

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

FALL 2011

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<http://dmva.alaska.gov>



Cover. Alaska Army and Air National Guardsmen stand ready to support the needs of Alaska and the nation.

Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



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

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

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HOW TO REACH US

Letters: Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. **Submissions:** Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members,

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



Dear Warriors,

As Alaskans, we are well aware that disaster may strike in many forms across our state. And being a resilient people, we are always ready to respond and rebuild. Recently, this resiliency was exemplified in Crooked Creek, Alaska. This community was hit hard with ice-jam flooding that destroyed 14 homes. With the help of the community and many volunteers, the destroyed homes were rebuilt, on higher ground, with climate-friendly building plans designed by the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cold Climate Housing Research Center. As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated Alaska as an example of public-private partnerships to quickly produce better housing, allowing families to start rebuilding their lives.

Alaskans also deploy beyond Alaska's borders when needed. Our Alaska Air National Guard rescue squadrons assisted the East Coast response aid to Hurricane Irene's strike. Forty-five of our National Guard members deployed to West Virginia on 24 hours notice. A C-17 with two Pave Hawk helicopters arrived on the East Coast providing aid and on-site assistance. These Airmen are continually prepared to respond to a call for help and save lives.

At home in Alaska, we are taking the initiative to ensure that Alaskans are prepared to respond to potential catastrophic events. I met with my cabinet recently in the State Emergency Coordination Center to focus on the roles and responsibilities of our departments and leaders in the event of a major disaster or emergency. Continuity within our government is essential to our

preparedness and success, allowing state employees to join the recovery and rebuilding effort. Additionally, we are working to ensure individual families and households are ready. Each family needs to have a kit, make a plan and be prepared to respond to any disaster situation.

I am thankful to represent and serve with Alaskans who consistently demonstrate their resilience and the spirit of The Last Frontier.

Best regards,

Sean Parnell
Governor

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The Adjutant General



Major General Thomas H. Katkus

Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Preparedness Starts Early

Preparedness starts at an early age, and we must grow it in our youth so they can be self-sufficient adults.

This fall we celebrated the cadets of the Alaska Military Youth Academy. The graduates of class 2011-2 set a school record as the largest class to graduate from the program, with 168 finishing the resident portion of the class. This is not the end but the beginning of a new life with discipline and design. We will continue to work with the cadets in a formal relationship for 12 months in the non-resident portion of the program. After this time, if the cadet is working full-time, enrolled in school full-time or a member of the military, he or she has achieved success.

Your Alaska National Guard has demonstrated success through numerous deployments. The Army National Guard's B Company, 1-207th Aviation, came back from a 12-month deployment to Iraq, flying the four-star commanding general around the theater of operations in our Black Hawk helicopters. Our commitment to mission success set a new standard for General Lloyd Austin. Our troops never missed a mission during the entire deployment. In fact, we were so detail-oriented, General Austin didn't even realize his flight crews had changed until a week into the Alaska rotation, when he noticed the different patches on our troops' uniforms.

The Air National Guard flew the last critical mile in Afghanistan this summer, supporting troops on the ground with critical supply drops that kept coalition members supplied and ready for the fight. This is the first time our C-130 pilots and crew have been flying this tactical mission, as the Air Force moves certain weapons systems from strategic positions to better support the ground mission. During the three-month deployment, our Airmen stepped up to the challenge and delivered success and support to our dedicated Soldiers on the ground. This was a very dangerous job, but our Airmen showed courage, completing every mission while keeping every crew member safe.

The veterans in Alaska add a level of knowledge to our community and serve as a model of selfless service that makes us more resilient in Alaska than any other

state. The Veterans Summit was held in Fairbanks this year, and the current issues facing veterans were addressed. We are adding three veteran service officers to help 9/11 GI Bill recipients wade through the federal bureaucracy to get their hard-earned benefits. One VSO will be at each main University of Alaska campus in

Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau and will be available to assist veteran students and other veterans in the community as well.

We maintain the commitment to setting a national standard of excellence in preparedness from our youth to our elders, and we will do this by taking care of each other every step of the way. ■

Editor's Note:

New to this issue, you will find QR codes next to several stories throughout *Warriors* magazine. Use your smart phone or any QR code reader for a more interactive experience and a more in-depth look at the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Scan the codes and you will see high-speed video stories or be connected to web links to complement the features you read in the magazine. We hope you enjoy watching the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs in action.

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Dispatches from the Front...



National Guard Units Provide Needed Supplies, Save Lives

By Master Sergeant Mary Davis,
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan ...

Soldiers in an austere Afghanistan province received much needed provisions thanks to the joint efforts of the Alaska and New York Air National Guard units during their first formation airdrop.

Members of the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron dropped approximately 20,000 pounds of cargo to Soldiers on the ground in the Oruzgan Province in June. The aircrews were tasked to perform two back-to-back missions, which tested their skills and strengthened them as a team.

"We flew a two-ship formation airdrop of C-130s supporting Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in southern Afghanistan," said 774th EAS commander Lieutenant Colonel Rich Adams from the



Supplies Via C-130. Technical Sergeant James Castagna, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, C-130 Hercules flight engineer at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, assists his pilot while flying aboard a C-130 with supplies for a forward operating base in Oruzgan Province in June. Castagna is a member of the Alaska Air National Guard.

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

Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing in Anchorage. "We supported them by carrying food, fuel, ammunition and water to support forward operating bases in southern Afghanistan."

Despite having air crews from two separate Air National Guard units, they had one mission in mind – getting supplies downrange to combat forces on the ground.

"We delivered about 10 containers per aircraft at about 1,000 pounds per container," said Master Sergeant Timothy Griffin, a C-130 loadmaster from Buffalo, N.Y. "I ensured the cargo was balanced, so the weight was distributed evenly on the aircraft."

Griffin worked with the Army riggers at Bagram Airfield to prepare cargo pallets for the drop using the Improved Container Delivery System.

"The system enables accuracy by adjusting to wind data, terrain and other vital information affecting the airdrop," said Captain Tom Bradford, an active duty C-130 navigator from the 39th Airlift Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. "The ICDS collects data so aircraft speed and altitude can be adjusted."

Bradford provided his airdrop expertise to Air National Guard aircrews and served as an extra set of eyes on the flight. He also operates as continuity between Air National Guard units completing 90-day rotations in theater demonstrating the Total Force concept.

"It's challenging to work with different aircrews, but one benefit is learning how

people do things differently," Bradford said. "I've been deployed to this area twice, so I advise them about various aspects of the drop zones."

There is an inherent amount of risk when flying during the daytime, which is doubled when flying more than one aircraft to a drop area, said Lieutenant Colonel Chris Thurn, C-130 pilot and mission commander.

"These types of missions are typically flown at night," he said. "The second aircraft had to perform fluid travel maneuvers from the 3 to 9 o'clock positions to mitigate threats and keep from becoming predictable."

Exercises and training are a huge aspect of Thurn's work back at his home station. This helped his team perform flawlessly during the airdrop.

"As an instructor pilot and evaluator pilot, I put a lot of emphasis on training to make sure we are prepared," he said. "It's

the long term effects of what we do on a daily basis that make a difference. If I can help those on the ground, I'm proud to do this."

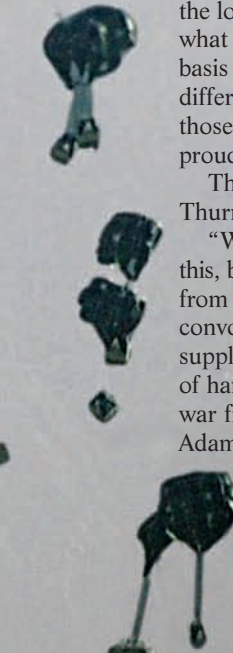
The commander echoed Thurn's sentiments.

"We take pride in doing this, because it keeps people from having to drive in convoys. Airdropping supplies keeps people out of harm's way and keeps war fighters in the fight," Adams said. ■



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

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



Airdrop Away! A C-130 Hercules from the New York Air National Guard airdrops much needed supplies to a forward operating base in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan, in June. The New York ANG C-130 flew the airdrop mission in conjunction with another C-130 from the Alaska ANG. Airdrops help mitigate the danger of transporting supplies via convoy. Photo: Senior Airman Krista Rose U.S. Air Force

Where in the World

Alaska Air National Guardsmen Deploy to Iraq

By Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... More than 30 Guardsmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing, based out of Eielson Air Force Base, departed from the United States in August to begin a six-month deployment in Iraq.

The Guard members from the 168th Security Forces Squadron completed their pre-deployment training on air bases in Florida and Nevada to prepare them for situations they may face while at Camp Victory in Baghdad.

"You always want more training," said Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Elliot, 168th Security Forces Squadron commander. "While it's been strenuous, we are as prepared as can be and ready to get our boots on the ground."

The primary mission of the deploying Guardsmen is to provide air base defense and entry control-point security.

"The security they are providing is vital to the accomplishment of the mission," said Colonel Timothy O'Brien, 168th Air Refueling Wing commander, Alaska Air National Guard. "They have been training for this type of environment, and I am confident they will succeed."

The Guard members left Alaska in early July to begin their training at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Some of the pre-deployment training included battle drills, entry control-point training, weapons systems, land navigation and terrain reading.

"We are extremely proud of our Airmen," O'Brien said. "They are serving our country and representing the state of Alaska with honor." ■

Mongolia



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Security Check. Dillingham resident, Sergeant Wayne Kapotak, 1st Platoon, B Company, 1-143rd Infantry (Airborne) Regiment, teamleader, searches Brigadier General J. Randy Banez, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, at the gate of the Combat Outpost in Donnelly Training Area on Fort Greely during the company's final pre-deployment training in Alaska. Butte resident, Specialist Joshua Seibert, also with B Company, 1-143rd Infantry (Airborne), provides security during the search.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Australia



Coined. Specialist Vernon Friday, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, rifleman from Chevak, Alaska, is coined by Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, in September during a visit to see B Company, 1-143rd Infantry (Airborne) Regiment during its final pre-deployment training in Alaska. The Soldiers conducted their final pre-deployment training at Fort Greely before they mobilize in November for a deployment to Afghanistan in February. Friday received the Sergeant Major of the Army coin for being an outstanding team leader. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Mongolia Partnership. Sergeant First Class Class Paul Wonder, G-3 operations non-commissioned officer, Alaska Army National Guard; Technical Sergeant Nina Kolyvanova, Joint Forces Headquarters survey team chief, Alaska Air National Guard; Master Sergeant Kristian Mauk, Joint Forces Headquarters, senior operations non-commissioned officer, Alaska Air National Guard; and First Sergeant Erik Schlemme, 1st Squadron, 297th Cavalry Reconnaissance & Surveillance, Alaska Army National Guard, inspect the HAZMAT equipment used by the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia. The team of Alaska National Guardsmen traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to participate in a hazardous materials information exchange as part of the Alaska State Partnership program in September.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Pararescuemen Jump. An Alaska Air National Guard pararescueman looks back into a Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak-based HC-130 Hercules airplane as he and three other pararescuemen jump out of the back of the plane during a joint rescue deployment exercise held north of Anchorage in June. The Coast Guard and the Air National Guard conducted the exercise in preparation for a search and rescue exercise in Barrow in July.

Photo: Petty Officer 1st Class David Mosley, U.S. Coast Guard

Deployed. Staff Sergeant Doug Mathes inspects a rail on a C-17 Globemaster III before loading 52,000 pounds of supplies on it in June at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Mathes is a loadmaster deployed from the 249th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

Photo: Senior Airman Natasha E. Stannard, U.S. Air Force



Machine Gun Training. Master Sergeant Jeremy Amstrup, 168th Security Forces Squadron, center, trains Staff Sergeant Lewis Foster, Senior Airman Reuben Wright, Senior Airman Jeffrey Enters and Senior Airman Kevin Ruedy on the .50-caliber machine gun during pre-deployment training at Eielson Air Force Base. More than 30 members from the unit deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in August. Photo: Courtesy of 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard



Pre-deployment Training. Members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron Technical Sergeant Christopher Adams and Senior Airman Rodney Phillips zero the M-24 sniper rifle in on the target during pre-deployment training at Eielson Air Force Base. More than 30 members from the unit deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in August. Photo: Courtesy of 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard

Alaska Army National Guard 49th Theater Gateway Trains in Australia

By Staff Sergeant Karima Turner,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Soldiers from the 49th Theater Gateway returned from Australia after participating in

the exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 in August.

Talisman Sabre, a biennial Australia-U.S. military training exercise and the largest joint military exercise hosted by Australia, involved 22,500 troops this year, as well as an estimated 18 sea vessels, 25 aircraft and 1,500 road vehicles.

Nine Soldiers from the 49th Theater Gateway merged with Soldiers from other military branches and countries to in- and out-process approximately 4,000 U.S. Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors during TS11.

“Talisman Sabre 2011 basically covered the eastern coast of Australia,” said Lieutenant Colonel John McShane Jr., 49th Theater Gateway commander. “We were getting reports from as far north as Darwin all the way down the coast to Canberra.”

One of the improvements that came out of the after-action report from Talisman Sabre 2009 is that many units and personnel showed up, but nobody knew where they were in the country, which made it difficult to account for all of them. The solution was to get the 49th Theater Gateway involved in Talisman Sabre 2011.

“We took the materials and information that we had from the by-name rosters, and we worked with the combined exercise support group S-1, who were immediately notified of what units had people in country,” McShane said. “By providing in- and out-processing data, S-1 could then go directly to each of the units for strength reporting.”

McShane said that working in a joint environment was an important opportunity for his Soldiers.

“The most important thing my Soldiers learned from this exercise is that they can successfully perform their mission overseas,” McShane said. “If Soldiers from the 49th Theater Gateway should ever deploy, they will have the confidence and ability to operate their systems overseas and know they can work with anyone they encounter and succeed.”

McShane said that overall he was pleased with his Soldiers’ performance and how they dealt with challenges that arose.

“I’m very proud of the 49th Theater Gateway – the Soldiers did a lot in a short amount of time,” McShane said. “The theater gateway was only established in 2008, but since then, we’ve gotten a lot of miles under our belt. My small unit has done a heck of a lot in a short time, and I think they’ve done a great job, got some really valuable experience, and several of them were challenged, stretched and succeeded. I look forward to their continued success in the future.” ■

Alaska National Guardsmen Receive Airman's Medal & Purple Heart

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... At a ceremony this July, an Alaska Air National Guardsman received the Airman's Medal for heroic actions during a June 2010 airplane crash, and a second Guardsman received the Purple Heart for wounds he received in action in Afghanistan, November 2010. Here are their award citations.

Captain Erik C. Boltman – Airman's Medal

“Captain Erik C. Boltman distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life near Anchorage, Alaska, on June 1, 2010. On that date, Captain Boltman, having witnessed the crash of a single-engine civilian aircraft less than 200 feet away, immediately and without hesitation rushed to the burning aircraft with a fire extinguisher to fight the flames and help remove the survivors. At great risk to his person and in spite of the intense smoke and threat of total engulfment in flames due to leaking aviation fuel, Captain Boltman struggled to remove a jammed aircraft door and then pulled the badly injured pilot from the burning aircraft.

“Having the presence of mind to question the pilot on the number of passengers, he directed and coordinated actions of civilian volunteers and authorities on



Airman's Medal. Captain Erik Boltman, a senior director with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Air Control Squadron, receives the Airman's Medal from his wing commander, Brigadier General Chuck Foster, at an awards ceremony in July. Boltman was awarded the medal for risking his life to save victims of a plane crash near Anchorage's Merrill Field in June 2010.

Salute. A crowd of Alaska Air National Guardsmen and their family members salute as an Air Force band plays The Star Spangled Banner. The crowd was there to see an awards ceremony in honor of two fellow Guard members – Staff Sergeant Jimmy Settle, a pararescuer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, and Captain Erik Boltman, a senior director with the 176th Air Control Squadron. Settle was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained in combat in Afghanistan; Boltman was awarded the Airman's Medal for risking his life to save victims of a plane crash near Anchorage's Merrill Field.

Photos: Captain John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



further rescue actions, accounting for two additional survivors. Despite the growing intensity of smoke and heat as the flames spread, Captain Boltman returned to the aircraft to assist in the removal of a fourth survivor pinned in the forward area of the aircraft. Upon learning that the pilot erred on the passenger count, Captain Boltman rushed a fourth time to the aircraft in the attempt to locate the last passenger but was driven back as the aircraft burst into flames.

"As response actions turned from survivor extraction to treatment, Captain Boltman rendered assistance in the treatment and safekeeping of the survivors until transported to medical facilities. Captain Boltman's unhesitant and determined humanitarian efforts, with complete disregard for his own safety, are directly attributable to saving four lives at great personal risk to his own. The exemplary courage and heroism displayed by Captain Boltman reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

Staff Sergeant Jimmy Settle – Purple Heart

"On Nov. 13, 2010, Senior Airman Settle was operating as part of a HH-60 crew tasked to recover six wounded Soldiers operating in support of Operation Bulldog Bite in Afghanistan. While over the objective site, Senior Airman Settle was seated in the left door and positively identified muzzle flashes from a mud hut 400 meters to the 7 o'clock position of the aircraft. While identifying the enemy positions, he was struck in the forehead by a 7.62 mm round fragment. The force of the impact knocked him onto his back and

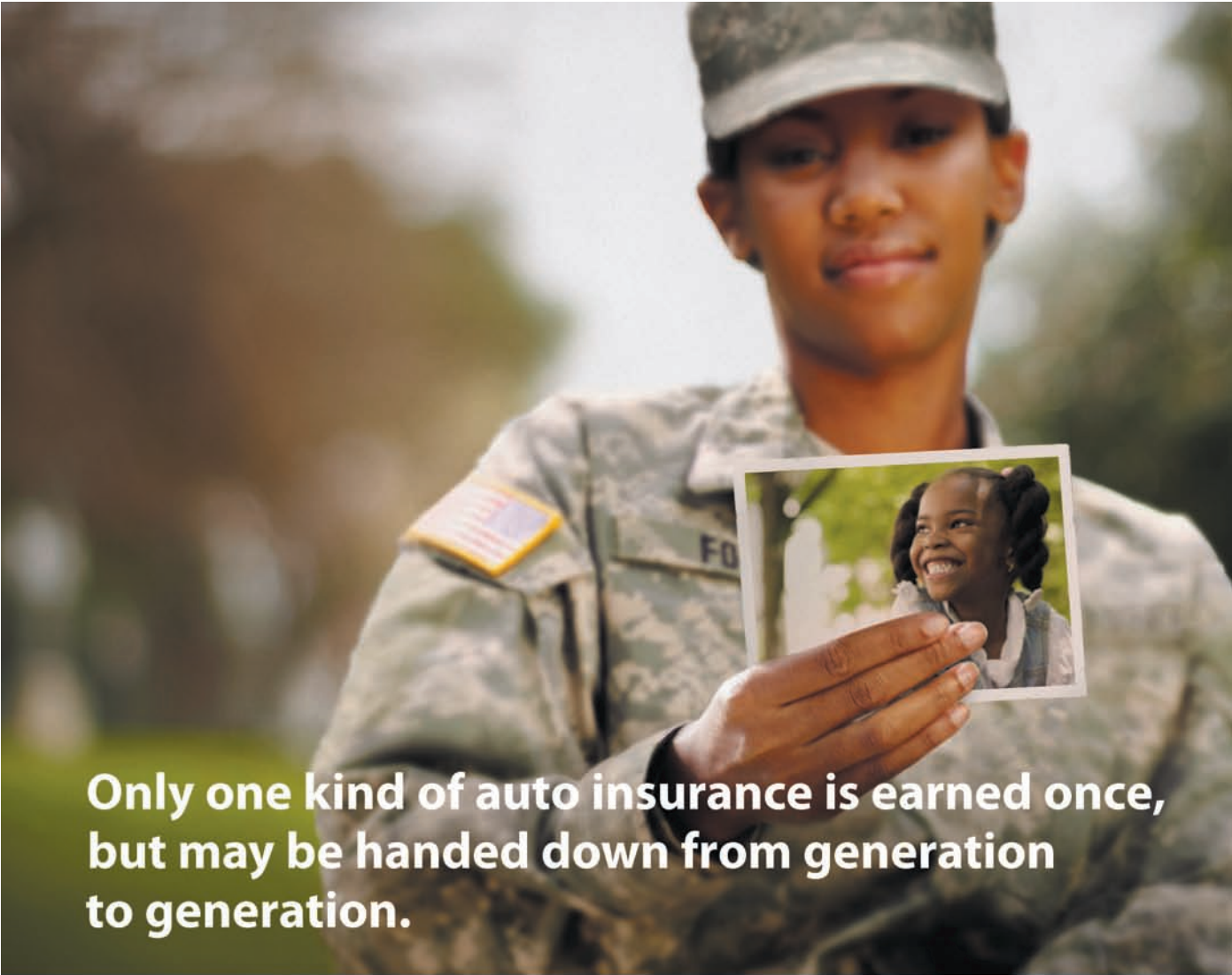


Purple Heart. Staff Sergeant Jimmy Settle, right, a pararescuer with the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, salutes his wing commander, Brigadier General Chuck Foster, at an awards ceremony in July. Foster, commander of the 176th Wing, presented Settle with the Purple Heart medal for wounds Settle sustained in combat in Afghanistan. Photo: Captain John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

across the aircraft so that he ended up next to the other pararescue jumper sitting in the right door. Senior Airman Settle immediately notified the crew over the internal communication system that the left PJ was hit. Unable to see, Senior Airman Settle feared the worst and quickly removed his eye protection. Once removed, his vision returned and he realized his glasses were covered in blood. The other PJ then began treating the large gash in Settle's forehead.

The pilots quickly made the call to abort the mission due to the severity of the wound and raced Settle to medical care. In order to continue to support the operation, Settle elected to have the round fragment stitched into his forehead. Within 24 hours, Settle was returned to duty and in another fire-fight. Once the operation was complete, Settle had the fragment removed. The heroism displayed by Senior Airman Settle reflects credit upon himself, the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force." ■



A woman in a military uniform, wearing a camouflage jacket and a matching cap, is holding a small, white-bordered photograph of a young girl. The girl is smiling and looking upwards. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees.

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



"SURVIVING THE CUT"

Discovery Channel Films Alaska Air National Guard

Story and photos by Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... A cable TV show aimed at taking viewers into the intense world of military elite forces training recently highlighted the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons.

A camera crew with the Discovery Channel's "Surviving the Cut" series filmed Guard members performing water rescue and in-air refueling operations in early July near Homer.

"Surviving the Cut" shares the personal quest of men committed to making it into the military's most coveted and elite units including Special Forces Divers, Marine Recon, Air Force Pararescue, Navy EOD, Marine Snipers and Army Rangers, according to the show's website.

Here in Alaska, the Discovery Channel featured the Alaska Air National Guard's rescue squadrons' unique ability to perform rescue operations in adverse Alaskan conditions, according to Michael Graber, "Surviving the Cut" videographer.

"It's hard not to get exciting video," Graber said. "What they do by nature is pretty extreme and high speed. The hard part is to be aware of all the moving pieces and not get in the way but also to be there when things happen."



Ready to Hoist Victims. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter waits for a request from a pararescueman to approach the F/V Kittywake to hoist victims up during a water training exercise in June. The training was documented by a camera crew from the Discovery Channel's "Surviving the Cut" for an upcoming season.

While Graber finds the training exciting, for pararescuemen like Technical Sergeant Shane Hargis, it's the real-world missions here in Alaska that they enjoy the most.

"I like having the alert mission and know we're helping the community 24/7," said Hargis, a Guardsman from the 212th Rescue Squadron. "That's why pararescuemen like

to come up here – because we are the busiest unit."

"I think that if the people of Alaska don't realize it yet, they should appreciate the fact that a phone call away, they have absolutely the highest trained and most skilled rescue personnel on the planet," Graber said. ■



Alaska Army National Guard's "ARCTIC COWBOYS" Return from Iraq

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Seventy-two Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard returned home in July after a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

The "Arctic Cowboys" from B Company, 1-207th Aviation, were greeted by cheers from their friends and families after serving in Iraq transporting high-ranking dignitaries throughout the theater of operations via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

The Guardsmen were assigned the essential mission of supporting General Lloyd J. Austin, commanding general, U.S. Forces – Iraq; Lieutenant General Frank G. Helmick, deputy commanding general of operations, USF-I; and Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, deputy commanding general for advising and training.

The Guardsmen performed flawlessly, conducting 2,600 missions while logging nearly 4,000 flight hours, each one on time



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



Homecoming Formation. Approximately 70 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard, B Company, 1-207th Aviation, stand in formation at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson after returning in July from a one-year deployment in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq. They logged about 4,000 hours of flying during the deployment. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



without a single delay in supporting a mission which included transporting the Secretary of Defense and the vice president of the United States.

For their accomplishments, the "Arctic Cowboys" Soldiers were awarded 46 Air Medals, 20 Army Commendation Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals and two Bronze Stars – a true testament to their unwavering dedication and professionalism while deployed in support of their state and nation.

"With a mission like this, everybody becomes an expert on their specialized part of the mission, and everybody knows everybody else's job," said Captain Todd Miller, commander, B Company, 1-207th Aviation. "My unit has been together for a long time, and it showed in their performance and their ability to work with limited resources and to get the mission done quickly."

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



Mommy! Michael Spillman waits for his mom, Specialist Heidi Carbaugh, to return from Iraq after a one-year deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. Michael and hundreds of others gathered at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in July to welcome home the Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



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Alaska National Guard WMD Team

TESTING

Story and photos by Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

VOLK FIELD, Wis. ... The Alaska National Guard's weapons of mass destruction unit deployed to Wisconsin in July to participate in a national exercise to test the Civil Support Team's ability to respond to various chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological threats.

The 103rd Civil Support Team – Weapons of Mass Destruction, based in Anchorage, joined other civil support teams from across the United States for the Joint Patriot exercise at Volk Field, Wis.

During Joint Patriot, the training scenario simulated a small town under attack by unidentified elements. The 103rd CST was tasked with setting up entry control points, as well as implementing chemical detection and decontamination areas. The goal of the training was to integrate with civilian first responders to assess the situation and provide guidance, according to First Lieutenant Joseph Radke, 103rd CST survey officer from Anchorage.

"With the constant threat of terror, not only overseas but domestically as well, there is a need for our expertise that

civilian authorities may not have time to specialize in," Radke said. "We bring to the table highly specialized equipment and personnel who are ready to respond in a moment's notice."

The Alaska unit, 22 members representing both the Alaska Army and Air National Guard, trains year-round in the event that a real-world weapons-of-mass-destruction event occurs. The Guard members also train with some of the 57 other CST units across the country to rehearse integration between the teams.

"This training is invaluable," Radke said. "Not only do you become familiar with some of your counterparts throughout the United States, but it also allows you to share tactics and training methods with each other. It is easy to exchange emails and phone calls to share information, but actual boots-on-the-ground training is instrumental for our unit to improve our training and be better prepared to protect our state."

The Joint Patriot exercise also included local civilian authorities, Department of Defense first responders, FBI SWAT and Air Force Emergency Management personnel. ■



Simulated Radiation. Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team Staff Sergeant Dutchy Inman, of Wasilla, Alaska, steps out of the training building after finding high levels of simulated radiation inside one of the rooms.



Contamination Briefing. Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team commander, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Wilson, of Eagle River, Alaska, briefs CST members from the Alaska and California National Guard on the training exercise before they enter the simulated contaminated area.



Surveying for Radiation Leaks. Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team Technical Sergeant Melissa Sullivan, right, of Eagle River, Alaska, and California National Guard 95th CST Staff Sergeant Dane Hagan finish surveying the training site for simulated radiation leaks in the area. The training was part of the national Joint Patriot exercise held in July at Volk Field, Wis.





Guardsmen Support Multinational Exercise, Strengthen Pacific Region Peacekeeping Operations

By Specialist Michelle Brown,
134th Public Affairs Detachment

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia ...

Approximately 42 Alaska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in Khaan Quest 2011, a multinational training exercise held at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from late July to mid-August.

Khaan Quest 2011, a premier exercise, was designed to strengthen the capabilities of U.S., Mongolian, and other international forces in the Pacific region, to enhance peace support operations, training, and to increase the interoperability and planning capabilities among participating nations.

"This was a great opportunity for all Alaska Guardsmen to come see a foreign culture, operate in an unfamiliar environment and to exercise



Partnership. State Command Sergeant Major Gordon Choate, Alaska Army National Guard, shakes hands with Lieutenant General Ts. Byambajav, chief of general staff, Mongolian Armed Forces, prior to the closing ceremony of Exercise Khaan Quest 2011 held at Five Hills Training Area, near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Khaan Quest 2011 was a premier exercise designed to strengthen the capabilities of U.S., Mongolian and other participating international forces in the Pacific region.

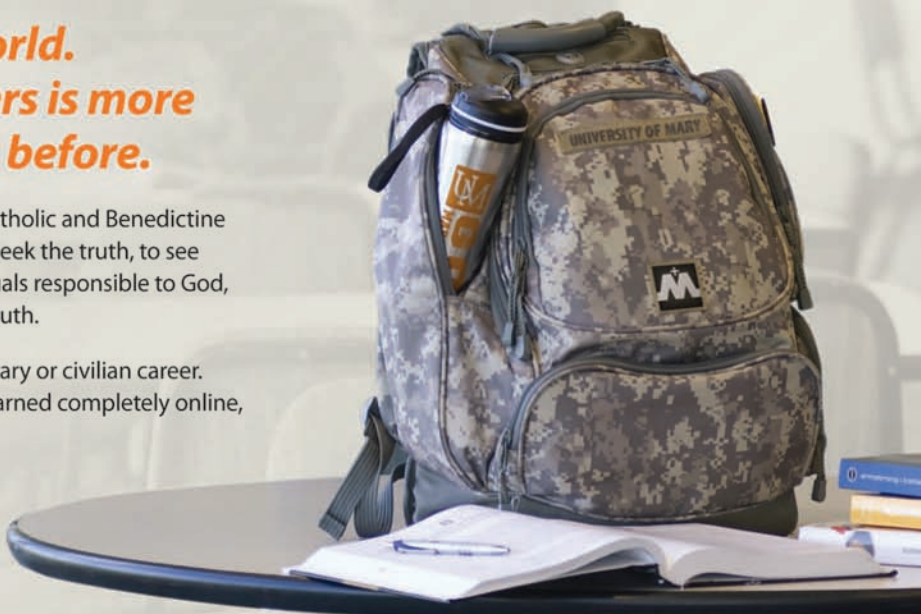
Photo: Specialist Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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overcoming the challenges that arise when working with other nations such as language barriers and cultural differences,” said First Sergeant William Crowley, Alaska Army National Guard plans and operations non-commissioned officer, from Anchorage.

The Alaska Guardsmen joined efforts with 220 members of the Mongolian Armed Forces, 100 U.S. military and 180 international military representatives to conduct peacekeeping exercises consisting of five different events: a U.N. peacekeeping seminar, a command post exercise, a field training exercise, an engineering civic action program and a medical training exercise.

“The mission of the overall exercise was to increase the state partnership program of Alaska and the relationship with Mongolia through a multinational exercise focusing on peace support operations, a medical exercise that treated the local populace and an engineer exercise that built a humanitarian aid facility,” Crowley said.

Since 2003, the Alaska National Guard and Mongolia have been forming a relationship and plan to build on this relationship far into the future through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program.

“We are really drawing upon all the experience the Mongolians have in their peacekeeping,” said Lieutenant Colonel Paul Darling, 38th Troop Command operations officer, Alaska Army National Guard, from Eagle River. “We are learning as much



Mongolian Wrestling. As part of Khaan Quest 2011, Captain Ryan Skaw, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, from Fort Greely, Alaska, wrestles a Mongolian Armed Forces soldier during a culture event held at Five Hills Training area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, this August. Traditional Mongolian wrestling, archery and horse racing were featured in the event designed to enhance international relationships between the participating nations.

Photo: Specialist Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

from them as they are from us.”

Fostering international relationships and promoting positive military-to-military relations between the 16 participating countries were some of the primary goals of Khaan Quest 2011.

“Everyone brought a different experience and no one’s was better or worse, just different,” said Darling, reflecting on

the important lessons learned while operating as the deputy commander of a combined joint-brigade headquarters. “The sooner you realize the strengths and weaknesses of all your partners, the stronger you’ll be as a combined staff.” ■

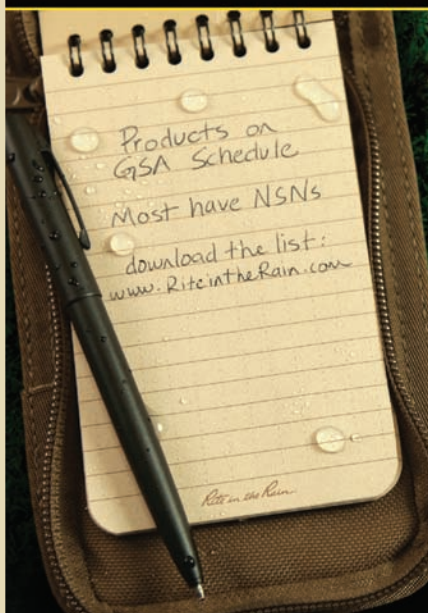


Humanitarian. Captain Andrew Adamich, 176th Medical Group, Alaska Air National Guard, fits a patient with a pair of glasses at a school on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Approximately 15 Alaska National Guardsmen teamed up with multi-national forces to conduct a medical readiness training exercise as part of Khaan Quest 2011.

Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



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Task Force ODIN Members Leave United States. Members of Task Force ODIN, B Company, 306th Aerial Exploitation Battalion, load onto a military chartered aircraft as the sun sets on their final day in the United States. More than 50 Army National Guardsmen from six states make up the company that provides a manned aerial reconnaissance platform to ground commanders deployed in the northern and eastern parts of Afghanistan. The pilots and aerial sensor operators will log hundreds of flight hours during their 12-month deployment.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III,
B Company, 306th Aerial Exploitation Battalion



Alaska Army National Guardsmen Deploy to Afghanistan

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... A dozen Alaska Army National Guard members deployed to Afghanistan in August for a year in support of an intelligence and surveillance mission.

The 12 Guardsmen, representing the aviation unit Detachment 54 of the Alaska Army National Guard, will be flying C-12 aircraft around the theater of operations to collect information for land component commanders.

"The data we collect will be turned over to the ground commanders to help them plan their operations," said Chief Warrant Officer Five Terry Rollie. "The demand for this type of intelligence has doubled; it's a real game changer."

Some of the reconnaissance they will provide focuses on improvised explosive devices that make the road system so dangerous. While in Afghanistan, they will also be supporting Task Force ODIN, an acronym for Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize.

"Our Alaska Guardsmen will be supplying essential information to ground teams to help combat the threat down there," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus,



Detachment 54 Deploys. Nine members of the Alaska Army National Guard's Detachment 54 stand together on the drill hall floor on Camp Denali before deploying to Afghanistan in August for one year in support of an intelligence and surveillance mission. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "This is a top-notch group of aviators and support specialists."

Here in Alaska, the unit's mission is the timely transport of distinguished visitors and cargo via the C-12, a military version of the King Air 200. The intelligence mission while deployed will utilize their capabilities in a new way.

"This is a really cool mission that is a complete departure from what we normally do when flying," Rollie said.

The deployed Alaska Guardsmen call Anchorage, Chugiak, Kenai, Wasilla, Eagle River and Delta Junction home. During the deployment, they will be working with units from South Dakota, Kansas, Massachusetts, Florida and Washington, D.C. ■



Space & Missile

Clear Air Force Station Celebrates 50 Years of Missile Warning

By Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard's 213th Space Warning Squadron celebrated 50 years of inter-continental ballistic missile warning at Clear Air Force Station, near Anderson, Alaska, this August.

In 2006, the Alaska National Guard officially stood up the 213th Space Warning Squadron, completing the transition from an active-duty remote, short-tour assignment to a full-time active Alaska Air National Guard unit.

The transition marked the first time a National Guard unit had taken on a mission of this type.

"This is a great time to be a member of the Alaska Air National Guard," said Colonel Wendy Wenke, vice wing commander, 168th Air Refueling Wing. "Clear Air Force Station is such an important part of this community and our nation's defense as well."

Today, Clear comprises active-duty Air Force, Alaska Air National Guard, Canadian Air Force, civilian, and contractor personnel with a primary mission to provide early warning of ICBMs and monitoring of submarine-launched ballistic missiles, with a secondary mission to provide space surveillance data on orbiting objects.



SSFARS Radar Clear Air Station. A Solid State Phased Array Radar System radar in a protective dome stands 11-stories tall on Clear Air Force Station. The station's primary duty is to provide an early warning of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Photo: Courtesy of 213th Space Warning Squadron

"We have local residents who have worked at Clear for all 50 of its historical years," Wenke said. "I am certain that we will continue to proudly serve in this area for another 50 years." ■



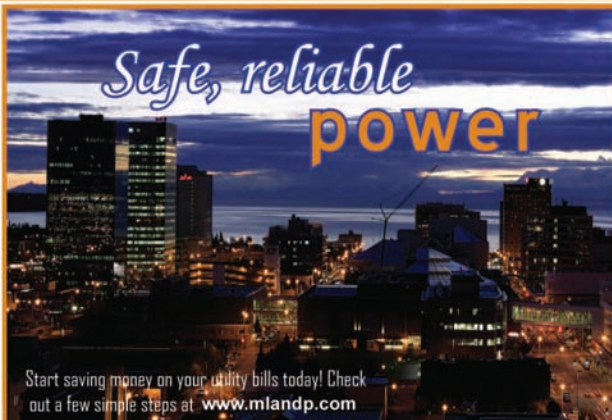
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Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Crooked Creek Flooding Recovery—The Housing Mission

Story and photos by Jeremy Zidek,
DHS&EM Public Affairs

CROOKED CREEK, Alaska ... Three months and 15 days after Crooked Creek residents fled the massive Kuskokwim River ice jam flooding that devastated 14 of the 41 homes in May, Samaritan's Purse and Christian Reformed World Relief Committee volunteers framed the first rebuilt home.

One day's work on Aug. 23 made visible the herculean work accomplished since the night of May 8, when Alaska's second largest river created havoc and destruction for this Western Alaska community of 105 people.

For displaced Crooked Creek residents, three and a half months seems like an eternity. Nine families are residing in tents provided by the state as transient shelter while awaiting their homes to be rebuilt. During this time, residents finalized their building sites and prepared the pads for home construction by spreading and leveling gravel. This project was a vast undertaking for the small community, requiring work around the clock to clear, excavate, transport and compact the gravel to be ready to build before the first snowfall.

For the Disaster Housing Task Force, led by the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, three months and 15 days was little time to accomplish the work that led to the framing of the first house. The DHTF met for the first time on May 16, a week and a day after residents evacuated and the day before Governor Sean Parnell declared a state disaster, thus activating state recovery programs to assist Crooked Creek.

"From past experience, we knew a severely impacted small, remote and isolated community like Crooked Creek would need assistance rebuilding. That task was larger than any one organization could complete prior to winter. DHTF brought resources from many organizations together to develop a comprehensive recovery package," said Roberta Carney, DHS&EM deputy director



Team Work. Samaritan's Purse and Christian Reformed World Relief Committee volunteers work together to erect pre-engineered housing components.

and DHTF lead. "There has been tremendous cooperation from day one. DHTF has remained focused on our shared objective, helping residents of Crooked Creek."

Core members of the Crooked Creek DHTF include DHS&EM, Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Samaritan's Purse, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, American Red Cross of Alaska, Association of Village Council Presidents, Housing Authority, Calista Regional Corporation, The

Kuskokwim Corporation and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.

Although Federal Individual Assistance, the program that supports individuals and households affected by disasters, was not authorized for Crooked Creek, the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided staff resources and support of the public assistance program to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place. Without this effort, homes could be replaced but be left without power and other essentials.

Working with the community, DHTF knew adequate housing would have to be both climate appropriate and outside the reach of future floods. Five of the homes required relocation to lots on higher ground and the remaining four required significant elevation of the pads of up to six feet to prevent future flood damage.

"Normally, the land use permit process can take months, if not years," said John

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Crooked Creek Long Term Recovery Fund

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Madden, director of DHS&EM. “The Association of Village Council Presidents, The Kuskokwim Corporation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs partners prioritized the Crooked Creek land use issues and gave formal approval identifying the site upon which we could rebuild the destroyed homes. Their decisive actions enabled DHTF to complete the rebuilding plan, begin site development, and begin buying and shipping materials to Crooked Creek.”

Calista Regional Corporation, which owns Crooked Creek’s gravel pit, donated the necessary gravel to raise the homes and develop pads for relocated homes. Crooked Creek used the community’s heavy equipment and found local volunteer operators to construct the necessary building pads as their in-kind donation.

Delivering materials and supplies to Crooked Creek is difficult. The short gravel runway will not accommodate large cargo aircraft. Bulk construction material must travel by ocean barge from Seattle or Anchorage to Bethel and then get reloaded onto a smaller river barge for delivery to Crooked Creek. Low river water levels impede a heavily loaded barge and add uncertainty to the material transportation process. Because of the time constraints imposed by our Alaska weather conditions and shipping logistics, DHS&EM and Samaritan’s Purse crafted creative transportation alternatives. Some materials came by barge, but many of the truss systems were not constructed in time to make the barge. So they had to go by air to Donlin Mine, which can accommodate larger aircraft, and then flown to Crooked Creek by helicopter to allow volunteer construction crews precious time to build. Donlin Mine continues its support for Crooked Creek by contributing reserves to assist with the helicopter transportation in this concerted rebuilding effort.

The limited material delivery window also required DHTF to carefully consider materials for the rebuild. The Cold Climate Research Center, a DHTF partner, designed a series of climate-appropriate homes and a comprehensive materials list for each structure.

Volunteer organizations are essential to Crooked Creek’s recovery. Without their significant financial contributions and donations of skilled volunteer labor and essential materials, the available state assistance would not be sufficient to rebuild homes. Samaritan’s Purse and Christian Reform World Relief Committee organized 20 highly skilled volunteers to rebuild the homes. Volunteers are being housed in tents and the community’s “bus barn” with meals served at the school. The Kuspuk School



Volunteers Frame First New Home. Skilled volunteers complete the framing in one day using designs and materials customized for Crooked Creek.

District and its local staff have been very accommodating by providing housing, support, and assistance to the volunteers and state staff during the recovery efforts.

Samaritan’s Purse contributed more than \$300,000 for materials and is using its aircraft to move supplies and personnel in and out of Crooked Creek. United Methodist Committee on Relief made a \$25,000 donation for long-term recovery items such as mattresses, clothing, cooking utensils, and other household goods, and CRWRC has committed \$5,000 for long-term recovery efforts. The Alaska Volunteer

Organizations Active in Disaster and the Long Term Recovery Committee convened in June to begin the task of fund raising and determining the unmet needs of flood survivors. Because all available assistance has gone to home construction, Crooked Creek residents and volunteer agencies are seeking additional assistance for all the essentials that make a house a home.

Rebuilding Crooked Creek is possible through the perseverance of the community, the full cooperation of DHTF partners, and the many volunteers who generously give their time and expertise. With winter soon to arrive, all of the planning, site development, material ordering, transportation, volunteer management and coordination have culminated in the rebuild of homes in Crooked Creek.

“After a tremendous amount of hard work, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel,” said David Andrews, DHS&EM disaster assistance program manager. “By the time snow flies, we will have people in a warm place that they can call home.”

Donations to the Alaska Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, Crooked Creek Long Term Recovery Fund can be made at Alaska USA Federal Credit Union Account #1700013857114, Routing #325272021. ■

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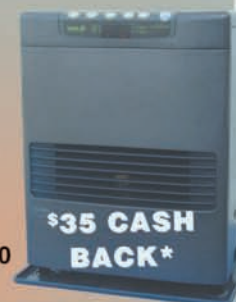
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Missile Defense

Alaska Guardsman Named Missile Defense Defender of the Month

Story and photo by Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT GREELY, Alaska ... An Alaska Army National Guardsman from the 49th Ground Missile Defense Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Charlie Crew, was named Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance Defender of the Month.

Staff Sergeant Craig Davis, a weapons operator and lead non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the Fire Direction Center, was nominated and selected as the Defender of the Month in June.

To compete, a missile defense Soldier has to be nominated and have a packet put together and submitted to the Missile Defense Alliance Agency.

The MDAA is a non-profit organization that seeks to generate public support for the continued testing, development, and deployment of missile defense systems to protect the United States and its allies and to educate the general public with respect to missile defense issues and the urgent need for it.

Because of his outstanding leadership and can-do spirit, Davis was nominated by his superiors, and his packet and biography were sent forward for possible selection.

"Staff Sergeant Davis was nominated for the award because of his high level of work ethic and high degree of professionalism in working with the Fire Direction Center crews," said Lieutenant Colonel Joe Miley, 49th Missile Defense Battalion commander. "When I took command, I appointed a non-commissioned officer-in-charge to take care of business out there with the fire direction crews. It's absolutely amazing what he's accomplished. Davis has set the standard for space and missile command, ensuring that everyone earn the Army Space Badge. He started with the NCOs, and the officers soon followed. The battalion is now leading the way in space and missile defense, and it's all based on Staff Sergeant Davis's efforts."

Davis will now compete against all of the MDAA Defenders of the Month for the title of Defender of the Year.

The Missile Defender of the Year is awarded to the best U.S. missile defense Soldier, Sailor, Airman and National Guardsman for the year.

"When I was told I had been nominated by the chain of command here for the

Defender of the Month, I didn't really know too much about the award. My packet was submitted, and I was lucky enough to win for the month of June," Davis said. "I think it's an awesome opportunity to compete for the title of Defender of the Year. MDAA flies all of the defenders of the year from all three of the space missile defense sites to the ceremony to announce the winner."

Davis said that it's imperative for Soldiers to continue to strive toward success.

"If you want to be nominated for the MDAA Defender of the Month, then don't stop working, continue to work toward your college degree, and complete your Intro to Space and Space 200 courses," Davis said. "There are great opportunities in the 49th Ground Missile Defense Battalion if you take advantage of them. Don't just sit out on crew, keep everything going."

Davis will be flown to Alexandria, Va., in January 2012 for the Defender of the Year awards ceremony. ■



Defender of the Month. Staff Sergeant Craig Davis, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Charlie Crew, weapons operator and lead non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the Fire Direction Center, who was nominated and selected as the Defender of the Month in June, stands outside on Fort Greely, Alaska, where the 49th GMD is based.



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Soldier Rebounds from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Hopes to Help Others

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... For many Soldiers who return home from war, the hardest fought battle doesn't happen in a combat zone.

About 11-20 percent of Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans have post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This rings true for one Alaska Army National Guardsman in particular who is sharing his story in the hope that he can help others to seek treatment and overcome the debilitating disorder.

Alaska Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Samuel Ethridge, a 22-year member of the military with four deployments under his belt, is recovering from PTSD. He's seen conflict in Somalia, Haiti, Panama and Afghanistan – experiences that have had a lasting effect.

In 1993, Ethridge experienced his first deployment, which took him to Somalia for about five months, where he served as an M-60 gunner with the 21st Military Police Company (Airborne) out of Fort Bragg, N.C. A year later, he deployed with the same unit for another five months to

Haiti. There he patrolled the streets, trained law enforcement officials, and helped the government establish civil order and discipline. In 1999, he spent six months in Panama providing security at U.S. bases. Each deployment put him on the streets where he saw the effects of war first hand.

In 2000, Ethridge left active duty and joined the Alaska Army National Guard infantry unit in Hooper Bay. He soon returned to his military police roots and helped stand up the military police company in Fort Greely in 2003 before joining the 761st Military Police Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, out of Wasilla in 2008.

That same year, Ethridge deployed for one year as part of a 16-member team of Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned as an Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team. While deployed, he worked directly with the Afghan National Police.

"I worked with Soldiers from other units to train the Afghan National Police in anything having to do with law enforcement as well as administrative tasks," Ethridge said. "We trained and mentored every day, working very closely."

While deployed, he was exposed daily to the brutality and dangers of war.

"I lost five of my team members in one day from an improvised explosive device," Ethridge said. "Then for the last seven to eight months of my deployment, I lost an Afghan National Police member about every other day."

Ethridge takes ownership of the losses. When talking about friends and comrades, he always says "I" lost men and doesn't acknowledge the insurgents or those who pulled the trigger or set off the bombs.

"I took each death as my fault and my responsibility; I carried a lot of survivor's guilt," Ethridge said while staring at the floor. And although he took each death personally, because of the mission at hand and his environment, he didn't grieve and just moved on through the deployment.

All 16 members of the Alaska Army National Guard returned home, and the deployment was considered a success. But Ethridge was struggling and didn't acclimate well to home life.

"I knew I was a wreck. I weighed about 145 pounds; I wasn't sleeping; I was angry and had built up a lot of rage inside of me," Ethridge said. "I didn't know what it was, but I guess I actually started to grieve and knew I needed to get help."

Ethridge said his wife of 14 years also urged him to seek help. He was immediately diagnosed with PTSD and started private therapy sessions once or twice a week. This went on for the next year and a half.

"It helped a lot, helped take the sting out," Ethridge said. "I was involved in very intensive therapy called Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Level II therapy where I would basically relive each event of my past. It took four to five months, but then I started actually feeling better."

The therapy, coupled with medication, helped, and at the end of 2010, he was back to his old self, and his case was closed. But for him, the anxiety attacks returned and he relapsed. In 2011, he was tested for traumatic brain injury, re-diagnosed with PTSD and sent for treatment in San Antonio, Texas.

"They knew I needed more intense treatment," he said. "In three weeks in Texas, I did a year's worth of therapy and counseling at an inpatient program for military members."

"My command here in Alaska was very supportive and bent over backwards to help me get treatment," Ethridge said. "I think a lot of Soldiers are scared to seek help because they're afraid it's going to affect their careers, but I want people to know,



Embedded Transition Team in Afghanistan. Alaska Army National Guardsmen Sergeant First Class Samuel Ethridge, left, and Captain Marvell Hawkins spend time with local children in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, during a one-year deployment to the area in 2008. Ethridge and Hawkins were part of a 16-member team of Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned as an Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team. Photo: Courtesy of Sergeant 1st Class Samuel Ethridge,

Alaska Army National Guard



Veterans

Highly Trained, Educated Military Make Great Employees

By Verdie Bowen, State Veterans Affairs Administrator

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Eight years ago, *Time Magazine* named "The American Soldier" its "Person of the Year."

This act helped to put a face on our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines. This also removed them from the politics of war and spurred our nation to provide our men and women who serve in uniform with total and unwavering support.

Now we find ourselves at the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, and *Time Magazine* is unveiling another historic follow-up to naming The American Soldier "Person of the Year."

Time Magazine is calling our service members "The New Greatest Generation."

What this dedication and article reflect are the vast numbers of skills our returning veterans are bringing home to our local work force. Years ago, one could say that military training did not directly translate to our communities, but today, we have the highest trained and most educated military in the world.

People can benefit by partnering with veteran-owned businesses and hiring veterans. Our Alaskan veterans bring unmatched skills to employers through leadership, performance under the most trying circumstances and a work ethic that ends with great mission accomplishment rather than a time clock.

This time of year with the anniversary of Sept. 11 and Veterans Day, it is important to keep the spotlight on our veterans, their contributions in the military and the impact they are now making in our everyday lives.

It doesn't take long to see the efforts of our veterans in today's work force. Each veteran is living proof that service before self doesn't end when he or she takes off the uniform. As an employer with veterans in the work force, you have the assurance that your company's foundation is built on the best our country has to offer. ■



Working with Afghan National Police. Sergeant First Class Samuel Ethridge, center, Alaska Army National Guard, works with the Afghan National Police collecting old uniforms and disposing of them in Kandahar City during a one-year deployment to the country in 2008. Ethridge was part of a 16-member team of Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned as an Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team, and he worked directly with the Afghan National Police.

Photo: Courtesy of Sergeant 1st Class Samuel Ethridge, Alaska Army National Guard

speaking from experience, the command is truly there to support the Soldiers and take care of them."

"Everyone's experience during deployment is different and how each person handles the stresses of war varies, but we want our military members to know there is help available that can cater to an individual's needs," said Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "We have excellent resources on hand and can provide useful connections to outside organizations as well. Our number one priority is to take care of our members and their families while deployed or here at home."

Ethridge has been back in Alaska for a few months, and he said he now has the skills and emotional stability to handle his PTSD.

"PTSD is something I will always have, but after my treatment I now know how to deal with its effects so it won't interfere with my life. It no longer consumes me," Ethridge said.

Now his focus is on using his experience to help others. His message is simple but critical.

"Get help. It's a strength to be able to seek help, not a weakness." ■



Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates 168 Cadets

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Military Youth Academy graduated 168 young adults from its ChalleNGe program in August at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

After a five-and-a-half-month-long residential phase of the AMYA ChalleNGe program that focuses on academics, military style discipline and training, and community service, 168 cadets graduated from the Alaska Military Youth Academy, joining more than 2,900 cadets who have graduated from the program since 1994.

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



Salute. Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates salute during the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony held at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage this August. Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

"The Alaska Military Youth Academy takes these kids for 22 weeks and gives them another shot at life," said graduation guest speaker Governor Sean Parnell. "The Alaska Military Youth Academy is not just building young people; they are building Alaska's future."

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



Diploma. An Alaska Military Youth Academy graduate receives his diploma from Governor Sean Parnell during the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony held at the Dena'ina Center this August.

Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



Graduates. Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates throw their hats in the air and cheer upon their dismissal from the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony held at the Dena'ina Center this August.

Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs





Alaska Air National Guard Rescues Four from Downed Aircraft

Lift-off. An Alaska Air National Guard 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave hawk helicopter lifts off while on a training mission over Alaska this July. Photo: Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell, Alaska Air National Guard

By Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Goldberger, 176th Wing Public Affairs, and Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard rescued four people from a crashed Cessna 207 carrying six individuals about 37 miles west of McGrath in August.

The 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center received notification from the Alaska State Troopers around 9:45 p.m., Aug. 13, of an overdue aircraft with SPOT locator coordinates placing it outside of McGrath. In addition, the RCC received reports of an emergency locator transmitter signal around the same time.

A 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130 Hercules with three "Guardian Angels" from the 212th Rescue Squadron on board left Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at 1:24 a.m. to conduct an initial search to locate the aircraft.

Rescue efforts throughout the night were hampered by poor weather. The HC-130 was unable to get below the cloud cover and returned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at 6:10 a.m.

As soon as weather permitted, a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter carrying two 212th Guardian Angels, and a 211th HC-130 with three Guardian Angels launched around 9 a.m.

The crash site was visually spotted from the air and located in steep terrain in a wooded area. Two Guardian Angels arrived on site via a helicopter hoist. The other three Guardian Angels jumped from the HC-130 into a field nearby and were then picked up by the Pave Hawk and taken to the crash site where they also used the hoist to get on ground.

The six people on the Cessna were taken to McGrath, where two were released to Alaska State Troopers. Four were brought to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at 2:36 p.m. via the 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130 Hercules, then transported to an Anchorage hospital.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th were credited with four saves for this mission. ■

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Alaska Business Nominated for Prestigious Freedom Award

By Jamie Abordonado, ESGR

Marius Pitcher, owner of Pitcher Electric Inc. in Wasilla, was presented his Freedom Award nomination from Brigadier General Deborah McManus, director of joint staff, Alaska National Guard, during a lunch at the National Guard Armory this August.

Pitcher Electric Inc. was one of nine nominations for the state of Alaska as an extremely supportive civilian employer.

The lunch followed an orientation flight that five local civilian employers enjoyed as they rode a Black Hawk UH-60 around the Anchorage area. The five employers were from local businesses: Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, Buzz Bizz Studios, Department of Environmental Conservation, Holland America and Pitcher Electric Inc. The aircraft was crewed by Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers and provided a first-hand experience to employers on what the military mission of the men and women in the Alaska Army National Guard aviation do during their military duty.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Nominations must come from a Guard or Reserve member, who is employed by the organization nominated, or from a family member. The award was created to publicly recognize employers who provide exceptional support to their National Guard and Reserve employees. It is the highest in a series of employer recognition awards given by the Department of Defense.



ESGR Freedom Award. Marius Pitcher, owner of Pitcher Electric Inc., was presented his Freedom Award nomination by Brigadier General Deborah McManus, director of joint staff, Alaska National Guard, during a lunch at the National Guard Armory in August.
Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

The Freedom Award is presented annually to the nation's 15 most supportive employers. The nomination season opens on the first working day of November and closes on the third Monday of January. ■



ESGR Honors Employers. From left, Colonel Carlisle Lincoln, chief of staff, Alaska Air National Guard; Brigadier General J. Randy Banez, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Army National Guard; Brad Miller, ESGR; Marius Pitcher, Pitcher Electric Inc.; Erik Lind, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union; Vicki Logan, Holland America; Brittany Keates, U.S. Senator Mark Begich's office; Michael Buzinski, Buzz Bizz Studios; Dave Lamothe, ESGR employer outreach director; Jamie Abordonado, ESGR; Brigadier General Deborah McManus, director of joint staff, Alaska National Guard; Pete Jensen, ESGR. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Family Programs

Online and Up-to-Date to Assist You

By the Family Programs Staff

Do you know about the Guard and Reserve commissary on-site sales program? What about the reduced Alaska State Fair tickets that were available for the military at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Information Ticket and Travel? Do you like to attend our monthly Final Friday Family events but wished you received reminders about which movie or craft event was taking place?

Sure, you get the Alaska National Guard Joint Services Support newsletter in

the mail (it's purple, so it's hard to miss!), but don't you wish that you received up-to-date information on all the benefits and entitlements available to you as a Guard member? Well, now you can have it all! The Joint Services Support office currently offers two online avenues for you to learn about short-notice promotions and receive reminders and updates on all our upcoming events.

You can go online and visit our website at www.jointservicessupport.org and you can also "like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AKNGFamily. At both of these sites, we post current and updated information about the promotions offered to military members and their families, as well as updates and reminders about all the events we facilitate throughout Alaska. For example, we posted information about community programs like the Military Appreciation Picnic in Fairbanks and the recent application deadline for the Anchorage Plumbers and Pipefitters Apprenticeship Program, which had a few openings and was brought to us by Helmets to Hardhats.

Also, we announced an out-of-state youth camp that was free for Guard youth to attend (all that parents paid was travel costs). Additionally, in the past, we've received free military appreciation tickets for concerts and football games, as well as gift certificates to local stores. We announce the availability of these types of freebies through both of our online outlets.

In addition to our announcements, our website, www.jointservicessupport.org, has a variety of resources on it. To take advantage of this, you need to register for an account; it's free and only takes a few minutes. Once you log on, you have an abundance of information at your fingertips on everything from financial readiness to local announcements. Our Facebook page gives you all of our last-minute updates and short notice events; just "like" our page, and you will be kept in the loop on all that our program offers to you!

As always, please call your Joint Services Support office if you need assistance. ■

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How do you plan on spending your Permanent Fund Dividend?

**Second Lieutenant
Robert Simpson**
176th Wing



"It's all going into savings."

**Specialist
Flanity Briones**
49th Missile Defense Battalion



"I'm going to buy some new rims for my car with this year's PFD."

**First Lieutenant
John Sutter**
1-143rd Infantry (Abn) Regiment



"I might not get a PFD this year because I was training in Fort Benning, but if I do, I'll probably blow it on something before I deploy to Afghanistan."

Brent Nichols
DHS&EM



"I'm taking a trip with my wife to San Antonio to see my son Christopher graduate Air Force basic training."

**Master Sergeant
Peter Pratt**
176th Wing



"I'm depositing it into the child education fund."

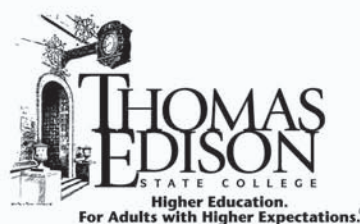


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Alaska Air National Guard Welcomes New Wing Commander

By Staff Sergeant N. Alicia Goldberger,
176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Colonel Donald “Scott” Wenke received the 176th Wing’s command flag from Alaska’s Adjutant General, Major General Thomas H. Katkus, at a change of command ceremony in September.

More than 500 Guardsmen and community leaders attended the event that publicly demonstrated the change in leadership of one of the country’s largest and busiest Air Guard wings.

Brigadier General Charles E. “Chuck” Foster, the relinquishing leader, expressed appreciation toward the assembled Guardsmen after serving more than three years as their wing commander.



Command. Colonel Donald “Scott” Wenke, right, new commander of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, accepts the wing guidon from Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, during the wing’s change of command ceremony. Wenke assumed command of the wing from Brigadier General Charles E. Foster, who had served as the wing commander since 2008. Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Formation. Colonel Donald “Scott” Wenke, new commander of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, speaks to wing members during the wing’s change of command ceremony. Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Change of Command. Senior Master Sergeant Roland Lemieux, 176th Maintenance Group first sergeant, serves as the group's guidon bearer at the 176th Wing's change of command ceremony. Photo: Captain John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

"I want to thank you for being the kind of Airmen who make it worth it to get up early on a drill weekend, make it worth it to leave my family and deploy with you," Foster said in anticipation of the ceremony.

Katkus expressed confidence in the wing's future. "The 176th is going to continue to do great things" under Colonel Wenke's leadership, he said.

The wing commander accepted his position with respect. "It's an honor to be selected," Wenke said.

Wenke accepted the responsibility after serving 24 years in the Air National Guard. He is not new to wing leadership. He began serving as vice wing commander in April, and before that, commanded the Air Guard's Eielson-based 168th Air Refueling Wing.

In his speech, Wenke said his top priorities for the wing were its people, mission, resources and community. He also talked about what would be asked of wing members.

"As the commander, I will ask each of you to take calculated risks," Wenke said. "Remaining in your comfort zone does nothing to secure our future. For me, the road less traveled has held great rewards." ■



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Legion of Merit



COL Timothy Dehaas JFHQ-AK (Army)

Meritorious Service Medal



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CSM Daniel Goodwin 761st MP
SSG Jerod Cook 297th MP
SFC John Flood 297th MP
1SG Sherry Butters JFHQ-AK (Army)
MAJ Jared Wandell JFHQ-AK (Army)
MAJ Debra Blanchard JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Robert Carson JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Steven Branham 49th MDB
COL Stephen Sweet JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Simon Brown 761st MP
MAJ Kelly Nichols JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC John Sztajer R&R BN
LtCol Erik Ohlfs 211th RQS
LtCol Scot Milani 211th RQS
SMSgt Chad Demro 176th CF
MSgt Vernon Osborn 176th CES
TSgt Roy Hemmen 212th RQS

Army Commendation Medal



SSG Diane Singh JFHQ-AK (Army)
SSG Christopher Mattson 207th AVN
SFC Gabriel Gonzales JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Michael Haney 1-297th R&S
SSG Isaac Wiggins DET 54
SFC James Nyquist 1-207th R&S
SSG Joshua White JFHQ-AK (Army)
SSG Oliver Meza 1-297th R&S
SFC Robert Boatwright 297th BFSB
SFC Gordon Reid 1-143rd IN ABN
SSG Russell Throckmorton 1-297th R&S
SSG Victor Ward 38th TC

Air Force Achievement Medal



MSgt Cecil Dickerson 249th AS
MSgt Lloyd Llανεza 176th OPS
MSgt Jeffrey Schwengler 249th AS
TSgt Christina Cordes 249th AS
TSgt Freddie Gann 249th AS
TSgt John Martin 249th AS
TSgt Justin Olsen 176th OPS
TSgt Timothy Stone 249th AS
TSgt Matthew Nemeth 176th OPS
SRA Eric Cox 249th AS

Alaska Legion of Merit



SFC Frederick Williams 207th RTI
MSG Diana Watson R&R BN
COL Timothy Dehaas JFHQ-AK (Army)
COL Stephen Sweet JFHQ-AK (Army)
Chief Robert Stamm 249th AS

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



SFC Frank Phillips 1-207th AVN
SSG Mateo Villafranca 1-207th AVN
SSG Jerod Cook 297th MP
SSG Marvin Ronimous 297th MP
SGT Michael Boisvert 297th MP
SGT Thor Noongwook 1-143rd IN ABN

Alaska Commendation Medal



2LT Robert Parris 1-207th AVN
SPC Natasha Parrish 1-207th AVN
SSG Oliver Meza JFHQ CDP
Shannon Dehaas JFHQ-AK (Army)

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 Joshua D. Armstrong 144th Airlift

Major

Kelly M. Murphy 176th ACS

Captain

John M. Romspert 212th RQS
 Paul N. Rauenhorst 210th RQS
 David M. Lang 176th STF
 Scott D. Owen 249th AS
 Adam Weaver MED DET

First Lieutenant

Joseph Radke 103rd CST
 John Sutter 1-143rd IN ABN
 David A. Victory 176th CP

Warrant Officer One

Thomas O'Neil 761st MP BN
 Richard Morrison Jr. 1-207th AVN

Chief Master Sergeant

James P. Wolverton 213th SWS

Senior Master Sergeant

Tracy Glaze 176th FSF

Sergeant First Class

Troy King R&R BN
 Brian Warren 49th MDB

Master Sergeant

Thomas E. Wright II 213th SWS
 Jeremy Bryant JFHQ-AK (Army)
 Scott A. Stewart 210th RQS

Staff Sergeant (Army)

Angela Carelock RTI
 William Carey 297th MP
 Kenton Ward 297th MP
 Marvin Kernak 1-297th R&S
 Dean Yeager Jr JFHQ-AK (Army)

Technical Sergeant

James D. Sjolom 168th MXS
 Jay D. Adams 168th SFS
 Brian T. Zeisel 168th SFS
 Nina V. Kolyvanova JFHQ-AK (Air)
 Donna M. Judkins 176th WG
 James W. Holbrook 176th MDG
 Stephanie L. Manning 176th OG
 Thomas R. Berry 249th AS
 Eric J. Lovley 176th ACS
 Abigail G. Hopkins 176th OSS
 Matthew A. Krylo 176th MXS
 Darick J. Butman 176th AMXS

Catherine M. Driggs 176th CF
 Devin A. Dinardo 176th LRS
 Jack R. Barker 176th SFS
 Bryce L. Weight 176th SFS

Sergeant

Lolitta Lapriel MED DET
 Eric Jenks 1-297th R&S (LRS)
 Brian Reid 1-143rd IN ABN
 Sean Murphy 49th MDB
 Miranda Otero 49th MDB
 Roman Valentin 49th MDB
 Caroline Domenech 49th MDB
 Randy Briones 49th MDB
 JR T Lomboy 49th MDB
 Garcia Pietri 49th MDB
 Jeffery Turner 49th MDB
 Charles Slattery 297th MP CO
 Pricilla Ortiz MED DET
 Doralee Castillo 49th MDB
 Shelby Sellers MED DET

Staff Sergeant (Air)

Robert C. Mercado 168th ARS
 Peter R. Gardella 168th ARS
 Rodney A. Phillips 168th SFS
 Kenyatta P. Jackson 168th SFS
 Cameron Bynum 168th MXS
 Julia A. Kobernuss 168th CPR FT
 Michael J. Nash 168th AMXS
 Asdrubal S. Peguero JFHQ-AK (Air)
 Sebastian C. Oliva 176th OG
 Colton B. Nelson 144th AS
 Donald J. Lacy II 176th OSS
 Mark E. Lockwood 176th OSS
 Lacy M. Griffis 176th MXS
 Christopher G. Morhain 176th MXS
 Thomas L. Strange 176th MXS
 John D. Webb 176th MXS
 Ernest L. Daigle 176th AMXS
 Wyatt D. Derner 176th SFS
 Henry J. Estrada Jr 176th SFS
 Anjanette G. S. McCain 212th RQS

RETIREMENTS

Lt Col Alvin D. Rice 168th ARS
 MSgt Lori D. Kelly 168th FSF
 MSgt Gregory A. Parish 168th MOF
 SSgt Joseph E. Chatfield 213th SWS
 Maj Paulette M. Kosinski 168th FSF
 MSgt Sarah L. Teeter 168th MDG
 TSgt Monte R. Rosenquist 168th MXS
 TSgt Robert E. Cave 168th CF
 TSgt Herbert L. McCormick 168th ARW
 SGT David Sholl 1-207th AVN
 SGT Thor Noongwook 1-143rd IN ABN
 CW4 Scott Frickson 297th BFSB
 SGT Robert Brown MED DET
 LTC Jay Smith JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG Marvin Ronimus 297th MP
 SFC Frederick Williams JFHQ-AK (Army)

SFC Robert Nunnally 1-207th AVN
 MAJ Debra Blanchard JFHQ-AK (Army)
 COL Timothy Dehaas JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG Rebecca Pilmore JFHQ-AK (Army)
 COL Stephen Sweet JFHQ-AK (Army)
 MSgt Steven Wolfe 144th AS
 Capt Edward Durka 144th AS
 MSgt Victor Solano 176th ACS
 MSgt David Cacciolfi 176th AMXS
 MSgt Scott Peterson 176th CES
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651 Railroad Ave



Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

207th Aviation

Allison Booshu
Benjamin Yang
Cambra Roden
Courtney Rust
Erica Garmon
Gregory Manning
James Hozey
Javier Rodriguez
Jesse Gray
Kristopher Merritt
Maria Santiago
Princes Olaes
Sasha Willis
Scott Herman
Theodore Heintz
Wayne Vreeland

297th Cavalry

Andrew Vandenberg
Ansel Bird
Avery Place
Benjamin Xiong
Billy Lee
Donn Sofranes
Jonathan Holley
Lawrence Erickson
Mark Portillo
Michael Copenharve Jr.
Michael Guim
Nicholas Hendry
Shawn Hightower
Thomas Woods
Timothy Stone
Torres Hotrum
Tyrrel Aloralrea
Wilfred Kozevnikoff
Zachary Duncan
Zachary Law

207th Brigade Support Company

John Eyrich
Kai Zwierstra
Logan Thomas
Mark Ibay
Ronnie Rogers Jr.
Stephen Matthews
Tom Clark

297th Military Police Company

Caleb Schneck
Eric Romero
Kurt Larsen
Lonnie Short
Markus Clark

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Colin Craig
Jorgon Ryan
Samantha Lofton

761st Military Police Battalion

Bryce Ehmann
Josephine George
Pierre Bernard
Raechel Chopoda

168th Air Refueling Wing

Lawrence Salzman
Samy Mabrouk
Samuel Keener

Torre Evans
Danitza Hill
John Goeres
Matthew Martin
Paula Martin
James Tritle
Timothy Armstrong
Luke Sjoblom
Joel Richwine
Brandon Grisham
Trisha Bennett
Ashley Underwood
Kevin May
Joel Richwine
176th Air Wing
David Lang
Mary Young,
Andrew Mickler
Traci Reeves
Sylvester Grant

176th Wing

Jeremy Montgomery

Anthony Waiser
David Ryder
Robert Bishop
Lane Williams
Matthew Konatsu
Jennifer Trout
Michael Lamb
Paige Dickey
Daniel Bellerive
Kandice Martinez
Tyler Hoskins
Rhonda Ohara
Marcellis Alexander
Macklin Brady
Arlene Almanzar
Alvin Colleto
Jace Olsen
Anthony Barker
Leath Taylor
Garrison Van Sickle
Denise Hampton

Warriors Training Schedule

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

Alaska National Guard

	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	5-6	3-4	7-8
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	4-6	3-4	7-8

Alaska Army National Guard

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	4-6	3-4	6-8
38th Troop Command	5-6	3-4	7-8

Alaska Air National Guard

168th Air Refueling Wing	5-6	3-4	7-8
176th Wing	5-6	3-4	7-8

Alaska State Defense Force

Headquarters	12-13	10-11	14-15
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Prepare your motorpool for **DSCA** and **MSCA** with Phantom StormLights™

COVERT TO OVERT

Military vehicles are designed to be covert on the battlefield. Dull paint and infrared lights enhance that requirement on a deployment. When those same vehicles are called to duty on the home front, however, that covertness can lead to catastrophe! Unwary civilians can roll right up on those vehicles hidden by foliage, harsh rain or blinding snow—damaging vehicles and Soldiers alike.

When you are called for a DSCA or MSCA mission, be sure to pack a Phantom StormLight™ kit for each vehicle in the convoy! **These kits include rapidly deployable lighting systems to make sure that the vehicle can be SEEN!**

The Phantom StormLight™ system is comprised of lights that can mount on the windshield (powered by a cigarette lighter/accessory plug or to the BUSS bar underneath the driver's seat). Rear-end collisions are avoided by mounting another Phantom Stormlight™ to the rear bumper, drawing power from the adjacent clearance light.



Pack by Tactical Tailor®

Larger kit options include portable hand held lights, battery powered solid state MightyFlares™, road guard vests, jumper cables and tie down straps. Additionally, kits can be customized for your convenience.



Exterior mount (LEFT) bolts to existing hole on bumper, drawing power from adjacent clearance light.

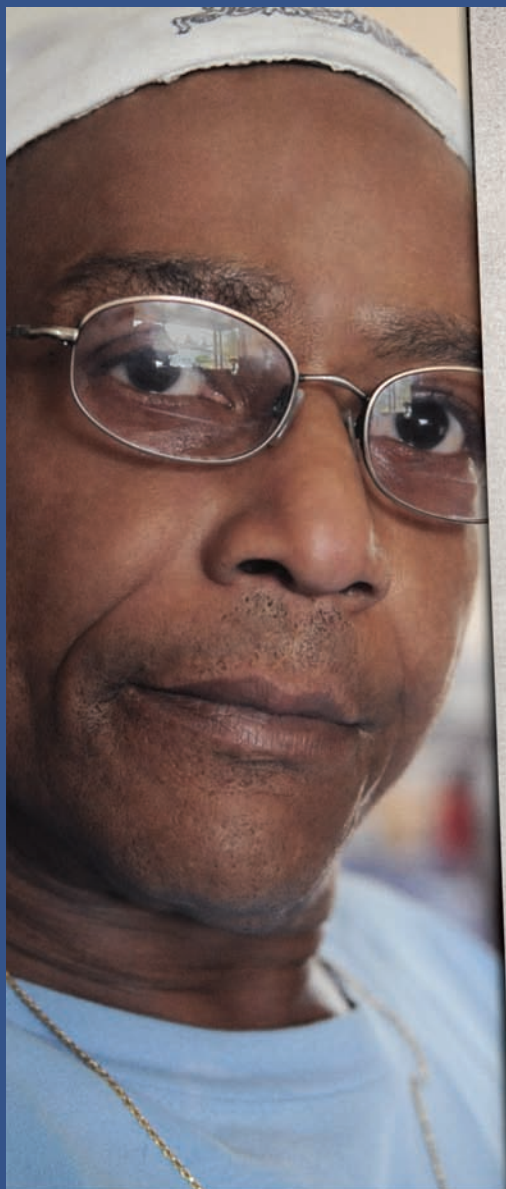


Interior mount (RIGHT) attaches to windshield with adjustable suction cups, drawing power from accessory plug.

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CHANCE TO GIVE BACK. WHY NOT QUIT
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