



Press Release

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For Immediate Release:  
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March 17, 2009

## **Alaska Army National Guardsmen Medevac Pregnant Tununak Woman** *1/207th Aviation transports patient to Bethel for treatment*

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska**—The Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation out of Bethel transported a 36-year-old woman, with pregnancy complications, from Tununak to Bethel Tuesday.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Rescue Coordination Center received a request for assistance from LifeMed Alaska critical care air ambulance at approximately 2 a.m. after strong cross winds and lack of runway lighting in Tununak kept them from responding to the emergency.

The RCC requested Alaska Army National Guardsmen with the 1/207<sup>th</sup> Aviation out of Bethel respond in a UH-60 Black Hawk. However, because of Operation Arctic Care 2009, the only aircrew available at the time was on mandatory crew rest and for safety measures could not respond until 6 a.m.

The RCC contacted the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital to inform the doctor of the delayed flight time so he could seek other resources, but none were available.

At 6 a.m. Alaska Army National Guardsmen took off from Bethel, onboard a UH-60 Black Hawk, accompanied by two LifeMed Alaska medics.

According to Warrant Officer Nyle Harrison, a pilot with the Alaska Army National Guard, they flew to Tununak with the assistance of night vision goggles because of darkness and landed on a non-lit air strip amidst 3-foot snow drifts.

While medics and crew were loading the patient on the Black Hawk in Tununak, Bethel Guardsmen assisted the mission by moving the local ambulance into the hanger and upon arrival assisted with the patient's transfer to the ambulance.

"It would have taken at least 8-10 minutes longer if the Soldiers had not been here to help before our arrival," Harrison said. "They made everything run like clockwork."

"Everyone here in Bethel loves to work with the National Guard Black Hawks and we just love being able to make a difference in peoples lives," Harrison concluded.

The patient was taken to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital for further medical care.

The Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation out of Bethel was awarded one save for this mission.

