Looking to Our Future
We were there when you landed on the northern coast of France.
We were there when you returned to the Philippine shore.
We were there when you fought in Korea and Vietnam.
We were there when you rolled across the deserts of Iraq.
We were there then. We will always be there.

Proudly serving the Military since 1936.

1-800-MILITARY (1-800-645-4827)
AUTO * HOME * RENTERS * MOTORCYCLE * BOAT
Implementing Change ........................................... 6
Silver Star Awarded to Alaska Pararescueman ............... 7
Alaska’s Largest Air Guard Unit Deemed “Highly Effective” . 10
New Tanana River Bridge Gives Multiple Benefits to Region . 13
168th Airmen Support NATO Mission in Germany ............ 16
Alaska Guardsmen Train With Allies While Deployed ......... 18
Guantanamo Bay Deployment a Success ....................... 20
Alaska Army Guard Gains Flexibility with C-12J ............... 25
Alaska National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program 27
Air Show ................................................................ 29
Two Fort Greeley Soldiers Win Best Warrior Competition .... 30

For the People ...................................................... 4
The Acting Adjutant General ................................. 5
Dispatches from the Front ..................................... 7
Where in the World .............................................. 8
DHS&EM .......................................................... 12
Joint Forces ....................................................... 14
Missile Defense ................................................. 22
Veterans ............................................................ 24
Alaska State Defense Force ................................. 26

Education ........................................................... 28
ESGR .............................................................. 32
Warrior and Family Services ............................. 33
Who We Are .................................................... 34
Awards & Decorations ....................................... 35
Promotions ....................................................... 36
Retirements ....................................................... 36
Training Schedule ............................................ 37
Start of the Trail ............................................... 38

http://dmva.alaska.gov

Cover. Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet Cheyenne Cayton, of North Pole, Alaska, gives two thumbs up after her first successful jump tower trip in May. Cayton was one of 144 cadets from Class 2014-2 who graduated from the Alaska Military Youth Academy’s Challenge program in August, joining the 4,128 previous graduates since 1994. Insert photo: Cayton went on to join the U.S. Army and was sworn in by her stepfather, Maj. Jason Moncuse, who is congratulating her after the ceremony in August. Following graduation she left for basic training with additional training in Styrker maintenance. Photos: Roman Schara, AMYA

Training. Members of 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, conduct hoist training with a Stokes litter basket near Knik and Colony glaciers about 50 miles north of Anchorage in August. Photo: Capt. Amy B. Slinker, Alaska Army National Guard

Distribution: Warriors is published for all current civilian employees, military members, veterans, and their families, of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. It is distributed, free of charge, via mail and distribution, through each division within the Department. It is also available at our website: http://dmva.alaska.gov.

HOW TO REACH US
Letters: Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer’s full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Submissions: Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members, veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

Warriors Magazine
Office of Public Affairs
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5800
907-428-6031 / Fax 428-6035

Concepts for section head logos derived from clip art provided by Alaska Native Knowledge Network. www.ankn.uaf.edu

Capt. John Callahan • Staff Sgt. N. Alicia Halla
Sgt. Balinda O’Neal • Sgt. Edward Eagerton
Maj. Michael Odgers • Sgt. Julio Velez
Marie Lundstrom, President, CEO
Matt Benedict, President, CEO
Darrell George, Advertising Sales
Gloria Schein, Graphic Designer
Matt Benedict, President, CEO
Gloria Schein, Graphic Designer
Darrell George, Advertising Sales
Alaska National Guard members have a long history of selfless service to our great state. From search-and-rescue missions to deployments around the globe to helping Alaskans recover from natural disasters, Alaskans know our Guardsmen are the best of the best. You are always ready, always there.

In February 2014, after receiving concrete evidence of leadership failures, I requested the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigations do an assessment of allegations of failed leadership. The team conducted an extensive review of both the Alaska Air and Army Guard, reviewed thousands of records, conducted a command climate survey and gathered information through 185 interviews.

Thank you to all Guard members who took part in this process. I released the full report, which showed serious problems with the Guard’s leadership in handling sexual assault cases, equal employment opportunity complaints and administering justice for other misconduct in a fair, even-handed manner without reprisal.

The OCI made several sound recommendations. To implement these recommendations, we have assembled a team that includes Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks, members of my staff and a National Guard team led by Brig. Gen. Jon Mott. If you have not been participating in the Implementation Planning Team, there is still time to get involved. The more Guard members who contribute ideas, the better the outcome will be for all Guard members.

The assessment report gave us a clear road map to make positive changes in the Alaska National Guard so we can restore Guard members’ trust in Alaska Guard leadership, complete successful missions and create a workplace where all are heard and treated fairly.

As Guard members, you always work as a team to overcome challenges and come out of it stronger. This is one of those moments when we need your full-on participation. I am counting on each one of you to join with me in this challenge.

Overcoming Challenges, Restoring Trust
Alaskans are rightly concerned about serious allegations of abuse and misconduct within the Alaska National Guard.

While allegations surround a small number of the 4,000-member Guard, we take them seriously and want to communicate what we are doing to resolve the very grave challenges we face.

This is a difficult time in our organization. We are making significant process, program, training, and education changes in the Alaska National Guard to address the findings and recommendations in the Office of Complex Investigations report. This will take time.

The National Guard Bureau is providing assistance to us so we can focus on taking care of our Soldiers, Airmen and the mission. NGB sent an implementation planning team, led by Brig. Gen. Jon Mott of the Connecticut Air National Guard.

We deeply appreciate the assistance of the implementation team. Three team members from across the nation are also with us as subject-matter experts, working through the process.

Alaska National Guard members of all ranks and career fields volunteered to be on work teams to specifically identify steps to be taken because change must be initiated from within if it is to be authentically adopted into Guard culture. Brig. Gen. Mott’s group will be here as long as it takes to facilitate the plan developed by our teams.

We will correct issues addressed in the report. Working together, we will improve our professional culture and strengthen our operational missions.

We have a series of administrative actions under review and will not discuss details until final determinations are made. At that time, we plan to release additional information regarding outcomes.

The implementation team is facilitating Alaska National Guard leaders in developing an implementation plan addressing the recommendations.

The plan will contain accountability metrics, specific desired-end states, goals and objectives, milestones required to achieve them, metrics used to measure change and other actions required to ensure completion.

The implementation team will ensure whatever tools, guidance, policy or resources required are available. State and National Guard leadership will be briefed and their input welcomed.

Brig. Gen. Mott and his team have had productive interactions with the AKNG leadership and believe the leadership is committed to developing a corrective plan.

The implementation team includes qualified people from distinct areas of expertise, including an active-duty lieutenant colonel judge advocate general from NGB; a command sergeant major from the New Mexico Army National Guard, who is a subject-matter expert in equal opportunity; and a sergeant major from the Indiana Army National Guard who is a law enforcement expert and a trained military sexual assault investigator.

Brig. Gen. Mott himself has been involved in numerous rebuilding, restructuring and reorganization projects at all levels in his 32-year military career. Mott and his team have reached out to the entire staff of the NGB headquarters, as well as National Guard subject-matter experts from across the country.

Even when their physical presence is no longer required, NGB will continue to monitor and provide assistance to ensure support of the new AKNG leadership so that they can take care of the AKNG Soldiers and Airmen and their mission.

In addition to the NGB implementation team, a team of auditors were in Alaska in October at Gov. Sean Parnell’s request to more thoroughly examine the management of fiscal resources. The team is comprised of the director of Internal Review, chief of Audit Operations and a senior auditor assigned to National Guard Internal Review Office.

The NGB audit team’s initial visit will be followed by a November trip to complete the audit. This quick-response audit comes at the request of the governor. They have three months to complete the audit. Their draft report is expected in December.

We are undergoing a complete change at the Alaska National Guard. Our Soldiers and Airmen deserve it.

Our citizens deserve to know we are committed to transforming our culture and restoring the trust that has been so badly damaged by the actions of a few who betrayed the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.
Implementing Change

IN THE ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska … On Sept. 4, Gov. Sean Parnell released a 57-page report of findings from the National Guard Bureau’s Office of Complex Investigations that detailed a comprehensive analysis of multiple problems challenging the Alaska National Guard, its leadership and its processes.

Because of concerns about the AKNG’s workplace culture, Parnell requested the investigation in a letter to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank Grass, who then initiated the investigation.

The five key areas identified by the report include sexual assault, equal-opportunity programs, coordination with law enforcement, fraud and command climate. The report also provided guidance for changes to correct these issues.

With the recommendations detailed, NGB sent the Alaska Implementation Team here, made up of four senior Guard leaders from across the country and led by Brig. Gen. Jon K. Mott, Connecticut National Guard assistant adjutant general-Air.

“The NGB-AIT is comprised of experts in key areas,” said Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “They are here to assist and advise the Alaska National Guard with implementing needed changes for us to move forward in a way that ensures our values and the well-being and confidence of our members are upheld.”

Working in conjunction with the NGB-AIT, the AKNG put together its own implementation planning teams to address the separate issues — one team each for four of the five categories identified in the OCI report and another they chose to add. The teams are AKNG Sexual Assault IPT, AKNG Equal Opportunity IPT, AKNG Law Enforcement IPT, AKNG Command Climate IPT and the added team, AKNG Justice IPT. Fraud is being looked into by an NGB audit team for a more in-depth assessment of the issue.

The AKNG-IPTs have been tasked to develop an implementation plan based on the recommendations of the OCI report. The plan will contain details for each recommendation from the report. It will detail the desired end-state of the recommendation, required goals and objectives, milestones that are required to achieve it, metrics to measure that effort and suspense dates required to ensure they are addressed in a timely manner.

Each week, the teams conduct meetings to discuss the plan and what needs to be done to accomplish their objectives.

“In the first meeting, we established what the goals were for the program,” said Lt. Col. David McPhetres, director of staff for the Alaska Air National Guard, who is acting as one of the managers of the AKNG IPT program. “Each team built out what their order of emphasis was, what they’re doing, what their recommendations are, how they’re measuring it and what milestones they’ve created. Those are then reported back during the Friday meeting along with a status. If there are problems that require outside assistance, it gets reported at that meeting, which feeds to Brig. Gen. Mott, who then reports back to the governor.”

“A rare opportunity that has arisen out of this process is that future leaders of the AKNG – from the junior enlisted Guardsmen and up – have been given an opportunity to effect positive change to improve the organization, explained McPhetres. “We opened the effort to everybody within the Guard,” he said.

The weekly team meetings are open to Guardsmen, who are invited and encouraged to participate. Like the full-time staff, traditional Guardsmen are also encouraged to attend if they can. If they cannot attend the meetings, they are still encouraged to participate by providing feedback to the AKNG-IPTs, either through their chain of command or directly to members of the teams.

“The best way for Guardsmen to help is to be part of the solution,” McPhetres said. “If they have a recommended solution to a problem, they can share it in one of the IPTs, send it to me, a team lead or anyone in their chain of command. The key point is that everybody is capable of identifying problems, and the challenge is that we need people to also help identify solutions.”

According to feedback from the teams, progress is already being made relating to the recommendations from the OCI report.

“The Alaska National Guard is creating a more inclusive process in regard to educating Soldiers and Airmen about promotion criteria and policies,” said Lt. Col. Wayne Don, commander of the 103rd Civil Support Team, Alaska Army National Guard, who serves as a co-lead on the AKNG Command Climate IPT. “We are increasing senior enlisted involvement in helping to educate Guard members about the selection process.”

Also, a state equal employment manager position was listed and is currently in selection process of filling that job. Other positions are being filled as well. The 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, hired a new equal opportunity director and put its part-time EO specialist on full-time orders in September.

Each step is one closer to improving the organization, explained McPhetres.

“We drafted a vision statement that puts us somewhere over the horizon and where we want to be,” he said. “Ultimately, whatever the result of our process is, we want a vision statement that is somewhere better than where we are today. Our next series of goals are to get our Soldiers and Airmen involved because it’s really the grass-roots piece that needs to be the foundation and needs to embrace the vision. We need our people to believe in the process, and we want them to get behind whatever it is that takes us to the vision of what’s better than today.”
A pararescueman with the Alaska Air National Guard’s famed 212th Rescue Squadron received a Silver Star — the nation’s third-highest award for valor — in a ceremony here in July. Master Sgt. Roger Sparks was awarded the honor for his actions during a fierce firefight with insurgents in Afghanistan’s Watapur Valley on Nov. 14, 2010. Responding to a call to retrieve combat casualties in support of Operation Bulldog Bite, Sparks and a fellow pararescueman, Capt. Koa Bailey, descended from helicopter via hoist under enemy fire. Upon touchdown, they were both blown off their feet by a rocket-propelled grenade, and Sparks instructed the flight crew via radio not to lower any more personnel because of the high volume of fire.

Under fire from three directions, the pair began communicating with nearby coalition aircraft to direct air strikes against insurgent positions. Making contact with forces on the ground, they began to consolidate the wounded and provide treatment.

“Despite the threat of continued enemy fire and with no concern for his personal safety, Master Sgt. Sparks immediately began administering lifesaving procedures with his limited supply of first-aid gear,” the citation reads. “When he exhausted his medical supplies, he improvised using belts, T-shirts or boot strings in a desperate attempt to keep his patients alive … he feverishly triaged chest wounds, punctured lungs, shattered hips, fist-sized blast holes, eviscerated stomachs and arterial bleeders with extremely limited medical supplies and only the light of the moon piercing the darkness.

“Sparks exhibited extraordinary resolve, calm and heroism under constant enemy fire for nearly five hours, which resulted in four American lives being saved and four casualties being returned to their families with honor and dignity,” the citation continues. “Through his extraordinary heroism, superb Airmanship and resolve in the face of the enemy, Master Sgt. Sparks reflected the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.”
Decontamination Training in the Aleutians

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Sullivan, 103rd Civil Support Team

UNALASKA, Alaska … The Alaska National Guard 103rd Civil Support Team–Weapons of Mass Destruction conducted a two-day hazardous material decontamination training with local emergency responders here in August.

Twenty Guardsmen worked with the Unalaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services and members of the UniSea hazmat team to share and establish decontamination procedures. One of the training scenarios had the hazmat agencies responding to a shipping container that washed ashore and contained multiple unknown 55-gallon drums.

The 103rd conducted downrange field analysis on the drums while the Unalaska first responders provided decontamination support.

“This scenario provided extremely realistic training for both agencies,” said Senior Fire Capt. Zac Schasteen, Unalaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services. “During peak season, hundreds of ships pass through Akutan Pass carrying thousands of containers; it is not an unrealistic scenario for containers to fall off the ships and land on our shore. The training between the 103rd and our department allowed us the opportunity to get critical feedback on our decontamination procedures.”

Both days of training enhanced the working relationship between the 103rd CST and the Unalaska Fire & EMS. By working with first responders in remote locations such as Unalaska, the 103rd CST is able to practice and enhance its standard operating procedures to ensure a smoother operation should a real-world event occur.

“The 103rd CST’s main focus is learning local first responders’ capabilities and procedures, which will allow for seamless integration between both agencies in the event of a response,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dutch Inman, 103rd CST.

The 103rd CST serves as the state’s all-hazard chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialists who work in concert with local first responders in hazardous materials situations. As subject matter experts, the CST routinely travels to all parts of the state to train and work with first responders.

In addition to the hazmat training, the leadership of the 103rd took the opportunity to provide some professional development on the Aleutian Islands Campaign for the unit’s Soldiers and Airmen.

The Aleutian Islands Campaign, often called “The Forgotten War,” serves as a platform to educate people on Alaska’s
The Aleutian Islands were invaded and occupied by Japanese troops until the United States countered the occupation and re-took the islands. Unalaska and Attu were two sites where the United States and Japan battled for control of the Aleutians.

“It connects us to the lineage and history of the military in Alaska; unfortunately, it is not as widely known as other battles in the Pacific,” said Sgt. Paul Oliver, a survey team leader, 103rd CST.

The Alaska National Guard sponsored a U.S. Army Lessons Learned and Doctrine Seminar in Mongolia in June as part of its State Partnership Program with the Mongolian Armed Forces.

The seminar’s purpose was to assist the Mongolians’ methods of analyzing and managing information gleaned from experience to improve both their lessons learned and doctrine processes.

Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Col. Baatar Baljid, commander of the Mongolian Joint Training Center, Mongolian Armed Forces, gave the opening remarks for the seminar.

“Use this opportunity to learn from each other; both armies have a lot to share,” Bridges said.

During seminar briefings, participants discussed previous and upcoming peacekeeping deployments as well as disaster support and humanitarian assistance efforts. Service members from each participating nation shared past experiences and lessons learned to foster cooperation and compatibility in future multinational operations and exercises.

Mongolia has been an active participant in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, deploying troops to both theaters in support of coalition operations.

Mongolia is also an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping operations with deployments to Sierra Leone, South Sudan and other conflict areas.

“The Mongolian Armed Forces are doing a great job in their peacekeeping operation mission,” Bridges added. “They are earning respect from the world community.”

The seminar supports Mongolia-U.S. bilateral defense cooperation, which plays a vital role in strengthening Mongolia’s defense reforms and military transformation.
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... Anchorage’s hometown Air National Guard unit earned good grades in a recent inspection by its Air Force parent unit.

Visiting the 176th Wing in June, inspectors from the Honolulu-based Pacific Air Forces gave the wing an overall “effective” rating, terming the wing’s drill period as “very successful.”

“We’ve proven through this inspection that our Airmen are among the best,” said the wing’s commander, Brig. Gen. Donald S. Wenke. “I couldn’t be more proud.”

To demonstrate its capabilities for the inspectors, the wing participated in the joint exercise Polar Guardian 14-2. During the course of this exercise, the 176th Wing flew more than 130 missions, including air

Alaska’s Largest Air Guard Unit Deemed “Highly Effective”
drops of Army and Alaska Army National Guard troops, cargo/personnel movements and simulated rescue events. The exercise also included a simulated plane crash with responses by wing firefighters, security forces and medical personnel.

“The exercise was robust for the entire wing,” noted the inspection team leader, Col. David G. Vandeveer Jr., in a report to Pacific Air Forces Commander Gen. Herbert J. “Hawk” Carlisle.

The inspection marked a new approach to gauging wing readiness. In past inspections, held every four years or so, PACAF inspectors would scrutinize each of the wing’s individual units amid a burst of activity. That approach has changed. The new routine calls for unit inspections to be done on a year-round basis by the wing’s own Inspector General’s Office. The role of the PACAF inspectors, therefore, will be more limited.

Instead of inspecting each unit, they will inspect the wing’s own inspection program, talk to the wing’s Airmen and get a sense of their concerns, and look into specific issues highlighted by the Airmen and/or wing leadership.

None of the wing’s graded areas were rated less than “effective,” and one of the most important — “executing the mission” — was considered “highly effective.”

“Overall, the 176th Wing is highly effective at executing all their mission sets,” the report concluded. “In 2013, rescue forces responded to 444 search-and-rescue incidents and logged 123 saves. Through May of this year, they have already investigated 159 incidents and saved 32 people. The three rescue squadrons maintained a constant alert presence, enabling an immediate response when called upon. Additionally, the wing supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Damayan, participated in six diverse exercises supporting multiple major commands and sister-service objectives, conducted two local humanitarian operations and supported air sovereignty missions.”

The inspectors praised the cooperation between the Alaska Air Guardsmen and their active-duty and reserve counterparts.

“The (active-duty and Guard) leadership at all levels have a good relationship, and when faced with manpower or support constraints, leaders proactively engage with one another to meet mission requirements,” the report noted.

The inspector’s bottom line: “The 176th Wing’s ‘Midnight Sun Guardians’ stand ready to execute their state and federal missions.”
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska... The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Public Outreach team hit the road this summer, traveling to nine communities across the state with the earthquake simulator and one simple message: “Drop, Cover and Hold On.”

Alaska has more earthquakes than any other state, and it makes sense for the state to have one of three earthquake simulators in the country. DHS&EM purchased this very powerful tool in 2012 to promote emergency preparedness and provide earthquake education. The latest version of the earthquake simulator employs technology to provide a safe and realistic demonstration of nature’s power up to a magnitude 8.0 earthquake.

“Our priority is to reach a variety of audiences, including emergency responders, medical professionals, business owners, students, teachers, community leaders and the general public,” said John Madden, DHS&EM director. “Each Quake Simulator event is an educational experience. These events include safety fairs, preparedness expos, conferences and educational outreach programs. Our goal is to provide emergency preparedness education and the risks associated with an earthquake event. We also provide detailed planning information to reduce earthquake hazards and how citizens can prepare before the next earthquake strikes.”

On Oct. 16, a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill was conducted worldwide with millions participating. Unlike many disasters, earthquakes are no-notice events. If people do not know what to do before the shaking begins, there is no hope to educate them during an earthquake. Visit www.shakeout.org/alaska for more on preparedness information.

Participants take a seat and hold on tight while emergency management specialists remind them of the recommended earthquake safety action: drop, cover and hold on. This essential call to action is visible on the exterior and interior of the simulator. The very convincing physical and visual experience, as well as the repetition of the essential safety message, leaves a lasting impression on even those who have experienced significant earthquakes.

The purpose of the simulator is to encourage citizens to be better prepared for earthquakes and to promote actions that mitigate the hazardous situations portrayed. Free brochures on how to mitigate earthquake risks at home and at work are distributed, and participants can discuss emergency preparedness issues with experts in emergency management. Although the focus is on earthquakes, information about
New Tanana River Bridge Gives Multiple Benefits to Region

FAIRBANKS, Alaska … The Tanana River Bridge opened this fall after a ribbon cutting ceremony in August.

The project was one of the first recommendations of the Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team, the group Gov. Sean Parnell created by administrative order to provide recommendations on retaining and building the state’s current military force capability.

More than three-fifths of a mile long, the bridge allows both wheeled-vehicle and train transport. It is designed to provide dependable, year-round access to the largest military training area in the United States – the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. The bridge also provides some additional advantages.

“Beyond benefits to the military and our economy, this bridge will be a major benefit to the community of Salcha by stopping ice-jam flooding in Salcha as well as provides access to a hunting area,” Parnell said. “The bridge will also provide conditional and seasonal access to a hunting area that will make it possible for permitted and registered hunters to put meat in the freezer for their families.”

The bridge was built in partnership with the Department of Defense. The State of Alaska provided $84 million and the Department of Defense provided $104.2 million for the project. The Alaska Railroad completed the state’s longest bridge on time and on budget.
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska … From Fairbanks to Juneau, Alaskans gathered to celebrate and recognize the remarkable efforts of their past and present National Guardsmen.

Gov. Sean Parnell signed House Bill 247 on April 30, 2012, establishing Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 of each year to honor the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.

The governor’s proclamation reads: “On this day, and throughout the year, we recognize the incredible efforts of past and present Alaska National Guard members and thank them for the sacrifices they make daily and have made in defending our freedoms and ensuring our security.”

“I am honored to lead the courageous men and women who serve in our Alaska National Guard Day ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Gov. Sean Parnell signed House Bill 247 on April 30, 2012, establishing Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 of each year to honor the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.

Celebrating the Guard. Members of the Alaska National Guard gather for an Alaska National Guard Day ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Gov. Sean Parnell signed House Bill 247 on April 30, 2012, establishing Alaska National Guard Day on July 30 of each year to honor the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.


Photo: Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo, 166th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
National Guard,” Parnell said. “Today, Alaska National Guard Day, we honor you and your families and say a profound thank you for all you are and for all you do.”

For more than 75 years, the Alaska National Guard has defended our nation and state. The Guard first rendered invaluable service in World War II as the Alaska Territorial Guard, and has since mobilized and deployed troops to the Middle East, Africa and West Asia in support of the War on Terror. There are more than 4,000 members serving today.

“I take pride each day I wear the uniform, realizing that everyone who would like to may not get the same opportunity as I have for 21 years,” said Maj. Irma Keator, 168th Force Support Flight commander, who volunteered to read the Governor’s Proclamation during the Alaska National Guard Day celebration at the 168th Air Refueling Wing. “If I had it to do all over again, I would, as there is nothing else I would rather do than serve my country both home and abroad.”

The events across the state included the reading of the Governor’s Proclamation along with remarks from leadership. Past and present Guardsmen joined together to view static displays, tour aircraft, and reminisce on days of new and old.

“As the saying goes, when you love your job it’s like you never worked a day in your life,” said Rex Barnes, a retired member of the 168th Air Refueling Wing who attended Alaska National Guard Day at Eielson Air Force Base.

168th Airmen Support NATO Mission in Germany

Story and photos by Senior Airman Francine St. Laurent, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

GEILENKIRCHEN NATO AIR BASE, Germany ... Alaska Air National Guard members from the 168th Air Refueling Wing spent two weeks in October, supporting the Airborne Warning and Control System NATO mission here.

The 168th ARW is one of 18 Air National Guard units that support the 17 E-3A AWACS aircraft and their radar surveillance missions by providing refueling capabilities.

Maintenance Airmen play a key role by ensuring Alaska Air National Guard’s two KC-135s in Germany are kept in the best possible condition.

“Our system knowledge is used not only to fix problems when they happen but to diagnose and prevent future problems from happening,” said Airman 1st Class Deren Trounce, a 168th Maintenance Squadron hydraulics technician.

As the only hydraulics specialist on a team of 19 Airmen who traveled to Geilenkirchen, Trounce said he gained experience and confidence in his skill set.

“Back home I have a support net,” Trounce said. “My mentors guide me through fixing a problem. Here it’s basically me; I am the hydraulic specialist.”

With the help of Staff Sgt. Shawn McCarthy, 168th Maintenance Group aircraft electrical and environmental technician, Trounce fixed a fuel line leak in the wheel well and bled the system of air pockets.

Working closely with Airmen from career fields ranging from avionics communication and navigation to crew chiefs and propulsion helped Trounce appreciate their knowledge and become better at his job, he said.

“This trip not only reinforces the knowledge I already have but helps me extend what I know,” Trounce said.

This growth echoes among the 168th Airmen supporting the AWACS mission. Airmen build on their knowledge and experience, which benefits the 168th teamwork at home, said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Renson, 168th Maintenance Squadron component maintenance flight superintendent.

“When they’re back home, all these shops are segregated, and they perform their own duties,” Renson said. “When they get here,
Getting Ready to Launch. A 168th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 is pushed backward by a tow truck prior to a launch in September at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base. The aircraft carries 125,000 pounds of fuel and will offload 30,000 to 35,000 pounds to receiving Boeing E-3As.

we integrate them into each other’s jobs so they are helping each other. There’s not enough of each one to do their job by themselves so they all have to pitch in.”

Many of the specialists wear two hats, helping crew chiefs launch and recover aircraft, Renson said. Prior to the trip, Airmen spend a day learning to refuel the aircraft, add oil to the engines, install a tail stand and additional pre- and post-flight procedures.

Airmen gain experience with different skills when their specialty is not yet needed, Renson said.

“For example, if you don’t have any engine write-ups, you can have them do crew chief launches,” Renson said. “When there’s no electrical and environmental work, we’ll have them help propulsion when they’re hurting.”

In many ways, the trip is a unique training opportunity for many Airmen, such as Staff Sgt. Mike Meyers, 168th Fabrication Shop aircraft structural mechanic.

“Bird strikes don’t happen very often at Eielson,” Meyers said. “It happens sometimes, but not very often. Now here, there’s a very high possibility that it’s going to happen because of the number of birds on the runway.”

If a bird were to hit a KC-135 during takeoff or landing, varying degrees of damage could occur.

Meyers, the only sheet metal specialist, would fix any dents or cracks on parts that must be replaced or repaired.

“We brought little pieces of metal and all the basic tools to fix it, such as a drill, rivet gun and measuring equipment to measure distances between holes and make a rivet pattern,” Meyers said.

Each specialty brought tools, parts and repair equipment on the aircraft on large pallets. For supplies unavailable in Germany, a 168th Logistical Readiness Squadron Airman on the trip can provide support and acquire them.

Because Geilenkirchen is not home to an air refueling unit, KC-135 parts are hard to get if needed, Renson said. They would need to be ordered and delivered from another base, which can be time-consuming.

“The only parts for a KC-135 that are here are the ones we brought with us,” Renson said. “There is some limited stuff that crosses over from the AWACS because it’s the same basic airframe, but those parts are very limited and very few.”

The success of the 168th ARW refueling mission at Geilenkirchen depends on the teamwork of Airmen and the culture of melding and sharing knowledge they create.
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Approximately 25 pararescue and support personnel with the Alaska Air National Guard’s 176th Wing used their time while deployed to the Horn of Africa to sharpen their skills and train with partner nations.

The Guardsmen deployed to Djibouti in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa, attached to the 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron.

“Our primary mission there was to provide a personnel-recovery force for the Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa,” said Capt. Christian Braunlich, director of operations with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

Aside from having a Guardian Angel team on 24/7 alert for medical evacuation and search-and-rescue missions, their secondary mission included training with African partner nations to improve their forces’ capabilities, explained Braunlich.

Guardian Angel teams are highly trained medical personnel made up of pararescuemen and combat rescue officers who specialize in conducting high-risk rescue missions. They work closely with survive, evade, resist and escape specialists who train aircrew and high-risk-of-isolation personnel to return with honor from any type of survival situation.

The training in the Horn of Africa with partner nations included airborne operations over land and water as well as rescue craft and dive operations that are logistically difficult to accomplish in Alaska because of the difference in weather and terrain, Braunlich said.

“We were also involved in some military-to-military (training) engagements,” he said. “A few of our pararescuemen provided tactical combat casualty care training for the Ugandan military, our SERE specialist provided training for a variety of American forces, and we sent a combat rescue officer, a pararescueman and a SERE specialist to Ethiopia to provide personnel recovery and SERE training for American forces there.”

Despite not being tasked to respond to or participate in rescue and recovery or combat operations, Braunlich said that the mission there was an important one.

“There’s still a significant terrorist presence there threatening to further destabilize the region,” he said. “One of the organizations has stated publicly its desire to work with other fellow extremist groups in targeting Americans and America. The support we provided to friendly African forces helps both to protect us and to improve conditions in a region plagued by instability.”

Training with partner nations in the Horn of Africa was a positive experience, Braunlich said.

“It’s always interesting to see how other nations’ militaries work, and I probably would never have found myself in Uganda if I wasn’t deployed there,” he said. “Working with all of these units was great. Any time you start operating with organizations you don’t work with regularly, there will be a familiarization period, but as a team, we leaned forward to prepare for operational missions and take advantage of every opportunity to achieve quality training.”
Patient Extrication. Pararescuemen with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, seen through night vision goggles, conduct patient extrication from a confined space environment during a training exercise in Djibouti in August. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa, attached to the 82nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. Photo: Maj. Matthew Komatsu, 212th Rescue Squadron.
By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska ... A platoon of approximately 30 military policemen with the Alaska Army National Guard’s 297th Military Police Company, 761st Battalion, returned home to Alaska in early August after an 11-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

“Our guys did an exceptional job,” said 1st Lt. Ralph Harris, platoon leader, 297th Military Police Company, Alaska National Guard. “All the units we worked for and with were really satisfied with the performance we did on the mission. I couldn’t have found 29 better Soldiers to take with me on this mission. They made the unit look good, the Guard look good and they made Alaska look good.”

The Guardsmen had deployed last September to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force-GTMO Joint Detention Group. Their mission was to conduct safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees, including those convicted by military commission. For the returning platoon, their primary mission during the deployment was providing area security at the facility.

“Our job was to provide external security,” added Sgt. Keith Humphrey, a team leader with the 297th MP Company. “We kept unauthorized personnel out and the detainees in.”

During their time there, the MPs conducted mounted and dismounted patrols around the facility. Despite working long hours, the military policemen of the 297th MP Co. stayed focused on their mission.

“There were some extremely long days but it didn’t really affect any of us,” Humphrey said. “We were just focused on the task at hand.”

Their tasks also included manning static positions, checking credentials at control points, observation, maintaining equipment, and conducting renovations and repairs of their work areas.

Outside deployments, most traditional National Guardsmen maintain civilian careers in addition to drilling with their units for one weekend a month and two weeks a year during annual training. These skill sets often bring a wealth of knowledge and experience when the Soldiers deploy.

“The National Guardsmen are invaluable to the missions we take on deployments because we also bring the experience of our civilian careers with us,” Harris said. “Our guys are well-rounded problem-solvers. There were many times that the active-duty guys fell short on support and asked if we had a welder or the like, and we were able to perform that service and help complete the mission.”

Upon their return, many of the Guardsmen plan on returning to their civilian careers and going to school.

“I plan on finishing my degree,” said Sgt. Jopeel Quimpo, the platoon medic for the 297th MP Company. Quimpo works for the State of Alaska certifying and recertifying emergency medical technicians and paramedics. “I’m enrolled in a nursing program and am planning on getting my bachelor’s in science.”

The most common theme among the MPs was that they looked forward to spending time with friends and families.

“I’m really glad to get back to my wife and children,” Harris said. “I’ve been gone a lot the last few years, and I’m really glad to get back to Alaska. That’s what I love about my home state. No matter where you go, you’ll never find a place like Alaska.”
GUARDSMEN RETURN FROM GUANTANAMO BAY DEPLOYMENT

By Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Approximately 50 Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard’s 761st Military Police Battalion returned home to various parts of Alaska in late August after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Guardsmen deployed last November to Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Joint Detention Group.

“For our part of the mission in Guantanamo Bay, we were the brigade-level staff,” said Capt. Brian Fuchs, who served as the battle captain for the Joint Operations Center, 761st MP Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard. “We oversaw and managed direct care of the detainees and provided transparent, humane and just care for them.”

As a brigade-level staff, the Guardsmen were responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the JDG, and with that job, came a high level of responsibility.

“We kept higher headquarters informed of any actions that were occurring at Guantanamo Bay on anything that involved the detainees,” Fuchs said.

Higher headquarters meant reporting all the way back to Washington, D.C., according to Fuchs.

“The most impactful thing for me before coming into this mission was in knowing that all eyes were on Guantanamo Bay,” said Staff Sgt. Joyce Dean, a military policeman with the 761st MP Battalion. “During my nine months there, I saw why the detainees are still there and got to see how the process works. It answered a lot of questions for me.”

Fuchs, who works for the Anchorage Police Department as a police officer when he is not on duty with the Alaska Army National Guard, said he understands the complexity of the mission.

“People who haven’t been involved in detainee operations don’t know how much that entails, how much time is involved or that type of care for detainees,” he said. “People don’t see how complex, vital and how real that mission is on the ground. That’s what took me back. This is the real deal. To be successful at that mission at that level can be very taxing.”

The staff worked an average of 10 to 12 hours a day, but because of the nature of the operation, were on call 24 hours a day, Dean said. Despite the long hours, the Guardsmen from the 761st MP Battalion received many accolades from other units working with them.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better team,” Fuchs said. “Over the last nine months, the 761st has been on point for the United States. We did it, we pulled off that mission, and that’s a big deal when you’re talking about the global war on terrorism. Alaska can be proud that their Guardsmen represented them well and I couldn’t have been happier. I really appreciate everything they did for Alaska and the nation.”


Like Father, Like Son. Spc. Bernardo Otero, 761st Military Police Battalion, takes a photo with his father, Raphael, upon his return to Anchorage after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay. Otero’s father served in Guantanamo Bay 40 years ago as a U.S. Marine Corps lance corporal from 1974 to 1975. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs
FORT GREELY, Alaska … Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell; Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard; and Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, celebrated 10 years of missile defense operations during a ceremony held here in September.

Ten years ago on Sept. 30, President George W. Bush declared that the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System was operational, and for the first time, the United States had the capability to detect, intercept and defeat a long-range ballistic missile threatening the homeland.

During the ceremony, Treadwell read a letter from Gov. Sean Parnell that thanked the Soldiers and discussed some of the key milestones that made ballistic missile defense a reality. Treadwell also expressed his gratitude and praise.

“I’d like to say thank you: thank you for defending our nation,” Treadwell said. “The State of Alaska supports you, the nation supports you. It took the dedication of the State of Alaska and the National Guard working together to make this happen, but it’s only real because of what you do, and that’s incredibly important. So when you mark this anniversary, please be proud and do good work and know the nation depends on what you do every day.”

Bridges credited Guard members for the success of the missile defense mission.

“Thank you to you who serve in uniform and your family members who support you. You are the most important reason why this mission is successful, and our nation can rest easy at night because of you,” Bridges said. “Thank you for being on the frontline of this mission, well done.”

The GMD system is designed to intercept and destroy an incoming ballistic missile in its midcourse while still outside the Earth’s atmosphere. The system is composed of…
sea-, land- and space-based sensors and ground-based interceptors located at Fort Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

National Guard Soldiers manning fire control centers 24 hours a day, seven days a week can detect a launch anywhere in the world and determine if that launch is a threat to the United States. If deemed a threat, Soldiers can launch ground-based interceptors to destroy the threat long before it reaches the United States.

The missile defense complex groundbreaking was in June 2002. In early 2004, the National Guard began hiring and training Soldiers from all over the nation to conduct this mission. The first interceptor was emplaced in July 2004, and the system was operational in September 2004.

The base was not able to house the newly assigned Soldiers’ families. They had to be housed at Fort Richardson in Anchorage 300 miles away. The Soldiers worked for two weeks at a time, and then returned to their families during their off time. This schedule was in place for nearly one year until base housing was ready for their families.

The Soldiers who guarded the missile defense complex started with only soft-shell humvees and a small trailer as their operations center. The equipment wasn’t designed for an arctic environment. When the Interior Alaska winters hit 40 to 60 degrees below zero, the Soldiers had to take turns keeping warm in a sleeping bag.

Today, the security forces have the necessary equipment and vehicles to conduct operations in all weather conditions and the facilities for administration and training.

The early days were a challenge for families. Fort Greely is a remote duty station 100 miles from a city with shopping. The post’s amenities were small. The commissary was only the size of a convenience store. The gym was operational but still limited, and there wasn’t a Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility. Additionally, the majority of the families came from outside Alaska and few had any idea what an Interior Alaska winter would be like.

Today, the commissary is much larger and offers most of what a family would need. The MWR is in place with recreation equipment to rent and a variety of trips available. There is now a Community Activity Center with family activities and a bowling alley.

Even the community had a few growing pains. This mission was bringing a few hundred Soldiers, civilians and their families to an area that only had a population of approximately 850 people. To handle the influx of students, Fort Greely opened one of the closed school buildings. In a partnership between Fort Greely and Delta Junction, the school is operated by the Delta School District.

Today, 10 years later, Fort Greely has 30 interceptors with 14 more planned in the near future. The mission continues to be a vital part of our nation’s strategic defense. The post is a small but thriving community that continues to provide for the Soldiers who serve that key mission.
Veterans

State Finalizes Purchase of Land for Interior Veterans Cemetery

By Public Affairs staff

FAIRBANKS, Alaska … A five-year process is finished as the State of Alaska has closed on land near Fairbanks suitable to build a veterans cemetery. The property, on a Fox hilltop with great southern exposure, is 320 acres and will provide a spiritual experience for all families whose veterans find their final resting place in this area.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs no longer builds national cemeteries and instead builds state cemeteries, where veterans can receive their full burial benefits. The land must be owned and operated by the state, and the federal VA will provide the funds to construct a veterans cemetery with the same look and feel of Arlington National Cemetery.

“Veterans and their families who live in the Interior deserve this hallowed ground to remember the service and sacrifice of these great Alaskans,” said Gov. Sean Parnell. “I am proud to see this project begin the design phase, and I look forward to seeing construction start next summer.”

When this project was proposed in 2009, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs began to diligently search for property already owned by the state that could meet the unique requirements of a veterans cemetery. Because of complications with permafrost and zoning, there was no state land available within a 15-mile radius of downtown Fairbanks.

So the DMVA went to the public to seek a minimum of 100 acres for sale from a private entity. Local entrepreneurs John and Ramona Reeves came forward with a valid option.

“We are very pleased that this beautiful property will be used to honor the men and women of our armed forces,” John and Ramona Reeves said. “Both of our dads were, and always will be, Marines who served in World War II. It is an honor to help bring this vision to reality.”

National Cemeteries already exist in Sitka and outside Anchorage on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Building a veterans cemetery in the Interior will complete the burial options for veterans to receive their full benefits in all major population areas of the state.

The land in Fox is also the ending point of the famous Davidson Ditch. An interpretive display will be built into the final construction of this project to reflect the importance of the historic landmark.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE GROWTH

By Verdie Bowen, Veterans Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska … After World War I, we did not have broad services for veterans – no U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care system, GI bills, home loans or other needed veterans benefits. Through the advocacy of generations of veterans, today there is strong support for veterans and the programs supporting them.

The veteran services system has been challenged, keeping up with the demand from four generations of veterans with impacts from five major wars as well as countless humanitarian missions around the world.

Throughout the last few years, we have taken a hard look internally and externally on how we deliver services to our veterans in Alaska. We have had to change our approach to better meet the needs and the challenges our veterans face.

In Alaska, we are first in the nation to have VA and Alaska Tribal Health Programs sign a medical sharing and reimbursement agreement. The agreement strengthens both the VA and ATHP, directly helping increase access to care and enhance continuity of treatment for eligible Native and non-Native veterans close to ATHP services, particularly those in remote and rural areas.

Veterans in Alaska now have access to 122 facilities in the network of care, up from just five VA facilities previously. Now, 96 percent of Alaskan veterans have direct access to VA-covered health care where they live if they choose these services.

The next step into the health care challenge is providing a network of services outside the ATHP service area. The VA has worked with each medical facility as the needs are reflected for the veterans, but this process is slow.

“With that in mind, the VA put into place a new contract with TriWest to establish a VA-approved network of care that is in place before the need is identified. With the new network in place, it will speed up the access to quality care and ensure we reach 100-percent coverage of all eligible veterans in Alaska.

Although this process seems slow, we are only in our fourth year of changing delivery of medical services in Alaska and have gone from $5 million in purchased local care to more than $105 million. We have a diverse mix of medical facilities providing service to our veterans.

Health care is part of the promise made to those who served, and we have stepped up to the challenge in Alaska. The awesome part of this challenge is that it has brought people at all levels to the table to develop long-term plans and goals.”
Alaska Army Guard Gains Flexibility with C-12J

Story and photo by Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska … The Alaska Army National Guard took possession in June of one of only three C-12J Huron aircraft that belong to the U.S. Army after trading the C-12U King aircraft the AKARNG previously had in its inventory.

The C-12J Huron is the U.S. military designation for the Beechcraft 1900C, a 19-passenger, twin-engine turboprop fixed-wing aircraft. The primary mission of the C-12J is moving Department of Defense personnel between locations.

“Previously, we had the C-12U, which is the King Air 200 variant,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Moore, a senior instructor pilot with Detachment 54, Operational Support Airlift Agency, Alaska Army National Guard.

With Alaska being such an expansive state and served by a limited number of roads, aviation assets are crucial to the transportation of service members and equipment to and from remote towns across the state.

Until the end of fiscal year 2013, the AKARNG maintained a unit of C-23 Sherpa aircraft that performed many of the same functions as the C-12J, but with the budgetary constraints of divestiture, the active-duty Army decided the Sherpa was expendable and the C-23s were retired.

Losing the C-23s put additional strain on the C-12U, explained Moore, so when it was announced that one of the three U.S. Army C-12Js would be available, OSAA personnel from Alaska put their name on the list of hopefuls wanting to give the plane a new home.

“We had lost all of our Sherpa aircraft, hence, needed a larger aircraft to be able to take some of those passengers,” Moore said. “We put our name in the hat and we were the lucky ones to be able to make the transfer.”

Aside from the added capacity of five to seven more passengers than the C-12U carried, the C-12Js’ larger fuselage also accommodates a large cargo door in the back of the aircraft. The bulkheads can also be removed to allow the plane to hold more cargo.

“It gives us a little bit of flexibility to be able to use it as a passenger or a cargo-configured aircraft,” Moore said, “but especially for the passenger configuration and being able to move more at any given time than to have to do duplicate runs or missions for larger groups of people.”

For this particular airframe, its acquisition and subsequent transfer from Germany to Alaska was not its first-time landing on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

“This aircraft was actually stationed here with the 517th Airlift Squadron of the U.S. Air Force,” Moore said. “It was delivered from the Air Force to the 57th Aviation Battalion of the U.S. Army in Stuttgart, Germany, and now it’s come full circle back.”

With the aircraft’s approximate range of 1,200 nautical miles, the trip from Germany to Alaska took four days.

“We stopped in Iceland the first night,” Moore said. “The next night, we stopped in Bangor, Maine. Afterwards, we stayed in Seattle before heading back to Alaska. You’re seeing part of the country you don’t ever get to fly over. It’s always exciting.”
Alaska State Defense Force
Soldiers Nationally Recognized

By Capt. Melissa Holl, Alaska State Defense Force

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... The State Guard Association of the United States selected two Alaska State Defense Soldiers in a national competition as Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Selection as the SGAUS Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year is an exceptional honor for the Soldiers selected but also a great responsibility. The Soldiers will represent SGAUS for a year as the best of the best SGAUS has to offer. The Soldiers selected for these honors must also consistently display exceptional dedication, professionalism, performance, military bearing and appearance.

Sgt. 1st Class Helga Polsey received the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award. She serves with the 3rd Battalion, Alaska State Defense Force, in Fairbanks and is employed with the Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation division of the U.S. Army at Fort Wainwright. Polsey joined the ASDF in 2005, and she has completed the ASDF NCO Academy as well as the SGAUS Military Emergency Management Specialist Academy and Department of Defense courses. Polsey also participated in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise.

Cpl. Taylor Cosper received the Soldier of the Year award. He is a February 2011 graduate of the Alaska Military Youth Academy and enlisted in the Alaska State Defense Force in spring 2013, now serving with the 2nd Forward Support Battalion in Wasilla. He is a 2013 graduate of the Alaska State Defense Force NCO Academy. In May, Cosper was awarded the Alaska Commendation Medal for outstanding service in the Vigilant Guard 2014 exercise.
If you are a victim of sexual assault, you are not alone and help is available. You have the choice to make a restricted or unrestricted report. There are benefits to making an unrestricted or restricted report: It’s YOUR choice. Know your options.

**Restricted Report:** Enables military members to report allegations of sexual assault to specified personnel, without triggering an investigation. Specified personnel include the SARC, Victim Advocates, Chaplains or medical personnel. Empowers the victim to seek relevant information and support to make an informed decision about participation in the criminal process.

**Unrestricted Report:** Any report of a sexual assault made through normal military reporting channels, which include the victim’s chain of command, law enforcement and criminal investigative services. If you are not sure which option is best for you, please call the SARC for a confidential consultation.

If you choose to make a restricted report, you may contact the following personnel to report confidentially:

- SARC/VAC: 907-428-6219
- Victim Advocate: 907-428-6904
- State Chaplain: 907-428-6904
- Medical Personnel
- SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247

Do NOT contact your Chain of Command IF you are considering a **Restricted Report.**

We Own It ... We’ll Fix It ... Together
Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates 144 Cadets

By Public Affairs Staff

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ... The Alaska Military Youth Academy celebrated 20 years of service to the state of Alaska with the graduation of 144 cadets of Class 2014-2 from its ChalleNGe program in August.

The keynote speaker for the graduation, held at the Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center in downtown Anchorage, was a urological oncologist and 1994 graduate of the Georgia Youth ChalleNGe Program, Dr. Joshua E. Logan, M.D.

During their 22-week residential phase at the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academics, leadership and followership, physical fitness, life coping skills, responsible citizenship, vocational training and service to the community. The 144 cadets who recently graduated from the Alaska Military Youth Academy joined the 4,128 previous graduates since 1994.

Upon graduation, cadets take part in the yearlong post-residential phase where graduates return to their communities to continue their education (high school, college or vocational schools), enter the workplace or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to help intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

Top Notch. Honor graduate Madison Thammavongsa of Anchorage pauses to smile while presenting her graduation speech to the cadets, staff, families and friends of the Alaska Military Youth Academy during the graduation ceremony of Class 2014-2 in August. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA

Celebration. Following tradition, the Alaska Military Youth Academy’s Class of 2014-2 toss their berets in the air as the finale of the graduation ceremony for the 144 cadets in August. Photo: Roman Schara, AMYA
Air Show. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1-207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, take flight over Anchorage during the Arctic Thunder Open House in July. The event featured more than 40 Air Force, Army and civilian aerial acts for a crowd of more than 200,000 people. Photo: Brig. Gen. Timothy O’Brien, Alaska Air National Guard

Ready for Flight. Sgt. Daniel Adrian, a UH-60 Black Hawk repairer with D Co., 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, explains to a young girl what buttons she’s pushing during the Arctic Thunder Open House biennial event hosted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Personal Tour. Maj. Tony Walliser, a navigator with the 211th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, provides information to visitors from around Alaska touring an HC-130 King aircraft during the Arctic Thunder Open House. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Happy in a Helicopter. A young boy smiles from the cockpit of an Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the Arctic Thunder Open House biennial event hosted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in July. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Future Aviators. A couple of kids enjoy their time in the cockpit of an Alaska Air National Guard 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130 King aircraft during July’s Arctic Thunder Open House on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The air show is the largest two-day event in the state. Photo: Sgt. Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

Elite Aerial Team. Four F-16 Fighting Falcons perform over Anchorage, showing off their premier aerial capabilities. The Thunderbirds’ demonstration is one of the highlights of the Arctic Thunder Open House. Photo: Brig. Gen. Timothy O’Brien, Alaska Air National Guard
Two Fort Greeley Soldiers Win
BEST WARRIOR
COMPETITION

Story and photos by Sgt. Edward Eagerton, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska... Two Soldiers from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greeley won the title of “Best Warrior” in the 2015 Best Warrior Competition here in August.

Alaska Army National Guardsmen Sgt. Gerardo Lopez and Spc. Yamil Ramirez, both military policemen from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, won the competition in the noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted categories.

The Best Warrior Competition was designed to test Soldiers in a series of mentally and physically challenging events over the course of 72 hours to determine who the best Soldiers are.

“We take candidates from every unit and test them to figure out who the best Soldier and noncommissioned officer is in the entire Alaska Army National Guard,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Nelson, branch chief

Ready to Launch. Spc. William Belcher, a parachute rigger with the Rigger Support Team, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, loads an M-203 grenade launcher during the 2015 Best Warrior Competition on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in August.

Alaska Commendation Medal. Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Harrington, state command sergeant major of the Alaska Army National Guard, pins the Alaska Commendation Medal on Spc. Yamil Ramirez, a military policeman with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, at an award ceremony for the 2015 Best Warrior Competition. Ramirez was awarded the medal for winning the junior enlisted category of the competition.
of the 207th Multi-Functional Training Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard.

Among the competition’s events were an Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night land navigation, close-quarter battle drills, casualty evacuation, a written exam and live-fire weapons ranges.

“My favorite part of this competition is getting together with the other Soldiers and competing against them head-to-head,” Lopez said. “The events aren’t what makes the competition hard; what makes the competition hard are the Soldiers to the left and right of you.”

For Lopez, this victory marks his second time winning the title of Best Warrior. In 2012, he won in the junior enlisted category when he competed as a specialist.

“It’s a really tough competition,” Nelson said. “Starting from Day One, they’re pushed physically in the first event, and it doesn’t let up for the next 72 hours. Anybody who comes out of this competition and wins it, they deserve to hold that title.”

By winning the state competition, Ramirez and Lopez will compete in the regional Best Warrior Competition, according to Nelson.

“If they win the regionals, which is based on a couple of states like Alaska, Washington and Oregon, they go on to the national level and compete,” Nelson said.

Aside from winning the chance to compete at higher levels, the Best Warrior Competition is used to determine the Soldier and NCO of the year, Nelson added.

“Competition is always good for Soldiers,” he said. “It gives them something to be proud of. The Soldiers go back to their unit holding the banner of the best Soldier for 2015. That’s something the unit that trained them can be proud of.”
ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... The Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve honored its finest at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at the Hotel Captain Cook in September.

One of the highlighted awards was the ESGR Lifetime Achievement award presented to ESGR volunteer Louie Crew, who has been an active member of ESGR for almost 20 years. Crew is the West region (Bethel) chairman and has been an instrumental part of the ESGR Steering Committee, made up of all ESGR volunteer leadership to make decisions regarding the annual strategic plan.

The Legion of Merit medal was presented to Charlie Smith on behalf of the Alaska National Guard leadership, Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Timothy O’Brien, assistant adjutant general–Air. This distinguished honor was presented to Smith for all his work not only with ESGR as a volunteer but also for his accomplishments as the Selective Service representative in Juneau.

An additional presentation was made for the Patrick Henry award to full-time staff member Jamie Abordonado. The Patrick Henry award was originally presented at the 2014 National Guard Association of the United States Conference in Chicago in August. Abordonado was nominated for the award for her outstanding service in supporting National Guard members from 2007 to 2014. She is also a traditional, drill-status Guard member in the Alaska Air National Guard’s 176th Wing.

The honors presented to the local civilian employers were the Seven Seals award to Robert Anderson for excellent service when he provided an awards plan for the myriad of ESGR employer awards. As a volunteer for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership & Executive Advancement Program, Anderson perfected the employer award nomination process and provided details to help the ESGR volunteers understand what level of recognition should be presented for which supportive actions by the employer. He created a cover sheet that details the deadline dates for each level of award for employers.

In addition, CH2M Hill headquarters received the ESGR National Freedom Award for outstanding support provided by an employer. There are only 15 recipients of this award each year. In Alaska, the ESGR State Chairman Craig Campbell presented CH2M Hill the Pro Patria award, the highest recognition given to a civilian employer in the state.
GOVERNOR SIGNS AGREEMENT BACKING ALASKA’S MILITARY SUPPORT NETWORK

Story and photos By Capt. Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska …
Gov. Sean Parnell signed a memorandum of agreement in September, recognizing the accomplishments of Alaska Forget Me Not, a coalition that works to ensure military members and families have access to culturally competent services and support.

Alaska Forget Me Not focuses on statewide collaboration, community outreach, education, and strategic partnerships to benefit service members, veterans and families living in Alaska.

“What you are seeing today is a gathering of service providers who are willing to say, we as a community support you,” Parnell said. “We have a community of supporters of our military, and we have an opportunity here that is beyond what I think is achieved anywhere else in the country.”

Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, acting adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, joined Parnell at the Arctic Warrior Event Center on JBER for the signing of the support agreement that acknowledges the positive steps the coalition has made for the military community. Bridges spoke specifically to Alaska Forget Me Not coalition members about the importance of their programs to the veterans who live in remote villages of Alaska.

“Without the care of this coalition, and all the parts of it, to help these great American Soldiers, we would lose them,” Bridges said. “All of you coalition members come to the table with a unique skill set. You make us better; you will support us and sustain us because of your willingness as agencies and individuals' willingness to do so.”

Parnell encouraged the coalition members to continue providing these much-needed programs and services to current military members, veterans and their families.

Significant Signing. Gov. Sean Parnell sits in front of Alaska Forget Me Not members while signing a memorandum of agreement recognizing their accomplishments in ensuring Alaska’s military population gets much needed support services. The coalition focuses on statewide collaboration, community outreach, education, and strategic partnerships to benefit service members, veterans and families living in Alaska.

“I’m signing this memorandum knowing that there are many coalition members here as well who as Alaskans say, we love you, we support you and we will always be there with you,” Parnell said.
Alaska Forget Me Not also works to identify gaps in available programs and duplication of efforts to make sure services maximize their program’s impact.

The Health Care Law and You — A Member of the Guard or Reserve

By Lt. Col. Kay Spear-Budd, Warrior and Family Services

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska …
Health coverage is designed to protect you from the increasing costs of health care. No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people need to get treated for an illness or injury at some point, and health coverage helps pay these costs. The health care law – also known as the Affordable Care Act – offers new ways to get and pay for coverage, while also offering greater consumer protections.

Federal law requires that you have “minimum essential coverage” beginning in 2014. As a traditional Guard or Reserve member, you qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select, which often times is less expensive than most other available plans. You can purchase plans for as low as $51.68 for member-only or $204.29 for member-and-family per month and still meet the “minimum essential coverage” requirement. If TRICARE isn’t the plan for you, we can connect you with one of the certified application counselors located throughout the state, including rural Alaska. Certified application counselors will help applicants understand and choose the right health plan, conduct outreach, maintain experience in eligibility, enrollment and all insurance affordability program specifications; provide information and services in a fair, impartial and culturally competent manner; and facilitate selection of a qualified health care plan. The Alaska National Guard Family Assistance Center can help locate a certified application counselor near you.

Whether you’re eligible for TRICARE or just need assistance in finding quality health care, stop by your nearest Family Assistance Center or the transition assistance advisor (D-103) in the National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, or call 907-428-6663/ 888-917-3608 and a Family Assistance Center specialist will connect you with the information you need.
How are you going to spend this year’s Permanent Fund dividend?

**Staff Sgt. Caleb Funk**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

“Vacation! I’m taking my 5-year-old daughter to Aulani Disney Resort in Hawaii.”

**Capt. Riannon Blaisdell-Black**
134th Public Affairs Detachment

“My fiance and I are combining our PFDs to purchase and install a wood stove in preparation for the winter.”

**Staff Sgt. Joe Campbell**
168th Air Refueling Wing

“I will be taking my wife and kids to California to visit their great-grandparents.”

**Master Sgt. Ella Doak**
168th Air Refueling Wing

“The majority of my money, unfortunately, will be going to my heating oil bill for this winter.”

**Jessica Dennis**
DHS&EM

“I am paying off some bills, giving my kiddos money to be able to go Christmas shopping and do activities this winter.”

---

Mission: to honor and empower wounded warriors

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT®

For more information, visit woundedwarriorproject.org

DUTY * HONOR * COURAGE * COMMITMENT * INTEGRITY * COUNTRY * SERVICE
### Awards \ Decorations \ Promotions

**Legion of Merit**
- CW5 Terry L. Rollie | JFHQ-AK (Army)

**Meritorious Service Medal**
- MAJ Todd Miller | 1-207th AVN
- MAJ Lyle Ward | 49th GMD
- CPT James Johnson | 49th GMD
- CW4 Kathryn Sanders | JFHQ-AK (Army)
- 1SG Richard Deblizan | 49th GMD
- 1SG David Proehl | JFHQ-AK (Army)
- MSG Anthony Carter | 1-207th AVN
- MSG Kenton Connolly | 1-207th AVN
- MSG Kenneth Cross | 207th BSC
- MSGT Michael Eastham | 207th MFTR
- MSGT Patricia Ragland | 176th OSS
- TSGT Thomas Hough | 176th OSS
- TSGT Tracy Reeves | 176th OSS
- MAJ Kirby Chacon | 176th OSS
- MAJ Mary Armentrout | 144th AS
- TSGT Jacob Zwierstra | 176th AMXS
- MSGT Barbara Jackson | 176th OSS
- MSGT Maryanne Jankowski | 176th HQ
- COL Blake Gettys | 176th OG
- LT COL Christopher Borger | 176th LRS
- MSGT John Charhon | 176th LRS
- MSGT James Richardson | 176th ADS
- SSgt James Reardon | 176th OSS
- TSGT Melvin Casler | 176th LRS
- SRA Kenneth J. Jewitt | 168th LRS
- A1C Kristopher M. Luddington | 168th ARS

**Army Achievement Medal**
- SPC Stephanie Lincoln | 1-207th AVN

**Air Force Achievement Medal**
- MSGT Christopher Gragg | 176th ADS
- MSGT Erik Kershner | 176th ADS
- MSGT Heather Pinfo | 176th ADS
- SSgt James Reardon | 176th ADS
- SSgt Katherine Brumfield | 249th AS
- MAJ Kirby Chacon | 176th OSS
- SSgt Cassandra Agletti | 176th OSS
- MAJ Scott Altenburg | 176th OSS
- TSGT Thomas Hough | 176th OSS
- TSGT Marsy Armentrout | 144th AS
- TSGT Traci Reeves | 176th OSS
- MAJ Kyley Murphy | 176th ADS
- MSGT Malvin Casler | 176th LRS
- SRA Kenneth J. Jewitt | 168th LRS
- A1C Kristopher M. Luddington | 168th ARS

**Army Commendation Medal**
- SFC Dutchy Inman | 103rd CST
- SSG Johnathan Lewis | 103rd CST
- SGT Andrew Markham | 103rd CST
- SGT Paul Oliver | 103rd CST
- PFC Tadgh Nakada | 1-207th AVN

**Air Force Commendation Medal**
- MAJ Robert Seymour | HHC 297th BFSB
- CPT Nathan Cornilles | HHC 297th BFSB
- CW4 Wayne Horton | 1-207th AVN
- CW4 Michael Michaud | 1-207th AVN
- CW4 Melvin Rush | 1-207th AVN
- CW4 David Stettenbenz | 1-207th AVN
- CW4 Mark Ward | 1-207th AVN
- CW3 Franklin Bithos | 1-207th AVN
- CW3 Don Bradford | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 Robert Faust | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 David Friend | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 Michael Lewis | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 Richard Morrison | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 Thomas Semmens | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 Peter Smith | 1-207th AVN
- CW3 Moses Toyukak | 1-207th AVN
- CW2 Michael Williams | 1-207th AVN
- CSM John Drew | 49th GMD
- MSG Kenton Connolly | 1-207th AVN
- MSG John Orth | 1-207th AVN
- SFC Mark Delgado | 1-207th AVN
- SFC Seth Gordon | 1-207th AVN
- SFC Todd Kochte | 1-207th AVN
- SFC George Koval | 1-207th AVN
- SFC Jeremiah Lardenberg | 1-207th AVN
- SFC Shawn Layton | 1-207th AVN
- SFC Thomas Stokesberry | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Arron Angol | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Elejah Bernolla | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Karen Denton | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Miguel Gomez | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Nicholas Lime | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Jericho Lumba | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Nicholas Mikos | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Jacob Nay | 1-207th AVN
- SSG Levi Roy | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Brandon Barnes | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Jeremy Goff | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Timothy McCormick | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Ray Parker | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Bradford Roman | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Vincent Salzbrun | 1-207th AVN

**Alaska Community Service Medal**
- CPT Joel Heath | 207th BSC

**Alaska State Service Medal**
- MAJ Lyle Ward | 49th GMD
- MSG Thomas Riley | 207th MFTR
- SFC Michael Eastham | 207th MFTR
- SSG Frederick Moore | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Anthony Carter | 1-207th AVN

**Alaska Legion of Merit**
- CW4 Albert Ostrowski | JFHQ-AK (Army)
- 1SG David Proehl | JFHQ-AK (Army)

**Alaska Distinguished Service Medal**
- MAJ Lyle Ward | 49th GMD
- MSG Thomas Riley | 207th MFTR
- SFC Michael Eastham | 207th MFTR
- SSG Frederick Moore | 1-207th AVN
- SGT Anthony Carter | 1-207th AVN

**Army Commendation Medal**
- LT COL Daniel A. Dobbels | 517th AS
- CPT Karen Trueblood | U.S. Navy
- LTC Stephen Wilson | JFHQ-AK (Army)

**Air Force Commendation Medal**
- LT COL John Swanson | 176th LRS
- TSGT John Charron | 176th LRS
- SSgt Daniel Sharp | 176th LRS
- TSGT Melissa Woolley | 176th LRS
- TSGT Rebecca Cole | 176th LRS
- LT COL Heather M. Jones | 168th MDG
- 1LT Carrie L. Conley | 168th MDG
- TSGT Jamie L. Algard | 168th OG
PROMOTIONS

Colonel
Darrin E. Slaten .................. 176th OG

Lieutenant Colonel
Timothy Brower .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
Dollie Waters .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
Candis A. Olmstead .......... JFHQ-AK (Air)
Marty A. Armentrout .......... 144th AS
Howard W. Potton .......... 211th RQS
Benjamin C. Nealy .......... 249th AS
Kirk G. Plamberg .......... 249th AS

Second Lieutenant
Samuel Martin .......... AK Naval Militia
William Merriman .......... AK Naval Militia

First Lieutenant
Megan Webb .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)

Lieutenant, Junior Grade (O-2 Navy)
Bradley Theisen .......... AK Naval Militia
William Merriman .......... AK Naval Militia
Samuel Martin .......... AK Naval Militia

First Lieutenant
Megan Webb .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)

Master Sergeant (E-7 Air)
Scott D. Hopkins .......... 176th MXS
Seth C. Bowen .......... 176th OSS
Gailanne B. Paculba .......... 176th WG
David W. Torrance .......... 210th RQS
Corbett C Ercolani .......... 210th RQS
Carleas L. Parsons .......... 168th FSF
Ronald P. Smith Jr .......... 168th MXS
Beverly L. Eveland .......... 168th ARW
Dana J. King .......... 168th CF
Tracy E. Purdy .......... 168th ARS
Clint J. Kerr .......... 168th AMXS

Chief Warrant Officer Two
Stefanie Hall .......... 1-143rd IN ABN

Warrant Officer
Rodney Spaulding Jr .......... 49th TG
Morgan Osborn .......... 1-207th AVN

Second Lieutenant
Melissa Eury .......... 1-207th AVN
Jamie Ledbetter .......... 297th SB
Joy Petway .......... 297th BFSB
Lance Smith .......... 1-297th CAV
Drew Allison .......... 1-297th R&S

Master Sergeant / First Sergeant (E-8 Army)
Todd Kochte .......... 1-207th AVN
Christi Huggins .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)

Senior Master Sergeant (E-8 Air)
Everett F. Johnson .......... JFHQ-AK (Air)
Robert N. Holmes .......... 176th AMXS
Christopher W. Hudec .......... 176th OSS

Chief Petty Officer (E-7 Navy)
Jason Breeding .......... AK Naval Militia

Staff Sergeant (E-6 Army)
Arthur Browley .......... 297th MP
Paige Harper .......... 297th QM
Robert Sapp Jr .......... 38th TC
William Houser II .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
Craig Christensen .......... 207th BSC
Howard Yang .......... 207th BSC
Brian Miller .......... 297th MP
Edsel Huynh .......... 1-143rd IN ABN
Matthew Blanchett .......... 1-297th CAV
Michael Sybert .......... 1-297th CAV
Eric Prieto .......... 1-207th AVN
Ernesto Venturafigueroa .......... 49th GMD

Technical Sergeant (E-6 Air)
James N. Walker .......... 176th ADS
Jessica L. Blignaut .......... 176th LRS
Eric B. Brinkman .......... 176th MXG
Chad M. Lemaster .......... 176th MXS
Jason D. Herring .......... 176th MXS

RETIRES

LTC Arvill Lyon .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
LTC Charles Nesloney .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
CPT James Johnson .......... 49th GMG
CW5 John Hardy .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW5 Terry Rollie .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW4 Earston Hewitt .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW4 Kathryn Sanders .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW4 Albert Ostrowski .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW4 Benjamin Herning .......... 1-207th AVN
CW3 Brian Baranek .......... Det 54
CW2 Richard Fleming III .......... 49th TG
1SG David Proehl .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
MSG Lonzell Scott .......... 297th MP
MSG Rob Apel .......... 297th MP
MSG Thomas Riley .......... 207th MFR
MSG Kenneth Cross .......... 207th BSC
SFC Daryl Shoup .......... 297th BFSB
SFC Troy Godwin .......... 103rd CST
SFC Michael Eastham .......... 297th MFR
SFC William Herzner .......... 297th MP
SFC Connor Murphy .......... 297th SIG
SFC Jerome Aisman .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Paul Wonder .......... JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Brian Warren .......... 49th GMD

SSG John Ruthe .......... 207th BSC
SSG TD Starkweather-Jones .......... 207th SB
SSG Henry Bendt Jr .......... 1-143rd IN ABN
SGT Ira Chikoyak .......... 1-207th AVN
SGT Rhonda Mason .......... 207th BSC
SGT J. Coffee .......... 1-143rd IN ABN
SGT Quila Dock Jr .......... 1-143rd IN ABN
SFC Harvey Dock .......... 1-143rd IN ABN
CMSgt Jacquelyn .......... Quattlebaum
Lt Col Carl L. Kohntopp .......... 168th ARS
Lt Col Robert C. .......... Mackelprang
Capt Leilani C. Frazier .......... 213th SWS
CMSgt Patrick J. Skinner .......... 168th MXG
SMSGt Andrew G. Brady .......... 213th SWS
MSSgt David W. Pointer .......... 168th AMXS
MSSgt Troy L. Clinkenbeard .......... 213th SWS
TSgt Steven Armendariz .......... 213th SWS
TSgt Dawn R. Bishop .......... 213th SWS
Here are the inactive training dates for most Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. All dates are subject to change.

**Alaska National Guard**

Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)  
November: 1–2  
December: 6–7  
January: 10–11

Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)  
November: 15–16  
December: 6–7  
January: 24–25

**Alaska Army National Guard**

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade  
November: 14–16  
December: 6–7  
January: 23–25

38th Troop Command  
November: 14–16  
December: 5–7  
January: 24–25

**Alaska Air National Guard**

168th Air Refueling Wing  
November: 1–2  
December: 6–7  
January: 10–11

176th Wing  
November: 1–2  
December: 6–7  
January: 10–11

**Alaska State Defense Force**

Headquarters  
November: 1–2  
December: 13–14  
January: 10–11

---

**PROMOTIONS**

Christopher L. Tidwell ......... 176th MXS  
Alison C. Cherry .............. 176th MXS  
Jonathan Q. Goins ........... 176th MXS  
Lawrence C. Erickson Jr. .... 176th OSS  
Jacob M. Inman .............. 210th RQS  
Jennifer M. Trout ............ 210th RQS  
Katherine C. Brumfield ...... 249th AS  
Alex R. Rivera Paz .......... 168th LRS  
Adrian R. Miller ............. 168th LRS  
Christopher Williams ....... 168th ARW  
Shane Lowe ................... 168th ARW

**Petty Officer First Class (E-6 Navy)**

James Beaudrault ............ AK Naval Militia  
Daniel Dunlap .............. AK Naval Militia  
Cameron Betts .............. AK Naval Militia

**Sergeant (E-5 Army)**

Whitney Rowe ................ 207th BSC  
Michael Johnson ............ 297th BFSB  
Matthew Bautista ........... 1-207th AVN  
Joseph Marshall .......... 1-207th AVN  
Josiah Streff ............... 1-207th AVN  
Kyle Rogers ............... 1-143rd IN ABN  
Corbin Shuravloff .......... 1-297th R&S  
Zachary Adams ............. 1-207th AVN  
Thecla Jeanlouis ........... 1-207th AVN  
Mark Sullivan .............. 297th MP  
Thomas Lee ................ 1-297th CAV  
Nathan Dillon .............. 297th MP  
Julia Walker ................. 49th GMD  
Marc Roach ................ 1-207th AVN  
Alberto Galicia Feliciano ... 49th GMD  
Michelle Guerrero Gonzalez . 49th GMD  
Brian Hiner ................ 49th GMD  
Elvin Martes Maldonado ..... 49th GMD  
Marcos Nunez Maduro ...... 49th GMD  
Edgar Perez ................. 49th GMD  
Hector Rosado Baez ........ 49th GMD  
Anthony Shurilla ........... 49th GMD  
F. Velazquez de Leon ....... 49th GMD  
Casey Waters ............... 49th GMD

**Staff Sergeant (E-5 Air)**

Chadwick M. Dyson ........... 176th ADS  
Breanna M. Kerr ............. 176th ADS  
Tyler R. Wehrli ............. 176th AMXS  
Cory J. Roberts ............. 176th MXS  
Derek W. Terrini ............ 176th MXS  
Courtney R. Waters .......... 176th OSS  
Kelly N. Eisberg ............ 211th RQS  
Emily E. Kenny .............. 249th AS  
Alyssa C. Dobberpuhl ....... 168th MXS  
Bjorn H. Nielsen ........... 168th CF  
Charles D. Bowser .......... 168th SFS  
Benjamin J. Hager .......... 168th SFS  
Christian K. Armour ....... 168th ARS  
Justin R. Smith ............. 213th SWS  
James A. Hendricks ......... 213th SWS

**Petty Officer Second Class (E-5 Navy)**

Peter Balamia ............... AK Naval Militia  
Adam Agosti ................. AK Naval Militia  
Wesley Dellinger ............ AK Naval Militia  
Tyler Oden ................. AK Naval Militia  
Christopher Hernandez .... AK Naval Militia  
F. Velazquez de Leon ....... 49th GMD  
Hector Rosado Baez ........ 49th GMD  
Petty Officer Second Class (E-5 Navy)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade</strong></td>
<td>Whayne Sebrey&lt;br&gt;Abraham Walton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>207th Combat Support Company</strong></td>
<td>Wade Albrown-McLendon&lt;br&gt;Leslie McDowell&lt;br&gt;Eric Gau&lt;br&gt;Rafael Mano&lt;br&gt;Davante Owens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>297th Network Support Company</strong></td>
<td>Jashan Durgin&lt;br&gt;Ian Ashley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-297th Cavalry</strong></td>
<td>Cameron Osborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-143rd Infantry</strong> (Airborne)**</td>
<td>Brady Cape&lt;br&gt;Matthew Rozenboom&lt;br&gt;Innocent Bennett&lt;br&gt;Joshua Bigwood&lt;br&gt;Timothy Smith&lt;br&gt;Kyle Rodgers&lt;br&gt;Erik Gorman&lt;br&gt;Edgar Sandoval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>297th Reconnaissance &amp; Surveillance</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Sawatzki&lt;br&gt;Joey Bechtol&lt;br&gt;Richmond Dorris&lt;br&gt;Anthony Luiken&lt;br&gt;Harold Stein&lt;br&gt;Kayshawn Dyett&lt;br&gt;Sawyer Rickman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>297th Military Police Company</strong></td>
<td>James Dalton&lt;br&gt;Daniel Contini&lt;br&gt;Cassity Abad&lt;br&gt;Calixto Valazquez&lt;br&gt;Dalton Galindo&lt;br&gt;Jessica Rhoades&lt;br&gt;Tori Rhoades&lt;br&gt;Evelyn Jacobson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>207th Equipment Support Platoon</strong></td>
<td>Brandon Stoner&lt;br&gt;Lenard Wiggins&lt;br&gt;Angela Dyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-207th Aviation</strong></td>
<td>David Raggs&lt;br&gt;Marvin Josey&lt;br&gt;Derius Jones&lt;br&gt;Alfonso Pitpit&lt;br&gt;Christopher Lenning&lt;br&gt;Russell Smith&lt;br&gt;Lucas Bartel&lt;br&gt;Jesse Mayer&lt;br&gt;Katelyn Listro&lt;br&gt;Travis Kayouktuk&lt;br&gt;Zachariah Sanderson&lt;br&gt;Brent Wolfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>297th Quartermaster</strong></td>
<td>Samantha Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>49th Missile Defense Battalion</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Reardon&lt;br&gt;Murray Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Detachment</strong></td>
<td>Julien Coleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Justin Sawyer&lt;br&gt;Chantz Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Logistics Readiness Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Danielle Broidrick&lt;br&gt;Matthew McBride&lt;br&gt;Tyler Jones&lt;br&gt;Brian Sims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Maintenance Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Benjamin Ajisefinni&lt;br&gt;Ashley Hembree&lt;br&gt;Jared Triplehorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>213th Space Warning Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Angel Guerrieri-Figueroa&lt;br&gt;Jezabelle Oneill Roulette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Air Refueling Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Jeremy Lopes&lt;br&gt;Joshua Larson&lt;br&gt;Allen Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Medical Group</strong></td>
<td>Blair Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Air Refueling Wing</strong></td>
<td>Sarah Weeks&lt;br&gt;Michael Copeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Force Support Flight</strong></td>
<td>Ashleigh Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Security Forces Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Bradley Denison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Operational Support Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Darin Shanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Comptrollers</strong></td>
<td>Michael Conan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>168th Communications Flight</strong></td>
<td>Steven Laszlofy&lt;br&gt;Grace Ann Magileitil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Force Support Flight</strong></td>
<td>Christine Mcculloch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Medical Group</strong></td>
<td>Robert S. Pullen&lt;br&gt;Jennifer J. Dieken&lt;br&gt;Elizabeth S. Lafleur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Civil Engineer Squadron</strong></td>
<td>SSgt Jacob W. Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Security Forces Squadron</strong></td>
<td>SSgt Nathan I. Namauu&lt;br&gt;SrA Myung Jin A. Chun&lt;br&gt;SrA John F. Teamer II&lt;br&gt;A1C Christopher K. Schuerch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Logistics Readiness Squadron</strong></td>
<td>SSgt Javad S. Perez&lt;br&gt;SSgt Franklin L. Huff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Equipment Support Platoon</strong></td>
<td>Jeremy B. Red&lt;br&gt;A1C Andrew W. Hammersley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Maintenance Group</strong></td>
<td>Brandon W. Sipes&lt;br&gt;Rafie Baez&lt;br&gt;Walter A. Wallace&lt;br&gt;Joseph A. Siebert&lt;br&gt;Alyssa N. Wier&lt;br&gt;Rayce S. Cole&lt;br&gt;Austin T. Stingley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Operations Group</strong></td>
<td>John Ippolity&lt;br&gt;Darrin Slaten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Operational Support Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Casey A. Lewis&lt;br&gt;Sara M. Bolin&lt;br&gt;Johnathan J. Damon&lt;br&gt;Kyle J. Keesecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>144th Airlift Squadron</strong></td>
<td>James B. Keenan&lt;br&gt;Todd M. Green&lt;br&gt;John R. Sparks&lt;br&gt;Caleb Z. Caldwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>210th Rescue Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Ricky R. Schweim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>211th Rescue Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Ryan P. Burke&lt;br&gt;Andrew S. Reynolds&lt;br&gt;Nicholas R. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>176th Air Defense Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Pineiro&lt;br&gt;Mark A. Roberts&lt;br&gt;Matthew A. King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>249th Airlift Squadron</strong></td>
<td>Phillip Valenta&lt;br&gt;Christopher Burgess&lt;br&gt;Joseph A. Leman&lt;br&gt;Aaron J. Gibbs&lt;br&gt;Rayn M. Nofziger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USAA members Robert Griffin III, Washington Redskins quarterback, and his parents, U.S. Army veterans

USAA Auto Insurance: award-winning customer service.
Renowned for our fast, efficient claim service, USAA is highest rated in customer advocacy in a survey conducted by Forrester Research, Inc.² Legendary service: just one reason our members are as loyal to us as we are to them.

GET A QUOTE. usaa.com/insurance or 866-461-USAA (8722)

¹92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey.²Forrester Research, Inc., Customer Advocacy 2013: How U.S. Consumers Rate Their Financial Services Firms, November 2013. Use of the term “member” or “membership” does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, USAA New York Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA General Indemnity Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2014 USAA. 208767-0914
What’s in the cloud?

Nicotine — Addictive

Ultra-fine particles — Asthma

Acetone — Nail polish remover

Lead — Brain damage

Formaldehyde — Embalming fluid