



For Immediate Release
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Alaska National Guardsmen Save Lives Worldwide *Alaska National Guardsmen save 167 lives in 2008*

CAMP DENALI, Alaska— The men and women of the Alaska National Guard saved 167 lives in 2008 here in Alaska and around-the-world.

The 11th Rescue Coordination Center, the sole Alaska representative responsible for all aeronautical search and rescue cases in Alaska, released its end of year statistics Dec 31. It lists annual search and rescue data for the state.

The Alaska National Guard was credited with 79 saves and 10 assists in Alaska, in addition to 72 saves in Afghanistan and 16 on the Gulf Coast while administering hurricane support to Texas and Louisiana.

“Members from the Alaska National Guard were called on for their skills in Afghanistan, the Gulf Coast and here in Alaska because they are recognized for the professionalism and expertise in search and rescue,” said Lt. Gen. (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

Alaska National Guardsmen support search and rescue year round in Alaska, with September being the busiest month for search and rescue missions in the state, earning members of the Alaska National Guard 20 saves in 2008.

In addition to performing day-to-day support in Alaska, Guardsmen from the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons deployed to multiple locations in 2008.

In January, Guardsmen deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan to support combat search and rescue missions in the Global War on Terrorism. During their six-month deployment, Alaska Guardsmen were credited with saving 72 lives and proved they’re among the elite in search and rescue worldwide.

In early September, Guard members were again deployed under the auspices of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a program that allows guard units to mobilize upon request to

render assistance to other states. Supporting search and rescue efforts in Louisiana and Texas, Guardsmen were awarded 16 saves during Hurricane Gustav, Hannah and Ike.

Here in Alaska or around the world, Alaska National Guardsmen are recognized for their expertise in search and rescue and for 167 people in 2008, they're thankful they adhere to the motto, "These Things We Do That Others May Live."

-30-

Photo Cutline's:

RescueAfghan. A pararescuemen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron conducts fast rope insertion training while deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 and were credited with saving 72 lives. Photo: Lt. Col. Tim O'Brien, 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

Refueling. An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron refuels over a flooded plain near Galveston, Texas, in mid-September. The Alaska Air National Guard deployed to the Gulf Coast region in September to perform search-and-rescue missions in the wake of hurricanes Gustav, Hannah and Ike and is credited with 16 lives saved. Photo: Technical Sergeant Sean Mitchell, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard.