



## DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS – ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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JOINT BASE ELMENDORF - RICHARDSON AK 99505-0800

NGAK-TAG

18 July 2018

Message to the Force #29

SUBJECT: Federal Initiatives

1. During our most recent town hall, a DMVA member astutely asked what the department is doing to positively affect federal legislation and policy. What follows will be a wave top overview of the numerous ways our department does this and what we are doing.
2. The first way we influence national policy is through two of the National Governors Association's most prominent committees. Our governor is one of ten who comprise the Council of Governors (COG). Appointed by the President, the Council's role is to advise national leadership on matters involving the National Guard of the various states, homeland defense, civil support, synchronization and integration of State and Federal military activities in the United States, and other matters of mutual interest pertaining to National Guard, homeland defense, and civil support operations. Recent initiatives undertaken by the Council of Governors have been the T32 to T5 technician conversion, access to T32 502(f) funding during emergencies, and ensuring the National Guard is appropriately resourced to maintain its role as an operational reserve. COG has at least two meetings with senior Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security per year, and many teleconferences. I am closely involved in COG matters, and am assisted by subject matter experts from within DMVA as appropriate.
3. The second committee is the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC). The mission of GHSAC is to act as a forum that brings together the governors' principal homeland security advisors from each state, commonwealth, and territory. We provide a unified voice for states to inform and shape national homeland security policy, keep governors abreast about the current threat environment and the impacts of federal homeland security legislation, regulations, and policies on states; and inform the work of the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) by sharing ideas and best practices, identifying emerging issues, and reviewing and analyzing the impacts of federal homeland security activities on the states. As the governor's Homeland Security Advisor, I attend these meetings when able; at times DHS&EM Director Mike Sutton or Deputy Commissioner Bob Doehl represent us to GHSAC. I expect homeland security matters to take a more prominent role in our work portfolio in the future.
4. I also serve on the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee (ARFPC), which provides us a voice at the national level so we can review and comment upon major

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policy matters directly affecting the reserve components and the mobilization preparedness of the Army. The Committee's comments on such policy matters are presented, sometimes directly by the co-chairs, to the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff. ARFPC meets in person each quarter, and via teleconference every month.

5. In January 2017, the Alaska National Guard along with assistance from other states created the National Guard Arctic Interest Council (NG-AIC). Our team noticed a lack of synergy in the development of DOD Arctic and cold weather policy and resourcing decisions. The NG-AIC is an informal "grass roots" organization of 18 northern tier/cold weather states with interests, capabilities, and resources to operate in an Arctic or extreme cold weather environment. The NG-AIC leverages the collective Arctic and cold weather expertise of its members to advocate in appropriate ways for capabilities necessary to support our federal mission and domestic operations under these challenging environments. We held our second annual meeting a few weeks ago in the state of Maine, and 51 subject matter experts identified several lines of effort and goals for the following year's work. Six general officers including three Adjutants General from member states then participated in a forum at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars called National Guard Interests in the Arctic, and we gave an outbrief to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) J8, J3/7, and others, with an offer to work collaboratively with NGB to establish National Guard policy on matters within the Arctic and cold weather sphere of interest.

6. I am also a member of NGB's Joint Diversity Executive Council, which serves as Chief, NGB's principal advisor regarding diversity matters for non-federalized National Guard forces. Leveraging diversity and inclusion research and best practices is an important way to improve the overall strength of our Guard, and an important thread of our ongoing Ethical Fitness line of effort. I am committed to being personally involved in national discussions involving diversity, inclusion, professionalism and the military ethic. Our incoming Senior Enlisted Leader, CMSgt "Wink" Hinkley, will be on the front lines of these efforts as well.

7. We are in constant communication with our Congressional Delegation (CODEL) regarding our future mission sets and equipment. Of note, we have spent a tremendous amount of time and energy with Air Mobility Command, the Air National Guard, and other prominent stakeholders regarding the future of our KC135s and basing of KC46s. We are also working with our CODEL to maintain a dialog with the Army regarding a replacement program of record for the Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV). As the state's official liaison to DOD, I also communicate with the CODEL about active component basing, and am very involved with all the steps of making Alaska competitive for additional force structure.

8. Thanks for the question at the town hall about my/DMVA's work at the national level. If you have more specific questions about any of these initiatives or others, I urge you to

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contact my executive officer LTC Alex Elmore at 907.428.6012 or [alex.elmore@alaska.gov](mailto:alex.elmore@alaska.gov) so he can work with either the state or federal special assistant to get the information you request. If you need assistance after July 31, 2018, please contact the new Executive Officer, Lt Col Matthew Komatsu at 907.428.6012 or [matthew.komatsu@alaska.gov](mailto:matthew.komatsu@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

  
LAUREL J. HUMMEL  
Major General, AKNG  
The Adjutant General