



For Immediate Release

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[Alaska Army National Guardsmen Earn Combat Awards in Afghanistan](#)

Photo outline:

U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, right, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pins the Combat Action Badge on Master Sgt. Fenumiai Ilalio, of the Alaska Army National Guard, at Forward Operating Base Walton in Kandahar, Afghanistan, April 24. Ilalio earned the Combat Action Badge along with fellow Alaska Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jody Barnes during a cordon and search operation in which they and an Afghan National Army company came under small-arms fire from Anti-Coalition Forces. The staff report on the mission stated that “due to the quick thinking, leadership, tactical and technical knowledge of Master Sgt. Ilalio, both crews and their Afghan National Army counterparts avoided casualties from Anti-Coalition Forces as they maneuvered out of a choke point.” In the same combat mission, Sgt. 1st Class Sterry Kimball and 1st Lt. Ronald Savok, both of the Alaska Army National Guard, earned the Combat Infantry Badge. Ilalio and Savok are from Anchorage, while Barnes hails from Eagle River and Kimball from Dillingham. Photo: Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley, U.S. Navy