



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCES HEADQUARTERS – ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
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NGAK-TAG

20 June 2016

Message to the Force #5

SUBJECT: Alaska State Defense Force

1. From its founding in 1942 as the Alaska Territorial Guard in response to the attacks on Hawaii and Alaska to its present day roles, the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) has provided opportunities for military retirees, veterans, and other citizens to serve. Our ASDF is a volunteer organization whose primary role is to augment and support the Alaska National Guard and is an integral part of our Rural Engagement Initiative. A trained and ready ASDF is as important as it has ever been to our state. With the impending retirement of BG (AK) Roger Holl it was of supreme importance to select the best commander to lead this organization into its next chapter. The selection board recommended and I chose LTC (AK) John James as the next commander of the Alaska State Defense Force.
2. I would like to formally thank the outgoing commander, Brigadier General (AK) Roger E. Holl. He skillfully served as Commander of the Alaska State Defense Force for over 6 years. Prior to being commissioned in the ASDF in 1987, he previously served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He is a perpetual civil servant for this state serving as an attorney and former Chairman of the Alaska Public Offices Commission. He also served as an administrator, board member, instructor and college dean in higher education.
3. Our new ASDF Commander is Lieutenant Colonel (AK) John James who currently serves as both a current operations officer in the Joint Operations Center and as the ASDF Chief of Operations. He has a wealth of experience serving in key staff positions in the ASDF for the last 5 years. Prior to serving in the Alaska State Defense Force, LTC (AK) James served as a Department of the Army Civilian at U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK G-3/7) Director of Operations office as an exercise planner. He also served on an embedded training team as a defense contractor as an advisor to an Afghan Infantry Battalion Commander. LTC (AK) James retired from the active component after a 20+ year career as an Infantryman where he held positions at various levels of leadership as both an enlisted soldier and officer.
4. I invite everyone to attend the change of command from BG (AK) Holl to LTC (AK) James to congratulate BG (AK) Holl on a job well done and welcome LTC (AK) James to his new position as commander. The change of command ceremony is tentatively planned for 1100 hours, 6 August 2016, at the JBER Armory on the Drill Hall floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurel J. Hummel".

LAUREL J. HUMMEL  
Brigadier General, AKNG  
The Adjutant General