



**For Immediate Release**  
**By Major Guy Hayes**

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### **Alaska National Guardsmen named 2009 Alaska Distinguished Principal**

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** – An Alaska Air National Guardsmen was named the 2009 Alaska Distinguished Principal by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals April 28.

Major Roger LeBlanc, Alaska Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters deputy director of staff, was recently chosen for his outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the opportunities for students, teachers and the community as a whole.

“Roger embodies the true strength of traditional Guardsmen in the Alaska National Guard,” said Lt. Gen. (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “His leadership and dedication in serving others is a testament to his character and the values we represent as Guardsmen.”

Principal at Fairview Elementary School, LeBlanc began his teaching career as a teacher at Wonder Park and Chester Valley elementary schools in 1995 after receiving a Masters of Arts in teaching a year prior. In 2001 he became principal of Mountain View Elementary School before moving on to Fairview in 2008.

“It means a lot to me to be recognized, but there were a lot of people who made this happen,” said LeBlanc. “It’s great to be honored, but the greater reward is being able to serve.”

LeBlanc’s distinction as an elementary school principal isn’t new. During the 2007-2008 school year his school was chosen as one of two Title 1 distinguished schools in Alaska and while at Mountain View Elementary he led them to seven consecutive years of academic improvement.

“Roger’s excellence as a school principal is reflected in the leadership he’s provided throughout his long and distinguished military career,” Campbell said.

Entering military service in 1979, LeBlanc joined the Alaska Air National Guard in 1992 after serving 12 years in the United States Air Force as an enlisted aircrew life support technician. In 1995 he attended officer training school and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Over the

last 14 years he's held several important leadership roles including commander of the 176<sup>th</sup> Services Flight at Kulis Air National Guard Base before joining the headquarters staff.

LeBlanc will receive his award at the 2009 National Distinguished Principal program to be held October 22-23, 2009 in Washington D.C.