

WARRIORS



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WARRIORS

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<http://dmva.alaska.gov>

Honoring Fallen Airmen. Four of Alaska's finest Airmen were killed in a C-17 crash in July on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during a practice run for the Arctic Thunder Air Show 2010. This issue of *Warriors* magazine pays tribute to these service members as well as five others who were killed in a plane crash north of Dillingham in August.

Photos: Courtesy 176th Wing and 3rd Wing Public Affairs



Major Michael H. Freyholtz
Major Aaron "Zippy" Malone
Captain Jeffrey A. Hill
Senior Master Sergeant Thomas E. Cicardo



Tanker Task Force. A KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, prepares to refuel an F-22 Raptor in August above Eielson Air Force Base during Red Flag-Alaska. "The Tanker Task Force keeps our fighters in the air and keeps them in the fight longer," said Master Sergeant John Duhaime, 168th Air Refueling Wing boom operator. "The aerial refueling mission adds a considerable advantage to the forces in the air this way." Stratotankers are equipped to aid fighters as far as 1,500 miles in distance with 200,000 pounds of transfer fuel.

Photo: Senior Airman Willard E. Grande II, U.S. Air Force

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veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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For the People

Governor Sean Parnell
Commander in Chief



Remembering and Honoring the Selflessness of Those Who Serve

Alaskans have endured significant losses this summer. Two high-profile plane crashes brought us tremendous grief, but also brought us together as Alaskans journeying through this difficult time.

The National Guard and U.S. Air Force tragically lost four Airmen in a C-17 crash on Elmendorf Air Force base in July. Major Aaron Malone, Major Michael Freyholtz, Captain Jeffrey Hill and Senior Master Sergeant Thomas Cicardo will long be remembered for their service, honor and ultimate sacrifice. They were not only patriots serving our nation, they were part of our greater Alaskan family. The loss of these four honorable men has been felt throughout our state.

The military plays a special role in Alaska, and tragedies such as this remind us of the selfless call to duty that our men and women in uniform and their families answer each and every day. These brave

men will always be remembered as heroes who gave their lives for our country while serving the highest cause — freedom.

As Alaska was still recovering from the tragedy at Elmendorf, we experienced another heartbreaking aviation accident on a mountainside north of Dillingham. Former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, Theron Smith, William Phillips Sr., Dana Tindall and Corey Tindall perished in the crash. They will be missed by their family members, friends, and colleagues and grieved for by all.

Stevens was Alaska's staunch advocate across decades of public service. He dedicated his life to Alaska and her people, and he will forever be remembered for his untiring efforts to build the 49th state and his many decades of public service. Known as Alaska's "Lion of the Senate," he was a distinguished patriot who dedicated his life to America and constitutional principles.

From this tragic plane crash also came hope and comfort with the rescue of four survivors: Sean O'Keefe, Kevin O'Keefe, Jim Morhard and William Phillips Jr. We thank the Alaska National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Good Samaritan first-responders for treating the survivors and airlifting them out of the wreckage so they could receive critical medical treatment.

These events remind us of the bravery, skill and selflessness of all who serve our state and our nation. We are grateful for, and humbled by, their tireless efforts to keep us safe, rescue us from danger and protect us from harm.

This summer, we came together as Alaskans united by grief, and we stood together to honor the service of all who perished. In the days and years ahead, we pledge to live our lives more selflessly, as these lost ones did. That, too, will bring honor and peace. ■

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The Adjutant General



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

DMVA Responds to Magnitude of Challenges

As demonstrated by the efforts of the great men and women of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs this summer, Alaskans can take comfort in knowing they are protected by a generation of exceptionally competent and talented professionals.

Flooding along the Taylor Highway cut off the community of Eagle and required emergency management staff to fully engage in response operations. Simultaneously, our Air National Guardsmen demonstrated their exceptional capacity and capability with the aerial refueling of an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with our commander-in-chief, Governor Sean Parnell, on board as he assessed the stricken area.

Our Air National Guard forces continued to excel throughout the summer as they responded to an unprecedented number of requests. In one series of events, they seamlessly transitioned from prosecuting a rescue and recovery operation on

Knik Glacier to responding to a fatal aircraft accident near Dillingham involving former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. This was one of the most challenging efforts in their 20 year history. During the Dignified Transfer of Remains ceremony, the Air Guard had to break away yet again to respond to an urgent mission: an Alaska Army National Guard Black Hawk crashed on Knik Glacier while attempting to assist with rescue operations. The Air Guard continued to address requests throughout the summer while still meeting federal requirements for deployment to Afghanistan.

Our Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers were likewise very busy, even using the talents of the crew of a C-23 Sherpa in locating a victim in Cook Inlet. Even with an high operation tempo, the Army Guard deployed 10 UH-60s and 76 Soldiers to Iraq where they received the "no fail" dignitary-transport tasking.

Also this summer, DMVA came together to pay tribute to the fallen warriors of Sitka 43, the crew who perished in a C-17 crash on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Meanwhile, the Alaska National Guard supported the requirements of a resource-intensive air show and the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson activation. The first phase of the move from Kulis Air National Guard Base to JBER was accomplished, the second largest Alaska Military Youth Academy class graduated, and the Alaska Army National Guard took possession of the largest influx of new equipment in its history.

The men and women of DMVA should be proud. Never have I seen a time filled with the magnitude of challenges that summer 2010 presented. I am honored to be in the company of such great professionals whose courage, selfless service and sacrifice are an inspiration to us all. ■

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Dispatches from the Front...

C-23 Crew Assists in Search and Rescue

By Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... In a break from the normal C-23 Sherpa mission of transporting cargo and people, Soldiers from F Company, 207th Theater Aviation Company, Alaska Army National Guard, assisted in a search and rescue in Cook Inlet between Peter's Creek and Eagle River drainage in June. A 911 call to Anchorage Fire Department's Communication Center came from a man explaining that his boat was sinking and his only survival gear was an orange personal life vest.

Shortly after the 911 call, as Chief Warrant Officer Four Mel Rush, pilot; Chief Warrant Officer Two Ross Wise, co-pilot;



and Staff Sergeant Jeff Austin, flight engineer, were departing Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Bryant Army Air Field on a mission to Bethel, they received a direct request from Anchorage Approach Control asking if they could see anyone in the Inlet who appeared to be in distress.

"The Anchorage Approach Control knew where we were because they could see us on the radar, so they asked us if we could see anything," Rush said. "We looked immediately to our right, and we didn't see anything, so we asked if they wanted us to drop down and take a closer look. ACC said, 'If you have the time and the fuel and don't mind, that would be great.'"

Within minutes Rush noticed some debris in the water and the victim holding on to part of his sunken watercraft. The crew immediately relayed the coordinates to Anchorage Approach Control. A pilot of a Hughes 500c helicopter overheard the transmission and offered to assist as well.

The C-23 marked the location of the boater and kept a visual on the man until the civilian helicopter was able to pull the man from the water shortly thereafter.

"We were happy to accommodate the request to search," Rush said. "The guy could have been in the water a lot longer if we hadn't helped, but because we were able to locate him before the helicopter got there, he was able to be pulled out of the water in a short amount of time." ■

Guardsman Trains with Mongolian Counterparts before Afghanistan Tour

By Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ... An Alaska National Guardsman had the unique opportunity to train with Mongolian troops in Mongolia in preparation for a joint deployment with them to Afghanistan as a U.S. liaison with the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Major Kyle Holt, 761st Military Police Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, was able to travel to Five Hills Training Area outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as part of Khaan Quest 2010, a bilateral peacekeeping operations training exercise. This was his first year as the acting executive officer for the command post exercise, where he worked alongside members of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

"Khaan Quest 2010 not only provided me the opportunity to meet with my Mongolian counterparts who I would later deploy with, but was also a good training environment for me to work through missions in a tactical operations center," Holt said.

"It was an honor to work with Major Holt and to receive his advice on mission analysis and course of action," said Captain Yalalt Gemgui, exercise battalion executive officer, Mongolian Armed Forces.

Holt deployed with fellow Alaska Army National Guard Sergeant Major Jeffrey "Frankie" Coker in September in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They are working with the Mongolian Armed Forces to provide security at checkpoints and traffic control points, as well as overall base security in Afghanistan.

The liaison program is part of the Alaska National Guard's



Sharing Mission Analysis. During a command post exercise at Five Hills Training Area in Mongolia, Mongolian Armed Forces Captain Dojnyam Shinebayar, center, and Captain Yalalt Gemgui, right, discuss mission analysis with Alaska Army National Guard Major Kyle Holt, 761st Military Police Battalion. Holt later deployed to Afghanistan with members of the Mongolian Armed Forces. Photo: Specialist Jill King, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

ongoing relationship with Mongolia through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Normally, embeds from the Alaska National Guard don't have the opportunity to work in an integrated environment with the Mongolian Armed Forces until they are both deployed in country. Holt was very pleased to have had the chance to work with the Mongolians before arriving in Afghanistan.

Alaska Guardsmen are the Mongolians' direct link into the U.S. command at Camp Eggers. They work as tactical advisers, consult on base security operations, and serve indirectly as mentors – offering insight to the U.S. command structure and operational tempo.

"I'm definitely impressed with the Mongolian Soldiers," Holt said. "They train hard and are disciplined." ■

Where in the World

Mongolians Train Afghan Soldiers

By Captain Anthony Deiss
Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan ...

Members of the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force trained Afghan National Army Soldiers on several different weapons systems during a live-fire weapons demonstration in September at the new Darulaman Infantry School to better prepare the ANA Soldiers for security operations.

The ANA Soldiers fired 82 mm mortars and SPG-9 recoilless rifles and honed their targeting skills along with other ANA infantry elements at Darulaman's Camp Scenic weapons range, south of Kabul.

"The Afghans just received new and refurbished weapons for their indirect-fire teams and are demonstrating the knowledge and use of these weapon systems with their Mongolian trainers," said Alaska Army National Guard Major Mark Binggeli, staff advisor for the METF and Task Force Rushmore.

The training event demonstrated the necessary coordination between different ANA elements to repel complex attacks.

"These weapons provide the infantry with a mortar and rocket capability, which is important for an effective force," Binggeli said. "The Mongolians' unique understanding of the mortar and rocket systems is providing key support to the ANA school. The demonstration by the ANA with the weapons was impressive."

The METF provides mobile training team instructors at the infantry school. The school, which was officially opened in August, teaches infantry tactics and employment of different weapon systems. The Mongolians are well suited for the mentorship and training of these direct and indirect-fire weapons.

Mongolia



in rope work, risk assessment, ice climbing and crevasse rescue. The opportunity to train with Alaska National Guardsmen was initiated by Montana State Partnership Program Director Major Galen McAllister. He arranged for the Kyrgyzstan team to visit Montana, Wyoming and Alaska to learn how search and rescue teams in the United States conduct rescue in mountainous terrain. Photo: Major Becky King, Alaska Air National Guard

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Glacier travel.

Senior Master Sergeant Jonathan Davis, right, 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, trains members of the Kyrgyzstan Search and Rescue team in glacier travel techniques on Mount McKinley in May. Davis also provided training



Weapons Training. Major Mark Binggeli, staff advisor for the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force, Alaska Army National Guard, speaks with a Mongolian Mobile Training Team member about the employment of 82 mm mortars after a live-fire weapons demonstration with Afghan National Army Soldiers in September at the Camp Scenic weapons range near the Darulaman Infantry School in Kabul, Afghanistan. The MTT specialize in 82 mm mortars and SPG-9 recoilless rifle systems and train ANA Soldiers at the infantry school. Photo: Captain Anthony Deiss, Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

"They require trainers for the Russian 82 mm mortars and SPG-9 recoilless rifles at the school," Binggeli said. "It's a unique skill set that the Mongolian Field Artillery Soldiers possess."

If courses run at full capacity, the new school will be able to accommodate up to 2,000 students at one time, according to British Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Pughe-Morgan, lead mentor for the infantry school. He said each year they will be able

to produce 14,000 infantrymen, helping to build a more resilient army that is better able to defeat insurgents.

"The Mongolians are a key contributor to the NATO and ISAF mission," Binggeli said. "They bring relevant knowledge to the mission. The training of the ANA is going well, and it's good to see the ANA being provided with new weapons and equipment and enhancing their capacity to secure their country." ■

Deployment Training.

Soldiers from B Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, and D Company, 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, California Army National Guard, prepare to land UH-60 Black Hawks at North Fort Hood's Longhorn Airstrip in August. The Soldiers trained with First Army Division West's 166th Aviation Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, for nearly two months before deploying to Iraq.

Photo: Private First Class Carl Havlik, 166th Aviation Brigade, Division West Public Affairs



Black Hawk Company Deploys to Iraq

By Staff Sergeant Karima Turner
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...

Seventy-six Alaska Army National Guardsmen are in Iraq for a yearlong tour of duty in support of Operation New Dawn.

The Soldiers of B Company, 1-207th Aviation, also known as the Arctic Cowboys, left Alaska in early August and conducted training at Fort Hood, Texas, before heading to Iraq.

"For the last year, my company had been focusing all of their training on the tactics we use in Iraq," said Captain Todd Miller, B Company, 1-207th Aviation commander. "Though the theater is constantly changing, we are thoroughly prepared. We trained for anything we might possibly encounter while we are deployed."

In Iraq, the unit falls under the 1-140th Air Assault Battalion. Their mission is to transport distinguished visitors, troops and equipment via UH-60 Black Hawks from camp to camp, ensuring their safety and assisting in the completion of valuable missions.

"We have a good group of Soldiers; I have a good mix of senior guys who really know the ropes and junior guys who are

eager to do their job and learn," Miller said. "Additionally there is a lot of pride in being called an Arctic Cowboy. Every deployment comes with its challenges, but with the kind of unit camaraderie B Company has, the deployment will be easier, and time will go by quickly for us."

The deploying Soldiers hail from Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla, Fairbanks, Bethel, Juneau, Haines, Quinhagak and Kenai. ■



Bethel Soldiers. Alaska Army National Guardsmen stand proud in their last formation as 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry, before transforming into B Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry, during the transformation ceremony at the Bethel National Guard Armory in May. The Soldiers are now part of the new military police unit.

Photo: Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs

Pre-flight Laughter. Alaska Air National Guard Senior Master Sergeant Paul Barendregt, left, a pararescuer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, and Captain Matt Kirby, a combat rescue officer with the 212th, share a laugh before boarding a C-17 Globemaster III headed to Afghanistan in late August. They are among the 12 Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 212th Rescue Squadron who deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Once in Afghanistan, they joined an active-duty expeditionary rescue squadron and have been providing the search and rescue capabilities for the unit.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



"Guardian Angels" Deploy to Afghanistan

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 212th Rescue Squadron, known as the "Guardian Angels," deployed to Afghanistan at the end of August in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their mission is to support combat search and rescue missions. They joined an active-duty expeditionary rescue

squadron and are providing the search and rescue capabilities for the unit.

The "Guardian Angels," are scheduled to support the deployment throughout the next eight months, with individual Guardsmen deploying in two- to four-month intervals. The 212th Rescue Squadron supported a similar deployment to Afghanistan from January to July 2008.

Deploying members of this unit have extensive experience in search and rescues in Alaska and around the world, good preparation for this deployment. ■

Aviation Accident. The site of an airplane crash that claimed the lives of five people, including that of former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, is on a mountain side about 17 miles north of Dillingham. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Department of Public Safety

Joint Effort Rescues Plane Crash Victims

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard rescued four survivors from a single-engine float plane crash that occurred 17 miles north of Dillingham in August.

The crash claimed the lives of five others onboard, including former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. The four people who survived were rescued the day after the de Havilland Otter crashed into a mountainside while travelling to the Nushagak River for a planned silver salmon fishing trip.

The Air Force 11th Rescue Coordination Center, manned by Alaska Air National Guardsmen, was contacted by Dillingham Flight Service after a Good Samaritan spotted the downed aircraft the evening of Aug. 8. The Good Samaritans began the search after it was discovered the plane and crew failed to reach the lodge on the Nushagak River hours earlier.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were deployed but were unable to make it to the crash site because of bad weather.

The survivors spent the night in the wreckage, but fortunately were assisted by four medical personnel who were flown near to the site by local helicopter pilots before the weather made it impossible for Guard assets to get on scene.

The next morning the weather cleared enough for an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter carrying Alaska Air National Guard pararescuemen, Senior Master Sergeant Jonathan Davis and Technical Sergeant Kristofer Abel from the 212th Rescue Squadron, to get to the crash site to give medical assistance.



Honoring a Senator. Private Michael Shipton, right, Corporal Jeremy Goff and other members of the Alaska National Guard Honor Guard present the nation's colors and Alaska's flag during a memorial ceremony in honor of former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens on top of Mount Alyeska in Girdwood, Alaska, in late August. The Honor Guard joined family and friends of Stevens to pay tribute to the senator in Girdwood, his home of record. Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

A U.S. Coast Guard C-130 was also in the air providing communication support, and a Coast Guard rescue swimmer was able to get to the crash scene to help as well.

Poor weather remained a factor, with less than a quarter-mile visibility at the crash site and less than a 100-foot ceiling in the area, but the Alaska Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard were able to transport the four survivors – Sean O'Keefe, Kevin O'Keefe, Jim Morhard and William "Willy" Phillips Jr. – to Dillingham.

Three of the survivors were transloaded onto a Coast Guard C-130 and brought to Anchorage, while the fourth survivor was brought to Anchorage on a civilian air ambulance flight.

"I have tremendous respect for our service men and women, the emergency first responders and their ability to perform heroically in the most trying of times."

— Major General Thomas H. Katkus



The four people who perished in the accident along with Stevens were Theron "Terry" Smith, William "Bill" Phillips Sr., Dana Tindall and Corey Tindall.

"I have tremendous respect for our service men and women, the emergency first responders and their ability to perform heroically in the most trying of times," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "The Alaska National Guard in a joint effort with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska Department of Public Safety were extremely resilient and professional in their efforts to rescue the remaining survivors of the plane crash and get them medical attention as quickly as possible."

The Alaska Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard were awarded four saves for this mission. ■

Final Salute. Specialist Cody Kelsoe, left, Private First Class Serita Johnson, center, and Specialist Annie Ordoyne, firing party of the Alaska National Guard Honor Guard, present a final salute to former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens on Mount Alyeska in Girdwood, Alaska, in late August. The Honor Guard joined family and friends of Stevens for a special memorial service in Girdwood, Stevens' hometown.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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Joint Forces

Ready to Serve

Khaan Quest 2010

By DMVA Public Affairs Staff

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Alaska National Guard Soldiers in August participated in Khaan Quest 2010, a multinational training exercise at the Five Hills Training Area, Tavan Tolgoi, outside the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Guardsmen from the Alaska Army National Guard's 38th Troop Command and individuals from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Medical Group joined 220 members of the Mongolian Armed Forces and 60 members of the U.S. military in Mongolia for Khaan Quest 2010.

"One of the biggest benefits for Alaska Soldiers participating in this exercise was the opportunity to experience and interact with a multitude of Soldiers from different countries," said Command Sergeant Major Pamela Harrington, senior leader observer for the Alaska National Guard. "Our Soldiers who participated in this exercise were also able to break the language and culture barrier."

The exercise is co-sponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces and the U.S. Pacific Command.

Mongolian, multinational and U.S. forces conducted a command post exercise, a humanitarian civic activity and medical readiness training exercise.

The purpose of the annual Khaan Quest exercise is to develop participating military forces' ability to contribute to U.N. and coalition peacekeeping operations, particularly multinational efforts involving peacekeeping challenges like insurgency, terrorism, crime



Cultural Spectacle. Mongolian wrestlers compete during the opening ceremony of Khaan Quest 2010 at Five Hills Training Area outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. U.S. and Mongolian soldiers gathered for cultural performances to kick off the exercise.

Photo: Courtesy of Khaan Quest 2010 Exercise Staff

and ethnic conflict. The exercise aimed to cultivate readiness and interoperability which can translate into success in such conflicts.

"The Khaan Quest Exercise is important because it helps build the relationship between the Mongolian Army and the Alaska Army National Guard and better prepares both elements, not only for this mission but other missions involving joint operations and military forces from various supporting nations," Harrington said. ■

International Training Exercise. Service members of the U.S. Army, Alaska Army National Guard and Mongolian Armed Forces march during the Khaan Quest 2010 closing ceremony at Five Hills Training Area in Mongolia. Khaan Quest 2010 included planning and executing a battalion level command post exercise, constructing a humanitarian civic assistance project in the Songinokhairkhan district of Ulaanbaatar and executing a medical readiness exercise in Omnogobi Aimag.

Photo: Specialist Jill King, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Alaska National Guardsmen Provide Medical Support in Khaan Quest

By Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia ... Three Alaska National Guard members provided medical support for U.S. and Mongolian troops during Khaan Quest 2010.

Lieutenant Colonel Rebecca Young, a nurse practitioner from the Alaska Army National Guard Medical Detachment, served as the medical officer for Khaan Quest 2010. She led a team of two medics – Sergeant Tara Gardner, also a member of the Medical Detachment, and Sergeant Edward Antonio of the 297th Military Police Company in Juneau.

Gardner was assigned to the command post exercise at Five Hills Training Area outside Ulaanbaatar, while Antonio provided medical support at the humanitarian and civic assistance project site in the Songinokhairkhan District 22nd Horoo. Young traveled between the two sites, guiding and supervising the medics while also providing a training environment to further develop their skills.

The team primarily supported U.S. Soldiers, but they also treated U.S. exercise instructors and support staff, Mongolian Armed Forces service members and Mongolian civilian support staff. They worked in conjunction with a Mongolian civilian doctor and a psychiatrist from Singapore.

On arrival in Mongolia, the team established urgent care protocols and a sick call area at each site. They evaluated each environment and conducted health and welfare checks of U.S. and Mongolian personnel.

“We got an idea of who was here and identified any chronic conditions,” Young said. “We watched them [U.S. and Mongolian personnel] in all of their environments – we observed work areas, ate in the same dining hall and slept in the same quarters so that we continuously assessed for any risks.”

Antonio said the most fulfilling aspect of his mission was the opportunity to treat Mongolian Armed Forces soldiers. He conducted prenatal counseling through a translator and identified a cataract in a 54-year-old Mongolian soldier's eye.

“It was an honor to have the Mongolian Armed Forces trust us,” Antonio said. “We built a rapport so that if any of their soldiers needed attention, they came to us. The experience of treating soldiers from other countries was a unique opportunity.”

All three of the Alaska National Guard medical support team members have civilian careers in the medical field. Gardner explained that medics are required to hold national certification as emergency medical technicians, which she feels makes Guardsmen more employable in civilian medical fields. ■

Field Medicine. Sergeant Edward Antonio, a medic with the Alaska Army National Guard's 297th Military Police Company from Juneau, treats a cut on the arm of Sergeant Galbadrehk Galae, Mongolia Armed Forces. Galae was being treated on the humanitarian and civic assistance project site in the Songinokhairkhan District of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Antonio was responsible for providing medical support to U.S. and Mongolian participants of Khaan Quest 2010.

Photo: Specialist Jill King, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



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STRENGTHENING COMMAND SKILLS

By Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ... Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers and Mongolian Armed Forces members sharpened their command and operations skills during a command post exercise at Five Hills Training Area during Khaan Quest 2010.

Alaska Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Simon Brown, commander of the 761st Military Police Battalion based in

Juneau, served as one of the U.S. battalion commanders during the exercise. He explained that while the U.S. participants offered insight on battalion staff planning and operations, their Mongolian counterparts shared expertise in peacekeeping operations.

"The CPX is a command and control operation that takes young officers from America and Mongolia and teaches them



Command Strategies. As part of Khaan Quest 2010, Captain Abai Konad, left, of the Mongolian Armed Forces, explains his operational strategies to Sergeant First Class Homer Nunooruk, Alaska Army National Guard 38th Troop Command, during the command post exercise. Konad and Nunooruk worked side by side as counterparts in the Brigade Tactical Operations Center throughout the command post exercise. Photo: Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs



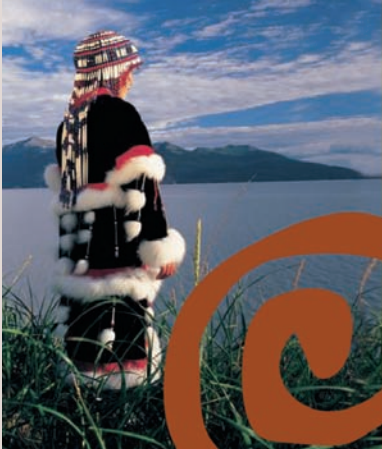
Courtside in Mongolia. The sun sets over Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia, as members of the Alaska Army National Guard and Mongolian Armed Forces play basketball after training at Khaan Quest 2010. The Mongolians and Alaskans participated in a command post exercise each day, shared meals and spent time together in the evenings. Khaan Quest 2010 is an annual bilateral peacekeeping operations training exercise.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

the finer points of command, control and planning," Brown said. "The Mongolians' extensive history in peacekeeping operations and our multiple experiences in combat operations combine to build a really great training venue. By sharing this knowledge, Soldiers from both countries become more well rounded and are better able to work together in real-world situations."

This is the eighth year for the Alaska National Guard's involvement in the exercise, which is driven by the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program that pairs the Alaska National Guard with Mongolian forces.

Training in battalion staff level operations during the command post exercise supports the Mongolian defense reform program's goal to establish and globally deploy battalion assets in peacekeeping operations in accordance with NATO standards. As the Mongolian and U.S. participants work side by side, they develop cohesive battalion-level mission plans. ■



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Glacier Rescue. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter waits five miles from the Knik Glacier crash site for the weather to clear before making another attempt to reach the survivors of a plane crash. Photo: Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell, Alaska Air National Guard



Rescue on Knik Glacier

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... After several failed rescue attempts and bad weather obstacles, the Alaska Air National Guard successfully rescued five people involved in an aircraft crash on Knik Glacier in August.

"The pilot had taken his father's plane on a sightseeing trip from Palmer over the Knik Glacier," said Technical Sergeant Kenneth Bellamy, 11th Rescue Coordination Center controller, Alaska Air National Guard. "They were scheduled to return to Palmer, but the 406 beacon gave us coordinates that the plane was on Knik Glacier."

Alert crews with the Alaska Air National Guard launched an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and HC-130 Hercules with pararescuemen on board to the coordinates of the personal locator beacon, at approximately the 8,500-foot level on Knik Glacier.

"Weather at those high altitudes and the cloud deck prevented us from getting to the aircraft," Bellamy said. "With it getting late, and the weather not improving, we started to look at alternative means of getting help to the people up there."

To add to the urgency of the situation, the five people involved in the aircraft accident did not have any survival gear, and according to family were only wearing light clothing when they departed.

That night, a Guardian Angel team, consisting of combat rescue officer Major Jesse Peterson and pararescuemen Master Sergeant Al Lankford, Technical Sergeant Chris Uriarte and Technical Sergeant Angel Santana were put down at a lower elevation to hike to the coordinates of the locator beacon.

"The Guardian Angel team was inserted about four miles away from the aircraft site with shelter, food and gear," said First Lieutenant John Romspert, combat rescue officer, 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

Unfortunately blizzard-like weather conditions, cloud cover from the ground to 13,000 feet and 70-mile-per-hour winds delayed the ground crew from reaching the crash victims. Attempts from the air to get to the distressed crew were also blocked because of bad weather.

However, using mountaineering skis and towing sleds full of gear that weighed 100-150 pounds each, two of the four members of the Guardian Angel team managed to reach the downed aircraft the next evening and were able to provide much needed food and resources to the five people on scene.

"We were split into two teams of two, and with the whiteout conditions on the glacier, we were separated from each other," Lankford said. "There were some pretty hairy crevasses to cross, and we ended up travelling about 2,000 feet up the glacier, but we eventually made it to the crash site too."

The next day, the 11th Rescue Coordination Center requested support from an Alaska State Trooper helicopter, but after several attempts to reach the crash site at the 8,500-foot level of the glacier, the helicopter had to return to Palmer because of continued poor weather conditions.

Air Refueling. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter prepares to aerial refuel with an HC-130 over the Knik Glacier during a rescue mission in August.

Photo: Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell, Alaska Air National Guard





Total Force Cooperation. A CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, brings a disabled Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to the Palmer Municipal Airport in August after the damaged helicopter was sling loaded off Knik Glacier. The Alaska National Guard and U.S. Army teamed up to recover the disabled Black Hawk, which slid and rolled over on the glacier while it was attempting to rescue five people involved in an aircraft accident. Photo: Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

Later in the afternoon two Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks were asked to assist. One of the Black Hawks landed on Knik Glacier but sustained heavy damage when it slid and rolled over on the glacier. The three crew members on board were uninjured, and the second Black Hawk returned to base.

The RCC immediately dispatched an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and HC-130 with additional supplies and hopes of reaching the eight people now stranded on the glacier.

With a break in the weather, the Guard was able to rescue three of the original plane crash victims and dropped another week's worth of supplies. The following afternoon, an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk was able to land on the glacier and ferry the remaining people to a lower elevation in the Knik River valley.

"The fact the HH-60 reached us is a true testament to the helo crew, because there were very challenging weather conditions they were flying in," Lankford said. "Everything was white, so we set up our skis as a lane

so they could use them as a reference and even popped smoke to help them with wind on the glacier."

"Alaska provides exceptional challenges, which allow the great men and women of the Alaska National Guard the opportunity to excel at what they do and come through every time," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "Each of these events provides unparalleled training and prepares them to save lives while deployed around the world or working right here at home."

The Alaska Air National Guard was credited with eight saves for this mission. ■



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Tragic C-17 Crash Claims Four Airmen's Lives

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Four Airmen were killed when a C-17 crashed here during a rehearsal for an air show July 28. Three were members of the Alaska Air National Guard and the other was on active-duty at Elmendorf.

Majors Michael Freyholtz and Aaron Malone, pilots assigned to the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron, Captain Jeffrey Hill, a pilot assigned to Elmendorf's 517th Airlift Squadron, and Senior Master Sergeant Thomas Cicardo, a 249th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, were killed in the C-17 crash.

"We came to work with immense sorrow after four of our fellow Airmen lost their lives in the C-17 crash at Elmendorf Air Force Base," said Brigadier General Charles E. Foster, 176th Wing commander, Alaska Air National Guard, following the accident. "They were more than valued Airmen; they were our teammates, friends, family members and fellow Alaskans. We mourn their loss and share the deep sadness of their families."

"These fallen warriors embody the pride and professionalism of American Airmen," said Colonel John McMullen, 3rd Wing commander. "They selflessly served their country and will be sorely missed by our entire Arctic Warrior family."

A board of officers is currently investigating the accident. ■



Honoring Fallen Comrades. Brigadier General Charles Foster, commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, renders a salute in front of the memorial display in honor of four Airmen who died in a C-17 Globemaster III crash in July. Foster and his wife, Julie, placed a wreath at the display during the Arctic Thunder 2010 Air Show at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



C-17 Memorial Display. An Airman places flowers at the C-17 memorial on display at the Arctic Thunder Air Show 2010. Comrades and community members placed photographs and flowers in front of a C-17 Globemaster III in memory of Alaska Air National Guard members Major Michael Freyholtz, Major Aaron Malone, and Senior Master Sergeant Thomas Cicardo and active duty Air Force Captain Jeffrey Hill.

Photo: Technical Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs

21-Gun Salute. During a memorial ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August, Airmen conduct a 21-gun salute to honor the four victims of a C-17 crash during the previous week. The C-17 crew included both Alaska Air National Guard and active duty Air Force members. Family and friends of the crew were surrounded by hundreds of service members who gathered in a C-17 hangar for the event.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



★ Major Aaron “Zippy” Malone

Major Aaron “Zippy” Malone served his country with distinction for more than 12 years in the Air National Guard. He received his commission as a second lieutenant from the Academy of Military Science in April 1998 and graduated from undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., in August 1999 with his Air Force pilot wings.

He was initially assigned to the Iowa Air National Guard, but later transferred to the 186th Fighter Squadron, Montana Air National Guard, where he flew the F-16 “Fighting Falcon.” During his tenure with the Montana Air National Guard, he piloted air sovereignty missions in the Sept. 11 aftermath for Operation Noble Eagle and deployed to the Korean Peninsula.

With Alaska as his home, Malone transferred into the Alaska Air National Guard in 2008, when it started to fly the C-17 “Globemaster III” aircraft. Malone took an extended military leave of absence from his civilian employer, Alaska Airlines, to help stand up the new 249th Airlift Squadron. Malone was described as a highly gifted pilot and rapidly upgraded to instructor pilot in the C-17.

He was a senior pilot with more than 2,100 military flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-16 and C-17 aircraft. He routinely flew combat missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in the C-17 aircraft.

Malone’s home town of record was Anchorage, Alaska. ■



★ Captain Jeffrey A. Hill

Captain Jeffrey A. Hill was a C-17A instructor pilot and operations flight commander with the 517th Airlift Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Hill began his military career in 1998 as an enlisted aircraft maintainer in the 12th Fighter Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base. He was called a phenomenal Airman, and he said he loved being an Airman in Alaska’s 3rd Wing.

After earning his commission in December 2002, he attended pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. A gifted aviator, he remained in Mississippi as a T-1 instructor pilot to train the next generation of Air Force pilots.

In 2007, Hill’s dream became reality when he was assigned to stand up the new C-17A squadron in Alaska. Hill was custom made for the challenging environment. He absolutely loved the outdoors; he was always traveling off road, hunting, fishing, camping and hiking. His assignment to the 517th was the kind of challenge he thrived on.

As a new C-17A pilot, with T-1 instructor experience, he accelerated through demanding training programs and leadership roles to ultimately become the operations flight commander and instructor in the tactical airlift mission. He was described as an amazing flight commander who took on additional squadron leadership roles.

He reinvigorated the booster club and motivated young Airmen to get and stay fit. He spent countless time mentoring younger Airmen to give back what the 12th Fighter Squadron leadership had given him. His trademark was a positive attitude, and his happiness and smile were infectious. Each problem was fun; each discussion was full of humor, and walking away without a gut laugh was rare.

Hill’s home town of record was York, Penn. ■





Major Michael H. Freyholtz

Michael H. Freyholtz joined the U.S. Air Force in May 1998 and received his officer commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He attended undergraduate pilot training



at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., where he received his Air Force pilot wings in May 2000.

Freyholtz was selected to fly the C-17 “Globemaster III” out of pilot training and attended initial C-17 qualification training at Altus Air Force Base, Okla. While on active duty, he was stationed at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and McChord Air Force Base, Wash., as a C-17 aircraft commander, instructor pilot and flight examiner.

Freyholtz left active duty to move to Alaska and join the Alaska Air National Guard in May 2007. He was the first outside pilot hired for the new 249th Airlift Squadron and was highly instrumental in its stand up. Initially, he served as a drill status Guardsman and worked for Boeing as a full-time C-17 simulator instructor. Later, he became a full-time technician with the Alaska Air National Guard in the 249th Airlift Squadron and led its standardization/evaluation section.

He was a very highly regarded C-17 pilot and the unit’s first C-17 flight examiner pilot and air show demonstration pilot. Most recently, he accompanied the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds throughout the Pacific and demonstrated the capabilities of the C-17 to thousands of air show spectators.

Freyholtz accumulated more than 3,500 military flying hours in the T-37, T-1 and C-17 aircraft. He flew 608 combat hours in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom for which he received the Air Medal.

Freyholtz’s home town of record was Hines, Minn. ■



Senior Master Sergeant Thomas E. Cicardo

Senior Master Sergeant Thomas E. Cicardo served his country with high distinction for more than 28 years in the Armed Forces of the United States. Prior to joining the Alaska Air National Guard, Cicardo served in the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He joined the Alaska Air National Guard in September 1997, and his wide ranging military background made him a greatly valued asset.

He spent his first 11 years in the Alaska Air National Guard in the 210th and 211th Rescue Squadrons, where he flew in the HC-130 aircraft. During his tenure in rescue, he carried out 58 search and rescue missions in Alaska, where he was credited with saving 66 lives and assisting 13 others to safety. He deployed multiple times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, flying combat search and rescue missions in Afghanistan and personnel recovery missions in the Horn of Africa.

In 2008, Cicardo was hand-picked to be part of the C-17 initial cadre to stand up the 249th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard. Cicardo checked out in the C-17 “Globemaster III” aircraft and quickly upgraded to instructor and flight examiner loadmaster. He helped build the training and standardization/evaluation functions in the squadron. His efforts were instrumental in the squadron receiving an “Outstanding” rating during a recent Pacific Air Force Standardization and Evaluation inspection, during which he was recognized as an “Outstanding Performer.”

Throughout the course of his military career, Cicardo accumulated 5,400 flying hours in the C-141, C-130, HC-130 and C-17 aircraft and visited countless countries. He was a highly decorated combat veteran receiving more than 30 awards and decorations including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Air Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Cicardo’s home town of record was Anchorage, Alaska. ■





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Veterans

Remembering Our Lost Veterans

By Verdie Bowen, State Veterans Office

CAMP DENALI, Alaska

... This past quarter, we lost several members of our Alaskan veteran family. Former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens and the members of our fallen C-17 crew bring great memories to many.

We also lost another great veteran, who many may not have known personally, but whose work truly helped others in Alaska. Maurice (Moe) Bailey served in the U.S. Army as an aviation crew chief, with two full tours in Vietnam before he retired in 1976. There are volumes to be written about his military service, but it was his service in Alaska that made him stand out. Through this service,

he showed his true nature as one of the state's great veterans.

Bailey had a commitment to veterans that made him beam. He said that each time he flew into a remote area of Alaska, he found a new friend who needed help. So he helped fly veterans back to Anchorage for VA appointments and then took much needed supplies back on the return trips. He eventually started the Veterans Aviation Outreach.

Everyone who met Bailey came away a better person, and through this contact, they soon learned what his loves in life were: flying, assisting veterans in need and loving his wife, Ann.



High Honors. During the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs 2007 Veterans Day program, Governor Sean Parnell, then-lieutenant governor, presents Maurice Bailey with the Governor's Veterans Advocacy Award. Bailey, a 20-year service veteran, was chosen for the award based on his active participation in veterans organizations and for starting the Veterans Aviation Outreach program. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

In June, I spoke before the State of Alaska Senate Armed Services Committee on the need for veteran rural health care, but it was Bailey who helped others understand the plight of veterans

located in the Bush. I was merely relaying his message.

Each one of us can make a difference in the lives of others if we take the time to stop, listen and help, as Bailey did. ■

Veterans Summit Meets to Improve Services

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Improving veteran services was the goal at this year's second annual Veterans Summit.

The event was the culmination of six months of town hall meetings across the state that addressed concerns to help better the lives of veterans. The summit brought together a large number of key veterans, as well as elected and appointed officials who worked to establish changes and policies that will positively affect veterans in Alaska.

This year's summit also brought a new motto for the Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs: "*Serving Alaska, One Veteran at a Time.*"

The event, held in June, had more than 200 people in attendance at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center in Wasilla. From there, a final report will be presented to the Alaska State Legislature Joint Armed Services Committee and the governor in February 2011.

The hosts of the 2010 Veterans Summit were the State Veterans Caucus, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

With 77,000 veterans, Alaska is home to more veterans per capita than any other state. ■



Honoring An Aircrew. During the 2010 Veterans Summit, state Senator Charlie Huggins, left, and Brigadier General Deborah McManus, right, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Air National Guard, join Major Krista Staff, second from left, and Captain Allison Snow, after the two were presented with a State of Alaska Legislative citation. Both Staff and Snow are members of the Alaska Air National Guard 249th Airlift Squadron and were part of the first all-female aircrew from the 176th Wing who flew a mission to Idaho earlier this year. The legislative citation honored that accomplishment. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Guardsmen Help Move Village of Newtok to Mertarvik



Hauling Equipment.

Load team members prepare to tie down the KingFisher boat for its journey to Bethel. The joint effort spanned all branches and services including Active, Guard and Reserve units.

Photo: Second Lieutenant George "Bernie" Kale, 176th Wing Public Affairs

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Alaska National Guardsmen are making a difference in the lives of villagers in rural Alaska as they support the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps, with moving the village of Newtok.

The village, which is built close to the Ninglick River in southwest Alaska and has a population of roughly 350 people, is slowly washing away, as every year more than 50 feet of Newtok's coast erodes into the river and ocean. Like many places in Alaska, the village is accessible only by air or boat, making the move of the village to a spot nine miles away even more challenging.

With the help of the Alaska National Guard, Newtok is being moved to the new village site of Mertarvik, which means "place where you get water," named for the nearby spring.

The project is slated to take five years and is part of the Innovative Readiness Training Program, which combines the needs of communities like Newtok with the training needs of the U.S. military.

"IRT supports many projects at more than 30 locations in the United States," said Captain Karen Trueblood, Pentagon IRT director. "We provide funding to the units that can be used to cover the costs to transport equipment or supplement annual training funds."

The Marines, who are building a road across the spongy summer tundra to Nelson Island, are supported by Alaska Army National Guardsmen aircrews from Bethel and Anchorage, in addition to Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 168th Air Refueling Wing and 176th Wing.

"We've flown more than 100 Marines and Airmen to the site of Mertarvik this summer alone," said Captain Michele Edwards, Alaska Army National Guard. "Our focus this year is to help the Marines with building a road from the barge landing site to the village."

In addition to transporting counterparts from other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, the Guard has also transported



Aerial View of Mertarvik Camp. Food was prepared by the field feeding team in the area near the blue container, left, and transported to the dining facility in the group of tents at far right – a distance of approximately a quarter mile.

Photo: Master Sergeant Jason De Heus, 168th Air Refueling Wing

propane, food, mail, and other supplies necessary to support the mission and has been available to provide emergency medevac support.

The Alaska Air National Guard also transported a U.S. Navy Kingfisher boat on a C-17 to Bethel to assist in moving the village to Mertarvik.

"The Alaska National Guard, working closely with other state and federal agencies, is providing important resources and support to the villagers of Newtok," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "We are exceptionally fortunate to have the IRT program, in conjunction with a multitude of other government agencies, provide the funding and resources needed for a community emergency evacuation route. This concurrently provides the great men and women of our military with unmatched productive training to exercise and stay sharp in their military specialties." ■

Special Delivery. Alaska Air National Guardsmen head back to a C-17 Globemaster III after delivering a U.S. Navy KingFisher boat to Bethel, Alaska. The KingFisher will assist in moving the village of Newtok to Mertarvik.

Photo: Second Lieutenant George "Bernie" Kale, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Mobile Kitchen Feeds the Forces

By 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Alaska Air National Guardsmen assigned to the 168th Air Refueling Wing and 176th Wing teamed up to provide logistical support and a single-pallet expeditionary kitchen as part of a military Innovative Readiness Training Program to move an Alaska village this summer.

Members from the Force Support Flights of the two wings formed a field feeding team, providing three hot meals a day to 50 Sailors, Airmen and Marines through an expeditionary kitchen. Two rotations of four Guardsmen spent a month of their summer working 17-hour days, 7 days a week.

One challenge the group had to overcome was transporting food to the dining facility from the single-pallet expeditionary kitchen, which was located near the only potable water area on the camp. Food was prepared in the expeditionary kitchen, then transported to the dining facility located approximately a quarter of a mile away.



Chefs at Work. Senior Airman Miles Wong, front, 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, prepares jambalaya for the camp with Master Sergeant Stephen Hoffman, of the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Photo: Master Sergeant Jason De Heus, 168th Air Refueling Wing

"In being a member of the Alaska Air National Guard, it has always been a noble thing for any of us to deploy and serve our country. Having the opportunity to deploy right here in your own state makes all the more impact," said Master Sergeant Jason De Hues, 168th Air Refueling Wing.

"We not only supported the joint military forces, but we also helped with the ongoing efforts of relocating the village of Newtok. It's a great way to get out and see our beautiful state, do something positive and give back." ■

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Alaska Emergency Preparedness Youth Explorer Conference

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Fifty-two future first responders honed emergency response skills at the Second Annual Alaska Emergency Preparedness Youth Explorer Conference held in Fairbanks in July.

The explorers, ages 14 to 20 years old, came from across Alaska and returned home equipped with a variety of emergency

preparedness, fire, police and EMS skills to call on in time of need. Conference course offerings included emergency medical scenarios, search and rescue, American Heart Association First Aid CPR/AED, crime scene investigation, interior fire attack, water rescue, moulage (the art of simulating wounds), vehicle fires and vehicle extrication.

Not only did this year's 10-day conference enable explorers to develop specialized knowledge in specific disciplines, but it built trust, teamwork and leadership skills as well.

The partnership required to put on the conference was also important. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management teamed up with the Army National Guard, the U.S. Army at Fort Wainwright, the volunteer fire departments of North Star, North Pole, and Steese, the

Fairbanks Police Department and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Fire Science program.

The collaboration and cooperation developed during the planning phase has forged critical relationships which can be called on during disasters.

"Emergency response organization support of the Alaska Emergency Preparedness Youth Explorer Conference mirrored the way responders operate in the real world – different emergency response disciplines working in unison toward a common goal," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

"This was a huge grassroots undertaking involving hundreds of hours of volunteer effort by more than 40 Explorer

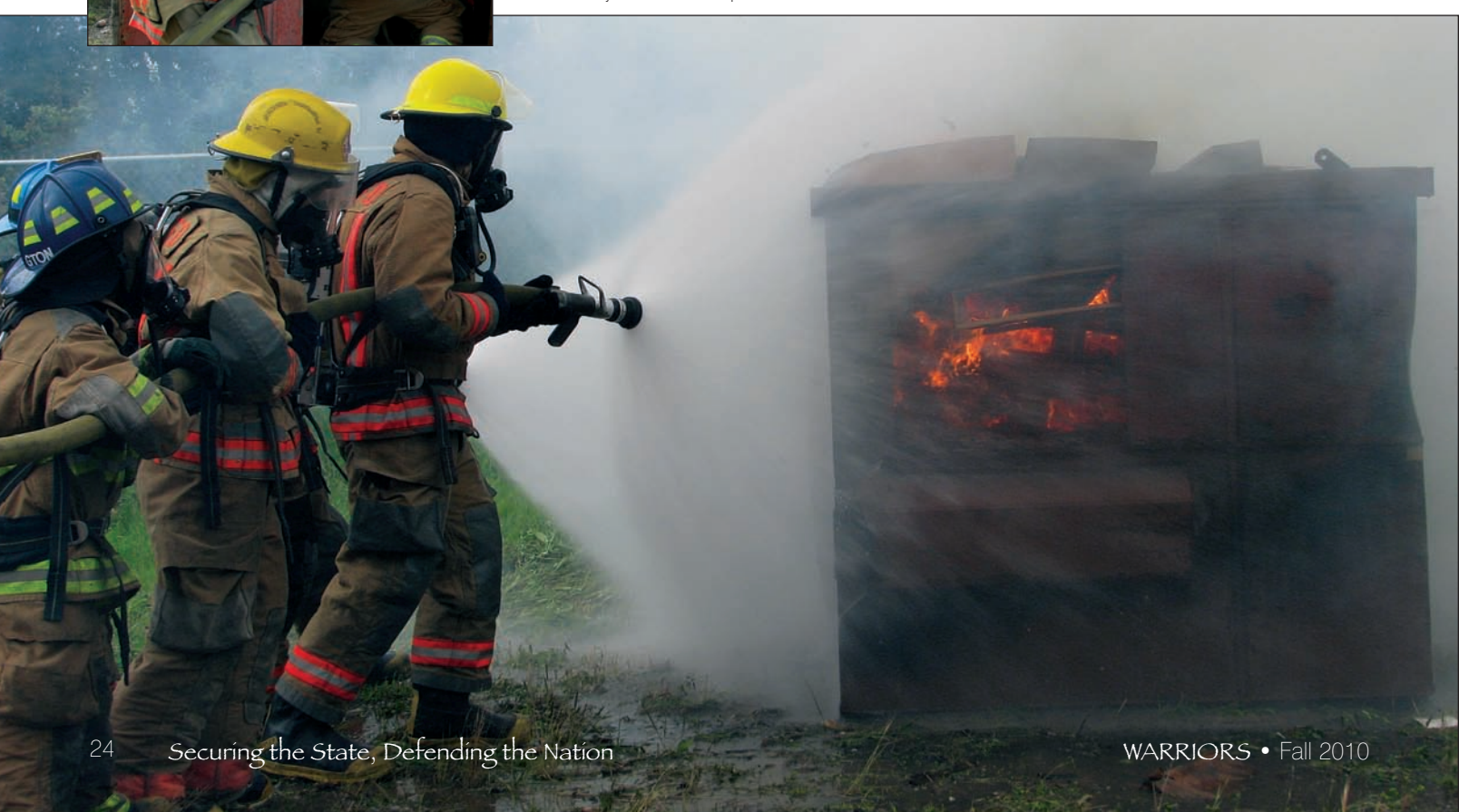


Fire Attack. Explorers learn to communicate and find their way in a smoky, enclosed environment at the North Star Volunteer Fire Department burn area, practicing skills that can someday save their lives or those of others.

Photos: Courtesy of Fairbanks Police Department Volunteers in Police Service

Fighting the Flames. Explorers attack a dumpster fire with two lines, pushing the flames back with a wide spray at the North Pole Fire Station burn area. During the Alaska Emergency Preparedness Youth Explorer Conference, explorers learned how to attack a variety of fires including car, interior, exterior and wild land fires.

Photo: Courtesy of Fairbanks Police Department Volunteers in Police Service



Water Rescue. Explorer students learn techniques for rescuing people in slow-moving water at the Chena River from University of Alaska Fairbanks Fire Science Program instructors. Photo: Courtesy of Fairbanks Police Department Volunteers in Police Service

Post advisors, instructors, liaisons and others, 12 of whom volunteered for the entire conference,” said Robert Tanner, DHS&EM outreach coordinator.

The week of emergency response training concluded with team competitions at the Fort Wainwright Military Operations in Urban Terrain site. Events included a fire hose assembly drill, a crime scene evidence search exercise, a triage station and a hazardous material decontamination simulation.

When training was complete, explorers put their skills to use as volunteers at multiple venues including the Golden Days Street Fair in Fairbanks where they helped to reunite five families who became separated at the festival. Explorers used their security and crowd control experience to locate the lost individuals and return them safely to their families.

“The next generation of emergency responders will be well trained and have emergency response experience beyond their years,” said John Madden, DHS&EM director. “Many of the young people who participated will become Alaska’s future emergency responders. Others will be well



prepared to assist their families and neighborhoods during disasters.”

“Although the explorers came from different places, backgrounds and interests, they came into the conference with open minds, ready to learn,” said Lorna Weese, Fairbanks Police Department Volunteers in Policing Service executive director and Alaska Emergency Preparedness Youth Explorer Conference director. “Throughout the course of the conference, their differences faded and the common goal of serving their communities and helping people emerged. The culture of teamwork

and mutual respect developed during this conference will stay with them as they enter various careers in public service and will benefit them as individuals as well as the departments they work for and the public they serve.”

Many Explorers have already chosen careers in police, fire, EMS or military service. They return to their communities better prepared for emergencies, part of a small group of volunteer and professional first responders who are the first to be called when disaster strikes. ■



Challenging Course, Increasing Self-Esteem. An explorer chooses her next step carefully during the high ropes course, “Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience.” The course, located at the Midnight Suns Council Boy Scouts of America, takes willing participants high above the ground to increase focus and self-esteem. Photo: Courtesy of Fairbanks Police Department Volunteers in Police Service

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Education



Proud Graduate. Cadet Tessa Wallis, of Fairbanks, receives her diploma from Alaska Military Youth Academy Commandant Vicki L. Garner during a graduation ceremony in August. She joins the more than 2,700 cadets who have graduated from the program since 1994. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Diploma Pride. Cadet Jeremiah Alexander, of Fort Yukon, receives his diploma from Alaska Military Youth Academy Commandant Vicki L. Garner after successfully completing the five-and-a-half-month program of academics, community service, and military-style discipline and training during the AMYA Challenge program. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Graduation Cheers. Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets cheer as they are dismissed following their graduation in August. Nationally recognized as a top program, the Alaska Military Youth Academy has ranked number one in the nation for contact and recruitment of high school dropouts.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates 156 Cadets

By DMVA Public Affairs Staff

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Military Youth Academy graduated 156 at-risk youth from its ChalleNGe program in late August at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage.

After a five-and-a-half-month residential phase of the AMYA ChalleNGe program that focused on academics, community service, and military-style discipline and training, the 156 graduates joined the more than 2,700 cadets who have graduated from the program since 1994.

Nationally recognized as a top program, the Alaska Military Youth Academy was previously awarded the "Most Progressive ChalleNGe Program" in the nation for 2008. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is also ranked number one in the nation for contact and recruitment of high school dropouts.

The guest speaker during the graduation ceremony was Louis Cabrera, assistant chief of the National Guard Bureau. Cabrera provides oversight and direction for resources and associated funding necessary to support the National Guard Bureau, the Army and Air National Guard and the Joint Staff.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to intervene to reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. ■



Top Honors. Cadet David Huff, Alaska Military Youth Academy, smiles with his parents, Darryl and Bridgett, after receiving a citation in June from the 26th Alaska Legislature honoring him as the 2010 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year for Alaska. Huff, who attends the Boys & Girls Club of Mountain View in Anchorage, also received a one-year University of Alaska Anchorage tuition scholarship and \$1,000 from the Reader's Digest Foundation. He was awarded for his efforts in academics and community service as well as for his commitment to family and peer role-modeling. Huff was one of 165 cadets at the Alaska Military Youth Academy who graduated from the ChalleNGe program in August. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



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Missile Defense

Photos by Staff Sergeant Jack W Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



Pre-Combat Check. Sergeant Jimmy Bates, military police officer, 2nd Platoon, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, conducts a pre-combat check on one of his squad members prior to the start of his shift. The Soldiers of A Company Military Police secure and defend the 800-acre Missile Defense Complex 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are all members of the Alaska Army National Guard



Documenting the Mission. Staff Sergeant Jonathan Meyer, weapons operator for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, conducts a training scenario in the new Ground-Based Missile Defense Systems Trainer for the U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs Office during its recent visit to document the battalion's mission. The battalion receives more than 100 visits a year, ranging from the nation's senior leaders to foreign dignitaries who come to the remote missile defense base to further understand current ballistic missile defense capability.



Field Training. Members of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Battery pause for a photo prior to the start of a React to Fire training exercise during a recent Sergeants Time training. Soldiers in the battery train weekly as a section or team to further enhance and perfect their Warrior Tasks and drills.



On Location. Command Sergeant Major Bradford Quigley, left, 49th Missile Defense Battalion sergeant major, provides guidance to Sergeant Dean Vandal, military police officer, 2nd Platoon, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, in the shadow of the Alaska Range and the Defense Satellite Communications System on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely.



Local Grocer Signs Statement of Support

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Three managers of Carrs Safeway each signed a statement of support for their Guard and Reserve employees in late August, showing their support of Alaska's National Guard and Reserve components. These managers join 900 employers who have signed a statement of support with their local Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee.

By signing the statement of support, Carrs Safeway recognizes, honors and enforces the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. In addition, the managers acknowledge that they have what they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

"Carrs Safeway employs many National Guardsmen and Reservists in Alaska. This signing assures those employees that Carrs Safeway supports their service to the country," said ESGR State Chairman Rich Owens. "I am asking all of Alaska's public employers to follow this example by not only also signing a statement of support, but also understanding and complying with Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act."

Carrs Safeway has always made a commitment to the community. The company donates more than one million pounds of food annually to nonprofit organizations and churches. ■



Signing Their Support. Steve Neilson, left, Abbott Road Carrs Safeway store manager, and Carrs Safeway district managers Rob Backus, center, and Glenn Peterson sign a statement of support for the Alaska ESGR committee in late August. By signing the statement, Carrs Safeway publicly displays its support of Alaska's National Guard and Reserve components in their defense of the state and nation. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

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Family Support

The Big Goodbye — *176th Wing Family Day*



By First Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... The 1,400 men and women of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing held their last annual Family Day celebration at Kulis Air National Guard Base in July.

The wing has hosted such celebrations since anyone can remember, but this year's Family Day celebration was special because it was the final one hosted at Kulis. In early 2011, the 176th Wing will leave Kulis — its home since 1954 — for its new facilities on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"Our organization is thriving, and we need room to grow. Elmendorf provides us with that room," explained the wing's commander, Brigadier General Chuck Foster, charged with overseeing the move. "But by the same token, we're very proud of this base, and we're definitely going to miss the neighborhood. We've accomplished a lot here in the last 56 years."

"Family Day gives us a great opportunity to celebrate those accomplishments, honor the heritage of those who paved the way, and — most importantly — thank our family members, whose support and sacrifice makes everything we do possible," he said. ■

Show Spectacular. The 176th Security Forces Squadron puts on a demonstration during the 176th Wing's Family Day celebration. This year's event marked the last time Kulis Air National Guard Base will be the host for the celebration, as the 176th Wing will settle into its new home on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson by 2011. Photo: First Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Family Fun. Families fill one of the hangars on Kulis Air National Guard Base to participate in games for the kids during the 176th Wing's Family Day celebration in July. Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs

The 168th Air Refueling Wing's Family Day. Senior Master Sergeant John LeBean, 168th Air Refueling Squadron, sits in the dunk tank during the Alaska Air National Guard 168th Air Refueling Wing annual Family Day celebration in July. His fellow Guard members voted him to sit in the dunk tank during the festivities held at the Chena Lake Recreation Area in North Pole. Similar to the 176th Wing's Family Day, the 168th Air Refueling Wing hosted a family celebration this summer.

Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



Strengthening a Partnership. Karen Forsland, left, U.S. Small Business Administration, Alaska district director, and Colonel Cathy Jorgensen, Alaska National Guard human resources director, sign a strategic alliance memorandum as part of the Alaska Yellow Ribbon Program. The Yellow Ribbon Program is a nonprofit federal program that provides information, services, referral and proactive outreach opportunities for service members, families, employers and youth throughout the entire deployment cycle. The strategic alliance memorandum is set to develop and foster mutual understanding and a working relationship between the Small Business Administration and Alaska Yellow Ribbon Program in order to strengthen and expand small business development in the local area. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

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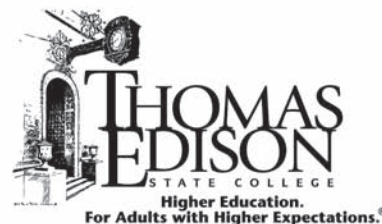
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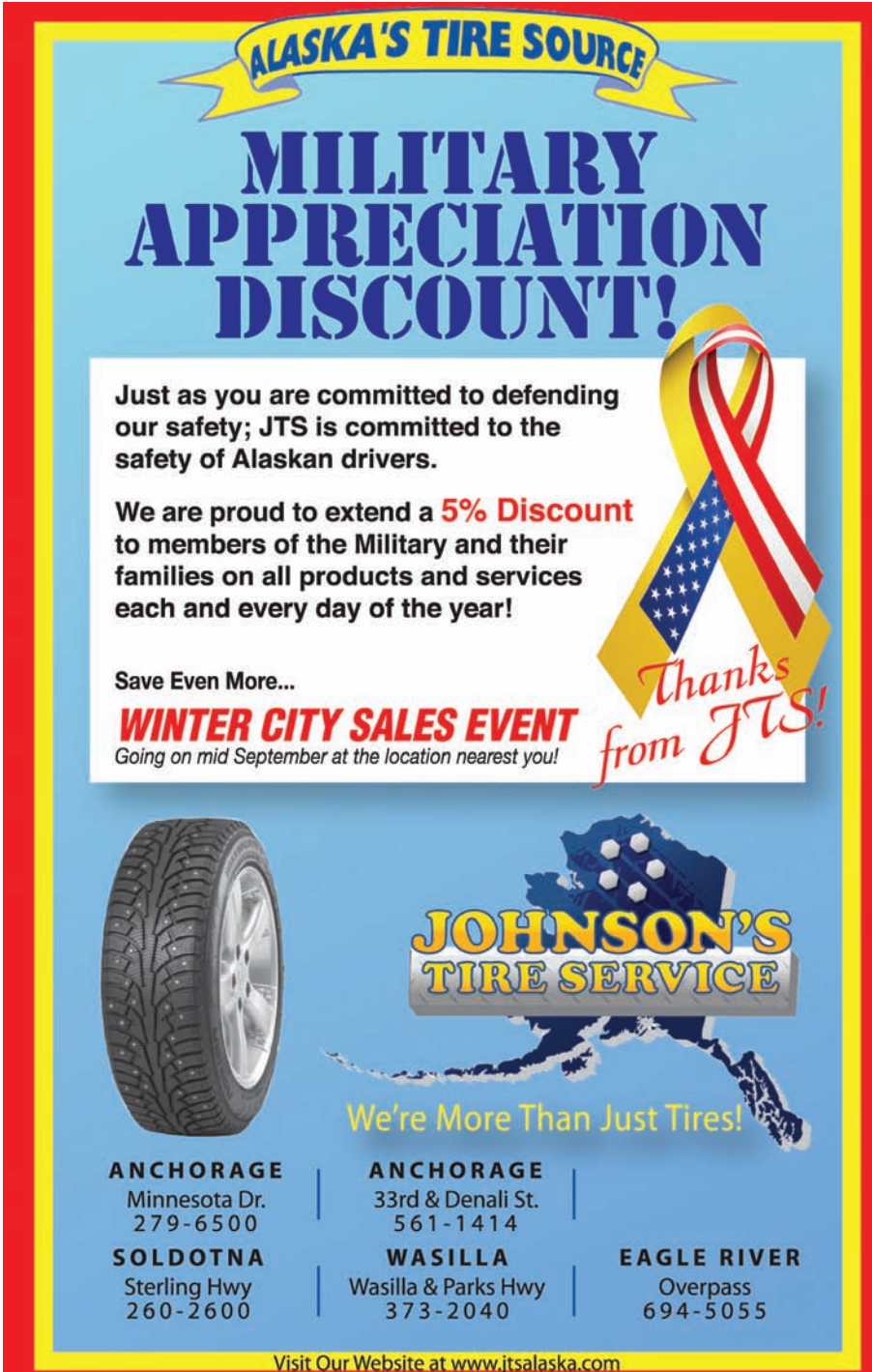
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Dominique Kempen
Brandon Frock
Gregory Walters
Aleksandr McGlothlin
Natalie Chisum
James Cunningham
Mark Llana
Sequoya Joseph
Trevor Tomlinson
Joseph Conroy
John Pascoe
Lacey Rosendahl
Blake Wangberg
Brett Wilson
Christopher Druesedow
Matt Depue
Samantha Guim
Michael Matlock
Edward Wyeth
Mariah Kusk
Christopher Khamphady
Randy Adams
Jacob Zwierra
Dennis Walker
Jeanne Gaines Rhude
Matthew Krylo
Jeremy Caneen

168th Air Refueling Wing

Kimber Sandback
Hilary Mahlen
Erica Olson
Timothy Nichols
Jared McDonald
Douglas Beam
Kenneth Jewitt
Ryan May
Kristina Lopez

207th Brigade Support Company

Ryan Cavaliere
Jasmine Hamilton
Anthony Scates
McKenzie Phelps

Kristin Steward
Kin Shaw
Christopher Moen
Sarah Elliott
Michael Grace
Christopher Booher
Wendy Tatham
Charity Cuning
Thomas Heit

297th Signal

Sela Vakauta
Kevin Thayer
Michelle Buchanan

297th Military Police Company

Jesse Adams
Tiffany Bacon
Jacob Rukovichnikoff
Kevin Ronchetti
Bryan Hildreth
Brian Clausson

297th Cavalry

Nikiefer Myers
Dustin Davis
Joseph Kelly
John Day
Kurtis Freeman

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Jennifer Henderson
Maika Graf
Dael Thomas

143rd Infantry (Airborne)

Cyrus Pete
Douglas Garn
Samuel Singletary

297th Reconnaissance & Surveillance

William Southard
Christopher Baker
Marshall Hill

207th Aviation

Adam Weber
Trinnette Dejean



20 Years of Saving Lives. A 212th Rescue Squadron pararescuer from the Alaska Air National Guard parachutes down to the flight line at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during a capabilities exercise in June. He jumped from a 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130 Hercules moments earlier. The exercise was part of a larger celebration honoring the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons and their 20th anniversary of rescue in Alaska. During the last two decades, the rescue squadrons have saved more than 1,000 lives through their search and rescue efforts throughout the state.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes,
DMVA Public Affairs

Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for most Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. All dates are subject to change.

	November	December	January
Alaska National Guard			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	6-7	4-5	8-9
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	5-7	4-5	8-9
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	5-7	3-5	7-9
38th Troop Command	6-7	4-5	7-9
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	6-7	4-5	8-9
176th Wing	6-7	4-5	8-9
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	13-14	11-12	15-16

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS



TOOLS TO TACKLE THE TERRAIN

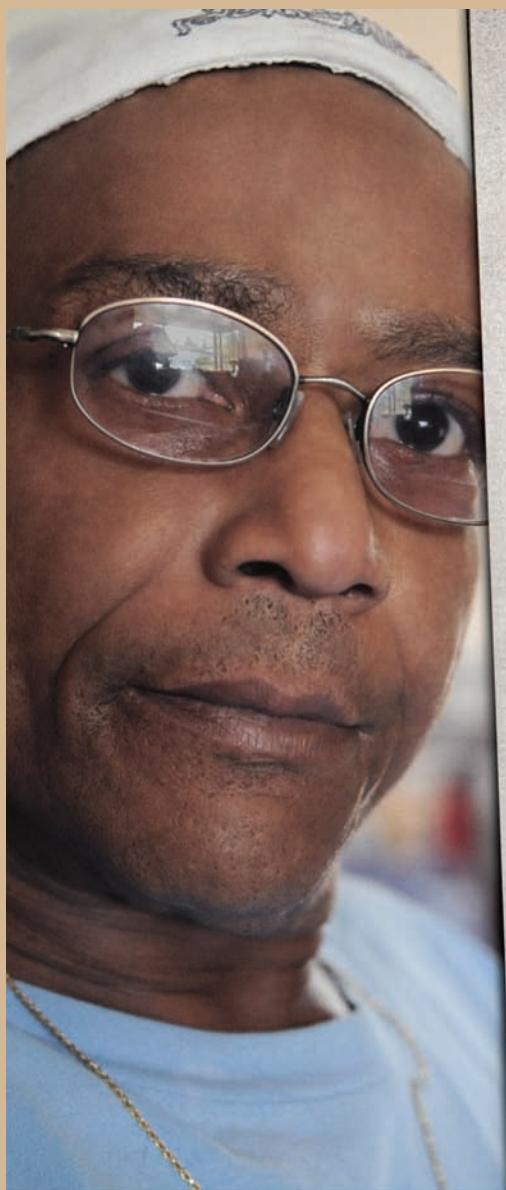


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