

# The Alaska Guardsman

A publication by the 134th Public Affairs Detachment  
for the Alaska Army National Guard

## National Guard Celebrates 372nd Birthday

**By Renee Hylton**  
*National Guard Bureau*

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — The United States is a young country, but four

of the oldest military organizations in the world are in our country's National Guard.

The National Guard celebrated

its 372nd birthday this year. On Dec. 13, 1636, the Massachusetts Bay Colony divided its citizen-soldiers, or militia, into the North, South and East Regiments.

In Massachusetts, they confronted a wilderness of dense forests, wild animals and suspicious Indians.

The colonists needed a military force for protection, but they had no money to hire a mercenary army, which was common practice in Europe at the time.

So, they turned to the English tradition of the militia – citizen-soldiers who gathered for military training and who could fight when needed.

In Massachusetts, all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60, except ministers and judges, were required to join the militia.

By 1636, the militia of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was large enough to be divided into three separate regiments.

Today, the military lineage of these 1636 regiments is carried by the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 101st Field Artillery, the



Photo by: Richard Arnold

*Cutting a cake Dec. 10 to celebrate the 372nd birthday of the National Guard at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington were, from left to right: Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw Jr., acting director of the Air National Guard; Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau; Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard; retired Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper, president of the National Guard Association of the United States; Maj. Gen. Francis D. Vavala, Delaware adjutant general and president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States; Command Sgt. Maj. David Hudson, the senior enlisted advisor to the NGB chief; and retired Sgt. Major Frank Yoakum, legislative director of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.*

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# Facility Gets More Than Just a Face-lift

**Spc. Margaret J. Moonin**  
134th Public Affairs Detachment

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** — Over the last few years Bryant Army Airfield has undergone major improvements to promote safer flight operations and bring it into the 21st century.

The airfield was originally built in the late 1950's by the U.S. Army and until now, has undergone little to no modernization or repairs due to lack of funding.

When the active component closed the control tower and handed the airfield over to the Alaska National Guard on Oct. 1, 1995 they took the federal funding for maintenance and repairs to their new facility at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

"These modernizations are an absolute necessity in a state that is so heavily centered on



Photo by: Spc. Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

*As part of a grand plan to remodel and modernize Guard facilities across Alaska, a new passenger terminal was built at hanger 4 on the Alaska Army National Guard's Bryant Army Airfield.*

aviation missions," said Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus, Alaska Army National Guard commander. "The repairs were all safety repairs to make the airfield a safe operating environment for rotary and fixed wing aircraft."

"When the Guard took over the facilities, there were things that needed to be done that we were unaware of at the time," said Chief Warrant Officer Terry Rollie, Bryant Army Airfield manager. "Once we started working to bring the airfield up-to-date I learned that the more I dug, the more I found needed to be modernized."

Because of this research, Bryant Army Airfield has received upgrades to everything from the 1950's vintage runway lighting to the outdated heating and ventilation system.

The runway was expanded, all the hangers were painted, the fire suppression system was modernized, the roof was replaced and a new distinguished visitor

lounge was built in Hanger 4.

"The repairs to Bryant Army Airfield are only a part of the long-term vision of the way we will improve all our Guard facilities so the Soldiers can take pride in who we are and what we represent," Katkus said. "We are making these repairs to instill pride in self, pride in the unit and pride in the organization. The way you do that is by providing the equipment and facilities needed, so that's what we are doing."

These repairs will not only reduce the operational costs due to increased energy efficiency and reduced maintenance requirements, but they will provide a higher state of readiness in response to local and national emergencies and mission requirements.

"Most people don't realize how expensive an airfield is until they are solely responsible for the maintenance," Rollie said. "The

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Commander of the Alaska  
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Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus

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## *Birthday from page 1*

181st Infantry, and the 182nd Cavalry, which are all still part of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

These four units, in one form or another, have been in continuous service since 1636, and are the oldest units in the U.S. Army.

Not many military organizations can claim 372 years of unbroken history.

The Swiss Guards, who protect the Vatican are older (1512), and so

is London's Honorable Artillery Company (1537), a unit of citizen-soldiers which is the oldest in the British Army. Amazingly, considering how much older Britain is than the United States, only one other regiment of the British Army, the Royal Scots (1633), predates our National Guard's oldest units.

Much has changed in this country since 1636, but one thing has not: citizen-soldiers still gather to train and deploy as they have for 372 years.

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## *Airfield from page 2*

Guard has received more than \$3 million from federal funding to make these improvements to the airfield over the last few years."

With the ongoing transformation of the Alaska Army National Guard, leadership embarked on this ambitious development plan to improve the Bryant Army Airfield as a way of consolidating training and in preparation for the arrival of the C-27J joint cargo aircraft.

"Bryant Army Airfield is our hub for the movement of equipment and Soldiers from the

rural areas into a central armory for training," Katkus said.

With all of these modernizations to the airfield, there is one in particular that will make the movement of Soldiers run smoother and save time for everyone, the new distinguished passenger terminal.

"The upgrades to the airfield and the passenger terminal will help us consolidate and move all of our air operations to Bryant Army Airfield, while bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Keese, 207<sup>th</sup> Aviation operations officer. "We will be able to utilize all our assets and manage our own passenger



Photo by: Cpt. Joshua Shrader, U.S. Army Infantry Center

*Alaska Army National Guard 1st Lt. Walter Hotch-Hill, 297<sup>th</sup> Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, stands in formation during the Airborne School graduation ceremony. Hotch-Hill graduated from the three-week Fort Benning, Ga. school in December and earned his coveted jump wings, which means he is qualified as a paratrooper and can jump from the C-130 aircraft.*

manifests from here, cutting our expected flight times by as much as two hours."

In the past, passengers were required to drive to Elmendorf Air Force Base or wait in the hanger for an expected flight. With the new terminal, passengers will be able

to gather in a single, comfortable, safe and professional place while they wait for their flight.

"The modernization of Bryant Army Airfield and all of the Guard facilities is vital to supporting the Alaska Army National Guard in all its new missions," Katkus said.

# Cold Weather Safety Tips

## Staff Report

134th Public Affairs Detachment

### CAMP DENALI, Alaska —

With temperatures reaching -25 degrees in Anchorage and even lower in other cities across the state, this is one of the coldest winters Alaska has faced in years.

This means that more than ever, Soldiers need to be aware of some of the winter dangers that come with living in the Last Frontier.

Some of these dangers include injuries such as frostbite, contact burn, hypothermia and even dehydration, all of which have the potential to cause great harm to an individual.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when weathering

Alaska's arctic temperatures:

1. Wear sufficient clothing and equipment to keep your body warm. Dress in layers, keeping clothing loose; this will allow for warm air to circulate and your uniform to properly do it's job. During activities remove layers to limit sweating and stay dry.

*\*Refer to your Gen. III ECWCS hand book for guidance on the proper wear of the uniform which will result in the greatest benefit to you.*

2. Avoid prolonged exposure of unprotected skin in extreme cold and/or windy conditions.

3. Keep clothing and equipment as dry as possible and change socks at least daily if in field environment and more often if they are damp.

4. Eat hot meals and drink hot

liquids. Ensure you are drinking plenty of non-caffeinated fluids. Dehydration is often more common in winter than in summer due to thirst mechanism malfunction, inconvenience and lack of humidity and precedes most cold weather injuries. You should drink at least 4 quarts of water a day or 5-6 quarts per day if activity level is high.

5. Always wear gloves if there is a potential that your skin will come in contact with metal. It only takes a few seconds to get contact burn when temperatures plummet.

6. Risk of cold injury increases in wet weather or when wearing wet clothing, particularly if the wind chill is 40 degrees or below.

Symptoms	First Aid
<b>HYPOTHERMIA</b>	
1. Confusion 2. Bizarre behavior 3. Withdrawal from group interaction 4. Unconsciousness with nearly undetectable breathing and pulse	DANGER THIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY 1. Evacuate for medical treatment. 2. Prevent further cold exposure. 3. Remove wet clothing. 4. Re-warm by covering with blankets or sleeping bags.
<b>FROSTBITE</b>	
Skin that is numb, turns grey or waxy white, and feels cold and stiff to the touch	1. Prevent further cold exposure. 2. Remove wet and constrictive clothing. 3. Re-warm the injured site gradually by direct skin to-skin contact or a modest heat source. 4. Evacuate for medical treatment.
<b>TRENCHFOOT</b>	
1. Itching, numbing, or tingling pain 2. Feet that are swollen and turn faintly red, blue, or black	1. Prevent further cold exposure. 2. Remove wet and constrictive clothing. 3. Wash and dry the foot gently. 4. Elevate the foot. 5. Cover the foot with layers of loose, warm clothing; and allow it to re-warm. 6. Do not massage the foot or expose it to extreme heat. 7. Do not walk on the foot.
<b>DEHYDRATION</b>	
1. Dizziness 2. Weakness 3. Blurred vision 4. Dark yellow to orange urine	1. Replace lost water; water should be sipped, not gulped. 2. Get medical treatment.

## POLICE OFFICERS WANTED

The Alaska National Guard is looking for military police, civilian police officers and NCOs to participate in a subject matter expert exchange in Mongolia.

**Topic:** "Law Enforcement in Peace Keeping Operations"

**Dates:** 16-20MAR2009

**POC:** CPT Gargan, G3, JFHQ-AK, 428-6239

Skills learned may help prepare for a future with state, county or city law enforcement agencies.