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WARRIORS

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Cover. Saluting Fallen Warriors. Vietnam Veteran Keith Elsberry salutes "The Moving Wall," a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Memorial, on the Park Strip in Anchorage in May in remembrance of his fallen comrades. Elsberry was deployed to Vietnam from 1972-73 with the Navy and served as an outpost scout on the Destroyer Escort Francis Hammond during his tour.

Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



Safety Day. Alaska Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Holt Duffin and Alaska Air National Guard Technical Sergeant Melissa Sullivan, both of the 103rd Civil Support Team, use specialized detection equipment to determine the content of a suspicious package found on Bryant Army Airfield during a mock scenario designed to test their response and capabilities during Safety Day in May. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

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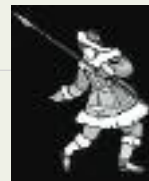
veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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For the People

Governor Sean Parnell
Commander in Chief



Paying Tribute to Our Veterans

We are proud of all of Alaska's men and women in uniform and our veterans, and the State of Alaska and Department of Military & Veterans Affairs makes it a priority to offer support to you, your families, and your mission in Alaska and around the world.

I recently signed several pieces of legislation into law that will help veterans, military members, and our disaster preparedness efforts. Senate Bill 136 promotes economic opportunity near military installations and provides tax credits to employers who hire veterans. This legislation also requires Alaska's Division of Motor Vehicles to provide a veteran designation and U.S. flag replica on a state-issued veteran identification card or driver license, making it possible for veterans to seek benefits they have earned without the burden of carrying

additional paperwork, such as copies of discharge papers. I also signed legislation to provide copies of death certificates to families of a deceased veteran at no charge.

Additionally, the Veterans Affairs Office was relocated from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson into the Anchorage community to ensure easier access to our 77,631 veterans and their 89,000 dependents. We will continue to do all we can to support our military members and their families.

Our veterans' service underpins Alaska's military heritage, and I have been honored to participate in events this spring and summer honoring these important heroes. From Alaska's Vietnam veterans, to our honored World War II veterans, to members of Alaska's Territorial Guard, to those who have served and are serving in current conflicts around the world, words

cannot adequately express our thanks for your honorable service in defense of freedom. On behalf of all Alaskans, thank you to all our service members, past and present. We pray for your safety, and pledge our unwavering support to you and your families.



Deployment Well Wishes. Alaska Governor Sean Parnell shakes hands with Senior Airman Arnel Ramos, an electronic countermeasures journeyman for the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as Ramos prepares to leave Alaska for Afghanistan in May. More than 180 members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing are deployed. Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs



The Adjutant General



Major General Thomas H. Katkus

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

Serving Those Who Have Served

Thank a veteran. Honor a veteran.
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Veterans deserve our respect and a debt of gratitude. These amazing service members and their families have served our state and nation to protect the freedoms we love, often at great sacrifice.

Between 1942 and 1947, Alaska Territorial Guard members were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend our state against the Japanese in World War II. These men and women banded together at high risk to themselves to defend their families and their land and did so without a second thought. This is what makes us a great state and nation.

Ranging in age from 11 to 80 years old, ATG members risked everything, and unfortunately, until recently, many of these veterans were never honored for their service and sacrifice.

However, in July, I had the opportunity to memorialize members of the greatest

generation when I traveled to Bethel with members of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs to see a bronze statue of an ATG member unveiled on a pedestal outside the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. It faces 270 degrees in the direction from which the initial threat was seen in the 1940s and honors those who protected our nation from attack by the Japanese.

Today, we have many Soldiers exemplifying the same spirit of the ATG, many from western Alaska who serve our nation, not only here in Alaska, but across the globe.

Alaska Army National Guard members from B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment and Alaska Air National Guard members from the 176th Wing are currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They fight for the same principles the ATG stood proudly for, to protect our nation and uphold the American ideals.

These veterans and citizen-Soldiers will return home from Afghanistan and return to their communities. As veterans, they bring incredible skills, leadership and value to our state. They are true heroes who heard the call to serve, and now we need to honor their service by connecting them to jobs, education and opportunity as many adjust back to civilian life.

Through the Alaska National Guard Yellow Ribbon program, we reach out to our state veterans to educate them on jobs, training, health care, funeral honors, transition services education entitlements and benefits. However, with 250 homeless veterans living throughout the state, we need everyone to take an active role in recognizing the sacrifices each veteran has made. It's up to each one of us to make every effort to thank, honor and hire veterans for they represent the best of all Alaskans. ■



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Dispatches from the Front...



Drop Zone. Alaska Army National Guard paratroopers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, jump from a C-130 Hercules onto Malamute Drop Zone on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to provide additional support and manpower to the Alaska Air National Guard's 121st Rescue Squadron during Operation Ardent Sentry 2012.

Arctic Search and Rescue Put to Test

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Alaska National Guardsmen performed arctic search and rescue training in early May, testing skills and equipment during Operation Ardent Sentry 2012.

Ardent Sentry is an international exercise focused on providing defense support to civil authorities and is used to validate existing plans, policies, and procedures, including federal, state and regional response plans. Events took place in Alaska, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Connecticut and Nova Scotia.

Here in Alaska, as part of the exercise, Joint Task Force Alaska sent pararescuemen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 121st Rescue Squadron and paratroopers from the Alaska Army National Guard's C Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade to respond to a major aircraft crash with passengers onboard in a remote area of the state.

"This training is really important to make sure that such complicated rescues are successful," said Senior Airman Robert Bowler, 121st Rescue Squadron, survival evasion resistance escape specialist. "It's a low-frequency event, but it's high risk because of the kind of environment we're operating in and the complex nature of getting equipment and personnel to that kind of remote site."

Upon notification, the pararescuemen and the paratroopers reported to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson where a C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules were standing by loaded with necessary personnel and heavy equipment required for an arctic SAR mission. After a short flight, pararescuemen and paratroopers leaped from the aircraft, and arctic SAR equipment was dropped to assist simulated casualties.

"The Long Range Surveillance Company has a mission to support the 121st Rescue Squadron and provide them with manpower in the event of an arctic search and rescue," said First Sergeant Michael Grunst, C Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. "We jumped in with them and set up a casualty collection point near a crashed C-130 with



Sling Load. Sergeant First Class Jeffery Alberts, C Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, hooks up a pallet of arctic search and rescue equipment to a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during Ardent Sentry 2012.

30 survivors. From there, we started providing ground support to the pararescuemen by setting up tents, heaters, generators, and critical infrastructure."

Within a couple of hours of their boots hitting the ground, the pararescuemen had located, triaged and treated all of the injured victims who were scattered throughout the woods.

"Joint exercises are critical," Grunst said. "When you're in Iraq or Afghanistan or any number of places, you've got Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, even Coast Guard. It's a joint effort, a team effort, and by coordinating and working together, it makes us more efficient when we respond to situations like this in the future."

Upon completion of the arctic SAR portion of the exercise, the paratroopers prepared all of the equipment to be sling-loaded off the site by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

"It was a really unique opportunity; it was the first time we've ever sling-loaded an Argo [amphibious all-terrain, off-road vehicle] up here in Alaska," Grunst said. "The training is going to help us both in our state and federal missions." ■

Where in the World

Army Guardsmen Deploy to Sinai

By Specialist Balinda O'Neal,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...

Five Alaska Army National Guardsmen deployed to Sinai, Egypt, in June for approximately five to seven months in support of the Multinational Force Observers and Civilian Observers Unit missions.

In Sinai, the Soldiers from F Company, 207th Theater Aviation Company are providing support by performing aerial observation and verification flights throughout the border region between Egypt and Israel.

"This is the unit's fourth deployment," said Captain Carl A. Catone, F Company, 207th TAC commander. "We are looking forward to assisting the MFO organization with its mission."

The MFO and COU supervise the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel. The purpose of the mission is to verify implementation of peace treaty limitations on military personnel, armaments and infrastructure.

The deployed Soldiers hail from Anchorage, Palmer and Wasilla. ■



Meeting the President. Staff Sergeant Garrett Brown, of the Alaska Air National Guard 168th Air Refueling Wing, shakes hands with President Barack Obama in May at a base in Afghanistan. Brown, a logistics readiness sergeant, is scheduled to return to Alaska by the end of the summer.

Photo: Courtesy 168th Logistics Readiness Squadron



Set for Sinai. From left, Sergeant Michael Ortwig, Staff Sergeant Billy Austin, Warrant Officer James Smith, Chief Warrant Officer Ross Wise and Chief Warrant Officer Brian Baranek stand in formation during a deployment departure ceremony in June on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The five Alaska Army National Guardsmen are with F Company, 207th Theater Aviation Company and deployed to Sinai, Egypt, for approximately five to seven months in support of the Multinational Force Observers and Civilian Observers Unit missions.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Afghanistan Visit. Alaska Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Clinton Brown, center, meets President Barack Obama during the commander in chief's visit to Bagram, Afghanistan, in May. Brown is deployed with B Company, 306th Aerial Exploitation Battalion, Task Force ODIN – Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize – Afghanistan.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

Airmen sharpen skills in Interior Alaska

By Airman Francine St. Laurent,
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Alaska National Guardsmen from the 168th Security Forces Squadron conducted Military Operations in Urban Terrain training at the North Pole Fire Department's training facility in May.

This is the second year that the 168th SFS has held its annual hands-on MOUT training in North Pole, taking advantage

of the empty building to practice search and seizure techniques in a simulated urban environment, according to Technical Sergeant Brian Zeisel, 168th Security Forces Squadron 3rd squad leader.

"We're trying to make sure that we sharpen our skills, because they are perishable," said Zeisel, who was among the leadership instructing during the exercise. "This is where you make mistakes, correct mistakes and make sure that if we have to do this in real life, at least we've gone through it enough times to have a good understanding of what's going on."



Search and Seizure. 168th Security Forces Squadron Airmen practice search and seizure techniques during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training in May at the North Pole Fire Department training facility. Two groups of Airmen take turns clearing the building and apprehending their training leaders, who simulate an opposing force. Photo: Airman Francine St. Laurent, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

For many traditional security forces Guardsmen, MOUT training constitutes a major part of their annual training and is a refresher course on skills they acquired in technical school.

But this training is unique because it gives the Airmen hands-on training versus just discussing it in a classroom environment, according to Senior Airman Chase Bowser, 168th Security Forces Squadron security forces specialist.



Kuwait Deployment. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Civil Engineer Squadron stand in formation with other Air Force personnel assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron in Kuwait. While deployed, the Alaska Guardsmen worked in their trained skills including electrical, power production, mechanical, utilities, heavy equipment, structures, engineering, production control and pest management. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Air Force



Deployment Partnership. From left, Sergeant Major N. Enkhbaatar, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces sergeant major; Lieutenant Colonel P. Ariunbat, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces commander; Captain Rafael Pacheco, Alaska Army National Guard liaison officer to the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces; and First Lieutenant E. Munkhbat, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces supply officer, at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, in April. Pacheco and Sergeant First Class Paul Wonder are the sixth team of Alaska Army National Guardsmen to deploy with the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces to Afghanistan. Photo: Dasha Cornaby, Mongolian Linguist



Field First Aid. Sergeant First Class Paul Wonder, Alaska Army National Guard, instructs Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces soldiers on the components of the recently issued improved first aid kits during a combat first aid class at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan, in May.

Photo: First Lieutenant D. Khadkhuu, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces

"We're actually going through clearing buildings as opposed to sitting in a briefing, doing PowerPoints, going through the scenarios and then practicing in an empty bay," Bowser said.

For others, MOUT training is an opportunity to mesh civilian and military careers and spark the idea of new career possibilities while reviewing techniques.

"People in our squadron have a lot of different skills from the civilian world that we can incorporate into our training on the military side," said Zeisel, who also works as an Alaska State Trooper. "It's really valuable and a nice benefit to have, and I think it gives the Guard a big advantage." ■

Summer 2012 • WARRIORS

Airmen return from Kuwait

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

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron returned here in June following a six-month tour in Kuwait.

"To say I am proud of our accomplishments is an understatement," said Lieutenant Colonel Ed Soto, commander of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"In one year, civil engineer Air Guardsmen helped move an Air National Guard Base, passed a compliance inspection and deployed to support contingency operations worldwide."

The Alaska Guardsmen were assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron alongside members of the 119th Civil Engineer Squadron from Fargo, N.D.

According to Master Sergeant Brian Lewis, the 176th Wing members worked hard with their peers to improve the base.

"One of our main goals was to try to make everything better, smoother, more efficient than when we arrived," Lewis said. "There's a sense of urgency and importance when you're deployed."

The Guardsmen, some on their first deployment, worked in their trained skills including electrical, power production, mechanical, utilities, heavy equipment, structures, engineer-

ing, production control and pest management.

Specifically, some of the unit's accomplishments included the production control section's saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars acquiring essential supplies from the drawdown in Iraq; the heating, ventilation and air conditioning section keeping systems operating in temperatures ranging from 35–110 degrees; and the heavy equipment shop improving security by building up berms and digging trenches.

"It's great to be home," Lewis said, "but there's quite an adjustment we have to make, and there are aspects I will miss." ■



Operation Arctic Care Serves Alaska's Rural Residents



Arctic Aviation. Pilots prepare to land a pair of Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters at the Alaska Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility in Nome after supporting Arctic Care operations in Brevig Mission.

Story and photos by Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

NOME, Alaska ... In its 18th year, the nation's largest recurring joint medical readiness exercise, Operation Arctic Care, provided topnotch medical care in remote areas of Western Alaska in April.

More than 285 National Guardsmen, reservists and active-duty service members braved the winter elements to bring care to Alaskans in need where miles of wilderness separate villages in our nation's last frontier.

"We assisted 6,367 people and performed 10,750 procedures," said Alaska Air National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Sharolyn Lange, task force medical commander for Operation Arctic Care 2012. "This was also the largest number of participants and sites visited in the history of Arctic Care."

With no roads connecting villages blanketed in snow, transporting supplies, equipment and personnel to 15 locations in two weeks required dedicated planning, flexibility and knowledgeable professionals.

"Task force aviation was critical to our ability to travel to each village and provide medical, dental, optometry and veterinary care," Lange said. "We couldn't do our job without their daily support getting supplies and personnel into each of the Arctic Care villages."

Following the arrival of the Arctic Care participants on Alaska National Guard C-130 aircraft and a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, Alaska Army National Guard aviators and maintenance crews



Eye Care. Lieutenant Commander Patricia Anderson, Naval Reserve optometrist, assists a patient during an eye exam at the Alaska National Guard armory in Nome. Optometrists performed 3,512 procedures during Arctic Care 2012.

worked tirelessly to get the right people and equipment to wherever they were needed on C-23 Sherpas and UH-60 Black Hawks.

"On an average day, we moved about 40 people, but we moved even more supplies than people to the villages, so they had the equipment they needed," said Captain Peter Pagni, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, Alaska Army National Guard.

With personnel traveling to the region from across the nation, service members embraced the opportunity to train, provide medical care and serve here in the land of the midnight sun.

"This was an opportunity of a lifetime," said Captain Wade Kinshell, medical detachment registered nurse, Colorado Army National Guard. "It was a wonderful experience, and the kids were the best. They were happy to see us, and we were happy to see their smiles."

Kinshell, who served in Brevig Mission, oversaw medical operations, trained medics, ensured providers had what they needed and assisted with procedures.

"We were happy we could provide medical, dental, optometry and vet care here," Kinshell said. "We tried to take it all in and be respectful of their heritage and



Mongolians Observe Exercise. Four medical military representatives from Mongolia visited the village of Golovin to see U.S. military medical professionals provide care to underserved Alaska residents during Arctic Care 2012. The visit was part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program with the goal of bringing back knowledge to their home country. From left: Major Naranzul Tumurbaatar, Lieutenant Colonel Elbegjargal Buyantogtokh, Lieutenant Colonel Delgersaikhan Tudev and Lieutenant Ichinkhorloo Erdene Ochir, all of the Mongolian Armed Forces, stand in front of the health clinic in Golovin.

culture. We ate seal and listened to stories about their people, tradition and culture; it was unbelievable.”

Like Kinshella, Arctic Care has been a career highlight for many service members and a unique opportunity to help provide basic services that many of us take for granted each day.

“The Navy has a team called NOSTRA, a deployable optical fabrication squad from Virginia,” Lange said. “They made glasses for people the same day as their appointment and sent the glasses back out to the villages in less than 24 hours.”

“We processed 460 glasses in the first five days,” said Petty Officer First Class Quentin Moncrieft, NOSTRA technician, U.S. Navy. “Once we received a request via fax in Nome, we processed the order quickly.”

From start to finish, Moncrieft, one of four NOSTRA service members from Yorktown, Va., was able to make new glasses in only about 10 minutes, saving rural residents a significant amount of time and money.

“Normally, patients would have to travel from their village to Nome or Anchorage to visit an optometrist,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Swan, NOSTRA technician, U.S. Navy. “The transportation out of their village, cost of visiting with an optometrist, cost of the glasses and then travel home saves them more than \$1,000.”

“It was definitely rewarding, because we were able to contribute and give back to the community,” Moncrieft said. “I’m really glad I had the opportunity to be a part of Operation Arctic Care and help the people of Alaska.”

Helping people in Western Alaska wasn’t the only mission of Arctic Care 2012.



Helping Rural Pets. Captain Brooke Henderson, left, veterinarian, 993rd Medical Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve, performs an eye exam on Wilson, a Maltese-mix puppy, in Nome while U.S. Army Reserve Sergeant Andrew King, 949th Medical Detachment, holds him during the procedure. The veterinarian teams performed 2,487 procedures during Arctic Care 2012.

For a few service members, the most rewarding part of this mission was helping their four-legged friends.

“Taking care of animals is really important with canine parvovirus, so it’s key we get them vaccinated,” said Captain Jeff Richards, veterinarian, 993rd Medical Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve, prior to performing one of 2,487 veterinarian procedures during Operation Arctic Care 2012. “We used some injectable protocols, which is a little bit different than some of the gas anesthesia, so this was good training for us to try some different anesthetic techniques while we were up here.”

Training for future deployments and providing medical professionals meaningful work is exactly why service members travel

to Alaska each spring to assist citizens of rural Alaska during Arctic Care, according to Lange.

“Arctic Care is a phenomenal training opportunity in a non-lethal environment,” Lange said. “It provides the opportunity to deploy with your equipment, move into a site, and provide safe and effective care while building teams among sister services. It’s the best possible training and an amazing experience for everyone involved.”

Sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Arctic Care 2012 brought health care and veterinary support to residents in the Bering Strait and Norton Sound regions of Western Alaska. ■



Ready to Serve. Arctic Care participants sit onboard an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson before heading to Nome. Medical professionals from the Alaska National Guard, Arizona National Guard, Colorado National Guard, Army Reserves, Navy Reserves and active duty spent two weeks in April providing medical care to Alaskans in 16 remote communities.

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Alaska State Defense Force

Alaska State Defense Force Supports Arctic Care

By Brigadier General Roger E. Holl,
Alaska State Defense Force

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... The Alaska State Defense Force augmented the Alaska National Guard in April during Operation Arctic Care 2012, receiving highly relevant training during the medical readiness exercise.

With more than 285 military medical professionals traveling to Nome to provide care in 16 remote locations to underserved populations, accountability of personnel was crucial to ensuring safety during the two-week mission and was accomplished through the Joint Reception Staging Onward Movement Integration.

Alaska State Defense Force personnel were trained on JSROI, and they served at the Joint Mobility Complex on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and in Nome to assist the National Guard in processing incoming personnel for the exercise. Their functions included palletizing equipment for the aircraft, food preparation for incoming troops and in-processing personnel.

Additionally during the exercise, five Alaska State Defense Force officers participated in advanced joint operations training for service in the Joint Operations

Center. As such, these officers made the Joint Operations Center aware of Alaska State Defense Force personnel and assets during the planning of a military response to a disaster. Nine Alaska State Defense Force personnel were also trained during a pandemic table top exercise, the Team Alaska pandemic response training.

Alaska State Defense Force participants noted the team-building benefits of working side by side with the National Guard during Arctic Care.

In all, the Alaska State Defense Force had 25 people supporting Operation Arctic Care 2012 or participating directly in the exercise. ■



Proud Participation. Attending the pandemic flu table top exercise, Alaska State Defense Force personnel report that it was great to work side by side with National Guardsmen. From left: Lieutenant Colonel Dolye Holmes, First Lieutenant Zlata Lund, Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Lund, Staff Sergeant Randell Cosper, Lieutenant Colonel John James, First Lieutenant Timothy Stephan, Brigadier General Roger Holl, Captain Melissa Holl and Colonel Joseph Williams.

Photo: Captain Barry Wilson, Alaska State Troopers



Priority Cargo. Alaska State Defense Force personnel train on Joint Reception Staging Onward Movement Integration and palletizing procedures at the Joint Mobility Complex on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during Operation Arctic Care 2012. JSROI is critical in accountability of personnel and equipment during this exercise. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel John James, ASDF

176TH WING

Largest Deployment Since 2003

By Captain John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... More than 180 citizen-Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed to Afghanistan in May in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The deployment marks the wing's single largest deployment of personnel since 2003. It is also the wing's second large-scale deployment from Joint Base Elmendorf-

Richardson since the Guard organization relocated here in February 2011 as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process.

The deployed Airmen are primarily maintenance crews from the wing's 176th Maintenance Group and rescue personnel from the wing's three rescue units: HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter pilots and crew from the 210th Rescue Squadron, HC-130 Hercules pilots and crew from the 211th,

Afghanistan Bound. Deploying members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing shake hands with their commander, Colonel Scott Wenke, as they board a C-17 Globemaster III for Afghanistan in May. More than 180 members of the wing deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Captain John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Combat Search and Rescue.

Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing load an HH-60 Pave Hawk search and rescue helicopter onto a C-17 Globemaster III for a four-month deployment to Afghanistan in May. The helicopter is a part of a package of equipment and crew that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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





Last-Minute Laughs. Master Sergeant Dennis Mobley, a helicopter crew chief with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, spends some quality time with his daughter, Kailee, and his wife, Heidi, while waiting to depart Alaska for Afghanistan in May. Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs

and pararescuemen and combat rescue officers from the 212th. Together with a handful of expeditionary combat support personnel from other 176th Wing units, the deployers form a highly capable and versatile rescue package.

In Afghanistan, the rescuers are pursuing their primary wartime mission of combat search and rescue. This often involves challenging casualty-evacuation missions – that is, flying into “hot” combat zones, frequently under fire, to pull wounded coalition service members to safety and transport them to a treatment facility within one hour. The maintenance crews are supporting this vital work by keeping the rescuers’ planes and helicopters ready for flight at a moment’s notice.

“We are very, very proud of our deployed men and women,” said the wing’s commander, Colonel Scott Wenke. “These are highly trained and motivated professionals doing an outstanding job in support of coalition efforts to help the Afghan people build a better future for their country. I thank them for their service and look forward to their safe return.”

Since 1952, the 176th Wing has effectively served Alaskans at home and American interests abroad. It has supported large-scale deployments each year since 2003.

One of the largest and busiest wings in the Air National Guard, the 176th Wing also provides alert rescue and air defense capabilities in support of the 11th Air Force and Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region. ■



Farewell Tunes. Senior Airman Donald Haretuku, an aircrew flight equipment specialist for the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Operations Support Squadron, plays the guitar and sings with family and friends while waiting to depart Alaska for Afghanistan in May. More than 180 members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed for about four months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs



Commander in Chief. Staff Sergeant Jacob Zwierstra, left, and Technical Sergeant Samuel Dixon, both aircraft armament systems specialists with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, speak with Alaska Governor Sean Parnell before they board a plane bound for Afghanistan. The Airmen are part of the wing's largest deployment since 2003 and will be in Afghanistan for about four months.

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

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Guardsmen Discuss State Partnership, Policy and Cybersecurity

Story and photo by Kalei Rupp,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Key officials in policy from the Department of Defense met with leaders and officers of the Alaska National Guard in April to learn more about the Guard's partnership with Mongolia and to discuss security of computer networks and Asia-Pacific affairs in advance of a DoD trip to Asia.

Principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy Dr. James N. Miller and five of his advisors stopped by the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for three hours to share their insights on East Asian relations and policy, as well as evolving cybersecurity issues. The Alaska National Guard was able to share its experience on the relationship with Mongolia as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

The partnership between the Alaska National Guard and Mongolia, formally established in 2003, is considered one of the premiere and most successful relation-

ships of the 63 active state partnerships across the nation.

"Our partnership is a success because we have a great partner country in Mongolia, and the senior leadership there supports the State Partnership Program," said Major Wayne Don, State Partnership Program director. "In addition, we have deployed into combat with the Mongolians, so our partnership is based on mutually shared hardships, trust, respect and genuine appreciation for what we both provide to the relationship."

Miller said that the State Partnership Program is viewed in Washington, D.C., as "highly effective and successful," and he is supportive of continuing the program.

An officers professional development session also was held with seven majors from the Alaska Army National Guard and three majors from the Alaska Air National Guard where the discussion was able to delve deeper into the issue of computer network security and to stress the importance of sustaining and reinforcing the United States position in the Asia-Pacific region.

"As majors, these officers are at the beginning of taking their experience above a tactical level and going into a strategic realm," said Brigadier General Mike Bridges, assistant adjutant general – Alaska Army National Guard. "This particular opportunity to speak with high level members of the Department of Defense gives these majors a direct shot at strategic level discussions regarding issues in our region. They are all really sharp officers."

Upon leaving to catch the flight to Asia, Miller extended his compliments to the Alaska National Guard for hosting an enjoyable visit with insightful conversation.

"It was a great day to get to speak with such a thoughtful and knowledgeable group; this is an incredibly impressive group," Miller said. "In my years of working at DoD, I've come to expect this level, but yet I'm still impressed, although not surprised, every time I am out in the field and get to meet the men and women of our military." ■



Majors Meet Miller. Members of the Alaska National Guard meet with Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Dr. James N. Miller and his advisors to discuss Asia-Pacific policy and computer network security. From left: Major General John A. Davis, senior military advisor on cyberpolicy; Major Dennis Kaszynski, Alaska Army National Guard; Major Alexys Lang, Alaska Air National Guard; Major Mike Jones, Alaska Army National Guard; Major Kelly Mellard, Alaska Air National Guard; Dr. James N. Miller; Major Rich Mohammadi, Alaska Army National Guard; Major Kevin Quinn, Alaska Army National Guard; David Helvey, senior advisor for China policy and integration, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy; Major Tim Brower, Alaska Army National Guard; Major Rob Seymour, Alaska Army National Guard; Major Edward Borneo, Alaska Air National Guard; Major Wayne Don, Alaska Army National Guard.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Providing Essential Services

DURING A DISASTER



Power Outage. Natural and man-made disasters can interrupt power generation, power transmission or delivery of fuel used by electrical plants. The ability to provide temporary power to emergency shelters, medical facilities and emergency response structures helps keep people in their communities and expedites the restoration of regular services.

Photo: Courtesy of Department of Public Safety

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The normal flow of goods and services which we rely on – food, water, power, medical care and communications – are often taken for granted, until they are gone. The ability to temporarily provide essential services during and after a disaster is critical to an effective response and a successful recovery.

In Alaska, factors such as weather, logistics and resource availability compound the challenge of restoring essential services following a disaster. The state continues to build its capability to provide disaster-related essential services through a variety of sources, including funds sought by Alaska Governor Sean Parnell and approved by the legislature.

“Restoring essential services disrupted by a natural or man-made disaster is a priority so people can remain in or return quickly to their community,” said John Madden, director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. “Bridging the gap between disruption and full restoration enables families to remain in their communities. People are the heart of any community. With essential goods and services in place, neighbors who are unaffected are also able to help impacted neighbors.”

DHS&EM recognized the need for versatile equipment to meet the demands of Alaska’s diverse environments in both rural and urban communities. A significant investment in equipment to support essential emergency communications, power, water and food has been made.

“For both communication and water purification units, our larger vehicles and trailers can support response and recovery in large urban areas impacted by catastrophic disasters. Smaller portable units provide essential services in small remote communities,” said Bryan Fisher, operations section chief for DHS&EM. “Alaska’s small and large communities, rural and



Communications on the Go. The Mobile Emergency Operation Center is a 45-foot vehicle equipped with Alaska Land Mobile Radio, computer work stations, radio dispatch consoles, and satellite-enabled phone and Internet communication equipment. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs



Feeding the Masses. A good, hot meal can do wonders for an evacuee's spirits. Volunteer groups such as the American Red Cross of Alaska do a tremendous job of feeding displaced Alaskans. The state's food supplies will be able to feed thousands of people.

Photo: Enola Bowers, University of Alaska Fairbanks

urban settings, severe weather and various modes of transportation preclude a one-size-fits-all solution."

The investment by the state in newer emergency equipment and technologies is of tremendous value to Alaska. The equipment is continuously in use to support real-world missions, exercises and partnered collaborations.

The Mobile Emergency Operations Center has been used by the Alaska State Troopers as the Arctic Man command and control center for the last three years, by the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group during several training exercises and by the Division of Forestry during two wildfire responses.



Water Purification Training. Representatives from the Alaska National Guard, State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Division of Forestry, and Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility test a water purification unit at the Eklutna Water Treatment Plant in April after participating in a joint training session. Photo: Amanda Loach, DHS&EM

"Allowing partners to use the MEOC has battle-tested the equipment and allowed the state to evaluate its effectiveness. Knowing the equipment's strengths and weaknesses will allow us to get the most out of it during a large-scale disaster," Madden said.

DHS&EM has also positioned four of the state's eight rapid communication

backpacks with Alaska State Troopers in Anchorage and Fairbanks for swift deployment anywhere in the state.

More recently, personnel from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility, the Alaska National Guard, and the Division of Forestry were trained on new, portable water purification units, thereby ensuring

Individuals and families should plan and prepare for disasters as well. The table below compares the equipment families should gather to the state's equipment and supplies. For more preparedness information, visit www.ready.alaska.gov.

Personal Emergency Kit vs. State Emergency Equipment/Supplies

ITEM	PERSONAL EMERGENCY KIT	STATE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES
Water	One gallon of water per person per day for drinking, food preparation and hygiene.	4 x 1,800-gallon portable fresh water purification units 1 5,500-gallon fresh water purification unit 1 2,200-gallon salt water purification unit 1 30,000-gallon salt water purification trailer
Power	An electrical generator or an indoor safe heat source. A flashlight.	26 electrical generators: 2 x 25kw, 2 x 50kw, 2 x 75kw, 3 x 100kw, 3 x 125kw, 3 x 175kw, 3 x 200kw, 3 x 250kw, 1 x 350kw, 1 x 500kw
Communication	A battery or crank-powered radio to receive emergency information and backup phone charger. A family communication plan with contact information and emergency meeting places.	Eight communication solar/battery powered backpacks with satellite-enabled Internet/phone, one satellite phone and two ALMR handsets. Two communication trailers with satellite Internet/phones and multiple radios with frequency bridge capabilities.
Food	Shelf-stable, easily prepared foods that take into account a family's specific nutritional needs.	Shelf-stable, easily prepared food pre-positioned around the state to feed Alaskans, including those with special needs and dietary requirements.



Clean Water Anywhere. These water purification units are easy to transport, simple to operate and self-contained. The two-piece black unit in front can purify 1,800 gallons of water per day. The two-piece green unit in back can purify 5,500 gallons per day. DHS&EM's seven water purification units can process up to 45,000 gallons per day. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

that multiple end users have the knowledge, skills and training on the equipment.

DHS&EM is currently awaiting the delivery of 24 electrical generators, modified to operate in Arctic environments. The generators can temporarily replace all or part of a large community's electrical power supply, providing power to critical infrastructure such as shelters, hospitals or first responders.

DHS&EM is also working with the Red Cross, Alaska food banks and other food-related organizations to develop a comprehensive plan to manage the state's emergency food resources. Similar to the emergency water, electrical and communi-

cation capabilities, a scalable approach will also be implemented for food supplies. This food assurance project is state funded in fiscal year 2013.

The goals of DHS&EM are to obtain the best equipment for use in Alaska, test and continually refine capabilities, and cross-train with partners on equipment operations. This will ensure a strong and supportive emergency response, compre-

hensive enough to meet the wide-ranging missions across the state.

"The best equipment and the finest supplies in the world are useless unless people can quickly put them to work where they are needed," Fisher said. "We are working hard to train our staff and partners so they have the knowledge and experience to use these supplies and equipment to their fullest." ■



In Contact. Bryan Fisher, operation section chief, DHS&EM, demonstrates how to use these communications back-packs. The packs provide a small team with communications anywhere in Alaska. The easy-to-set-up systems can be powered by an included solar panel, DC or standard 110 AC power. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

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First Female State Command Sergeant Major

By Sergeant Michelle Brown,
134th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard is composed of 1,900 citizen-Soldiers; of those, only 320 are women.

It seemed natural for one woman who grew up with three brothers to join an organization that is mostly male. Some may call her a “tomboy” since she likes hunting, fishing, shooting a variety of weapons and working in the maintenance field.

But those who have the honor to serve with Pam call her Command Sergeant Major Harrington, an American Soldier, a warrior and a leader.

With more than 25 years of experience in military administration, logistics and maintenance, along with a tour to Afghanistan, where she was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Harrington was selected to be the first female state command sergeant major for the Alaska Army National Guard, effective June 1.

“Command Sergeant Major Pamela Harrington was selected because she has demonstrated through her professionalism, leadership and hard work that she is one of the best senior noncommissioned officers that the Alaska National Guard has ever had,” said Command Sergeant Major Gordon Choate, senior enlisted advisor to the adjutant general, Alaska National Guard. “It was a very easy choice to pick her as number one.”

Choate, the outgoing state command sergeant major, said the Alaska Army National Guard is a diverse organization with many opportunities for all Soldiers.

As the state command sergeant major, Harrington will advise Brigadier General Mike Bridges, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, on enlisted related issues, such as enforcement of policies, training and quality of life.

“I’ve watched her advance through the ranks of senior noncommissioned officer leadership,” Bridges said. “She is highly confident, highly qualified, and I trust her implicitly to be the standards bearer for the enlisted corps.”

Harrington said she appreciates the faith and confidence Bridges has placed in her by selecting her to be a part of his command team and looks forward to the challenge.

“I know that this is a team assignment, and I am but one part of this team,” said Harrington. “My ability to enhance and complement the team performance is what is critical.”

As the top senior enlisted Soldier, Harrington’s goal is to know her Soldiers and to take care of them.



Pamela Harrington. Alaska Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major Pamela Harrington is the first female state command sergeant major for the organization. She has more than 25 years of experience with military administration, logistics and maintenance.

*“I have a passion for the
Alaska Army National Guard
and for what I do,
which is why I am still here
after 25 years.”*

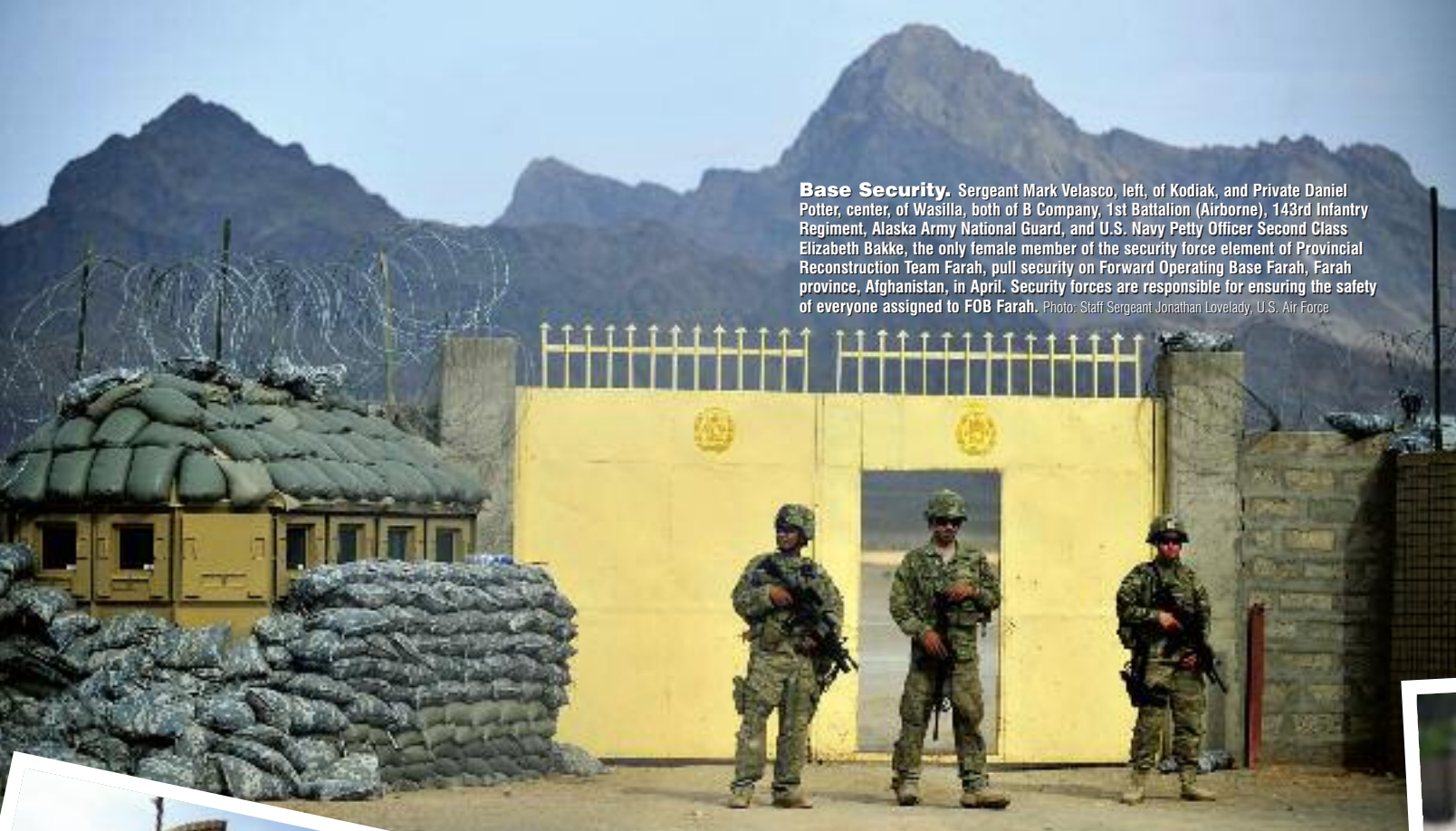
—Pamela Harrington

“I must always remember what the challenges were to me as a Soldier coming up through the ranks and constantly talk to Soldiers at every level and find out firsthand how well the leaders of our organization are doing at communicating with the force,” Harrington said.

Her advice to lower enlisted Soldiers or to those who are striving to excel in the Alaska Army National Guard is to never compromise standards or your integrity to get ahead.

“I have a passion for the Alaska Army National Guard and for what I do, which is why I am still here after 25 years,” said Harrington. “I love being a part of this team, and I want every Soldier to have that passion.” ■

A recruitment poster for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The background is a close-up of several military medals and ribbons resting on a textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, in large white letters on a black background, is "YOU'VE EARNED IT". Below that, in white text on a dark background, is "IT'S NOT THE PRICE YOU PAY TO BE A MEMBER...". Then, in black text on a white background, is "IT'S THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE.". Below this, in white text on a dark background, is "EVERY YEAR THE VFW HELPS THOUSANDS OF VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP, WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU, AND HOW TO JOIN.". At the bottom, the VFW logo is displayed in large red letters, with "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS" in smaller white letters below it. At the very bottom, in white text on a dark background, is "FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.VFW.ORG/JOIN/ OR CALL 1-888-JOIN-VFW".



Base Security. Sergeant Mark Velasco, left, of Kodiak, and Private Daniel Potter, center, of Wasilla, both of B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Elizabeth Bakke, the only female member of the security force element of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, pull security on Forward Operating Base Farah, Farah province, Afghanistan, in April. Security forces are responsible for ensuring the safety of everyone assigned to FOB Farah. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force



Battle Ready. Alaska Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Mark Scott, of Delta Junction, a security force member of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, pulls security from his battle position during an escort detail on Forward Operating Base Farah, Farah province, Afghanistan, in April. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force

Security in Afghanistan:

ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN ON PATROL

Clearing the Road. Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah pull security during a road assessment mission in Farah province, Afghanistan, in May. The goal of the PRT is to promote the Afghan government and its ability to resolve local issues and provide security to the people. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force





Children of Afghanistan. Children gather around as Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah pull security during a mission in Farah City, Farah province, Afghanistan in May. PRT members met with locals to gather information and opinions about the living conditions in Farah City. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force



New Friends. Specialist Bentley Davis, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, a security force member of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, speaks with a local Afghan girl while pulling security during a mission in Farah City, Farah province, Afghanistan, in May. Davis is from Wasilla.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force



Observations. Children gather around as First Lieutenant Brandon Bowden, of Anchorage, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, pulls security during a mission in Farah City, Farah province, Afghanistan, in May. Bowden is the platoon leader of the security force element of Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Lovelady, U.S. Air Force



Security on the Streets. Staff Sergeant James Zeulow of Juneau, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, walks past two Afghan woman and children while providing security during an Afghan poetry workshop hosted by the Kandahar Directorate of Information and Culture and the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team in May in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Timothy Chacon, U.S. Air Force



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Supporting Service Members.

Wells Fargo Alaska Regional President Richard Strutz signs a statement of support in April signifying the company's pledge to stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve employees. Strutz signed a statement of support for each branch of Wells Fargo bank in Alaska.

Wells Fargo Pledges Support of Guard and Reserve

Story and photos by Jamie Abordonado,
Alaska ESGR

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... Wells Fargo Alaska Regional President Richard Strutz signed a statement of support for the Guard and Reserve in April.

The statement of support confirms that Wells Fargo in Alaska joins other employers in pledging that:

- It fully recognizes, honors, and enforces the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act
- Its managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- It will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war.

"Today, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units," said Rich Owen, of the Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "I am asking all Alaska employers to take a look at their current human resources policies to incorporate policies supportive of Guard and Reserve employees. Many



Pro Patria Award. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation-Energy Services and Siemens Industry Inc. received a Pro Patria award from the Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in April. The Pro Patria award is the highest employer recognition in the state. Siemens Industry is also a nominee for the National Freedom award, which is the highest recognition for a civilian employer at the national level for ESGR. From left: ESGR National Chairman Jim Rebholz, Siemens Industry Inc. Alaska Branch Manager Leverette Hoover, ESGR Alaska State Chairman Rich Owens and Alaska Army National Guard Commander Brigadier General Mike Bridges.

Alaska employers provide 'above and beyond' support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages and extension of health care benefits, which complement coverage provided by the military, when their employees are mobilized."

"Wells Fargo proudly supports all of our Alaska team members serving in the National Guard and Reserve," Strutz said. "We recognize that our team members have made incredible personal sacrifices to defend our freedom, support their families and help our Alaska customers succeed financially. Thank you to all of our Alaska

veterans and active duty service members. It's an honor to serve those who serve our country."

In 2011, Wells Fargo was honored with the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. Wells Fargo stood out among 4,049 nominations submitted by National Guard and Reserve service members or their families. Freedom Award recipients distinguish themselves by

going to extraordinary lengths to support their military employees.

"As a nearly 32-year Guardsman, I have seen first-hand the difference between non-supportive versus supportive employers in their direct impact on National Guard and Reserve personnel in the conduct of our missions," said Brigadier General Mike Bridges, commander, Alaska Army National Guard. "These signed and visual statements of support are a huge and positive symbol to all of America's citizen-Soldiers that what we do is important to our nation and its safety and prosperity." ■

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Guardian Angels Train with Marines Before Afghanistan Deployment

Pave Hawk to the Rescue.
A pararescuer is hoisted up into an HH-60G Pave Hawk during Exercise Mojave Viper in March. This exercise prepared the Guardian Angel teams of the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, Alaska Air National Guard, and the 3rd Battalion 8th Marines forces for real-world combat and also brought members of the sister services closer together.



In for Landing. Staff Sergeant Jacob Inman, flight engineer with the 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, calls an approach to a "brown out" landing during Exercise Mojave Viper in March. The 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, participated in the exercise with the 3rd Battalion 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C., before deploying together to Afghanistan.



Desert Conditions. Staff Sergeant Chris Bowerfind, left, and Technical Sergeant Shane Hargas, pararescuemen with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, run to link up with simulated survivors during Exercise Mojave Viper in March.



Preparing for Combat. The 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, Alaska Air National Guard, participate in Exercise Mojave Viper with the 3rd Battalion 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C., before deploying together to Afghanistan. The exercise consisted of multiple real-world scenarios such as emergency medical evacuations for mass casualties from a Marine convoy and single Marine evacuations to be hoisted from the tops of buildings.



Ready for Extraction. Master Sergeant Brandon Stuemke, pararescueman with the 212th Rescue Squadron, prepares a lift bag in preparation for extracting a simulated patient trapped beneath a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle during Exercise Mojave Viper in March.

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Cynthia Spalding, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. ... Airmen and Marines ran through multiple strenuous real-world scenarios during Exercise Mojave Viper at Twentynine Palms in March to prepare for their summer deployment together.

"It was really great to get this opportunity to train with the Marines, to have the opportunity to see how they work, and for them to see how we will work in a joint environment before we deploy," said First Lieutenant Ben Leonard, HH-60G Pave Hawk combat search and rescue helicopter pilot with the 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

This training was necessary to not only provide muscle memory for the Guardian Angel teams but also to strengthen the bond between sister services.

"A critical part of our training is being proficient at brown-out landings," said Lieutenant Colonel Tom Bolin, 210th Rescue Squadron commander. "The sand here is very fine and light, causing a severe dust cloud, called a 'brown out,' that makes landing a very challenging team effort. We will face these conditions in Afghanistan, which is why it is critical for us to become

proficient at these landings. We need to get in and out of the landing zone quickly, to minimize our exposure to the enemy."

There was somewhat of a language barrier between the Marines and the Airmen. The training afforded the opportunity needed for Airmen to familiarize themselves with common practices and operating procedures in order to keep Airmen and Marines on the same page.

"It's better for us to work out the language barriers in a training environment than to hear it for the first time in combat," Bolin said. "Trying to translate each other's jargon during high-risk rescue missions is confusing and wastes valuable time."

Knowing the other service's lingo went a long way when building a common understanding for mission success.

"It's definitely not as simple as it sounds," said Captain Matt Kirby, a combat rescue officer with the 212th Rescue Squadron. "It's a combination of coordination with all units involved – timeliness in arrival for medical needs, accuracy of location, efficiency in getting to the patients on the ground, all while there's a tunnel of sand and sometimes bullets flying around

the helicopter. Since we will be in a hazardous location, dodging and preventing any further attacks as we try to get the patients who need medical attention out of the danger zone are also in the mix."

Building trust with the Marines was another advantage to this training. Pararescuemen need to be able to keep the patients from going into shock. Anything that can help, even if it's building a training relationship, is worth it.

"They know what they are doing, and they know how to get it done quick," said Marine Private Nicholas Lara, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, of the Guardian Angel teams. "This is the first time I have ever trained with the Air Force, but they have impressed me with what they know how to do and how they get it done. When I deploy, it makes me comfortable knowing that someone is there who can actually take care of me and get me back home."

In May, the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons and the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. ■



Veterans

HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... In the past year, Alaska veterans have received some of the most comprehensive legislative packages honoring their service.

The GI Bill was enhanced adding the trades/distant learning/vocational rehabilitation provisions to the benefits of eligible service members. Tax breaks for businesses that hire veterans were passed in the state Legislature and in Congress. In addition, a seamless medical records system between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense was designed, improving the transition from active duty.

Alaska is the first in the nation to have the VA and Alaska Tribal Health Programs sign a medical sharing and reimbursement agreement. The agreement will strengthen both the VA and ATHP, help increase access to care, and enhance continuity of treatment for eligible Native and non-Native veterans close to ATHP services, particularly those in remote and rural areas. The best way to think



Gratitude. During the Rural Providers Conference in Dillingham in late May, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell and Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, honor Alaska Territorial Guard veteran Private John Bennett Sr. for his service in the ATG. Photo: Mercedes Angerman, Veterans Affairs

of this initiative is that our veterans in Alaska will finally have VA-covered health care where they live.

With this new reimbursement agreement in place, the next step is to increase outreach all across Alaska. The 2013 Veteran Service Officer grants will reflect this effort by an increase in travel funds. When the VSOs are out in the community, they will be asking veterans to fill out a VA form 1010EZ, which registers veterans for VA medical privileges. This will greatly help veterans and the community. ■



Honoring Historical Service. Alaska Territorial Guard members are recognized during a Memorial Day service in Dillingham. From left: Alaska Governor Sean Parnell; Private John Norbert, ATG; Private John Smeaton, ATG; Corporal Gust Bartman, ATG; Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard; Sergeant Wayne Kapotak, Alaska Army National Guard; and state Representative Bryce Edgmon. Photo: Mercedes Angerman, Veterans Affairs

New Educational Funding Helps Veterans Return to Work

By Veterans Affairs Staff

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... A new federal program is in place to help train and return Alaska's veterans to the work force.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program offers education benefits to eligible veterans ages 35 to 60 and took effect July 1, 2012.

VRAP is available for those veterans who are:

- At least age 35 but no older than 60 years old
- Unemployed
- Discharged other than dishonorable
- Ineligible for other VA education benefits or in receipt of VA compensation because of unemployability
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

"We want nothing more than to put Alaska's veterans to work," said Verdie Bowen, director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Alaska. "With the current economic conditions, this piece of legislation is perfectly timed to provide a funding source to ease the financial burden for those eligible so that they may retrain and find new employment opportunities."

VRAP will pay 12 months of payments equivalent to the prevailing Montgomery GI Bill monthly rate for eligible veterans enrolled in an approved program of study. The Department of Labor will provide employment assistance to every veteran who participates, upon completion of the program.

VRAP is just one section of the comprehensive "VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011" signed into law November 2011 by President Barack Obama, aimed at ending veteran unemployment. The program is available to 45,000 participants nationwide from July 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2012, and 54,000 participants from Oct. 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014.

Visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/VRAP> to learn more and read the frequently asked questions about VRAP. More details about VRAP, including information on how to apply, will be published at www.gibill.gov as they become available.

The point of contact for the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs is Mercedes Angerman, (907) 428-6513. ■

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

Available for Retired Guard/Reserve members — regardless of age!

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program offers retired members of the National Guard and Reserve great benefits and features, such as:

- An expansive nationwide network of dentists for maximum cost savings and program value
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- An opportunity to skip the waiting period by enrolling within four months after transferring to Retired Reserve status!*

Visit us online to learn more about this valuable dental benefits program available to all Uniformed Services retirees — including "gray-area" retired Guard & Reserve members*, too!

*Proof of Retired Reserve status required



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The Moving Wall Arrives in Alaska: Paying Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

Photos: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

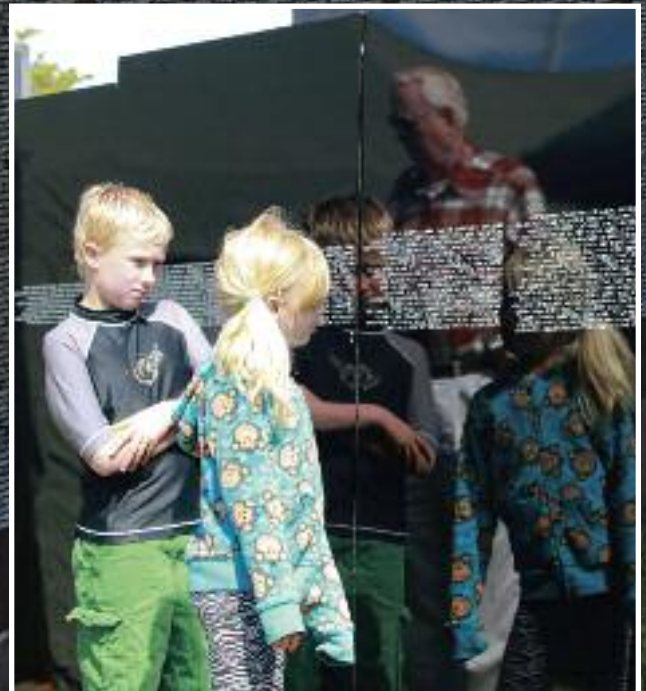
Reflective Tribute. The Moving Wall, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., glistens on the Delaney Park Strip in Anchorage in June.



Friends and Comrades. Wayne Stackhouse spends time looking at the names of the Soldiers he served with while deployed to Vietnam in 1967.



Remembering Those Lost. Vietnam veteran Kenny Holm, right, gets help copying names off The Moving Wall of fallen military members he served with in Vietnam.



Never Forgotten. The younger generation takes time to honor military members killed in action during the Vietnam War whose names are listed on The Moving Wall in Anchorage.



Searching for Fallen Friends. Kenny Holm searches The Moving Wall to find fallen military members he served with during the Vietnam War. The Moving Wall, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., was on display in Anchorage for about a week and traveled throughout the state for about two months.



The Fallen. Names of military members killed in action during the Vietnam War are listed on The Moving Wall, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The Wall was on display at the Delaney Park Strip in Anchorage for about a week.

168th Air Refueling Wing Fuels Strike Exercise

By First Lieutenant Bernie Kale,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 168th Air Refueling Wing participated in a nationwide joint exercise aimed at validating long-range capabilities of several Air Force bombers and fighters in April.

Dubbed Operation Chimichanga, KC-135 Stratotankers from the 168th Air Refueling Wing, F-16 Aggressor aircraft from Misawa Air Base, Japan, B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and the F-22 Raptor and E-3 Sentry assigned to the 3rd Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson participated in the U.S. Strategic Command operation.

Personnel operated F-22s, KC-135s and F-16s out of Eielson Air Force Base, while E-3s and additional F-16s supported the exercise from JBER.

The B-1 bombers participating in the long-range strike exercise flew a 10-hour round trip mission from Ellsworth to strike their targets just east of Eielson. The exercise allowed the various aircraft to work together in a simulated strike environment



Aerial Gas Station. A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 168th Air Refueling Wing refuels a B-1 bomber in April as part of a combat training mission over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex during Operation Chimichanga.

Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Carl Kohntopp, 168th Air Refueling Wing

to practice interoperability while simultaneously traveling long distances and receiving air refueling support.

"We had our KC-135 tankers up in the air refueling the aircraft involved in the exercise," said Major Scott Lanis, 168th Operations Group chief of scheduling. "Within seven hours of flight time, we offloaded 147,000 pounds of fuel."

The operation was conducted on the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex near Eielson Air Force Base. The 65,000-square-

mile air space provides a diverse training environment, allowing pilots to train realistically and jointly in situations similar to what they'll face in combat. The operation involved numerous commands and went smoothly, according to Lanis.

"This was a total force operation with commands from Alaska all the way down to the Lower 48," Lanis said. "We were prepared and worked seamlessly with everyone to make this an all around successful exercise." ■



Take Off. A B-1 bomber assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron rumbles off the flight line at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., in April en route to Alaska as part of a combat training mission over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex near Eielson Air Force Base. The purpose of the exercise was to flex all major muscle movements during the planning and executing phase of a long-range strike. Photo: Airman Hrair H. Palyan, U.S. Air Force



Family Programs

Taking Action to Serve America's Military Families

“The spirit of service and selflessness that is seen in military communities across our country represents what is best about America, and as a nation, we owe our brave service members and their families more than gratitude – we owe them the support they have earned. Joining Forces asks all Americans to take action because each of us has a role to play in reconnecting with military families in our communities.”

– First Lady Michelle Obama

Story and photo by Lieutenant Colonel Kay Spear-Budd, Family Programs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Joining Forces is a comprehensive national initiative to mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned.

Here in Alaska, our Alaska National Guard Family Readiness Groups and Key Volunteer Teams have started their own mobilization efforts to reach out to families of our deployed Soldiers and Airmen.

Organizing coffee dates for spouses to provide a mutual support and network of resources, making themselves available as a shoulder to lean on and someone to provide referrals to resources locally or through their State Family Programs office, providing communication from command, organizing annual events and providing safe places to enjoy trick-or-treating and children's holiday parties, and volunteering at camps for children are only a few efforts to reach out to our military families.

Show the nation how Alaskans love their military by showing your support to Alaska's military as an outstanding American citizen, community or business committed to supporting the troops and serving our nation's military families. For additional information contact the Alaska National Guard Family Programs office at (907) 428-6691. ■



Supporting Service Members. The Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce salutes community members in May for their support of military families. Of the 11 people recognized, four were Alaska National Guard family members: Lynn Assenmacher, left, wife of Senior Master Sergeant James Assenmacher, 176th Communications Flight, Alaska Air National Guard; Sasha Pohwat, third from left, wife of Specialist Peter Pohwat, B Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard; Lori Smith, fourth from left, wife of Chief Warrant Officer Three Peter Smith, A Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard; and Melissa Thornton, fifth from left, wife of retired Master Sergeant Roy Thornton, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard.

Joining Forces:

- Brings attention to the unique needs and strengths of America's military families.
- Inspires, educates and sparks action from all sectors of our society – citizens, communities, businesses, nonprofits, faith-based institutions, philanthropic organizations and government – to ensure that veterans and military families have the opportunities, resources and support they have earned.
- Showcases the skills, experience and dedication of America's veterans and military spouses to strengthen our nation's communities.
- Creates greater connections between the American public and the military.



Education



Helping Cadets Excel. Roman Schara, who works in the Headquarters Support Services Section at the Alaska Military Youth Academy, helps cadets navigate through computer instruction. He was recognized for his dedication and excellence in helping others with a customer service award, individual honorable mention, during the Governor's Peak Performance awards presentation in May. Photo: Barb Heckaman, AMYA

Employee Honored for Dedication to AMYA

By Clyde Burton, AMYA

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ... There are exceptional individuals in life who serve anonymously. Previous to this year's Governor's Peak Performance awards, this could be said of Roman Schara, who works in the Headquarters Support Services Section at the Alaska Military Youth Academy, a division of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

However, at the prestigious annual awards ceremony, held at the University of Alaska Anchorage in May, Schara was publicly honored for his work at AMYA with the presentation of a customer service award, individual honorable mention.

Schara was nominated for the customer service excellence award for his outstanding dedication and service to the staff, students, parents, mentors and other customers of the Alaska Military Youth Academy.

Schara came to state service almost three years ago and is often the first friendly face or voice a visitor or caller reaches. In addition to his daily duties in the office, he is the photographer for the academy and supports the newsletter, yearbook,

academy website and Facebook page. He has also enthusiastically taken on the role of webmaster and Facebook administrator for the academy; in that role, he ensures accurate and timely web updates, as well as manages Facebook connections with young people and their parents, ensuring positive and wholesome content and communication.

Schara exemplifies the virtue of hiring military veterans in their second careers and validates AMYA's and DMVA's efforts to hire former service professionals. Prior to joining AMYA, he worked as a federal contractor with the 3rd Medical Group Surgical Suite and Gastroenterology Clinic after retiring from a 20-year Air Force career as a cardiothoracic and trauma surgical technologist.

In the military, he was rapid-deployed in medical support of the Khobar Tower bombing, was deployed twice to the Persian Gulf, once to Africa, and was in the stay-behind contingent at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., supporting medical operations in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Schara's high level of professionalism, reliability and initiative are only the barest description of his value to the academy and its mission of service to the youth of our state. He gives freely of his time, imagination and extra effort while bringing a smile and a compassion for the human condition to his work.

He loves to work with the cadets, and supports them and their families by helping them stay connected through photographs, video, website and Facebook. As a direct result of his efforts on Facebook, AMYA "reaches" have skyrocketed from fewer than 800 reaches per week last year, to almost 14,000 reaches per week during this class of cadets. The total number of AMYA Facebook "friends" is now more than 400,000.

A Green Bay Packers fan for life, he loves reading, diamond willow carving and hiking with his Westie, Myscha. His inspiration at home and at work is to treat all people as he would like to be treated, with respect and compassion. He and his wife, Monica, have two daughters, Marcy and Rose. ■



Who We Are...

What is your holiday tradition for the 4th of July?

**2nd Lieutenant
Jill King**
1-207th Aviation



"Every year, my friends and I play in a co-ed softball tournament in Kenai. Actually, we win a softball tournament in Kenai."

**Senior Airman
Torre Jackson**

168th Maintenance Repair and Reclamation



"I go fishing with my shop in a secret spot!"

Michael Williams
Procurement Specialist



"I either go fishing all day or barbeque up some burgers."

**Major
Ruth Keator**
168th Force Support Flight



"We go to Amook Island where we stay with friends in a cabin. It's my sanctuary and our time to refocus while getting away and appreciating all that we have."

**Private
Duncan Zachgo**
1-207th Aviation



"When my family and I are in Anchorage, we watch the fireworks. If we're in Delta Junction, my dad and uncle put on a fireworks show and a bonfire."



The mission of the National Guard Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth. We produce program Graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. Over 80% of the Program's graduates go on to become successful citizens by joining the work force, the military or by continuing their education.

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(907)375-5554

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www.akmya.org



Alaska Military Youth Academy

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's ChalleNGe Program is designed to provide life coping skills and meet the educational needs of 16 to 18 year old Alaskans. The Youth ChalleNGe Program is a 22 week residential school with a 12 month post-residential aftercare follow-up phase.



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Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Legion of Merit



COL David W. Osborn JFHQ-AK (Army)

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt Col Torrence W. Saxe 213th SWS
Mark T. Dewey 168th ARS
Ralph R. Teeter 168th CPR FT
SMSgt George N. Snyder 213th SWS
LTC Kenneth T. Blaylock . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
CSM Daniel W. Goodwin 761st MP
1SG John H. Drew 49th GMD

2012 Governor's Denali Peak Performance Awards

Customer Service Excellence – Individual

Honorable Mention
Roman Schara
Alaska Military Youth Academy

Exceptional Performance – Team

Honorable Mention
Crooked Creek
Disaster Housing Team
(Division of Homeland Security &
Emergency Management)

David Andrews
Dale Crum
Kris Jedlicki
Brenda Kerr
Tiffany Peltier
John Ramsey
Debbie Reed
Jolly Tangog
Octavia Thompson
Samuel Walton

MSG Billie J. Dutton RTI
MSG Kathy L. Thompson . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
MSG William J. Giese JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Melissa Hollingsworth . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Samuel P. Ethridge JFHQ-AK (Army)

Army Commendation Medal



SFC Julie A. Small 38th TC
SFC Megan K. Simono JFHQ-AK (Army)

Air Force Commendation Medal



MSgt Sean P. Cain 168th OSF
TSgt Robert W. Carr 168th ARW

Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA Calvin L. Jaynes 213th SWS
LtCol Sharolyn Lange 176th MDG
LtCol Scott Fell 249th AS
LtCol Brent Buss 176th OPS
Maj Gregory Yoschak 249th AS
Maj Benjamin Douglas 249th AS
Capt Allison Snow 249th AS
Capt Laura Grossman 249th AS
Capt Andrew Beuch 249th AS
1Lt Ryan McGrail 249th AS
1Lt Justin Orenich 176th MDG
MSgt Jeffrey Watson 249th AS
MSgt Timothy Stone 249th AS
TSgt Rebecca Sunde 249th AS

TSgt Joshua Stevenson 249th AS
TSgt Thomas Berry 249th AS
TSgt Justin Olsen 176th OPS
TSgt Jennifer Theulen 144th AS
SSgt Douglas Mathes 249th AS
SSgt Michael Ralston 249th AS
SRA Ryan Stark 249th AS

Alaska Legion of Merit



COL David W. Osborn JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW5 David M. Benesch . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW2 Jere F. Just 297th BFSB
CSM Dennis F. Covell 761st MP
MSG Jerauld W. Troop 761st MP

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



LTC Kenneth T. Blaylock . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Stephen N. Wilson . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
MSG Billie J. Dutton RTI

Alaska Commendation Medal



MSgt Jeffrey Schwengler 249th AS
MAJ Wayne N. Don JFHQ-AK (Army)
1LT Rhett Kelly 49th GMD
CW2 Nicholas M. Forbes . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Rodney D. Jones JFHQ-AK (Army)
SGT Kenneth T. Edgeworth . . . 49th GMD
SGT Shane L. Guszregan 1-207th AVN
SPC Lilly A. Fox 297th BFSB

Congratulations

*to the members of the
Alaska Army National Guard's GBI Security Battery,
49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)
for receiving the Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation.*

Way to Go

*Sergeant First Class Lonzell Scott, 761st Military Police Battalion,
who won the Advancement of Colored People Roy Wilkins Service
Award based on his service and outstanding work in the equal
opportunity field, with his participation in the Fort Greely Equal
Opportunity Board and equal opportunity employment, as a former
member of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion.*

PROMOTIONS

Colonel

Patty R. Wilbanks176th MSG

Lieutenant Colonel

Theodore James McGovern .. JFHQ-AK (Army)
Jon D. Thornton176th ACS

Major

Robert A. Brumby III 249th AS
Robert L. Stratton144th AS
Kirby R. Chacon144th AS
Gregg Laird176th WG
Mary F. Lacy 210th RQS
Christopher J. Mercer176th CE

Captain

Stan Richard Skaw1-207th AVN
Peter Paul Pagni1-207th AVN
Walter Victor Hotchhill1-297th CAV
Jeremy Alan Blackwell 49th GMD
Mariano Henry Barajas 49th GMD
Joshua G. McKinley144th AS
Aaron C. Bunn144th AS
Kendalynn Farthing176th MDG
Aaron J. Hunter 212th RQS
Jeremiah J. Johnson 211th RQS
Gary M. Weir144th AS

First Lieutenant

Aaron Daniel Dahle MED DET
George K. McMillen Jr.144th AS
Joshua C. Lester Student Flight
Ryan N. McGrail 249th AS
Matthew A. Haug Student Flight
Vanessa L. Ortiz176th OG
Christopher D. Perham176th ACS
Stacey M. Rother Student Flight
Fidan S. Thornburg Student Flight

Second Lieutenant

Jeanette May Padgett 207th BSC
Danny Ray Canlas207th BSC

Chief Warrant Officer Five

Glen Matthew Spadin JFHQ-AK (Army)

Warrant Officer One

Justin Michael Ables1-207th AVN
Patrick James Gargan1-207th AVN
Cody Grant Bjorklund1-207th AVN

First Sergeant

James Paul Nyquist1-297th R&S

Chief Master Sergeant

Patrick J. Skinner168th MXG

Senior Master Sergeant

Joseph Debanio168th MXS
Jeffrey J. Ling168th ARW

Sergeant First Class

Martin Phillip Johnson JFHQ-AK (Army)
James Leroy Schilling JFHQ-AK (Army)
Adam Joseph Fleck JFHQ-AK (Army)

Master Sergeant (Air)

Andrew P. Seward168th SFS
George D. Bender168th MXS
Travis L. Englund168th MSG
Jennifer L. Beckley168th ARS
Joel M. Padgett168th LRS
Michael W. Zener176th SFS

Staff Sergeant (Army)

Colin Daniel Oppegard1-297th R&S
Joseph Daniel Deimund JFHQ-AK (Army)
James Michael Bates1-143rd IN ABN
Duane Eugene Leventry1-297th R&S
Robert Calitis Vina 297th BFSB
Natasha Mary May R&R BN
Trampas John Vojtasek103rd CST
Robert Riley Hughes 49th GMD
Anthony Christopher MED DET
Harry Kwong Choi1-207th AVN
Tara Marie Gardner MED DET

Technical Sergeant

John A. Tweed168th MXS
Thomas C. Elliott 213th SWS
Justin J. Stuart168th ARW
Jacob T. Parker168th MXS

Douglas K. Weber168th CF
Neal P. Egurrola168th MXS
Dusty L. Spencer168th MXS
Justin D. Bradley176th SFS

Sergeant

Phaythoun Lafountain 297th BFSB
Timothy Lee Mathews1-297th R&S
Jennifer Nicole Nutt1-207th BSC
Matthew Michael Melvin1-207th AVN
Erik Michael Gunderson1-207th AVN
Daen John Musickslater 297th SIG
Mark Christian Edquid1-207th AVN
Juliann Alyssarae 297th BFSB
Joya Ann Myers 297th SIG
Vernon Calden Friday1-143rd IN ABN
Ryan James Callaway1-297th CAV
Sean Keith Wigley MED DET

Staff Sergeant (Air)

Catelyn A. Neason168th FSF
Jeffrey J. Enters168th ARW
Donald L. Cronce168th MXS
Garret M. Brown168th LRS
David A. Foster168th CF
Jasmine A. Gallatin168th ARS
Vincent S. McKiernan168th LRS
Khelsea M. Sawyer168th AMXS
Rachel N. Martin176th OSS
Zachary W. Roberts176th OSS
Nickolas T. Watson 212th RQS

RETIREMENTS

TSgt Daniel A. Lescault168th MXS
TSgt Dennis W. Galemore 213th SWS
SSgt Trenton L. White168th LRS
Lt Col James A. Fitts168th OSF
Lt Col Mark T. Dewey168th ARS
MSgt Nathan P. Horne168th MXS
SSgt Don O. Collins 213th SWS
Sam Amos168th AMXS
SPC Lily A. Fox 297th BFSB
SFC Betty A. Bell1-207th AVN
SFC Jesse Cross R&R BN
SFC Melissa L. Hollingsworth
..... JFHQ-AK (Army)
MSG Billie J. Dutton RTI
MSG Felicia Link R&R BN
MSG Kathy L. Thompson .. JFHQ-AK (Army)
CSM Dennis F. Covell761ST MP
CSM David R. Hudson JFHQ-AK (Army)

LTC Kenneth T. Blaylock .. JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Peter F. Savage JFHQ-AK (Army)
MAJ Wesley G. W. Smith1-297 CAV
CW2 Jere F. Just 297th BFSB
CW5 David M. Benesch ... JFHQ-AK (Army)
Garry Barnett176th AMXS
Barry Clark176th CES
Mark Larroque144th AS
Eric Mead176th LRS
Michael Okeefe176th LRS
Maralee Omeara176th AMXS
Kevin Carrier176th SFS
Paul Charron176th LRS
Paul Fussey176th CES
Steven Hall176th MED
Paul Vanderweide176th WG
COL David Osborn 297th BFSB



Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

176th Wing

Robert Remy
Patrick Gault
William Forsyth
Chatham Holt
Angelique Mercado
Kyle Novotney
Michael Kim
Christopher Ensman
Matthew Christman
David Berg
Maria Dela-Cruz
Gordon Devries
Joshua Flye
Michael Amerson
Jared Triplehorn
Christopher Watkins
Joshua Krawczyk
Jason Dykstra
Amado Cordero
Jamie Haines
Lyle Langston
Tyson Small
Dylan Kaupé
Matthew Powell
Ariello Achkio

168th Air Refueling Wing

Naomi Desir
Taylor Thomas
Stacey Pfau
John Goeres
Adam Miller
Dana King
Tracy Purdy
Cody Hoxie
Michael Chapman
James Moses
Monica Henthorn
Taylor Runyon
Dawn Gonzalez
Jaesah Robb
Jason Ingram
Deren Trounce
Marc Meston
Michael Johnson
Joshua Fine
Cale White

207th Brigade Support Company

Gabriel Owen Steel
Jennifer Nicole Nutt
Jessica Kimberly Armstrong

1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance

Kristopher Jacob Carruba
Makhayl Lorenzo Sundown
Elliot Wade Severson
Colin Michael Kelley
Duane Eugene Leventry
Justin Alexander Perro
Blake Allen Foy

297th Signal Company

Joya Ann Myers
Patrick Maerion Duffy

1-207th Aviation

Stacia Josee Smith
Anthony Michael Depue
Grant Shelton Cooper
Justin Wren Bolin
Joel Marquez Sudaria
Jessie Monroe Fox
Simon John Fischer

297th Military Police Company

Melyssa Kathryn Peters
Margaret Lea Gaines

Sychelle Grace De Gonzalves

49th Personnel Detachment

Conner Reid Dekalb

Warriors Training Schedule

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

	August	September	October
Alaska National Guard			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	11-12	22-23	13-14
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	4-5	21-23	13-14
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	2-5	23	12-13
38th Troop Command	4-5	22-23	13-14
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	11-14	22-23	13-14
176th Wing	11-12	22-23	13-14
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	25-26	8-9	20-21

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