



For Immediate Release
By: Pfc. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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Troop and Family Support Program Recognizes Volunteers

CAMP DENALI, Alaska--Individual volunteers and organizations from across the state of Alaska were recognized at the annual Award Ceremony for State Volunteers April 19 for their outstanding contributions to the Troop and Family Support Program.

The awards ceremony was held during the State Volunteer Workshop that took place April 17 to 19 at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage. Fifty-one volunteers from across the state gathered to conduct training and to honor volunteer efforts throughout the previous year. Volunteers participated in team building and communication exercises, attended the Family Readiness Group Essentials Course, and received information on web resources, Military One Source and the Yellow Ribbon Program.

“Every year we bring in volunteers from across the state to thank them for everything that they have done,” said Gia Simmons, a family readiness support assistant with the Troop and Family Support Program. “We also conduct training so they can be equipped with the most current resources to help service members and their families.”

Lt. Gen. (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, addressed the volunteers and presented 14 awards from the Troop and Family Support Program. “It’s important that we recognize volunteers and show them how important their job is,” Campbell said. “Without the efforts of these volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish our mission.”

Three volunteers were recognized at the state level for their contributions to the Alaska National Guard. Karen Wallace, principal of Northern Lights ABC Elementary School, received the Community Supporter of the Year award. Shannon DeHaas, wife of Alaska Army National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Timothy DeHaas, received the Volunteer of the Year award. Rich Owens, owner of Tastee Freez, received the Business Person of the Year award.

“Our mission is to get as many families involved as we can so they can experience the support and camaraderie that Family Support offers,” Shannon DeHaas said.

For more information on the Troop and Family Support Program, please contact Gia Simmons at 907-428-6682, Kera Spaulding at 907-428-6607 or Rich Williams at 907-428-6669.

Cutlines:

Volunteer Awards Ceremony

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—Lt. Gen. (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, left, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, Brig. Gen. Randy Banez, center in uniform, assistant adjutant general – Space and Missile Defense, and Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus, right in uniform, assistant adjutant general - Alaska Army National Guard, stand with the group of awardees who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Troop and Family Support Program at the Award Ceremony for State Volunteers during the State Volunteer Workshop at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage April 19. Photo: Pfc. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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CAMP DENALI, Alaska—Lt. Gen. (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, third from left, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, smiles with the three state awardees who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Troop and Family Support Program at the annual Award Ceremony for State Volunteers during the State Volunteer Workshop at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage April 19. From left: Karen Wallace, principal of Northern Lights ABC Elementary School, received the Community Supporter of the Year award; Shannon DeHaas, wife of Alaska Army National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Timothy DeHaas, received the Volunteer of the Year award; Lt. Gen. (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell; and Rich Owens, owner of Tastee Freez, received the Business Person of the Year award. Photo: Pfc. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment