practices for national propagation. This recognition identifies AMYA as among the top six programs in the country in this area. In our academic section, Chana Boyko was also nominated for an award in the BP Teachers of Excellence program in Alaska. The Academy's counselor, Robert Newman, posted a "parent page" to the AMYA website to encourage family, personal and cadet growth.

AMYA's target graduation rate is 144 graduates per class. The current winter class, 2013-1, has 149 cadets on campus. Through the course of 18 years of operation, AMYA has graduated 3,713 cadets and awarded 2,419 high school diplomas and/or GED certificates to former high school dropouts with attendant benefits not only to each individual, but to the state of Alaska as well. The Academy's proven track record of success demonstrates the continuing importance of the great work of assisting the youth of Alaska.



**Honoring Veterans.** Cadets of 3rd Platoon, class 2012-02 view "The Moving Wall," a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which was brought to Delaney Park Strip in Anchorage in July 2012. The cadets provided set-up and clean-up details for this event and many others throughout the year as part of their core component of Service to Community, to learn to place the public good before self. Photo: Roman Schara, Alaska Military Youth Academy

More information may be found at the AMYA website and facebook page: <http://www.ngycp.org/site/state/ak/> and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alaska-Military-Youth-Academy-AMYA/65681283781>.



# Alaska State Defense Force

2012 has been an active year for the Alaska State Defense Force in training to professional standards and participating in National Guard exercises and humanitarian operations.

The role and mission of the Alaska State Defense Force is to augment the Alaska National Guard in state emergency responsibilities. As such, the joint training provided by the Alaska National Guard to the Alaska State Defense Force is invaluable. Joint training provides team building as well as unity of planning and training for joint operations.

The ASDF participated in Operation Arctic Care 2012 by augmenting the National Guard in joint staging and reception of troops for onward movement to Nome from the Joint Mobilization Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The ASDF also augmented the joint reception staging onward movement integration effort in Nome to move the medical and dental teams from Nome into the villages.

The ASDF continues to build capabilities that are useful to Alaska in time of need. In 2012, ASDF personnel in Fairbanks and Delta Junction trained on water purification systems for villages affected by floods and pollution. ASDF personnel in Southcentral Alaska trained with the 207th Water Treatment Section. Similarly, the ASDF trained with the National Guard in a pandemic flu exercise. Other ASDF officers took advanced Joint Operations



**Thank You.** Alaska Governor Sean Parnell shakes the hand of Lieutenant Colonel John James, of the Alaska State Defense Force, during the Governor's Picnic in Anchorage in August 2012. The governor and first lady greeted members of the ASDF to thank them for their efforts in the search for a missing Mount Marathon runner in July in Seward.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska State Defense Force



**Search Effort.** Members of the Alaska State Defense Force begin the ascent of Mount Marathon in Seward in search of a missing racer in July 2012. Several members of the ASDF volunteered to help search parties look for the racer who was last seen on the mountain during the popular summer race. Photo: Master Sergeant James York, Alaska State Defense Force

Center training to qualify as liaison officers to the Joint Operations Center.

Other training in 2012 included community emergency response training and ground search and rescue. In July 2012, the ASDF volunteered for five days in a search effort at Mount Marathon in Seward for a lost Mount Marathon runner.

The first Alaska State Defense Force Officer Candidate School and Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy started in September 2011. The first class graduated in July 2012. The Academy provides uniformity of training and high professional standards for members of the ASDF. The programs are offered statewide.

During the 2012 September severe storms, ASDF personnel living in the affected areas were able to transmit detailed situation reports on flooding and storm conditions from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Seward. Earlier in 2012, situation reports were also received from ASDF personnel during Operation Deep Dig in Prince William Sound, where excessive snowfall threatened the communities, and Alaska Army National Guardsmen were called in to help. ASDF personnel are trained in communications, which enables them to report from many Alaska locations.

Alaska State Defense Force members represent a cross section of their communities throughout Alaska and look for ways to volunteer their time to give back to Alaska's communities. During 2012, the ASDF was active with the Wounded Warrior program by assisting the Kenai River Professional Guides Association to give more than 160 wounded warriors free guided salmon fishing trips. The ASDF also participated in Operation Stand Down for homeless veterans in Anchorage and Fairbanks and assisted Special Olympics in Anchorage.

Serving in the Alaska State Defense Force is a way for veterans to continue to volunteer their military skills and experience for the benefit of Alaskans in time of need.



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