



For Immediate Release  
By Sgt. Karima Turner

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## **Alaska Army National Guard Medevacs Infant**

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska**—Responding to a request from LifeMed Alaska, the 11<sup>th</sup> Rescue Coordination Center dispatched an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter to Akiachak to MEDEVAC a 44-day-old infant in respiratory distress March 11.

“We received the request at approximately 4:40 p.m.,” said Staff Sgt. Christine Dickson, Rescue Coordination Center controller. “Shortly after the request came in we had a Black Hawk in the air on the way to Akiachak. We sent out the Black Hawk because the runways were so icy that LifeMed couldn’t land; the only aircraft that was going to be able to get in was a helicopter.”

The Black Hawk crew consisted of a pilot, co-pilot and two crew chiefs. In addition they carried three medical personnel from Bethel to Akiachack to care for and stabilize the infant.

“We were fortunate that the weather permitted us to fly, and were able to provide assistance,” said Capt. Brendon Holbrook, mission co-pilot. “The weather was the biggest issue; leaving and coming into Bethel, the visibility was marginal, but we had an experienced crew.”

The infant was taken to Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital in Bethel for further medical care.

“This was a big deal for me,” said Holbrook. “I’ve been on rescue missions in the lower 48, but this was my first in Alaska. I care about all my rescues, but the fact that it was a baby somehow made it even more rewarding because I was able to help save her young life.”

The Alaska Army National Guard was awarded one save for the mission.

