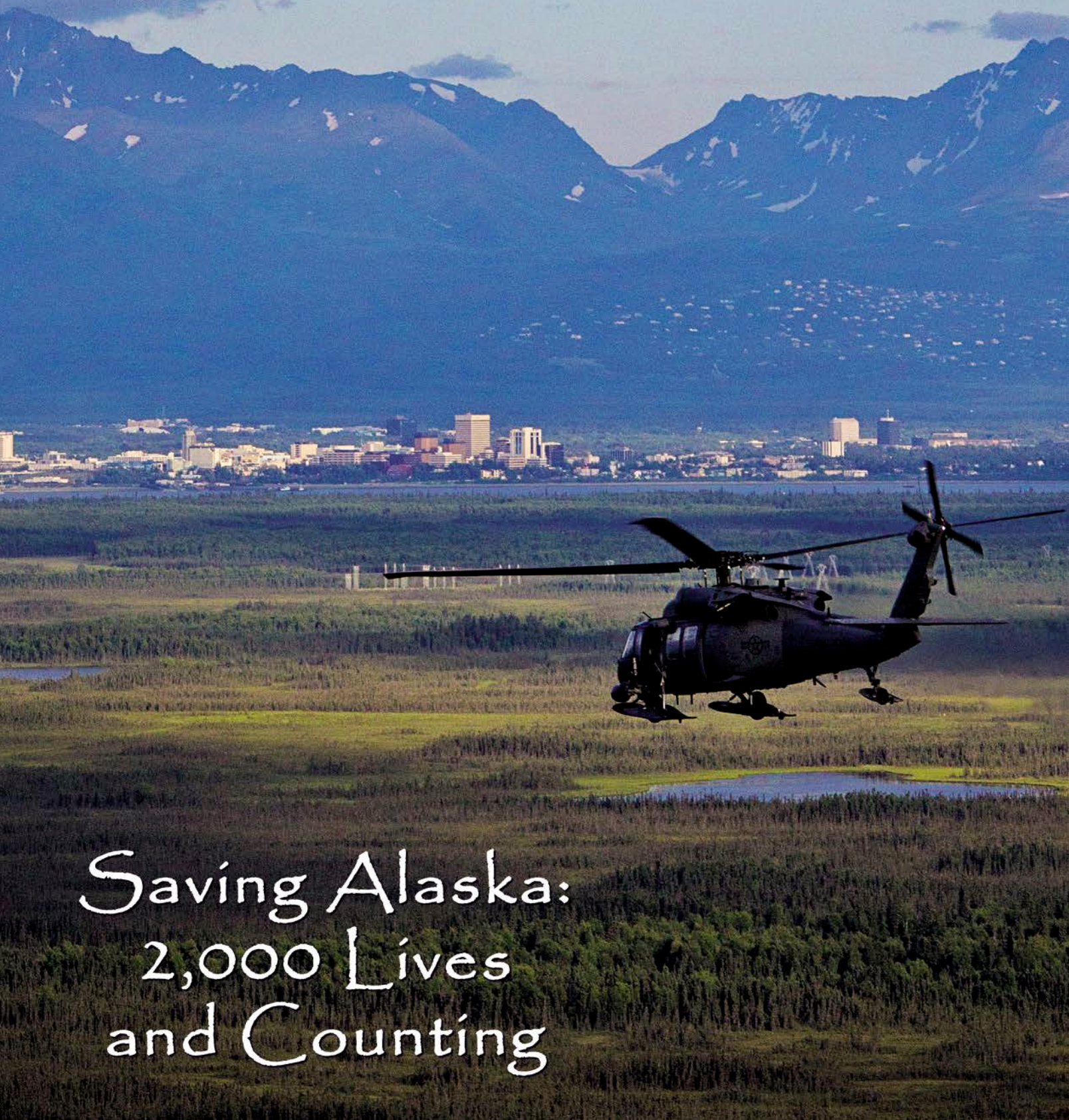


Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

FALL 2013

WARRIORS



Saving Alaska:
2,000 Lives
and Counting

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white short-sleeved top and blue jeans, is sitting on a tan couch. She is holding a framed black and white photograph of a man in a military uniform, who is wearing glasses and looking down at something in his hands. The background is a blurred interior with bookshelves.

Mine was earned in Vietnam. By my dad.

Barbara Q., USAA member

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Governor Sean Parnell
Commander in Chief



Major General Thomas H. Katkus
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner of the DMVA

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WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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On the Cover:

That Others May Live. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk, from the 210th Rescue Squadron, performs a simulated search and rescue pattern near the Little Susitna River. During the past 19 years, more than 5,000 search and rescue missions have led to more than 2,000 lives saved. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



Waterborne Operations. Soldiers from C Company, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, and 176th Engineer Company Vertical, Washington Army National Guard, conducted joint waterborne operations at Walden Lake on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August. The training aimed to sharpen Soldier skills with the Zodiac combat rubber raiding craft, used to land reconnaissance teams onto beaches. Soldiers worked at becoming proficient in basic handling of the Zodiac CRRC with oars and power motor as well as infiltration and exfiltration techniques. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Concepts for section head logos derived from clipart provided by Alaska Native Knowledge Network. www.ankn.uaf.edu

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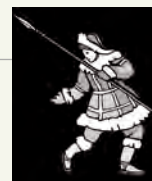
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For the People

Governor Sean Parnell
Commander in Chief



Safety First in Alaska's Outdoors

Alaskans live in a beautiful, vast and wild land. We depend on our state's dedicated search and rescue professionals every day as they continue to put Alaskans' safety first.

Extreme weather conditions this fall made recreational flying more challenging than usual, but the search and rescue professionals of the Alaska National Guard and the United States Coast Guard were ready to serve those in need. The 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center is manned by members of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, who recorded their 2,000th life saved this fall. We are grateful for Alaska's Airmen, some of the best in the world, and their willingness to put themselves at risk for others in harsh elements and extraordinary terrain.

Our rescue personnel are among the highest quality in the world, but the most prudent rescue plan is to be well prepared before adventuring. As we get out and enjoy the majestic beauty of our great state, I encourage all Alaskans to take responsibility for their own safety. Share plans for outdoor trips with a friend or family member. Set a firm date and time for expected return, and record how and when to notify first responders if you do not return according to your plan.

When flying, file a flight plan with the Federal Aviation Administration. Always make sure your airplane is mechanically sound and has the most current emergency locator beacons. Hunters and backpackers should always carry proper emergency

locator equipment, such as flares and a spot-beacon. By making emergency plans and being prepared for inclement weather and unexpected emergencies, Alaskans can ensure a bright future for themselves and others.

I congratulate and thank our search and rescue professionals, as well as our military personnel, on their service, and offer best wishes to all Alaskans for safety during the upcoming winter months.

Sean Parnell

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The Adjutant General



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

Search and Rescue Reach 2,000 Lives Saved

The Rescue Coordination Center, manned with our very own Alaska Air National Guardsmen, hit a milestone this fall as they organized the 2,000th response to save a life. While this is a great time to recognize this incredible statistic, it is also an opportune moment to reflect on those we have lost and why we lost them.

Every year, Alaskans experience nature in radically different ways. From freezing rain, ice-jam flooding, wild fires or hurricane-force storms, every resident must be ready to care for themselves and assist in ensuring the safety of their family, friends, loved ones and their community.

Search and rescue will consistently be a center of gravity for our National Guard resources. As long as we hold the Watch, we will make sure we have the highest trained, best equipped professionals on the job. The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs continues to do our level best to exceed the expectations of the public.

As one of our highest priorities, we are working to ensure access to aircraft that meet our emergency requirements. The recent Department of Defense closure of the Army Guard's C-23 Sherpa flying program severely constrained our mobility and responsiveness throughout our state. This medium-sized airplane provided crucial and timely access to those communities with limited short gravel runways over great distances. It provided critical lift and cargo capacity that is indispensable during domestic emergency response operations.

Alaskans need this operational platform to fill the gap between the short-range, tactical capacity of our Black Hawk helicopters and the strategic capability of the C-130 and C-17 resources. DMVA has engaged DoD to get our eight C-23 Sherpa aircraft transferred to the state to meet our domestic emergency response requirements. With incredible support from both our state and federal leadership, we are making tremendous headway in our efforts.

With increased coordination and cooperation with our partner agencies, we

will continue to improve rescue response times and efficiency. The Department of Public Safety is currently the statutory authority for rescue – they are the first responders across the majority of our state. In complex rescues, their resources are consistently overwhelmed, and the Alaska National Guard or the United States Coast Guard are called to support. It is an exceptional example of state and federal cooperation that directly saves lives.

To garner even better synergy from our cooperative efforts, United States Coast Guard Sector Anchorage will occupy the newly constructed G-wing at the DMVA/

Army National Guard headquarters building on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. This co-locates three operation centers in close proximity and allows our exceptional subject matter experts to share ideas and further improve our responsiveness.

It is our intent that through increased cooperation, public education and engagement, it will take us twice as long to reach our 4,000th save as it did to reach the 2,000th mark.

To every Airmen and Soldier of the Alaska National Guard: you make us proud! ■



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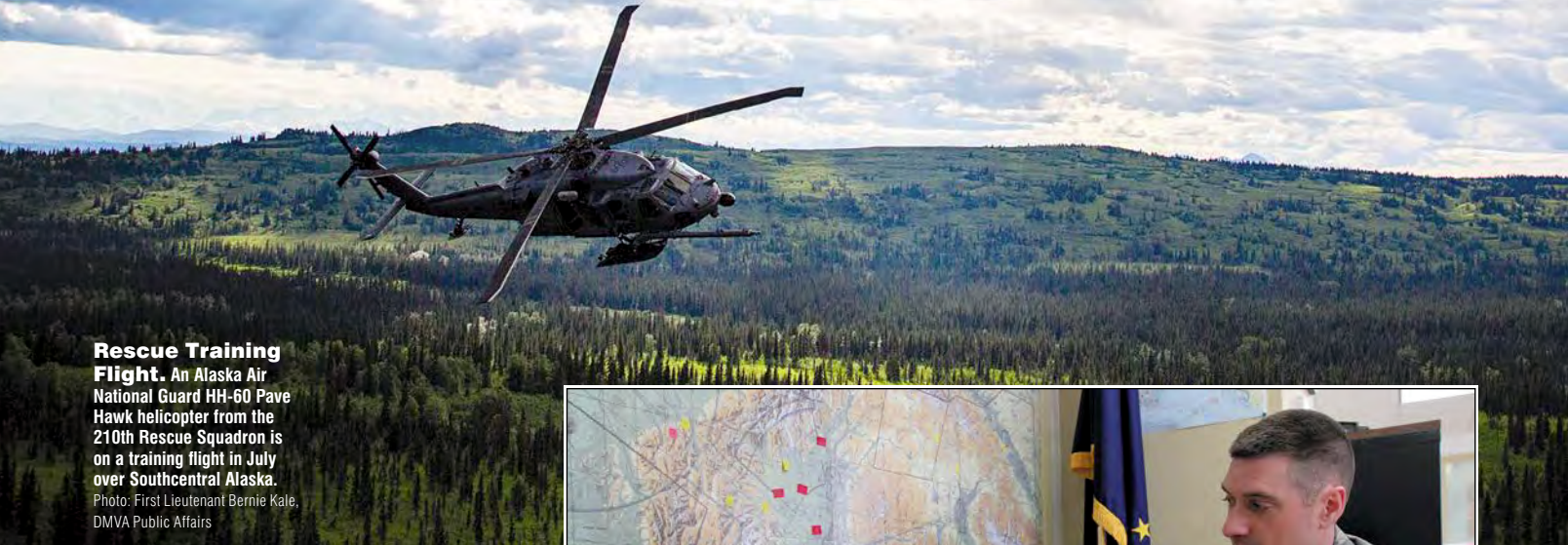
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Dispatches from the Front...

Alaska (11th Air Force) Rescue Coordination Center Saves 2,000th Life



Rescue Training Flight. An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron is on a training flight in July over Southcentral Alaska.
Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Two hunters found themselves huddled over a fire in the middle of the woods, clinging to hope that help would arrive, after their small propeller plane crash-landed outside Talkeetna, Alaska, in early summer.

Their rescue on July 1 proved to be a significant milestone, not only in their memory banks but with the search-and-rescue community as well.

"Your hope is in being found. I don't think I could have walked out of that area, and that's something I don't think people really take that seriously," said Bill Gough, pilot of the downed aircraft from Vancouver, Wash.

Gough and his friend were rescued by the Alaska Air National Guard under command and control of the Alaska (11th Air Force) Rescue Coordination Center. He became the 2,000th life saved since July 1, 1994, when the RCC became manned solely by Alaska Air National Guardsmen under the operational active-duty commander of the 11th Air Force.

Since that time, the men and women of the Alaska Air National Guard have been keeping watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week, coordinating an average of more than five missions a week.



Search and Rescue. Senior Master Sergeant Robert Carte, superintendent of the Rescue Coordination Center, explains how the RCC uses enlarged maps of Alaska to track search-and-rescue grid locations, geographical jurisdiction boundaries and controlled air space around the state. Since July 1, 1994, when the RCC became manned solely by the Alaska Air National Guard, there have been more than 5,000 missions that have led to more than 2,000 lives saved.

Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hayes, 176th Wing

"We were extremely lucky, and those guys did a bang-up job," Gough said. "It's a real wake-up call, and I just want to thank those guys."

Throughout the past 19 years, there have been more than 5,000 missions that have led to the 2,000 lives saved.

"People know that when they go out recreating that if they get lost or in distress, they can count on us to come and look for them," said Senior Master Sergeant Robert Carte, RCC superintendent. "Our mission is to provide a safe and timely response to aircraft events over the land mass of Alaska.

In addition, we assist any other search-and-rescue agency should they need military assets and coordination, so we're often involved with ground searches and missions in Alaska's waters as well."

Many survivors keep in touch with rescuers and find they form unbreakable bonds rooted from these life-and-death situations.

"Thank you would be the first thing that would come out of my mouth, but more than that, I feel like I owe it to them to keep in contact a little bit to let them know I'm recovered, and I'm taking ownership of my

recovery and making sure that I get back to that 100 percent functional state,” said Jake Collins, who was rescued in 2006 after a fall while sheep hunting left him unconscious for weeks and suffering from hypothermia and seizures. “It means the world to me that they were on call, that there was someone for my dad to call in the wee hours of the morning to get help out here and get me off the mountain.”

It’s a test of true heroism that rescuers put themselves in perilous situations to save another life, but they say it’s a fulfilling mission.

“We train all the time for this stuff, but at night we do sit and think about the gravity and intensity of the things that we all have to do,” said Master Sergeant Roger Sparks, 212th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, Alaska Air National Guard. “I do it just because I think it’s a very virtuous job to be able to do things that I’ve trained my whole life at; I’ve been in the military 20 years, and to use those things for virtuous activity, to save other human beings, gives back to you quite a bit.”

“It’s an extremely rewarding mission,” Carte said. “We know the citizens and state depend on us, and it’s not a responsibility we take lightly.”

The RCC relies heavily on the support of other agencies during search-and-rescue missions. Aside from the Alaska Air National Guard and Alaska Army National Guard, these agencies can also be called upon: Alaska State Troopers, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Civil Air Patrol, National Park Service, North Slope Arctic Borough Search and Rescue, Alaska Mountain Rescue, SEADOGS K-9 Search and Rescue Team, Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol and other volunteer search groups.

“From helicopter crews to maintenance to surgical teams at the hospitals to everybody, it is a completely total team concept,” said Master Sergeant Brandon Stuemke, 212th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, Alaska Air National Guard. “It takes everybody to get the job done and the mission accomplished. It’s not about one individual; it’s about everybody.”

Although only the individuals in distress are counted toward mission totals, survivors say the impact of the rescuers’ actions reaches far beyond what can be measured with tally marks and save summaries.

“I was a life that was saved but also because I was saved, I have two beautiful girls now, and I have a lovely wife,” Collins said. “It’s the spider effect as it goes out and all the lives that are affected in addition to the one life that may have been saved.” ■

Alaska Army National Guardsmen Deploy to Guantanamo Bay

Story and photo by Sergeant Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... More than 50 Alaska Army National Guardsmen from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 761st Military Police Battalion, 38th Troop Command, deployed in October to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the Joint Task Force-GTMO Joint Detention Group.

The HDD will be joining approximately 30 Guardsmen from its subordinate unit, the 297th MP Company, 761st Battalion, 38th Troop Command, AKARNG, that left in September for Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete their final pre-mobilization training before departing from the United States for 10 months to Guantanamo Bay.

“We are excited and motivated to be representing Alaska and the Army National Guard on an international level,” said Captain DJ Desjardin, the plans officer for HDD, 761st Battalion. “We come from all over the state of Alaska and have been training together for the past year for this specific mission.”

The group’s mission during the deployment will be to conduct detention operations including conducting safe, humane, legal and transparent care, and custody of detainees, including those convicted by military commission; conducting intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination for the safety and security of detainees and JTF GTMO personnel working in facilities as well as in support of ongoing overseas contingency operations; providing support to law enforcement, war crimes investigations and the Office of Military Commissions; and JTF GTMO will, on order, respond to Caribbean mass migration events.

In keeping with the proud history of the Alaska National Guard, the Guardsmen are effectively serving Alaskans and the nation, according to Desjardin.

“I continue to be inspired everyday by the thought that our nation is protected by volunteers, patriots who take on the extra burden of service to our nation,” said Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Roach, commander of the 38th Troop Command, AKARNG. “These Soldiers are continuing the Alaska Army National Guard’s proud history of service to the state and to the country.”

Recently, the 297th Military Police Company was activated on state active duty to perform emergency relief operations for the community of Cordova in January 2012, and this will be the first deployment for both units in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“As a fellow American, I feel blessed that we live in a nation where citizen-Soldiers are willing to answer the call of duty in times of war and in peace, at home and abroad,” Roach said. “In the Alaska tradition, I know their story will make us all proud.”

The Guardsman hail from Anchorage, Chugiak, Delta Junction, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, North Pole, Palmer, Valdez, Wasilla and Wrangell. ■

Farewell. Sergeant Randy Briones holds his son Lazarus following a deployment ceremony in September for members of the 297th Military Police Company. Alaska Guardsmen from the 297th MP Company, and 761st MP Battalion deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Where in the World

Alaska National Guardsmen Deploy as Liaisons to Mongolian Task Force

By Sergeant Balinda O'Neal,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Two Alaska Army National Guardsmen deployed in July as U.S. liaisons in support of the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Forces in Afghanistan.

Major Matthew Wilson, Joint Forces Headquarters, and Sergeant First Class Lane Smith, A Troop, 1-297th Cavalry Reconnaissance and Surveillance, departed from Alaska at the end of July for Camp Shelby, Miss., where they received two weeks of pre-mobilization training before deploying for about nine months to Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan.

The eighth team from the Alaska Army National Guard to support the METF, Wilson and Smith are liaisons and tactical advisors determined by the needs of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

"We will be training and acting as liaisons for approximately 500 Mongolian soldiers on two bases in Kabul," Smith said.

As the Mongolians' direct link to the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and the Base Support Group at Camp Eggers and other sites in country, the Alaska Guardsmen act specifically as U.S. representative liaisons and advisors to ensure proper communication and understanding between the Mongolians and other U.S. or NATO elements during their deployment.

Smith volunteered for the deployment after participating in the multinational training exercise Khaan Quest 2012, a U.S. Army Pacific-sponsored exercise designed

to strengthen the capabilities of U.S., Mongolian and other international forces in the Pacific region.

"Khaan Quest afforded me the opportunity to interact with the Mongolian Army as an instructor," Smith said. "Running a training lane, I was able to gauge their

abilities and have firsthand knowledge of how they work and think."

"I volunteered for this mission based on my experiences at Khaan Quest," Smith said. "The Mongolians are very professional and kind, I'm definitely looking forward to working with them again." ■

Mongolia

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Joint Exercise.

Members of the 249th Airlift Squadron stand in front of an Alaska National Guard C-17 Globemaster after performing an air drop at the Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center in Reno, Nev., in September. The Guardsmen participated in a total force integration exercise involving the Nevada Air National Guard, 517th Air Lift Squadron and Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center.

Photo: Courtesy 249th Airlift Squadron



Marksmanship. Members of the Alaska Air and Army National Guard test their marksmanship skill against the finest military marksmen in the world at the Winston P. Wilson & Armed Forces Skill at Arms Match held at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center in North Little Rock, Ark., in September. Photo: Brigadier General Mike Bridges, Alaska Army National Guard



9/11 Re-enlistment. Alaska Army National Guardsmen assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, recite the re-enlistment oath aboard the USS Monterey (CG-61) in the Persian Gulf, Sept. 11. Reciting the oath are, from left, Sergeant First Class George Koval, Sergeant First Class Julie Small and Sergeant Amber Hillman. First Lieutenant Dean Burgess and Captain Bradley Hoppes are holding the flag. Chief Warrant Officer Two Terry Symonds reads the oath of enlistment. Photo: Sergeant Mark Scovell, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade



Arms Race. Staff Sergeant Paul Douthit, a fire fighter for the 176th Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, competes in a multi-service event to pull a U.S. Navy F-18 fighter aircraft in August. Douthit is currently deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Courtesy Lieutenant Colonel Edward Soto, 176th Civil Engineer Squadron



Decontamination. Aided by the Saipan Fire Department, Sergeant Paul Oliver, 103rd Civil Support Team, processes through the decontamination line following a downrange entry into an unknown chemical environment during Exercise Konfitma in August. The exercise provided an interagency and multi-CST unit field training exercise on the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands, a U.S. territory in the western Pacific Ocean, that helps maintain operation response procedures during an incident of national significance. Photo: Captain Ken Ola, Guam National Guard

Alaska Air National Guardsman in Sri Lanka

By Sergeant N. Alicia Halla,
176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... One Alaska Air National Guardsman traveled to Sri Lanka, an island country off the southern tip of India, to participate in Operation Pacific Angel in August.

Staff Sergeant John Buso, an electrician from the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, helped renovate school buildings there to improve the infrastructure of the facilities.

Operation Pacific Angel was a combined effort of Sri Lankan and U.S. military and civilians to provide health and engineering services and to better prepare locals for disaster response.

"I didn't join just for the benefits," Buso said regarding the Air National Guard. "I joined for opportunities to travel and see the world, and learn more about other people and myself."

A total of 17 U.S. Pacific Command civil engineers from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps supported the annual humanitarian and military civil assistance mission.

This is the third year the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron has participated in the exercise, sending civil engineers twice before to Vietnam. ■

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Alaska Air National Guardsmen Deploy to Kuwait

Story and photos by Sergeant Edward Eagerton,
DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Approximately 60 Airmen with the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, departed in August from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in two groups headed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The first group of approximately 30 Airmen departed from JBER on a 144th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules, and the second chalk left two days later on another C-130.

The Guardsmen's primary wartime mission during the two-month deployment is airlift operations to support the movement of cargo and personnel.

Among the group of Airmen deploying were a mix of flight crews from the 144th Airlift Squadron, maintenance personnel from the 176th Maintenance Group and medical personnel from the 176th Medical Group. All of the units fall under the 176th Wing of the Alaska Air National Guard.

"We'll be in a combined shop while in Kuwait," said Master Sergeant John Zarr, an aerospace ground equipment technician with the 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard. "We'll be part of the 386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron over there. Our main responsibility is to keep the C-130s working so they can accomplish their mission."

Before boarding the plane, the Airmen and their families met at the 176th Wing's



Final Briefings. Staff Sergeant Ryan Audett, a maintenance operations controller with the 176th Maintenance Operations Flight, Alaska Air National Guard, sits with his family during a brief at the 176th Wing Headquarters Building on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson before deploying to Kuwait in August.

Headquarters Building on JBER where they attended briefings and made sure that all of their affairs were in order.

After the briefings, families were able to spend an hour together, saying their farewells. Then family members escorted their loved ones to the dock at the rear of the hangar. They said their goodbyes, kissed, hugged, and then watched and waved as their loved ones walked across the flight line and boarded the waiting C-130.

Since 1952, the 176th Wing has effectively served Alaskans at home and American interests abroad. Today, the

JBER-based unit is one of the largest wings in the Air National Guard.

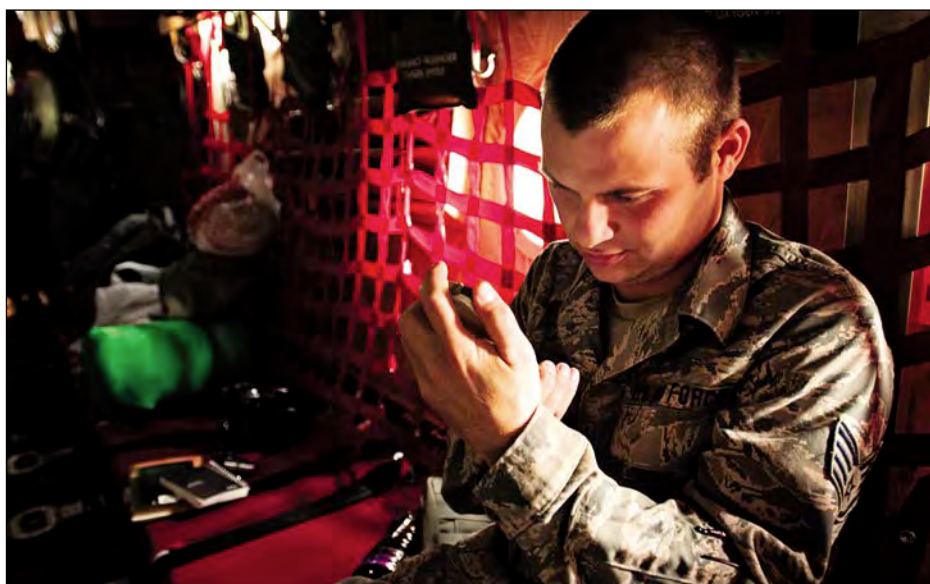
"We're actually one of the busiest wings in the Air National Guard," said Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Swartz, a flight surgeon with the 176th Medical Group, Alaska Air National Guard.

This deployment marks the third deployment for the 144th Airlift Squadron in the last five years.

"It's a short deployment, and we'll be back before we know it," Zarr said. "It feels good to be serving our country and supporting the efforts in the region." ■



Kiss Goodbye. Technical Sergeant Robert Dubinsky, from the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, kisses his wife goodbye outside the 176th Wing Headquarters Building on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson before deploying to Kuwait in August.



Farewell Text. Staff Sergeant Thomas Strange, an aircraft structural mechanic with the 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, sends a last-minute text message aboard a C-130 Hercules on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August before deploying to Kuwait. Approximately 60 Airmen from the 176th Wing departed from JBER for a scheduled two-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Disaster Recovery After the 2013 Spring Floods

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM, Public Affairs

The 2013 spring floods inflicted some of the worst damage that Alaska has experienced in more than a decade.

Flooding began mid-May in Eagle, where the Yukon crosses the Canada/U.S. border. As it moved downriver, the raging breakup front stayed high.

Water pushed over the banks in Circle and inundated that community. Large chunks of ice careened through the village, smashing into homes and forcing them from their foundations.

Upriver from Fort Yukon, an ice jam formed, creating a lake eight miles wide and 40 miles long. Residents braced for the worst, but water worked its way around the ice jam and slowly released the pressure poised to roll into Fort Yukon with great force, sparing the village. The breakup front continued to work its way down the Yukon raising alert levels and causing minor flooding along the way.

Eighteen miles downstream of Galena, at a hairpin turn in the river known as Bishops Rock, the ice locked up and formed another ice jam. Galena began to prepare for flooding and evacuated elders and medically sensitive people. Shelter locations were established at the city school and at the Galena Interior Learning Academy.



Meeting Needs. Senator Lisa Murkowski, in purple, met in Galena with AmeriCorps members and Josephine Malamute, in black, Galena's volunteer manager, in August. Alaska National Guard Adjutant General Thomas H. Katkus and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director John Madden accompanied the senator during the fact-finding tour to identify immediate needs that state and federal agencies are now working to resolve. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

Water levels rose with incredible speed – residents reported an intense roaring sound as water and ice pushed through the forest. People took refuge at the GILA School, a former Air Force base protected by a dike. When water levels continued to rise and threatened to overtop the dike, the Alaska National Guard sent in aircraft to evacuate residents.

On May 28, icy water topped the dike and washed over the air strip and surrounding terrain. Galena was flooded out.

It took several days for the ice jam to release and the water to fall, revealing the wide scope of the disaster. Every home within the 450-person community had some impact from the flooding.

Disaster. Governor Sean Parnell signed a disaster declaration for Galena and several other communities in June followed by a federal disaster declaration signed by President Barak Obama a few weeks later. Photo: David Lee, DHS&EM



The city of Galena's water, sewage and electrical power systems had been ravaged, and roads were damaged and clogged with debris. Long-term residents who had experienced many floods say they never imagined a flood on the scale seen this spring.

The state, FEMA, other federal agencies and non-government organizations are working to prepare the community for another long-interior Alaskan winter, including state and federal agencies activating their disaster recovery programs. Galena has organized a recovery effort to work with the disaster recovery programs aiming to return as many residents to adequate housing before the construction season ends.

"We understand that this is a long-term effort. We are going to do everything that we possibly can to get people into a warm and safe place to reside for the winter. Every person we return to his or her home is one person who will not require sheltering through the winter," said state coordinating officer Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM.

Volunteer organizations in Alaska and elsewhere are providing services to the people affected by the flooding in Galena and other flood-ravaged communities. Galena City Council, Tribal Council, Galena School District and other residents formed the Galena Recovery Advisory Committee to determine community disaster recovery priorities. Community leaders have tirelessly devoted time to organizing and representing the best interest of their people. The Tanana Chiefs Conference continues to provide excellent sheltering services to evacuated Galena residents sheltered in Fairbanks.

After identifying that the recovery effort would not be complete by the end of fall, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management formed the Long-Term Recovery Office and hired full-time staff to facilitate the multiyear recovery effort. The Galena Bible Church formed Galena Rebuilders, a group made up of faith-based organizations. FEMA established a Joint Field Office in Anchorage and deployed staff to Galena to administer federal disaster recovery programs. AmeriCorps sent in teams of members to support the donation effort, handle logistics and remove flood-damaged material from homes. Removing material is difficult and dirty work that involves handling wet and moldy material. The Salvation Army Alaska Division and the American Red Cross of Alaska have provided feeding and shelter support to flood survivors.

A collaborative effort is necessary during any effective disaster response, but such an effort requires manpower on the

ground. To that effort, DHS&EM established a responder camp in Galena to support the many volunteer organizations interested in helping the community. The camp can support up to 40 people with sleeping quarters, showers, bathrooms, laundry facilities, communication, power, heat and meals. The state intends to keep the camp open throughout the winter.

"There is simply nowhere in Galena to put all of the willing volunteers. All of the housing is being used by residents. While there is a high cost to establishing a responder camp, the state is committed to helping get Galena put back together," Fisher said. "The volunteer work force is made up of highly motivated skilled laborers

who want to do the most good in the limited amount of time remaining in the construction season."

As ice once again begins to cling to the banks of the Yukon River, Galena is slowly being reassembled. Dozens of homes are cleaned out, ready to be repaired. Materials are arriving or are en route or on one of the last remaining barges. Volunteers are rebuilding homes and establishing a schedule to take advantage of all available space.

While every effort is being made to rebuild, some Galena residents will not be able return this winter. DHS&EM is committed to helping every resident through the winter and to be there to help fully restore Galena in the spring. ■



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Command Post Exercise. U.S. Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, work as an aviation battalion for the command post exercise during Khaan Quest 2013. Mongolian, U.S. and multinational forces worked together to enhance regional interoperability and mission effectiveness, as well as develop common tactics, techniques and procedures. Participants are tested and trained through fictional scenarios to plan missions, react to situations that arise and interact with external entities. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

By Sergeant Balinda O'Neal,
DMVA Public Affairs

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia ... More than 80 Alaska Army National Guardsmen from 38th Troop Command and 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade joined approximately 1,000 service members from across the Pacific region in August to participate in exercise Khaan Quest 2013.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron provided transportation for the Guardsmen via C-17 Globemaster to and from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, for the exercise.

The multinational peacekeeping exercise is hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces and co-sponsored by U.S. Army, Pacific and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. It is designed to improve peacekeeping operations capabilities and to increase interoperability among the participating nations.

"Militaries from around the world have been gathering in this beautiful country for Khaan Quest over the last 11 years to share

◀ Opening Ceremony Demonstration.

Members of the Mongolian Armed Forces 234th Cavalry Unit give a demonstration of their riding skills during the opening ceremony of Exercise Khaan Quest in Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia. Khaan Quest is an annual multinational exercise sponsored by the United States and Mongolia designed to strengthen capabilities in international peace support operations.

Photo: Sergeant John M. Ewald, U.S. Marine Corps

tactics and techniques and train together,” said Lieutenant General Terry Robling, commander of U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific. “Most importantly – to build personal relationships and friendships that are not only personally gratifying but also make us more effective militaries.”

This year, Khaan Quest consisted of four main events: a command post exercise, field training exercise, cooperative health engagement events and engineering civic action program projects, with Alaska Guardsmen participating in the first three.

“Through exercises such as this, we all improve – through an understanding and greater interoperability that enables us to better contribute a more secure, stable and prosperous world,” Robling said. “There are no more fundamental ideals that span across the human race than security, stability and prosperity.”

Partnered in 2003, Alaska and Mongolia have formed a relationship sharing information through multiple exchanges and exercises that benefit the U.S. and Mongolian military relationship.

“Khaan Quest is valuable to USARPAC as part of its theater cooperation strategy, and the Alaska National Guard, through its state partnership program, builds and supports both relationships,” said Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Schell, commander of 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska



Award Presentation. First Sergeant Jeffery Alberts, B Troop, 297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, receives an award from Major General Zagdsuren Boldbaatar, State Secretary of Ministry of Defense, Mongolia, for his outstanding professionalism, dedication and performance of duty in support of Khaan Quest 2013.

Photo: Sergeant Melinda Dawson, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Army National Guard. “We were able to work side by side with our Mongolian counterparts and other participating nations using the military decision-making processes for peacekeeping missions during the exercise.”

Schell said he set goals for his Soldiers before departing, not just focusing on building their individual skills but to understand how to function as part of a multinational team and finally, to have fun.

“I think it’s important for my Guardsmen to enjoy the opportunities they have when they are in uniform,” Schell said. “This is one of the top 10 opportunities I’ve had in my 19 years in uniform – to see the Mongolian traditions and their rich culture.”

In addition to Mongolia and the United States, military personnel from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, India, Nepal, South Korea, Tajikistan, United Kingdom and Vietnam also participated in the exercise.

“I encourage everyone who leaves this beautiful country to build on the experiences and relationships we have forged together here,” Robling said. “The capabilities – and the friendships – that you have built will serve us all the next time we meet in some troubled region or nation that is asking for assistance in setting their feet on the path to security, stability and prosperity.” ■



Pass In Review. U.S. Army Soldiers from the Alaska and Washington Army National Guard and Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets perform a pass in review during the Khaan Quest 2013 closing ceremony at the Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August. Khaan Quest is a peacekeeping operations-focused, combined training event between U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific; U.S. Army, Pacific and the Mongolian Armed Forces. This exercise marks the 11th iteration of Khaan Quest. Military personnel from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, India, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, United Kingdom and Vietnam also participated in the exercise. Photo: Sergeant Melinda Dawson, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade



Alaska Army National Guard

Promotes First Female Brigadier General

Story and photos by Sergeant Edward Eagerton,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...The Alaska Army National Guard promoted Colonel Catherine F. Jorgensen to the rank of brigadier general at a ceremony at the Arctic Warrior Events Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September.

"We have heard it said that we can learn something from everyone we meet," Jorgensen said. "Each of you here today has played a part in shaping who I am or how I operate."

Presiding over the ceremony was Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

"We're promoting Colonel Jorgensen because she has absolutely earned this opportunity, because she's capable, she's fully trained," Katkus said. "She is an incredible officer who represents the military well."

Jorgensen's promotion made her the first female to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general within the history of the Alaska Army National Guard.

"This indicates and validates that any member of the Alaska Army National Guard can achieve anything that he or she sets out to do if the organization and the individual does it as a team," said Brigadier General Leon M. Bridges, assistant adjutant general of the Alaska Army National Guard.

Women have taken an increasingly prominent role in the U.S. Army, beginning in 1942 with the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later renamed the Women's Army Corps, according to the U.S. Army. This role has evolved throughout the years, from its beginnings as a supplemental corps, to serving in combat environments during times of war as fully integrated Soldiers alongside their male counterparts.



Pinning on the Star. Brigadier General Catherine F. Jorgensen, chief of staff, Alaska Army National Guard, has her new rank pinned on by her husband, retired Alaska Army National Guard Colonel Brad Jorgensen, left, and her father, Bill Griffin, right, during her promotion ceremony in September.

◀ **Oath of Office.** Brigadier General Catherine F. Jorgensen, chief of staff, Alaska Army National Guard, recites her oath of office during her promotion ceremony at the Arctic Warrior Events Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September. Jorgensen was the first female to be promoted to a general officer's rank in the history of the Alaska Army National Guard.

In 1950, the first direct commissions were offered to female college graduates as second lieutenants in the Organized Reserve Corps. Twenty years later, the first two women were promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Achieving the rank of brigadier general is no small feat, said Bridges.

"It is a huge accomplishment," Bridges said. "If you take a corps of officers who commission in any given year, if you take 100 of them, by the time you add all the filters and funnels in an Army career, typically only one or two will ever pin on a star."

Jorgensen received her commission in 1985, after graduating as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the Reserve Officer Training Program at the University of Alabama, where she earned a bachelor of science degree.

Her active-duty career spanned assignments at duty stations including Nellingen, Germany; Fort Bragg, N. C.; and Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah. Jorgensen's final active-duty assignment was at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1993.

In 1996, Jorgensen left the active-duty Army and served in the Army reserves in Maryland. Before switching to the Army National Guard, she also served with an engineer brigade out of Mississippi, with a duty assignment in Heidelberg, Germany.

In September 2000, Jorgensen joined the Alaska Army National Guard. Her assignments with the Alaska National Guard have included military personnel officer, assistant chief of staff, deputy human resources officer and brigade commander.

With Jorgensen's new rank comes new responsibilities.



Making History. Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, speaks during the promotion ceremony of Brigadier General Catherine F. Jorgensen at the Arctic Warrior Events Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September. Jorgensen's promotion was a historical event – the first female to be promoted to a general officer's rank in the history of the Alaska Army National Guard.

"She is my Alaska Army National Guard chief of staff and chief administrative officer," Bridges said. "She manages my full-time employees, my Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and my technicians, but it is just one of her many tasks. That's her full-time billet."

"She also simultaneously wears two other hats," Bridges added. "She is the Army land component commander, which is our flag officer billet in the Army Guard in Alaska as a general officer of the line. She's also simultaneously dual-hatted as the director of the joint staff for the mixed Army and Air joint activities or missions if we need to stand up for joint activities or missions."

Jorgensen, who comes from a family with a history of service to the country, also thanked her family for their support.

"To my father, Bill, a proud Air Force veteran, and mom," said Jorgensen, "thank you for the wonderful childhood I enjoyed. You instilled a work ethic and a sense of service in all your kids."

Jorgensen also thanked her husband, retired Alaska Army National Guard Colonel Brad Jorgensen, and their three children: Brad, currently serving with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in Germany; Roger, a freshman at Colorado State University; and Catherine, a junior at Chugiak High School.

"To my husband, Brad, and the family we built together, thank you for putting up with all the craziness this life brings," Jorgensen said. "Thank you for supporting my decision to continue to serve the Alaska National Guard."

Through the course of her career, Jorgensen has been recognized for her service with many awards and decorations including multiple Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, multiple Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. ■

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Alaska Army National Guardsmen Conduct Combat Training in Idaho

By Sergeant Edward Eagerton,
DMVA Public Affairs

ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Idaho ... Approximately 375 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard participated in the Exportable Combat Training Capability program near Gowen Field, Idaho, in June.

The Guardsmen from the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade took part in the field training exercise designed to certify unit proficiency and validated by graders from the First Army Division.

"This exercise allows us to work on our information flow and reporting techniques, and it allows us to establish and confirm our standard operating procedures," said First Lieutenant Vance Johnson, executive officer of C Company, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard.

The field exercise portions of the training were held at the Orchard Combat Training Center, which is a high plains desert environment, simulating environments like Afghanistan. The training consists of various scenarios including route clearance, calls-for-fire missions, reconnaissance patrols, resupply missions, convoy operations and improvised explosive device training.

"To come into a unit straight out of a deployment, to actually be back on a hill doing live fire, it's awesome training," said Sergeant Matthew Blanchett III, a forward observer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard.

Blanchett, along with six other forward observers, spent four days in the dusty hills of the training area calling in live-fire mortar missions and conducting training

on an M-1200 Armored Knight, an armored security vehicle specifically designed for forward observers to target enemy objectives.

In another area of the training grounds, Soldiers from the 207th Brigade Support Company, Alaska Army National Guard, conducted convoy training where they encountered multiple improvised explosive devices and small arms fire and trained on interacting with locals in a simulated village with the help of an embedded translator.

"The IED training was special to me because I've been deployed and I've dealt with similar real-world situations," said Specialist Stephen Crowe, a motor transport operator with the 207th Brigade Support Company, Alaska Army National Guard. "It's unique training because it's preparing our soldiers who haven't been deployed by giving them an idea of what they might face if they go downrange." ■



Working through Sunset. The forward observer team from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, works through sunset while calling in simulated airstrikes from an AH-64 Apache. The Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from the Alaska Army National Guard was training at Orchard Combat Training Center, near Gowen Field, Idaho, as part of its annual training. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



Forward Observer. Sergeant Matthew Blanchett, a forward observer for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, looks through his binoculars at a potential target after an airstrike was called in by the unit. The Battlefield Surveillance Brigade from the Alaska Army Guard was training at Orchard Combat Training Center, near Gowen Field, Idaho, as part of its annual training. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



Calculating Coordinates. Forward observers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, calculate grid coordinates for calling in close air support at the Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. The Soldiers used the training to enhance their skillsets for future deployments. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



Route Clearance. Cavalry scouts with A Troop, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, conduct route clearance patrols at the Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



Scanning the Horizon. A cavalry scout with A Troop, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, scans the horizon for enemy combatants during a route clearance patrol at the Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, in June. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs



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Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates 165 Cadets

By Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Military Youth Academy celebrated the graduation of 165 cadets of Class 2013-02 from its ChalleNGe program in August during a ceremony at the Dena'ina Center in downtown Anchorage, with Tom Barrett, president of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and retired U.S. Coast Guard admiral, and Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell as guest speakers.



Congratulations. Alaska Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell congratulates a cadet during the graduation ceremony of the Alaska Military Youth Academy's class 2013-02 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. The academy graduated 165 cadets after 22 weeks of residential instruction in a quasi-military environment. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

National Anthem Salute. Cadet Malcolm T. Belcher and his fellow cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy salute the flag during the playing of the national anthem at their graduation ceremony at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. The academy graduated 165 cadets in August after 22 weeks of residential instruction in a quasi-military environment. The program is designed to provide the cadets with training in academic studies, vocational instruction, life skills, military skills and self-discipline. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

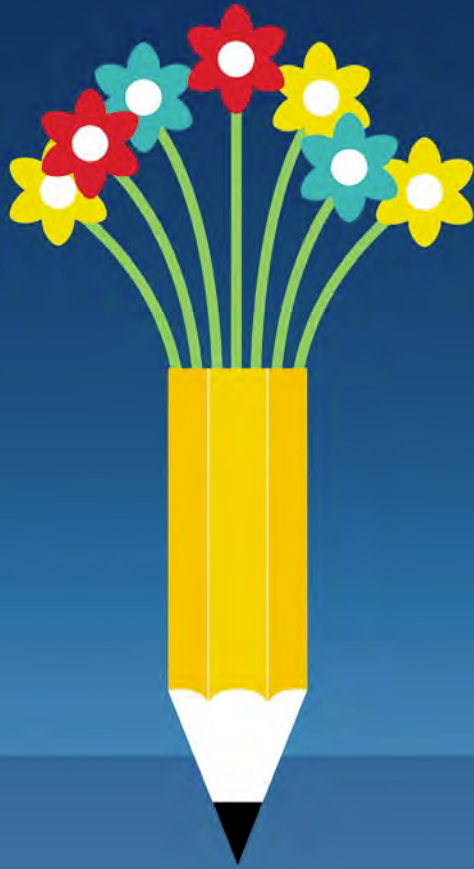


Honor Graduate. Cadet Matthew G. Rhoades, the honor graduate of the Alaska Military Youth Academy's class 2013-02, gives a speech during the class graduation ceremony at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. Photo: Sergeant Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

During their 22-week residential phase at the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academics, military style discipline, physical fitness, vocational training and service to the community. The 165 cadets joined the 3,941 previous graduates who have completed the program since 1994.

Upon graduation, cadets take part in the yearlong post-residential phase in which graduates return to their communities to enter the workplace, continue their education (high school, college or vocational schools) or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to help 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. ■



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Alaska Air National Guardsmen Support Those Who Have Served

By Airman First Class Francine St. Laurent, 168th Wing Public Affairs

FAIRBANKS, Alaska ... Veterans rushed to have their blood sugar tested before flocking to enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared and served by members of the 168th Air Refueling Wing in August. It was all part of the Veteran Stand Down in Fairbanks aimed at helping local veterans with a variety of services.

The Veteran Stand Down, at Pioneer Park Civic Center, is organized by a group of community members, agencies and businesses who donate supplies and funds used to purchase food and follow-up medical care, said Nancy Smoyer, who began organizing the annual event 15 years ago.

Since the event's conception, the 168th Medical Group has led the medical component each year. Roughly 160 patients received medical, optometry, dental and podiatry exams this year.

Airman First Class Taylor Runyon, 168th Medical Group aerospace medical technician, administered blood sugar and cholesterol tests. For her, giving the best possible care to veterans is a Saturday well spent.

"The military is a big part of our community in Fairbanks and North Pole," Runyon said. "Going out and helping the area that we live in is something I think we sign up for as military members."

Smoyer describes the event as a one-stop shop.

"The services are brought together, and it's easier for them to get their needs met," Smoyer said.

Approximately 465 people picked up clothing items such as socks, heavy coats, boots, gloves and fleece pants, according to Heidi Mattson, Fairbanks Vet Center team leader. Sleeping bags, laundry bags and waterproof bags were also provided.

From medical to legal services, mental health, counseling and taxes, the Stand Down follows a tradition of helping those who have served to sort things out and rest. It provides a place for veterans to gather and catch up.

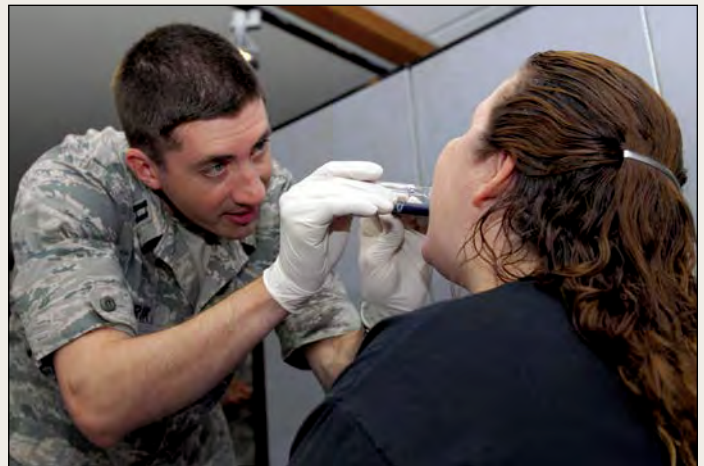
"A lot of them are getting to a point where they're losing people in their lives as they get older, and coming out and interacting with people in uniform who have that camaraderie with them, something similar that we all share, is good for them," Runyon said.

George Shoogukuwuruk, who served as a cook in the Marine Corps and Army from 1968 to 1984, said he feels veterans receive more recognition today than before the Iraq War began in 2003.

"This is really helpful for veterans because some of us veterans weren't treated right, and now years later, they are trying to make up for that," Shoogukuwuruk said. ■



Testing. Airman First Class Taylor Runyon, 168th Medical Group aerospace medical technician, administers a blood sugar test at the Veteran Stand Down in Fairbanks.



Dental Exam. Captain Jonathan Gerik, 168th Medical Group dentist, performs a dental screening to determine whether follow-up care is needed at the Veteran Stand Down in August.



Eye Exam. Senior Airman Courtney Higley, 477th Aerospace Medical Dental Flight optometry technician, screens a veteran for eye health during Veteran Stand Down in Fairbanks.



Patriotic Cupcakes. Chief Master Sergeant Teresa Renison, 168th Force Support Flight superintendent, strikes a pose while moving patriotic-themed cupcakes before lunch is served at the Veteran Stand Down in August.



Veterans

World War II Veteran Receives Silver Star, Purple Heart

Story and photos by Sergeant Edward Eagerton,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Arthur W. Owens, a veteran of World War II, was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and five other medals during a ceremony in September at the National Guard armory, Camp Denali, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Though Owens was authorized the medals 68 years ago, he was never presented with the recognition for his service during the war.

"The paperwork fell through the cracks," said Brigadier General Leon M. Bridges, assistant adjutant general of the Alaska Army National Guard. "Twenty-two million people served in uniform during World War II in the service of the United States. We have been finding over the years that some of them missed some of their due awards. That's what we're here to remedy."

Owens, a draftee who left the U.S. Army with the rank of technical sergeant, was originally awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for his actions in the vicinity of Ludwigshafen, Germany, when his tank was hit by a shell from an anti-tank gun.

After evacuating the tank, he discovered two of his crew were both still inside. Although his tank was still under fire, Owens made two trips back to pull his fellow Soldiers out and get them to safety.

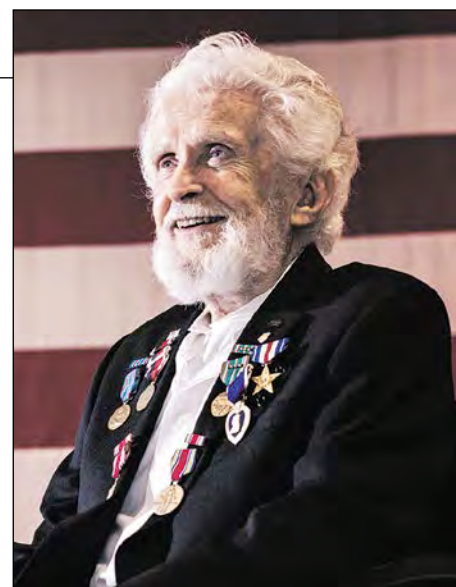
"It brings tears to my eyes," Owens said. "It embarrasses me to a point. Why was I picked? But if people can see this and get some benefit from it, it might help them – not for the award, but that you're doing good."

It was in April when Owens reached out to the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, looking for help in getting the Purple Heart he earned during the war.

"All of this came to our attention when Mr. Owens went to our service officer and requested credit for his Purple Heart," said Verdie Bowen, director of Veterans Affairs with the state of Alaska. "In the Department of the Army system, there are eight different priority levels for veteran benefits. Having a Purple Heart bumps a veteran up to priority three."

"He's still got shrapnel in him," Bridges said.

With the help of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chapter 593, and the DMVA, Owens's request was sent to the



Humble Hero. Arthur W. Owens smiles during an awards ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September. Owens, a veteran of World War II, was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and five other awards for his heroic actions on March 23, 1945.

awards and decorations branch of the U.S. Army. When they reviewed his records, they discovered that not only had they never officially issued his Purple Heart, but also the Silver Star and the Army Good Conduct medals he had earned.

"They sent us back a letter on Aug. 14 signifying the official issue of these awards," Bowen said. "They instructed us to go to the adjutant general and have the awards presented."

After getting the good news, the group involved in helping Owens contacted the Alaska Army National Guard and scheduled the awards ceremony. At the ceremony,



Certificate Presentation. Brigadier General Leon M. Bridges, assistant adjutant general of the Alaska Army National Guard, presents Arthur W. Owens with the certificate for his Silver Star during an awards ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Owens, a veteran of World War II who left the U.S. Army at the rank of technical sergeant, was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and five other awards for his heroic actions on March 23, 1945.



Medal Display. Medals are displayed on a table for an awards ceremony for Arthur W. Owens at the Alaska National Guard Armory, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Owens was authorized the awards during World War II but never received them. With help of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chapter 593, Owens was finally able to receive his awards after Secretary of the Army John McHugh officially signed them on Aug. 13.



Proud Daughter. Kathy Erickson, of Anchorage, pins medals on her father, Arthur W. Owens, during an awards ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in September. Owens, a veteran of World War II, was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and five other awards for his heroic actions on March 23, 1945.

Owens was presented with the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp.

"I'm really thankful for all the help," Owens said. "And I thank the Lord."

"We're still finding people who've gotten out of the military without receiving all of the recognition they deserve," Bowen said. "Our job is to keep the promise. Our motto is 'serving Alaska, one veteran at a time.' Last year we served 31,000 veterans. Doing this kind of award – this is the highlight of our year." ■



Awards Ceremony. Brigadier General Leon M. Bridges, assistant adjutant general of the Alaska Army National Guard, speaks during an awards ceremony for Arthur W. Owens at the Alaska National Guard Armory, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Owens, a veteran of World War II, was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and five other awards for his heroic actions on March 23, 1945.

More Vets Reached, Benefits Received

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... More than eight months ago, we moved the Office of Veterans Affairs from the National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to 4600 DeBarr Road in Anchorage. Having the staff more centrally located to assist all who seek our assistance has been a huge success.

This is the first time, since the creation of the Office of Veterans Affairs in 1997, we have served so many eligible Alaskans. State Fiscal Year 2013 ended with us serving slightly more than 31,000. This number is just under half our veteran population, but keep in mind this service was accomplished with a combined staff of 21.

You might wonder how we reached this large number of eligible members across our state. First, we utilized 170 tribal veteran representatives. The TVR program is accomplished through a partnership agreement between the state of Alaska and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. We train members across the state to be entry level service officers to help eligible members fill out basic forms for service and benefits. If the eligible member needs advanced services, they are referred back to Veterans Affairs for direct case work coverage. The TVR program is awesome because these newly trained members know who their veterans are and where they live. Next we travel.

In SFY 13, we traveled to 444 communities across the state. This is thanks to new rural travel funds. We travel our service officers, staff, Alaska Veterans Advisory Council members and key members of the Alaska National Guard to meet veterans where they live. We even traveled in the heart of winter to reach everyone and help all we can.

It is very important for us to reach every veteran and ensure they have all their earned benefits. For each eligible member who receives all his or her benefits, it not only impacts the individual's family, it impacts the community.

A day doesn't go by without someone stopping in to seek benefits information. We might all enter the military basically same way, but our benefits are established individually. The federal VA offers hundreds of different benefits, and the state of Alaska has them as well. The eligible member must keep in mind that these benefits are earned through the following: type of discharge, where you served, when you served, if there was something unique about that service, and finally, if you were injured during your service. Keep in mind that benefits are individual. Some earned all the benefits, and some have earned just a few.

Give us a call and see what you have earned. If we are in your community, stop in and see us. We all have a heart for service and enjoy serving Alaska, one veteran at a time. ■



Anchorage Sam's Club Now Open

Local staple in the community adds new benefits to members

Sam's Club is now open at its new location at **1074 N. Muldoon Road** in Anchorage. The club celebrated the Grand Opening in September by hosting many Showcase Events such as fresh-caught Alaska fish from Copper River Seafoods and premium-roasted coffee beans from Silverhook Alaska Coffee.

"Our club was honored by the support surrounding the Grand Opening, and we are thrilled to provide the new services to the community," Club Manager Doug McIntosh said. "If you aren't already a member or have not visited the new club, we invite you to come see the excitement in every aisle."

The new location allows Sam's Club to better serve its members and offers 100 additional jobs in the region. By adding approximately 50,000 square feet, members can access all the features a full-size Sam's Club has to offer, such as a Pharmacy, Hearing Aid Center, Fresh Bakery and members-only Fuel Station.

Sam's Club has a long-standing commitment to the Anchorage community that dates back to its first club opening in January 1994. With many years in the area, Sam's Club maintains strong relationships with local organizations and its members by understanding the needs of the community and catering to their needs.

Although the ribbon has been cut, the Grand Opening celebration continues.

The club has many Showcase Events and special treats for members throughout the holiday season.



Alaska State Defense Force

Chaplains' School

By Captain Melissa Holl, ASDF

SOLDOTNA, Alaska ... The Alaska State Defense Force hosted a Chaplains' School in conjunction with the State Guard Association of the United States. The national course taught by the State Guard Association of the United States is designed to assist state defense force military chaplains and to train clergy on how to work in a military environment.

The event was held in June on the Alaska Christian College campus in Soldotna. The ASDF's 2nd Battalion, led by Major Arthur Saltmarsh, provided the transportation and coordination for getting the out-of-state attendees to the Soldotna campus, and the 1st Battalion out of Kenai, led by Chief Warrant Officer Donald Zigga, was there to greet them.

Chief of chaplains for the State Guard Association of the United States, Colonel Frederick Glazier, Texas State Guard, and SGAUS chief of staff of chaplains, Lieutenant Colonel John Bowers, New Mexico State Guard, coordinated the event. Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Robert Palmer, Tennessee State Guard, also instructed.

Classes were held on the following topics:

- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Grief Counseling
- Military Funerals



Demonstration. Sergeant First Class Charles Boldt, state chaplain assistant, Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard, gives a demonstration during a Chaplains' School held in conjunction with the State Guard Association of the United States at the Alaska Christian College campus in Soldotna in June. Photo: Captain Melissa Holl, ASDF

- Suicide Prevention
- Women's Issues in the Military
- Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory
- Spiritual Leadership
- Psychological First Aid
- Drill and Ceremony
- Stress Management for Caregivers
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- Chaplains in the Military

Course instructors were from the State Defense Force and SGAUS, as well as from

the Red Cross and the Alaska National Guard. Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Bert McQueen, ASDF chaplain and with the police and fire chaplains ministry, led instruction the first day on Critical Incident Stress Management.

Palmer led the session on Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory; ASDF Lieutenant Colonel John James led the class on Military Funerals and performed Drill and Ceremony each day. Captain Melissa Holl and Suzan Palmer, from Anchorage City Church, taught the Women's Issues course. Psychological First Aid was taught by Red Cross instructor Rick Calcote. Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Rick Koch, of the Alaska Army National Guard, led the course in Grief Counseling; Bowers covered Chaplains as Leaders in the Military, and Staff Sergeant Charles Boldt, of the Alaska Army National Guard, led the last day on Suicide Prevention training with the ASIST, Suicide First Aid curriculum through LivingWorks Edu.

Eleven people from the State Guard Association of the United States, Anchorage City Church, Change Point Church and the Alaska State Defense Force received certificates of completion. ■



Group Photo. Graduates of the State Guard Association of the United States Chaplains' School pose after completing the course at the Alaska Christian College campus in Soldotna. Eleven people from the State Guard Association of the United States, Anchorage City Church, Change Point Church and the Alaska State Defense Force received certificates of completion. Photo: Brigadier General

Roger Holl, ASDF



Completion Certificate. Brigadier General Roger Holl, right, commander, Alaska State Defense Force, presents Lieutenant Colonel John Bowers, New Mexico State Guard, with a certificate for completing the State Guard Association of the United States Chaplains' School in June. Eleven people from the State Guard Association of the United States, Anchorage City Church, Change Point Church and the Alaska State Defense Force received certificates of completion. Photo: Captain Melissa Holl, ASDF



Family Program

Joining Forces with Communities

By Lieutenant Colonel Kay Spear-Budd, Family Program

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... In a previous issue of the Warriors magazine, I shared with you what we're doing under the auspices of Joining Community Forces – Supporting Our Nation One Community at a Time. Since then, I've spent time sharing with communities throughout Alaska what the Alaska National Guard State Family Program is doing in conjunction with Joining Community Forces, and I'm proud to say it's A LOT!

When it comes to deployments, or for that matter long schools, or just volunteering to serve your country – no one should embark on a journey of this magnitude without first knowing the benefits, resources and contacts to navigate the “sea of goodwill” available to make it a successful journey. This philosophy is the backbone of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, and one we use throughout our program, not just for deployments. During the last 12 months, we've hosted 26 such events providing our service members and their families with tools to succeed. If you're interested in attending or supporting an event, please contact us at 907-428-6663 for more information.

When attending the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event, you'll be introduced to a multitude of services at your disposal. Some that may be of interest are our Child and Youth Program, Joint Family Support Assistance Program, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, Family Readiness Support Assistant (Army), Airman and Family Readiness Program (Air) and others.

The Child and Youth Program is dedicated to fostering resilience in our military youth. When CYP staff aren't working directly with youth at a camp or as part of Family Fun-tastic Friday nights, they are reaching out and strengthening partnerships with organizations throughout Alaska to create more opportunities for community-based services for our youth.

In the last eight months, the CYP staff has conducted day and overnight camps for youth from 6 to 18 years old as well as a monthly tot reading group for 2 to 5 year olds. Through their efforts, they have positively impacted 1,369 of our military youth at 54 events throughout the state of Alaska. For more information about the CYP, call 907-428-6663.

Assisting at CYP events as well as participating during most of our Family Program events is the Joint Family Support Assistance Program team made of two military family life consultants

(certified counselors), one personal financial counselor (licensed) and one Military OneSource representative. This team is designed to support and collaborate with existing family support resources to augment their activities and fill gaps in services, especially in our geographically isolated areas. A large part of their efforts are spent building collaborative partnerships with local agencies through Joining Community Forces activities designed to enhance community capacity to serve military families. JFSAP personnel are available by appointment for individual sessions or group presentations.

Another key ingredient to a successful journey is the Family Readiness Support Assistant working at the brigade or headquarters level. FRSA staff are the subject matter experts for commanders and act as the conduit to the families in reference to readiness and deployment cycle support. Much of their support is by way of training for service members, families and leadership. They should be very familiar faces within their assigned area.

You may be asking yourself, “That's sure a lot of information – how am I to know where I even begin?” Begin with the Family Assistance Center. We have one in every region of Alaska – Western, Southcentral (Anchorage and Mat-Su), Interior (Fairbanks and Fort Greely) and Southeast. FAC staff provide comprehensive, coordinated, and responsive services in support of service members, civilian employees and families.

The FAC provides information and emotional support to families so that service members can focus on their mission. Services may include: outreach, information, and referral to appropriate service agencies such as legal assistance, TRICARE, food banks, housing assistance, problem solving, accurate and current information feed as well as coordination with assigned Family Readiness Support Assistants. The FAC is staffed 24 hours a day / 365 days a year at 907-428-6663 or 1-888-917-3608.

At the end of the day, and it's usually a long one, our mission is to educate and empower service members and families to develop skills and behaviors that strengthen self-reliance, promote retention and enhance readiness within the Alaska National Guard. If you'd like to learn more about our program or know of someone who might need our assistance, please don't hesitate to call us at 907-428-6663. ■

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Civilian Employers Tour 212th Rescue Squadron Facility and Mission

Story by ESGR Staff

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ...

Local Anchorage civilian employers and business leaders toured the Alaska Air National Guard's pararescue facility on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and watched a training mission at Malemute Drop Zone in June.

The seven employers: Ginger Hall, Cook Inlet Tribal Council; Beth Leschper, Department of Labor; Brad Gillespie, Department of Labor; Ryan Makinster, Alaska Chamber of Commerce; Carol Bartholomeu, Anchorage School District; Joey Crum, Northern Industrial Training; and Tammy Morris, NAPA Auto Parts; had a full day. They began with a tour of the newest facility of the 212th Rescue Squadron, had lunch with the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, Major General Thomas H. Katkus, then watched as members of the 212th Rescue Squadron performed simulated rescue operations from an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter at Malamute Drop Zone.

On the ground, Master Sergeant Roger Sparks, a pararescuer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, demonstrated the techniques of exiting the Pave Hawk to perform a ground rescue. During his narration of the training mission, Sparks shared his experiences as a member of the Alaska Air National Guard and the 212th. He explained how he will retire soon after serving 20 years and how he will be looking for civilian employment in Anchorage. At the end of the demonstration, every employer lined up to provide him with information about their business, telling him that they would love to have him as part of their team.

The tour was a chance for the employers to see firsthand the rescue squadron's mission and the critical training that happens year-round for the squadron's members. The tour was led by the 212th director of operations, Major Matthew Komatsu, who shared how important the training time is to the success of the rescue mission.

Bird Watching. Local civilian employers watch an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter perform search and rescue training operations at Malemute Drop Zone on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Photo: Jamie Abordonado, ESGR



Rescue Demonstration. Master Sergeant Roger Sparks, a pararescuer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, demonstrates to local civilian employers and business leaders how to safely position for rappelling out of the UH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during a simulated rescue mission at Malemute Drop Zone on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in June. Photo: Jamie Abordonado, ESGR

After the facility tour, the employers had lunch, during which Katkus presented Ginger Hall with a "My Boss is a Patriot" award for which her service member employee nominated her for her outstanding support.

"Many states claim to be military/veteran supportive, but Alaska is a state that truly practices the pride they have in military members," said Jamie Abordonado, ESGR lead staff person. "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is an organization that can bring civilian employers the military 'work' environment to share what they do when they are called to duty or training. The employers get a closer look at what all is involved in their military employees' training, and that pride grows stronger as they understand what is involved." ■





Forging a Plane:

Heavy Duty Arts and Crafts

By Airman 1st Class Francine St. Laurent,
168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Blue, orange, green and pink flames encase a KC-135 Stratotanker at the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Refueling Wing. However, there's more to this KC-135 that sets it apart than just the color scheme – it's a model version made entirely of aluminum cans.

Monster energy drink cans form the skin of the aircraft that Technical Sergeant Tom Andrukiewicz, 168th Maintenance Squadron, aircraft structural mechanic, built from discarded aluminum cans and recycled scrap metal. The project allows Andrukiewicz, and other Airmen in the 168th Fabrication shop, to practice and hone skills they apply to building parts and mending the 168th Wing's much larger aircraft.

This is the second "soda can" plane built by Andrukiewicz. The first was a model old-fashioned biplane, similar to something the Wright brothers flew, made with soda cans hung in the shop he worked in while deployed to Qatar from December 2011 to March 2012.

"I made one in two weeks over there all out of Pepsi cans," Andrukiewicz said.

Although he stopped drinking soda seven years ago, Pepsi was his favorite. He left the plane in Qatar.

"I left it hanging [in the shop] to make the KC-135 guys proud," Andrukiewicz said.

This time around, he decided to build a KC-135. Airmen in the Aerospace Ground Equipment, Electrical and Repair and Reclamation shops pass along empty Monster drink cans, which cost about \$2.50 each.

"A lot of the times I was held up waiting

for certain people to drink certain flavors," Andrukiewicz said.

He washes, cleans and cuts each can, many of which have to be thrown out.

"Working with soda cans is really hard," Andrukiewicz said. "You can only bend the cans so many times before they rip or crack because they're so thin. It gets frustrating."

Using the blueprint of a KC-135, Andrukiewicz kept the plane's dimensions proportional. The entire plane is built from the soda cans aside from the plane's frame, which is covered by the cans. The edge of the engine is the can's bottom ridge.

"I cut the can down in ways to be able to use the same sized can to match the plane," Andrukiewicz said.

Senior Airman Mike Meyers, 168th aircraft structural mechanic, describes Fabrication shop Airmen as the body workers of a plane, responsible for

Practicing his Craft. Technical Sergeant Tom Andrukiewicz, aircraft structural mechanic, 168th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, displays the model KC-135 he is building from discarded aluminum cans and recycled scrap metal. The project allows Andrukiewicz and other Airmen in the 168th Fabrication shop to practice and hone skills they apply to building parts and mending the 168th Wing's much larger aircraft. Photo: Airman First Class Francine St. Laurent, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

fixing cracks, rivets, metal parts and glass. They also paint and make stickers and stencils.

"Most other jobs have a recipe: step A, remove this, step B, remove this," Meyers said. "Ours has none of that. We have guidelines. You can have five different people do five different repairs and they're all correct, which allows us to be really creative."

Being creative is what Andrukiewicz enjoys most. Unlike most models, every piece of the plane moves – the engines, the boom used to refuel aircraft in flight and flight controls, which turn the plane left, right, up or down.

"Getting the flight controls to move was a challenge," Andrukiewicz said. "I spent a lot of time on the engine getting it to spin."

Color coordinating the plane's skins by matching cans can be difficult for Andrukiewicz, who is colorblind, so he has to read the flavor name on each can.

"I can see that there's a different color, but a lot of the time I can't tell you what that color is," Andrukiewicz said.

He applies similar techniques he uses every day on aircraft to his models, such as hiding seams and glue marks on the underside of the cans.

Aircraft structural mechanics attend an 18-week course that teaches basic skills in painting, corrosion control, sheet metal and how to draw things up, said Staff Sergeant Greg Wood, 168th aircraft structural mechanic.

Aircraft structural mechanics need to practice skills frequently. Technical Sergeant Joseph Mowery, 168th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural supervisor, describes it as an art.

"You're not just taking a part off and replacing that part," Mowery said. "You might be taking a part off and remaking that part. You might just get a drawing or have to draw one up yourself."

Through working on training projects in their spare time, Airmen invest in producing quality work that allows creativity and risk taking, Mowery said. They problem-solve as a team and hone skills they then apply to fixing aircraft.

"It helps for us to work on other projects that are not on the plane, so we can be more efficient at our job," Mowery said. "It saves us messing up on the actual aircraft."

For Andrukiewicz, every little break is an opportunity to cut cans and lay pieces out.

"I just like to stay busy if times are slow, so it's taken me a year and a half to do what I've got," Andrukiewicz said. "A little bit here, a little bit there, just plugging away at it."

While visiting the 168th Air Refueling Wing in April, Lieutenant General Alain Parent, North American Aerospace Defense Command deputy commander, was impressed by Andrukiewicz's plane and gave him a coin.

The plane is 90 percent complete, Andrukiewicz estimated. The leading edges, or rounded part in front of the wings, are the only pieces left to be finished.

Andrukiewicz has also built a Minuteman placard between the second and third floor of the headquarters building. Fabrication Airmen are currently designing a placard for the 168th Communications Flight that will be submitted for approval. The design mimics the flight's badge, with three-dimensional layers of a wreath, globe and a hand with a lightning bolt. ■



Model Inspiration. A KC-135R Stratotanker, 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, flies near Eielson Air Force Base. For more than 50 years the KC-135 has provided the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force. Through the years it has been altered to do other jobs ranging from flying command post missions to reconnaissance.

Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Wieland, U.S. Air Force

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ROTC Cadets Demonstrate. University of Alaska Anchorage Army Reserve Officer Training cadets prepare a one-rope bridge during a demonstration at a dedication ceremony for the new University of Alaska Anchorage ROTC physical fitness training site in September. The one-rope bridge is used to cross ravines, streams, or rivers, allowing Soldiers to get themselves and their gear safely to the other side quickly and efficiently.



UAA ROTC Dedication Ceremony Honors Alaska Army Guardsmen

Story and photos by Sergeant Balinda O'Neal,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Two Alaska Army National Guardsmen were honored at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the University of Alaska Anchorage Army Reserve Officer Training Corps physical fitness training site in September.

The site was dedicated to the founders of the UAA ROTC program: Major Alex Elmore and Master Sergeant Don Ramey, both with Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard.

"The program didn't exist when I got the job," Ramey said. "We started working before we had an office; our first office was in Major Elmore's garage."

After securing an office on the UAA campus at Eugene Short Hall, the list of things that followed seemed endless, Ramey said.

From developing and getting curriculum approved, recruiting prospects and teaching classes, the two helped stand up the program in January 2009.

"You name it, we did it," Elmore said. "We started the program with absolutely nothing except one officer and one non-commissioned officer and had to do it all."



Site Dedicated. Major Alex Elmore, left, and Sergeant Don Ramey, both of Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard, cut through a ribbon signifying the opening of the new University of Alaska Anchorage Army Reserve Officer Training Corps physical fitness training site at the UAA campus in September. The site was dedicated to the Alaska Guardsmen for being the founders of the UAA ROTC program.



Cadets in Formation. University of Alaska Anchorage Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets stand in formation after completing a demonstration of their new physical fitness training site at a dedication ceremony on the UAA campus in September. The ceremony was held to dedicate the site to the two founders of the UAA ROTC program: Major Alex Elmore and Master Sergeant Don Ramey. Since its beginning in 2009, the UAA ROTC program has commissioned 10 officers into the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves and Army National Guard with five more slated after this current school year.

Elmore also noted how great the ROTC program assignment has been and how training future generations of leadership is so rewarding.

The UAA ROTC program has commissioned 10 officers into the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves and Army National Guard with five more slated after this current school year.

Some of these officers have completed the Simultaneous Membership Program, which allows a person to attend ROTC while earning benefits as a drilling Soldier in the Alaska Army National Guard.

"I would always tell Master Sergeant Ramey that we can't complain about the caliber of junior leaders, as we are the ones training them," Elmore said.

Even with all their endeavors, Elmore and Ramey both give credit to others.

"I am humbled by having the site dedicated in my honor," Ramey said. "There was so much work put into starting ROTC, from Recruiting and Operations to professors of military science. Without their hard work, the program would have been just an idea. The team put in a lot of work, and we all made it happen."

"I am proud to be a noncommissioned officer in the Alaska Army National Guard and very appreciative that the leadership allowed me the opportunity to train future leaders for the Guard and the Army," Ramey said.

"The Alaska Army National Guard did and does a great job supporting the program at UAA," Elmore said. "I think that is why you see cadets commissioning directly into the Alaska Guard. They see the organization over here and want to be a part of it." ■

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Assuming Command. Colonel Edward E. Hildreth III, commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Colorado Army National Guard, passes the 49th Missile Defense Battalion guidon to Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Hatfield during a ceremony at Fort Greely, Alaska, in September. The ceremony signified Hatfield's assumption of command of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, GMD, at Fort Greely.

Photo: Treva Slaughter, Fort Greely protocol



Passing the Colors. Lieutenant Colonel Tony Stratton, right, takes the 144th Airlift Squadron guidon from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing Operations Group Commander Colonel Blake Gettys after assuming command of the 144th Airlift Squadron. Stratton enlisted in the Alaska Air National Guard in 1988 and has served in several operational and support positions within the 176th Wing. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs





Who We Are...

What do you do to prepare for winter?

Major

Nanette Martinez

Joint Forces Headquarters – Air



"Winterize my vehicle and my house."

Staff Sergeant

Ferdie Villaflores

176th Operations Support Squadron



"Enjoy the last days of summer as much as I can."

Jeff Lafferty

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

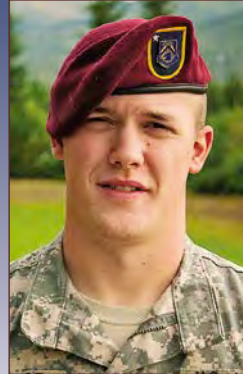


"We pull out all of the cold weather clothing for the kids and make sure it's all there and still fits."

Private First Class

Kyle Scheibe

C Company, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron

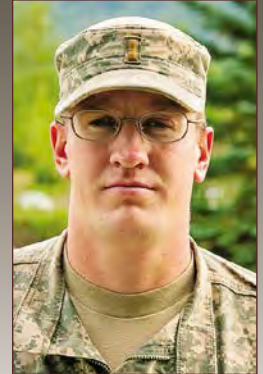


"Change to studded tires and put the plow on the 4-wheeler."

Second Lieutenant

Robert Schneden

A Troop, 1-297th Cavalry



"Make premade emergency kits for cars, including sleeping bags and an MRE, in case of an accident."



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 MSgt Mark Eaker 176th OSS
 TSgt Harold Flegle 176th MXS
 COL Hunt W. Kerrigan JFHQ -Army
 CPT David B. Kang 297th BFSB
 MSG Jody A. Heffele JFHQ-Army

Army Commendation Medal



SFC John K. Gibson JFHQ-Army
 SSG William R. Zeffery JFHQ-Army

Air Force Commendation Medal



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 SSgt Jasmine A. Gallatin 168th MDG
 SrA Dominic A. Smith 168th OSF
 TSgt Matthew Nemeth 249th AS

Air Force Achievement Medal



TSgt Todd A. Limbaugh 213th SWS
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 MSgt Cecil Dickerson 249th AS
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 MSgt Kenneth Kotelman 176th ADS
 TSgt Kristine Laughlinhall 176th ADS
 TSgt Jason Phillips 176th ADS
 TSgt Michael Wachel 176th ADS
 SSgt Desalyn Whitlock 176th ADS
 SSgt Robert Williams 176th ADS

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 MSG John E. Flynn 297th BFSB

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COL Hunt W. Kerrigan JFHQ-Army
 CW5 James A. Noe JFHQ-Army

Alaska State Service Medal



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 CW4 Earston A. Hewitt JFHQ-Army
 CW3 Duane E. Ostrowski JFHQ-Army
 SGM Jeffery F. Coker JFHQ-Army
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Gregory T. Beach 297th BFSB

Michael C. Edwards 207th AVN

Nyle L. Harrison 207th AVN

Chief Warrant Officer Two

Richard L. Morrison Jr 207th AVN

Jeffery M. Rogers 207th AVN

First Lieutenant

Wesley Ladd 211th RQS

Matthew Crossman 249th AS

Daniel Koch 176th CES

Sergeant Major

Stephen B. Blair 761st MP

Master Sergeant

Arturo P. Bautista 207th AVN

Senior Master Sergeant

Kevin Combs 176th WG

Harry Evans 176th MXS

Shawn Gannon 176th OG

Harold Meier 176th MXS

Sergeant First Class

Laureen S. Hamilton 207th MFTR

Master Sergeant (Air)

Tracy P. Kurzenberger 168th LRS

Marlan J. Currier 168th AMXS

Ella J. Doak 168th ARW

Laurence Clyde 176th MXS

Kyle Coffman 176th OG

Denise Coone 176th ADS

Matt Depue 176th AMXS

Heidi Gould 211th RQS

Paul Guzman 176th WG

Michael Lajcsak 211th RQS

Paul Macy 176th WG

Daphne Rippy 176th WG

David Glass 176th ADS

Staff Sergeant (Army)

Kevin R. Baker R&R

Craig A. Collins MEDDET

Joyce P. Dean 297th MP

Benjamin A. Duhamel 297th BFSB

Garrett C. Kirby 297th BFSB

Jermey A. Horton 207th AVN

Drew A. Harrower 207th AVN

Charles W. Howard MEDDET

James E. Kempner 297th BFSB

Anthony D. Lee R&R

Jr T. Lomboy R&R

Joseph J. Robinson 297th BFSB

Justin L. Sekerak 297th BFSB

Vincent K. Weiters MEDDET

Technical Sergeant

Steven A. Armendariz 213th SWS

Robert C. Mercado 168th OSF

Peter R. Gardella 168th OSF

Amanda Akers 176th LRS

Melvin Casler 176th ADS

Michael Daly 176th MXS

Jessica Deters 176th SFS

Richard Dougherty 176th MXS

Patrick Gault 212th RQS

Christopher Golden 176th ADS

Francis Henderson 176th CPTS

Darren Hernandez 176th SFS

Tiffany Hutchinson JFHQ-Air

James Jones 176th MXS

Corey Largo 212th RQS

Christian Leamy 176th OSS

Daniel Lineberry 176th MXS

Matthew Lucas 176th ADS

Kenneth Morris 176th CPT

Asdrubal Peguero JFHQ-Air

Vanessa Peterson JFHQ-Air

David Retherford 176th LRS

James Richardson 176th ADS

Dominic Sampson 176th ADS

James Seigneur 210th RQS

Tyson Small 176th ADS

Matthew Teigen 176th OSS

Franklin Watts 176th SFS

Philip Whipkey 176th ADS

Sergeant

Heidi A. Carbaugh DET 54

Joshua L. Guernsey 297th BFSB

Eric J. Huck 49th GMD

Aaron L. Johnson 207th AVN

Gerald B. Johnson 49th GMD

Serita H. Johnson 297th BFSB

Michael J. Pitaro Jr 297th MP

Matthew B. Sanders 297th BFSB

Roberto Santiagotorres 49th GMD

Anthony N. Sousa 297th BFSB

Staff Sergeant (Air)

Tia Boglin 176th CPTS

John Buso 176th CES

Nicolai Campbell 176th MXS

Khaliah Hayward 176th ADS

Connor Murray 144th AS

Jason PB Aguon 168th ARS

Patrick G. Enters 168th SFS

Reuben R. Wright 168th SFS

Rosendo Perez 168th SFS

RETIREMENTS

Lt Col Thanoon Agha 168th ARS

David Bailey 176th CES

SSG Jay Baldwin R&R

SFC Jody Barnes 207th MFTR

Kenneth Bellamy 176th MXS

Brian Bowman 211th RQS

SFC Marvin Brown 761st MP

SFC Henry Casto 297th BFSB

Douglas Echternacht 176th OSS

Charles Fischer 213th SWS

Harold Flegle 176th MXS

TSgt Joy Gutzman 168th MOF

Nathan Harbour 168th SFS

CW3 David Harnes 207th BSC

Lewis Hayes 176th LRS

TSgt Julie Lackey 168th MXS

Eric Lee 176th LRS

SFC Randall Lemieux 297th MP

Brian Lewis 176th CES

David Looney 176th WG

SMSgt Michael Malatek 168th MXS

SFC Paul McDavid 49th GMD

LTC James Niumatalolo JFHQ-Army

Shannon Oleson 176th ACS

Kevin Pitchford 176th MXS

Maria Pranke 176th MXS

Sabrina Savage 176th WG

David Smith 176th MXS



Start of the Trail

Welcome to our newest members & employees

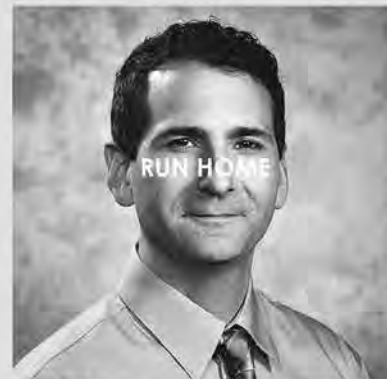
176th Wing

David Hayes	Taylor Thomas	Curtis Loewen
Ryan Conti	Wyatt Ebel	Cyle Ford
Christopher Eggleston	Robert Reigard	Elven Young
Allenmikel Armstrong	Gary Williams	Brianna Baldwin
Matthew O'Brien	Ryan Boyer	Jacob Richey
Levi Tressel	Michael Alexander	Laura Delgado
Keith Paulson	Germany Kuper	Trevor Griffith
Diane Thomas	Jessica Pettit	Raquel Maggiore
Nichola Unsel	Charles Hatch	Marcus Lee
Joshua Deal	Joe Sherrard	Jessica Gianoli
Chester Ramos	Jason Erhard	Bradford Burns
Curtis Robertson	Hinkley Winfield	Keisha Pereda
Larisa Hennessy	Daniel Kelley	Nicole Rahmer
Bishop Bailey	Erin Kelley	Trevor Bunkers
Jasson Leatham	James Bodolosky	Sosalena Tes
Trevor Haken	Weston Wilmlink	Christopher Force
Randy Efird	Richard Stack	Kelly Rittgers
Camarron Franklin	Katherine Brumfield	Ryan Green
Richard Cole	Jeffery Faulkner	
Paul Burdick	Harvey Finch	

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	November	December	January
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	2-3	7-8	11-12
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	16-17	7-8	25-26
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	15-17	7-8	24-26
38th Troop Command	15-17	6-8	24-26
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	2-3	7-8	11-12
176th Wing	2-3	7-8	11-12
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	10-11	8-9	19-20



FOUR PLANS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PLAN
Make sure your family knows what to do during an emergency. Who to call. Where to meet. What to pack. Visit ready.gov/kids for tips and information.





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