

# WARRIORS



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# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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**Alaska event and bolster the Alaska National Guard throughout the state and nation.** Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

**On the Cover:** Staff Sergeant Vincent Salzbrun, right, and Warrant Officer Michael Williams, both of 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, cross the Iron Dog pro-class finish line in Fairbanks in February. The two race rookies became the first Alaska National Guard team to finish the 2,000-mile snowmachine race in the pro-class division. The Alaska National Guard became the lead sponsor for the Iron Dog in 2009 in order to support a uniquely



**Surveillance Training.** Private First Class Kristopher Carruba, left, and Sergeant Justin Sekerak, C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, take photos through a spotting scope of a simulated village for intelligence analysis during a three-day surveillance training mission on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in February. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

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**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:

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# For the People

**Governor Sean Parnell**  
Commander in Chief



## Serving Alaska and the Nation

I am extremely thankful for the way you serve and support Alaskans. Whether it is flood assistance during spring break-up, search and rescue, or working with veterans, the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs offers a wide variety of assistance to those in need.

On March 27, the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center (manned solely by Alaska Air National Guardsmen) completed their 5,000th mission successfully recovering a pilot who crashed a Super Cub aircraft near the Bering River northeast of Cordova.

In early February, a massive search-and-rescue exercise was conducted in the arctic tundra. The purpose of the mission was to handle a mass-casualty situation – in this case, a simulated 737 plane crash. Involved in the exercise were members of

the Alaska Air National Guard, the Alaska Army National Guard, the Coast Guard and participants from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. A multi-agency approach during training can lead to successful cooperation and communication during an actual emergency.

While Alaska National Guard members help those at home, others continue to deploy overseas. Soldiers from A Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard arrived in Kuwait this spring and will be there for approximately nine months providing aviation support to contingency operations throughout the region. These 60 Guard members are supporting Operation Enduring Freedom with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Additional deployments are scheduled for this summer, as Alaskans continue to keep our state and nation safe.

I am grateful for the readiness of Alaska's Warriors.

I am especially proud of Alaska's veterans. The DMVA continues to support Alaska's 77,000 veterans. Recently House Bill 67 was signed into law. This bill establishes March 29 of each year as Vietnam Veterans Day and will serve as a reminder for us to thank those who served in Vietnam with courage and sacrifice so many years ago.

As Alaskans, we remain grateful for the men and women always on guard to serve Alaska and our nation. ■



**Honoring Veterans.** Governor Sean Parnell thanks Vietnam veterans for their service after signing legislation that dedicates March 29 each year as Vietnam Veterans Day in Alaska to commemorate the military service of American men and women who served in Vietnam. Photo: Courtesy Office of Governor Sean Parnell

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**MADE IN ALASKA**



# The Adjutant General



**Major General Thomas H. Katkus**  
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

## Sexual Assault Awareness is Critical

In December 2009, our commander in chief, Governor Sean Parnell, pledged that Alaska would take every step necessary to stop the epidemic of domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse in Alaska. Additionally, he initiated specific legislation addressing this critical issue as our state grew from 18 original partner communities participating in Choose Respect rallies to nearly 140 as of March 2013. Addressing this type of behavior is an incredibly important initiative.

This April marked the ninth annual Sexual Assault Awareness month observed by the Department of Defense. The problem of sexual assault is recognized across the country by both civilian and military communities. It is a particularly devastating crime in the military, as it destroys mission readiness and unit cohesion. Synchronizing our efforts to bring focus and direction towards preventing sexual offenders from committing this crime is a Department of Defense and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs imperative.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff set forth five specific lines of effort that all services should emphasize: prevention, investigation, accountability, victim advocacy and assessment. This crime can be eradicated by owning the problem and showing a joint-force effort for resolution.

The active role of commanders, leaders and service members at every level is critical. Our command teams must engage their work units to underscore their personal commitment to address this issue. They must emphasize the importance of support to the victim and reinforce the criticality of bystander intervention. This is an essential and vital component of work place safety and central to the health and welfare of our service members.

I would ask that each member of our



**Choose Respect.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, helps to lead the Choose Respect rally in Dillingham in March. Annually, rallies are held in communities across Alaska as part of Governor Sean Parnell's initiative and the state's ongoing effort to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault. Photo: Kaylee Irish Galloway, Safe & Fear-Free Environment

DMVA family join with me in supporting our governor's tremendous effort in standing up against sexual assault in our work place, homes and communities.

Together, we can end the cycle of violence, offer support and compassion to victims and survivors, and bring hope, security and opportunity to all Alaskans. ■



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# Where in the World

## Airman Supports Mission in Antarctica

By Major Guy Hayes,  
DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska**  
... An Alaska Air National Guardsman with the 176th Wing returned to Alaska in mid-January after spending 30 days in Antarctica supporting the National Science Foundation.

Master Sergeant Tyler Sutton departed Alaska in December to augment the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing and its mission of transporting people and equipment on ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft to field camps throughout the southernmost continent.

"My job was to maintain the safety equipment on the LC-130 aircraft for all the aircrew members, making sure they had all their cold weather and survival gear in case they ever needed it," Sutton said. "We were there to support scientific research, and the LC-130 allows the Guard to perform the vital tasks required for the mission."

In fact, according to the 109th Airlift Wing, the LC-130 is the only fixed-wing aircraft in the U.S. military that is capable of landing on snow and ice, which makes it the perfect fit for Antarctic operations.

"The aircrew members would fly all support personnel, scientists and anyone who came to help from Christchurch, New Zealand, to McMurdo Station, Antarctica," Sutton said. "McMurdo has about 950 people in town, with about 150 of those in the military supporting the mission during the summer."

With summer temperatures rising in Antarctica, Sutton said, every day was an adventure, including just getting to work.

Mongolia



**Wildfire Suppression.** Sergeant Kurt Miller, A Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, helps extinguish a wildfire on a range at Fort Hood, Texas, in March. Miller, of Eagle River, and his unit were training in Texas for their current deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Major Randy Stillinger, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade

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**Missile Defense.** Senior leaders representing the Alaska National Guard, U.S. Northern Command, Alaskan Command and 100th Missile Defense Brigade from the Colorado Army National Guard pause for a photo with an exo-atmospheric kill vehicle during a visit to the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely in February. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jack Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



**Antarctic Assignment.** Master Sergeant Tyler Sutton, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, smiles while a penguin walks by the flight line near McMurdo Air Station, Antarctica. Sutton augmented the New York Air National Guard as an aircrew flight equipment specialist during a 30-day rotation in Antarctica supporting the National Science Foundation. Photo: Courtesy of Master Sergeant Tyler Sutton, 176th Wing

• Antarctica

"The ice was melting near town, so we had to travel to one of the many flight lines, named Pegasus, where the surface was hard enough for the planes to take off and land," Sutton said. "We worked 10-hour shifts every day, and it would take a minimum of an hour and as long as three hours, depending on the weather, just to get to the flight line."

Despite the adverse conditions, Sutton relished the opportunity to support a unit that flies nearly 3,000 hours and 350

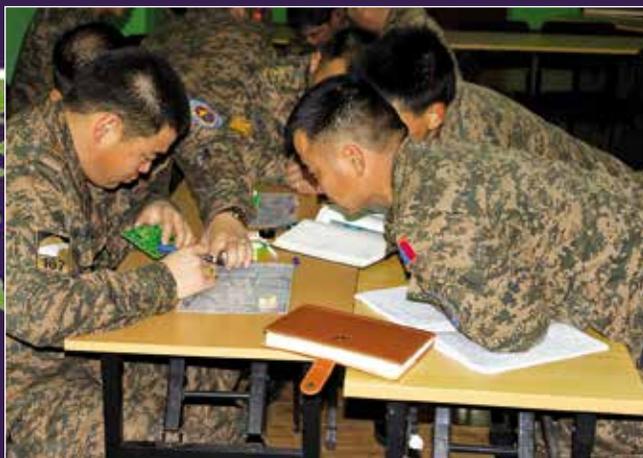
missions across the Antarctic continent between October and February every year. "It was a once in a lifetime experience," Sutton said. "I supported an incredible mission, and it was definitely one of the most unique trips I've ever been on during my career. If you ever get the opportunity, you should definitely take it."

Officially termed Operation Deep Freeze, the annual mission is a Pacific Command responsibility organized as Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica. ■

### Noncommissioned Officer

**Training.** Mongolian Armed Forces soldiers look over maps and training materials during a battle staff noncommissioned officer orientation mobile training event in November. Alaska Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Michael Eastham and Staff Sergeant Xavier Bird led the course designed specifically for the Mongolian noncommissioned officer corps. What was originally a one-time training event has become a semiannual program with waiting lists. "They wanted more classes taught, longer courses, homework; they wanted everything they could get," said Eastham, who deployed as the MAF liaison team noncommissioned officer in charge in 2008-2009 during a deployment to Iraq.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard



**Flying Flag.** Staff Sergeant Josh Fiorenzi and Senior Airman Mike Meyers, 168th Air Refueling Wing aircraft structural mechanics, apply a new American flag sticker to a KC-135 in March at Eielson Air Force Base. Photo: Airman 1st Class Francine St. Laurent, 168th Wing Public Affairs



**Overseas Communications.** Captain John Callahan, a plans officer with the International Security Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, works on a long-range strategic communications plan for coalition forces in Afghanistan. Callahan is serving a six-month tour. Back home, he serves as chief of Public Affairs for the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing. Photo: Allain Dubovny, NATO

## In the Center of the Afghan Campaign

By Captain John Callahan,  
176th Wing Public Affairs

**KABUL, Afghanistan ...** There's a certain repetitiveness to life here in the Afghan capital. Wake up, shower, shave. Report to work, draft plans, attend meetings. Lunch, work out, more meetings. Dinner, more planning. Lights out. Tomorrow – more of the same.

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I arrived at the International Security Assistance Force headquarters here in November for the start of a six-month tour. No one wants to leave their family, but as a volunteer, I can keep a straight face when I say, I'm happy to be here. I had never served overseas before, because of a couple of canceled deployments, and like most others in the military, I just wanted an opportunity to play my small – very small – part.

Staff officers here are commonly assigned wherever they are needed most, and when I arrived I learned I'd been taken out of the Public Affairs office and reassigned as a plans officer in the Strategic

Communications section. This means that rather than my usual hands-on public affairs duties – working with the media, organizing community-relations events, working social media and the like – I would instead be part of a small team analyzing the long-term strategic environment and drafting appropriate high-level communications plans.

The most common question I am asked is, "How safe is it?" The answer is: pretty safe. This is not like kicking down insurgents' doors in Helmand Province. There have been a handful of attacks in Kabul in the last couple of months, but there has been no coordinated attack on ISAF headquarters for more than a year. Security here is very tight; we are surrounded by high walls and protected by a company of Macedonian military police, distinctive in their cream-colored uniforms, floppy hats and AK-47s.

Also, Kabul is hostile territory for the insurgents. The Taliban were widely hated here when they were in power, known for their indiscriminate beatings and frequent beheadings. Although sentiment varies from place to place throughout the country, the Afghans I have met here in Kabul have been friendly and gracious to coalition personnel.

ISAF is the United Nations-authorized, NATO-led organization overseeing the coalition efforts in this country. It's an incredibly diverse organization. In my office alone, we have four Americans, a Bulgarian, a Singaporean and a Norwegian, all working closely under a British Royal Navy captain.

The work itself is interesting. Situation reports from around the country pour in around the clock, with teams of analysts crunching the numbers and painting as clear a picture as possible. One gets a sense of just how vast and complex this undertaking is. And how important.

Conflict and war have destroyed the fabric of this society and shattered its social institutions. After a decade of international assistance, much has been achieved. But in the remaining time before the post-2014 drawdown, much remains to be done. ■

# Homeland Security & Emergency Management



## DISASTER PLANNING

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Planning for disasters or emergencies can be complicated. Some disasters have the potential to occur more frequently than others such as earthquakes, floods and storms; others are harder to predict, such as meteor strikes or man-made events. However, in each situation, it is paramount that organizations and individuals have an emergency response plan for disasters.

An emergency response plan is only as effective as the thought process that goes into its development. Whether it is a known threat or an unpredicted event, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management's planning goal is to bring structure to the processes which ensure that local communities have a plan which effectively and efficiently guides them through a disaster event.

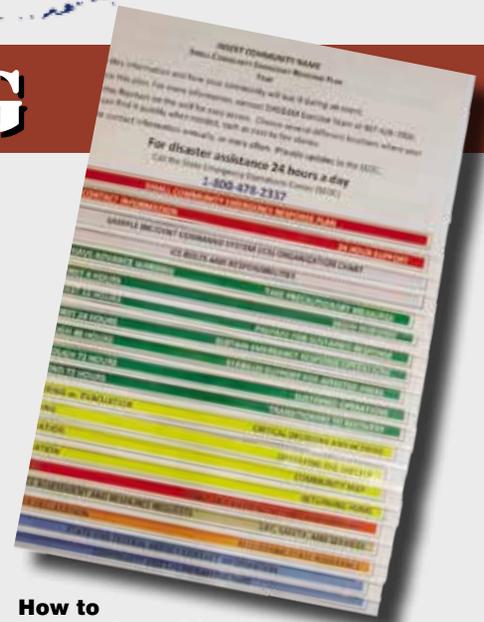
Incidents are complex by nature and require a multi-tiered approach to emergency

planning. The critical thinking a community does when evaluating risks and exploring response options eventually becomes the core of that community's emergency response plan.

DHS&EM's Planning Section developed a Small Community Emergency Response Plan to help communities be better prepared, established catastrophic planning task forces and delivered tsunami operations workshops.

"All emergency response happens first at a local level and so must planning," said David Kang, DHS&EM program manager. "The SCERP was a tool developed for smaller communities to develop a plan in which a community can respond to an all-hazard event."

A Small Community Emergency Response Plan is specifically designed to help Alaska communities with fewer than 2,000 people. The SCERP is a customized flip book with essential, community-specific



**How to Respond to a Disaster.** This convenient Small Community Emergency Response Plan guide gives a community a customized flip book with essential, community-specific information for response to a disaster. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM

information. It is a quick response reference tool designed to assist communities with limited response capabilities through the first crucial 72 hours of an event.

Communities interested in developing a SCERP flip book use a SCERP toolkit to identify their community-specific needs and gather information relevant to those needs. Once the SCERP toolkit is completed, DHS&EM meets with the community's selected emergency individuals or agencies to review the toolkit and finalize development of a SCERP. The SCERP is then assembled into multiple SCERP flip books and placed in key locations throughout the community where it can be easily accessed in an event. With the SCERP in hand, any designated community member can quickly identify the processes, equipment and individuals needed to respond to life/safety needs prevalent in emergency situations.

While the SCERP helps small communities prepare for a wide range of threats and hazards, other communities have identified threats that require more specific planning.

All along the Gulf of Alaska, many communities continuously prepare for tsunamis. Working in conjunction with the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, DHS&EM has conducted regional



**Preparing for Tsunamis.** Bringing together community emergency managers, tsunami and seismic scientists and emergency planners during a tsunami operations workshop paid dividends when recent tsunami warnings were activated. The workshop's approach helps communities develop all-hazard plans to test, train and exercise to ensure preparedness. Photo: Erv Petty, DHS&EM

tsunami operations workshops in Unalaska, Sitka and Cordova. The goal is to help communities and regions develop specific planning mechanisms for the threat conditions they face. The workshop's approach helps communities develop all-hazard plans to test, train and exercise to ensure preparedness. The regional approach has allowed communities to share emergency management techniques that are applicable to similar conditions and explore inter-agency/intercommunity continuity of operations options.

"We saw the benefits of the tsunami operations workshops in action on Jan. 13 when a 7.5 magnitude earthquake near Vancouver Island generated a tsunami warning for Southeast Alaska," Kang said. "While the tsunami warning was canceled, Southeast communities acted quickly, assessed the conditions and took actions laid out in their plan to ensure residents were safe."

The development of plans for small communities and specific threats is part of the multi-tiered approach to planning. For catastrophic disasters, DHS&EM has formed six catastrophic planning task forces to better equip the state to deal with massive emergencies akin to the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. These task forces work to improve delivery of life safety services after a catastrophic disaster in the following areas: power and energy, disaster search and rescue, disaster housing, medical, mass care and debris management.

The task forces involve members with functional emergency management experience who operate throughout Alaska on a regular basis. During a catastrophic disaster, the task forces will have plans in place to organize their actions, reduce duplication of efforts, provide assistance where it is needed most and work as a unified group.

"In Alaska there are many local, state, federal and nongovernment agencies that play a role in emergency response, just as there are many types of natural and man-made threats throughout our state," said John Madden, director of DHS&EM. "As we plan for each level of threat, we will incorporate emergency managers and responders that play a role in disasters and establishing the process for a well-coordinated response."

Finally, a key component of the multi-tiered planning approach is family and individual preparedness. Their planning and preparation is just as critical as it is for the multiple levels of local and state government.

"All disasters are local, and it does not get much more local than the individual," Madden said.

For more information on personal emergency planning to see what you can do, visit [www.ready.alaska.gov](http://www.ready.alaska.gov). ■

**Planning a Coordinated Response.** The catastrophic disaster task forces prepare the state's many different emergency response organizations to efficiently and effectively work as a team based on their emergency response expertise. Photo: Mike Drummond, DHS&EM



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# Aviation Maintenance Exchange Sends Four to Mongolia

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

## ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia ...

Four Alaska National Guardsmen were in Ulaanbaatar in March for an aviation maintenance exchange to educate Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force members about the C-130 Hercules aircraft.

In conjunction with the National Guard State Partnership Program, the exchange focused on providing guidance on the required maintenance and operation of the C-130 Hercules, an aircraft the Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force hopes to purchase to provide much needed airlift capability to their armed forces.

"We are so happy you are here," said Major Enkhzorgol Baatarkhuu, staff officer for the Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force, during the exchange. "We hope this exchange expands our mutual understanding, strengthening military cooperation between our two countries. We are very interested in transport aircraft for Pacific region operations, and our hope is we can purchase the C-130J because it will be very useful for our future."

As the first exchange between the two countries to discuss C-130 capabilities and maintenance requirements, the Alaska Guardsmen traveled to Mongolia to share their knowledge and bolster the National Guard State Partnership Program that has partnered the state of Alaska and Mongolia since 2003.

"This exchange was really important because the people here have been trying to rebuild their Air Force since the decline of the Soviet era," said Lieutenant Colonel David McPhetres, director of operations, Alaska Air National Guard. "This exchange will help the Mongolians build a proposal that they can take through their government, so that in the next five to 10 years, they'll hopefully be able to build a program that allows them to have their own transportation in and out of the country, while utilizing our expertise to staff, train and have a safe and capable program."

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**Aviation Collaboration.** Four Alaska Air National Guardsmen and members of the Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force stand in front of a Mongolian Armed Forces MI-8T helicopter while touring facilities on Nalaikh Air Base, Mongolia, in March. The Alaska Guardsmen were in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to educate Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force members on the C-130 Hercules. Photo courtesy Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force

Mongolia is a country as vast and open as Alaska, but the Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force is tasked with transporting Mongolian Armed Forces with only Soviet-era helicopters that include the MI-24B, MI-8T and MI-171E. They lack the capacity to transport large numbers of personnel, making it impossible to meet all their mission requirements.

"This was a great professional exchange for us," said First Lieutenant Bayasgalan Baljinnyam, platoon commander, Unit 337 Nalaikh Air Base, Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force. "Our national Air Force needs a C-130 because we need to participate in every mission, and right now, we have to call on civilian aircraft to transport our troops. We need to have our own C-130 so we can manage ourselves and transport our own troops to other countries."

With a current request to obtain three C-130J aircraft, the aircraft maintenance exchange has provided an engaging opportunity for Mongolian enlisted personnel and officers to pick the brains of two Alaska Air National Guard crew chiefs on the ins and outs of C-130 maintenance and performance.

"We've been flying the C-130 in the Alaska Air National Guard for a long time, and we've learned a lot of lessons in maintenance that we can teach the Mongolians," said Senior Master Sergeant Ken Joyce, 176th Wing C-130 maintenance supervisor, Alaska Air National Guard. "We can help them, so they don't have to repeat things we've already been through."

"Nobody really does it better than the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, and they are really going to benefit working with us because we have some of the best maintainers in the Air Force," said Master Sergeant Pat McGrain, C-130 crew chief, Alaska Air National Guard. "They've worked

on a lot of Soviet-era equipment, but they still have a lot of the same set up that we do as far as maintenance and standards. I think the C-130 will do very well here because everyone we've met has been an outstanding mechanic and officer."

Capable of operating from rough dirt strips and short runways, the C-130 is the prime transport for airlifting troops and equipment into remote areas while operating in extremely harsh weather conditions. This makes the C-130 the perfect fit for Mongolia because it has already proved itself in similar conditions in Alaska.

"The landscape and mission are very similar in Mongolia compared to Alaska," McGrain said. "They perform search and rescue and airlift like we do, and the austere conditions, weather and terrain are very similar to Alaska. So I think the things that make the C-130 successful in Alaska will make it successful here."

Meeting Mongolian people who are incredibly friendly and hospitable, the exchange has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved and has laid the groundwork for future communication through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

"I think this exchange was a great opportunity to build relationships with their maintenance personnel," Joyce said. "We'll have constant communication back and forth, and if they have questions on C-130s, we're only a phone call or email away."

"It's really great you visited our country," said Lieutenant Colonel Bolor Ganbold, senior signal officer, Mongolia Air and Air Defense Force. "This is a great experience learning about the C-130 and a nice partnership. Thank you very much for visiting and sharing your experience about the C-130; we welcome you back again." ■

# Aviation Unit

## DEPLOYS TO KUWAIT



By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Sixty Alaska Army National Guardsmen deployed to Kuwait this spring to provide aviation support with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to U.S. and coalition forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A departure ceremony for family and friends to say goodbye to the Soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, was held in January at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Upon departure from Alaska, the Soldiers spent about two months at Fort Hood, Texas, for their final pre-mobiliza-

tion training before leaving the United States for nine months in Kuwait.

"These Soldiers are exceptional men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving our great state and nation," said Colonel Hunt Kerrigan, commander of the 38th Troop Command, Alaska Army National Guard, during the departure ceremony. "Soon they will leave Alaska for Kuwait to provide aviation support in response to contingency operations throughout the region."

1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, is the most deployed unit in the Alaska Army National Guard, having previously deployed elements to Kosovo in 2004 and

2008, as well as fulfilling missions in Iraq, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras.

"These Soldiers will not be forgotten during their deployment and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers until they come home next year," Kerrigan said. "They are standing in the gap for our nation, for our families and for our cherished freedoms. I deeply appreciate what they are doing, and rest assured, we will take care of their families while they are deployed."

Guard members on the mission hail from Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla, Palmer, Fairbanks, Nome and Juneau. ■



**Leaving Home.** Captain Nathan Cornilles, A Company commander, and First Sergeant Art Honea, A Company 1st Sergeant, furl the unit colors for 60 Soldiers of A Company, 1-207th Aviation, during the deployment ceremony for the unit in January. The Alaska Army National Guardsmen deployed to Kuwait to provide aviation support via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to U.S. and coalition forces. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

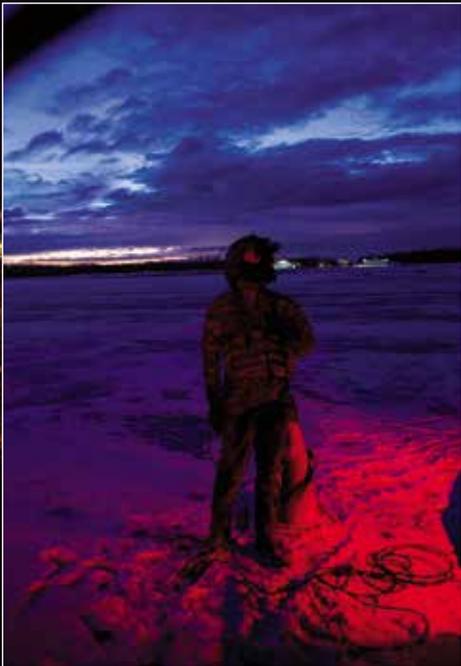
**Black Hawk Movement.** (Background) Seven Alaska National Guard Black Hawk helicopters are towed from Bryant Army Airfield on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to the main flight line for loading into C-17s bound for Fort Hood, Texas. Soldiers from A Company, 1-207th Aviation, fly the Black Hawks and are now deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom after training in Fort Hood, Texas. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



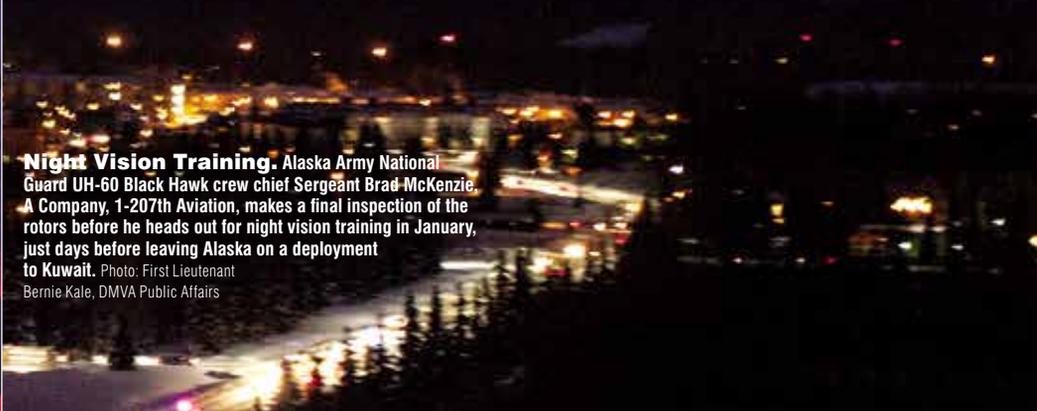
**Goodbye Hug.** Sergeant Nick Hann, A Company, 1-207th Aviation crew chief, holds his daughter, Lilly, following a departure ceremony in January for his unit. The Alaska Army National Guardsmen are providing aviation support via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to U.S. and coalition forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Aviation Support.** Sixty Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers of A Company, 1-207th Aviation, stand in formation in January during a deployment ceremony at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Upon departure from Alaska, the Soldiers headed to Fort Hood, Texas, for their final pre-mobilization training before leaving the United States for nine months in Kuwait. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Night Vision Training.** Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief Sergeant Brad McKenzie, A Company, 1-207th Aviation, makes a final inspection of the rotors before he heads out for night vision training in January, just days before leaving Alaska on a deployment to Kuwait. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



**Family Send Off.** Specialist Paul Gillquist, A Company, 1-207th Aviation crew chief, and his family smile for a photo following a departure ceremony for 60 Soldiers of his unit. The deployed Guardsmen are providing aviation support in Kuwait.

Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

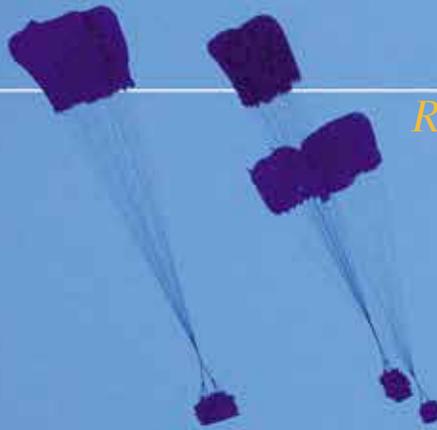


## Alaska National Guard Conducts Major Search-and-Rescue Exercise

Stories and photos by Sergeant Edward Egerton, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



**Rescue Jump.** An Alaska Air National Guard parajumper, from the 212th Rescue Squadron, descends after jumping from a C-17 Globemaster III during an arctic search-and-rescue exercise in February.



*Ready to Serve*



**Air Drop.** A flight crew with the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron conducts an equipment drop from a C-17 Globemaster III during an arctic search-and-rescue exercise northeast of Bethel.

**BETHEL, Alaska ...** In a remote area northeast of Bethel, the Alaska National Guard conducted a major search-and-rescue exercise in February to test the recovery operations for a simulated 737 plane crash.

"The purpose of the mission was to test the arctic sustainment package by deploying it out of an aircraft with a team who can handle a mass-casualty situation in an arctic environment," said Staff Sergeant Patrick Gault, a parajumper with the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.

In the frigid early morning hours, approximately 25 volunteers from the Alaska National Guard, tasked to role play as crash survivors during the exercise, were transported by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the Army Aviation Operations Facility #2 in Bethel to a remote frozen region northeast of their location.

There at the site of the exercise, an element of Alaska National Guardsmen were pre-positioned to support the operation. Tucked in a patch of trees to protect them from the wind and snow, two 10-person tents were set up to house the support element.

As for the role-play survivors, their sustainment package including food and shelter was to be dropped in with the participants of the mission: Guardian Angels from the 212th Rescue Squadron and Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers from C Company, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron.

The mission began when the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center received word that a 737 had gone down, with an unknown number of survivors, in a remote area that first responders couldn't reach by roads.

According to the plan, rescue personnel were to be inserted by a C-130 Hercules airplane into the area, locate the survivors of the crash, assess the situation, and coordinate the delivery of additional support personnel and equipment to sustain the survivors. The weather, however, does not always work in the favor of the mission.

As the day wore on, the sky and the ground began to blend in a windy haze of snow and fog. With the clouds getting lower, and the snow getting thicker, the window of opportunity to drop the parajumpers and equipment was vanishing as quickly as the horizon.

On the drop zone, tensions began to rise. Captain Jay Casello, a combat rescue officer with the 212th Rescue Squadron, using both a radio and satellite phone, communicated with a C-130 Hercules from the 144th Airlift Squadron of the Alaska Air National Guard about the situation on the ground.

The C-130 Hercules airframes are capable of dropping personnel and equipment at low altitudes, but by the time the plane arrived over the drop zone, the weather had become so inclement that they were forced to turn back to Bethel.

Poor weather at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson was also playing a role in slowing down the mission, as heavy snow and freezing rain delayed the departure of the U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, flown by crews from the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron. The C-17 was slated to drop additional rescue personnel, as well as the arctic sustainment package.

When the C-17 showed up, night had fallen on the drop zone. Casello communicated with the crew of the plane, who were loitering above the site at 24,000 feet. He radioed up that the ceiling was within limits to drop the personnel and equipment. The crew of the C-17 then began its descent through the clouds to get a visual confirmation of the drop zone, marked by fluorescent panels and a strobe light, but by the time the plane completed its descent, the snow had picked up and the cloud ceiling had dropped.

The plane, flying in low light and heavy snow at low altitudes, began making multiple passes over the drop zone, the wailing of its engines screaming through the clouds like banshees, with the occasional flash of its lights passing through the grey, desolate void.

Then, with great elation, the voice over Casello's radio called out, "We're coming in hot." The drop was on – the mission was good to go.

Over a number of passes, the bundles were pushed down the ramp out of the massive C-17 at low altitudes, the chutes having just enough time to deploy, slow the load down and come falling to the ground with a great thunderous explosion into deep, powdery snow. Following the drop of the equipment, the pararescuemen and R&S Soldiers jumped into the snowy night, landing on the drop zone, ready to tackle the mission.

The men, now on the ground, packed their chutes and deployed the gear, which included tents, heaters, fuel, all-terrain vehicles and rescue equipment. From the drop zone, pararescuemen simultaneously went to work locating the survivors.

"It's very critical to get this equipment set up quickly," said Private First Class Dillon Gilroy, a scout with C Company, 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard. "We have patients who are hypothermic or have broken limbs."

The survivors were given casualty cards that described the nature of their wounds earlier in the day. When the pararescuemen arrived at the mock crash site, the survivors played out the roles of the injured and afflicted. Screams and moans shrieked into the night as the pararescuemen moved to the location of their calls. One survivor howled over and over again for her lost baby.

With steadfast resolve, moving through snow at times waist deep, the pararescuemen took charge of the situation and began treating the wounded, relocating them to a central spot and transporting them back to the now set up tents to begin the process of sustaining them until they could extract the survivors from the scene.

Throughout the next day and a half, the Alaska National Guardsmen kept the survivors fed and warm. The Soldiers from the 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron then began



**Ground Coordination.** Staff Sergeant Cody Inman, pararescueman with the 212th Rescue Squadron, coordinates the extraction of a group of simulated survivors via UH-60 Black Hawk during a search-and-rescue exercise held northeast of Bethel in February. The exercise was designed to simulate a crashed 737 airliner with multiple casualties in a remote, arctic environment.

to prepare the equipment for sling load operations by bundling up the gear, securing it in cargo nets, and attaching the loads to HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters of the 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, and a UH-60 Black Hawk from B Company, 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard.

The survivors were extracted from the scene in groups based on the severity of their wounds and flown back to Bethel.

With the mission complete, the participants in the exercise were able to assess the mission and learn from it to better prepare for a real-world situation, should it ever arise.

Doing exercises like this prepares the units to respond to this kind of situation, Gault said.

"Usually when we do rescues here in Alaska, we have two- to four-man teams, and we're able to help just a few people," Gault said. "When you have more than 10 patients, you need to involve a lot more people and equipment. This exercise helps us bring all of that together and employ them to see what works and what doesn't work."

Involved in the exercise were members of the Alaska Air National Guard, the Alaska Army National Guard, the Coast Guard and participants from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"The biggest challenge is a lot of different agencies working together, and that creates a lot of gaps in communication sometimes," Gault said. "So closing those gaps and making everything fairly fluid to get everybody to work together, when we don't work together all the time, is the most important part." ■



**Arctic Exercise.** Members of the Alaska National Guard unload their gear from a UH-60 Black Hawk in preparation for a search-and-rescue exercise in a remote location northeast of Bethel.



## Alaska Territorial Guard Members Honored in Ketchikan

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Five Alaska Territorial Guard heroes were honored in Ketchikan in early March and given their official U.S. Army honorable discharge certificates, nearly 70 years after their admirable service in defending Alaska during World War II.

Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Verdie Bowen, director of the Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, presented the Alaska Territorial Guard Service Medal, distinguished service coin, and honorable discharge certificates to Henry Neligan, Craig ATG unit; Ralph Devenny, Wrangell ATG unit; Victor Klose, Ketchikan ATG unit; and brothers John and Willard Reese, both with the Ketchikan ATG unit.

Neligan will celebrate his 101st birthday in May. At 100 years old when the ceremony took place, he was the oldest living ATG veteran who has received his honorable discharge certificate.

The Alaska Territorial Guard was formed during World War II all across the territory of Alaska to defend against foreign enemies. From 1942-1947, more than 6,400 Alaskans volunteered and answered the call to protect our land and nation. These brave men and women did not go through basic military training, but they still faithfully guarded their assigned territory with little



**Honorable Service Recognized.** Henry Neligan, Craig Alaska Territorial Guard unit, receives his honorable discharge certificate from Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, during a ceremony in Ketchikan in March. Neligan will celebrate his 101st birthday in May and is the oldest living ATG veteran to have received his honorable discharge certificate. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Alaskan Heroes.** Five members of the Alaska Territorial Guard finally hold their official U.S. Army honorable discharge certificates, ATG medals and distinguished service coins nearly 70 years after their admirable service in defending Alaska during World War II. From left, Victor Klose, Ketchikan ATG unit; Ralph Devenny, Wrangell ATG unit; Henry Neligan, Craig ATG unit; and brothers John and Willard Reese, both with the Ketchikan ATG unit. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Service Medal.** Ralph Devenny, Wrangell Alaska Territorial Guard unit, is presented with his ATG medal by Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, during a ceremony in Ketchikan in March. Devenny served alongside his father to protect the territory of Alaska from the Japanese during WWII.

Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

equipment and no pay until the ATG was disbanded in 1947.

The late U.S. Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska worked tirelessly to get them the recognition and benefits they earned. In 2000, service in the ATG was given federal recognition as Public Law 106-259 and under Title 38 – Veterans Benefits in the U.S. Code. This allowed our ATG veterans to receive all benefits afforded those who served on active duty. ATG members now hold veteran status and can apply for U.S. Army honorable discharges.

“Unfortunately, nearly 70 years has passed since the last ATG member has served,” Bowen said. “We have come a long way since October 2000 to ensure our nation honors every serving member of the ATG. We continue to work diligently to locate all living members and surviving families to ensure we honor each individual member. We will continue this plight until all are found.

“Furthermore, we are creating federal service records to be stored in our National Archives ensuring we bridge the gap between the generations, keeping alive the memory of all who served,” Bowen added.

For more information regarding the ATG or to apply for discharge, contact the Office of Veterans Affairs at 907-334-0874 or toll free at 888-428-3682. ■

## Veteran Status Now Available on Alaska Driver's Licenses and ID Cards



**Alaska Honors Veterans.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, receives his new Alaska driver's license with the veteran designation at the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles in Anchorage.

Story and photos by Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Alaska veterans who are retired or have been honorably discharged can now elect to have their status as a veteran placed on their driver's license or state identification card.

Through legislation passed in 2012, Alaska joined 28 other states in offering this option to veterans.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the state of Alaska to honor all of our retired and honorably discharged veterans,” said Verdie Bowen, director of the Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs. “Additionally, this will allow those who have the designation on their identifications to conveniently show they are a veteran and receive the discounts that many local merchants offer.”

Applicants can also elect to have their name and address shared with the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs,



### Veterans

**Designation.** Veterans who have been honorably discharged or have retired from the military are now eligible to receive a veteran designation printed on their Alaska driver's license or identification card. To receive the designation, a veteran must show the Division of Motor Vehicles a military retiree ID card, DD214, NGB22 or other applicable discharge forms that prove a discharge under honorable conditions.

Office of Veterans Affairs, so that veterans can receive benefit updates.

To receive the designation, a veteran must show the Department of Motor Vehicles a military retiree ID card, DD214, NGB22 or other applicable discharge forms that prove a discharge under honorable conditions.

If a person wants to surrender a current license or identification to receive the designation, there will be a \$5 fee. Otherwise, the normal fee for an original issuance, renewal or replacement of a lost card will be charged. ■

## State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs Relocates

The State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs has moved. The office is now located at 4600 Debarr Road, Suite 180, in Anchorage.

The move was a collaborative effort between Governor Sean Parnell and the Alaska Legislature to fulfill a commitment to provide the public unrestricted access to the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs.

“This is a significant accomplishment for everyone involved,” said Verdie Bowen, director of the Alaska Office of Veterans

Affairs. “More importantly, by moving off Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, we are making it easier for veterans to access our facility, and we look forward to expanding our services to our past and present military members and their families.”

The new address and phone number for the State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs is Office of Veterans Affairs, 4600 Debarr Road, Suite 180, Anchorage, AK 99508, 907-334-0874 (main), 888-248-3682 (toll free). ■

# IRON DOG CONQUERED:

## Alaska National Guard Team Finishes Grueling Race

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Making history and setting precedent, the Alaska National Guard team successfully crossed the finish line in Fairbanks of the 2013 Iron Dog, billed as the “world’s longest, toughest snowmobile race,” covering 2,000 miles of Alaska wilderness.

Warrant Officer Michael Williams and Staff Sergeant Vincent Salzbrun, both



**Team 28.** Staff Sergeant Vincent Salzbrun, left, and Warrant Officer Michael Williams, both of 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, represent the Alaska National Guard as team #28 in the pro-class division of the 2013 Iron Dog.

Photo: Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

of 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, became the first Alaska National Guard team to finish in the Iron Dog’s

pro-class division. They competed as team 28 representing the Alaska National Guard, the presenting partner of the Iron Dog since 2009. Both race rookies, they finished in 19th place, ahead of 21 other teams.

“It was surreal – to not only finish the Iron Dog but to be competitive in the race is a huge accomplishment for the Alaska National Guard,” Salzbrun said. “To see everyone cheering us on and welcoming us at the finish line – I would say that was our rock star moment!”

The Iron Dog is a tough race, covering some of Alaska’s most remote and rugged terrain combined with daunting weather conditions. Twenty teams scratched from the race, facing insurmountable problems ranging from mechanical issues to injury and illness. With some racers hitting top speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour



**Racing Onward.** An Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk flies alongside the Alaska National Guard-sponsored Iron Dog team #28 on the trail leading out of Nome. Staff Sergeant Vincent Salzbrun, in the lead position, and Warrant Officer Michael Williams, both of 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, were the first Alaska National Guard riders to finish in the pro-class division of the race. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



**Morning Ride.** An Iron Dog pro-class team leaves Nome during the early morning sunrise headed towards Fairbanks. The Alaska National Guard sponsored the Iron Dog, billed as the “world’s longest, toughest snowmobile race.” Photo: Sergeant Balinda O’Neal, DMVA Public Affairs

**Windswept Trail.** The Alaska National Guard team of Staff Sergeant Vincent Salzbrun, in the lead position, and Warrant Officer Michael Williams, begin the last half of the Iron Dog race out of Nome headed toward Fairbanks. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

along the trail, crossing that finish line in Fairbanks and running a safe race is a huge achievement.

“When we came into the finish chute, I was elated,” Williams said. “I felt very accomplished, very relieved. We had a lot of support that showed up at the finish line – the National Guard, my family – it was just an amazing accomplishment for me.”

Williams and Salzbrun have known each other for more than a decade and have been riding together the past three years.

“We deployed to Kosovo together from 2003-2004 and again from 2008-2009,” said Williams, born and raised in Anchorage, and the quality control officer-in-charge at the Army Guard aviation hangar.

Williams also has a deployment to Iraq under his belt, while Salzbrun deployed to Haiti. A few weeks after the race, Salzbrun left Alaska to join his unit, A Company, 1-207th Aviation, in Fort Hood, Texas, where they were training in preparation for a nine-month deployment to Kuwait. He’s a crew chief on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. But before he hit the desert, he said he was proud to represent the Guard and conquer some of Alaska’s most extreme winter conditions.

The Alaska National Guard became the lead sponsor for the Iron Dog in 2009 in order to support a uniquely Alaska event and bolster the Alaska National Guard throughout the state and nation.

“We don’t just throw money at this; we don’t just require the Iron Dog to put our

Spring 2013 • WARRIORS



**Finish Line.** Warrant Officer Michael Williams, left, and Staff Sergeant Vincent Salzbrun, both of 1-207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, approach the Iron Dog finish line after seven days of riding 2,000 miles across Alaska. The pair was the first Alaska National Guard team to complete the race in the pro-class division. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

Alaska National Guard logo at the start and finish line,” said Major Jeffrey Lunsford, Alaska Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention. “We have people on the front lines of this race, setting up and tearing down events, working closely with the communities and really getting the message

out there on what the Alaska National Guard has to offer.

“Now we have two Alaska National Guardsmen who are pro-class finishers in the world’s longest and toughest snowmobile race. That says a lot.” ■



**Congratulations.** Brigadier General Mike Bridges, assistant adjutant general-Army, Alaska Army National Guard, congratulates Warrant Officer Mike Williams after Williams finished the Iron Dog, billed as the “world’s longest, toughest snowmobile race.” Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs

# Rescue Coordination Center Completes 5,000th Mission

By Kalei Rupp, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Searching for overdue aircraft, rescuing injured hunters, locating lost hikers, helping those stranded at sea – they’re all part of the mission of the Alaska (11th Air Force) Rescue Coordination Center, and those missions have added up.

The RCC, on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, completed its 5,000th mission, since July 1, 1994, on March 27 when it coordinated the Alaska Air National Guard’s successful recovery of a pilot who crashed a Super Cub aircraft near the Bering River northeast of Cordova.

“Our mission is to provide a safe and timely response to aircraft events over the land mass of Alaska,” said Senior Master Sergeant Robert Carte, superintendent of the RCC. “In addition, we assist any other search-and-rescue agency should they need military assets and coordination, so we’re often involved with ground searches and missions in Alaska’s waters as well.”

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center has been operating in Alaska since 1961, but beginning July 1, 1994, the RCC became manned solely by Alaska Air National Guardsmen under the operational active-duty commander of the 11th Air Force. Since that time, the men and women of the Alaska Air National Guard have been keeping watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week, coordinating an average of more than five missions a week for nearly 19 years.

“When we get a search-and-rescue mission, we first verify distress and verify jurisdiction of which agency has the lead on the mission depending on the type of incident and location,” Carte said. “Once jurisdiction has been established, we hand off search-and-rescue control if we don’t have jurisdiction, or if we do, we switch to incident command mode and manage and coordinate the search-and-rescue to the end. We organize fuel for aircraft, assign search grids to participating search aircraft, de-conflict air space and coordinate hospital delivery to make sure emergency medical staff are aware of the situation.”

With the active-duty fighter jet presence in Alaska also comes the job of ensuring that military pilots training in Alaskan



**Rescue Training.** Major Joseph Conroy, commander of the 212th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, prepares to land during parachute jump training over the Malamute Drop Zone on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in October. The Guardian Angels of the 212th Rescue Squadron are part of the Alaska Air National Guard rescue triad, along with the 210th and 211th Rescue Squadrons, that have contributed to many lives saved across Alaska as part of the 5,000 missions of the Rescue Coordination Center. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Tracking Aircraft Wreckage.** Prior to the widespread use of computers, pin boards were used by the Rescue Coordination Center to manually track the locations of all known aircraft wreckage in Alaska. This protocol was used to avoid sending rescue forces to old crash sites. With the advent of computers, all crash wreckage data is now located in a digital database and updated on a regular basis. At the present time, there are more than 2,000 database entries catalogued.

Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



**Search and Rescue.** Senior Master Sergeant Robert Carte, superintendent of the Rescue Coordination Center, explains how the RCC uses enlarged maps of Alaska to track search-and-rescue grid locations, geographical jurisdiction boundaries and controlled air space around the state. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

airspace have the response they need should something happen.

“Our primary focus is the inland search-and-rescue mission dictated by the national response plan, but we’re also here to support the air sovereignty mission in Alaska for the U.S. Northern Command/North American Aerospace Defense Command to make sure any ejection-seat aircraft flying in the state receives top priority should help be needed,” Carte said. “These aircraft are the F-22 Raptors, F-16 Fighting Falcon and any foreign military partners that are flying in Alaska during an air-related exercise.”

The 12 Alaska Air National Guard members who work in the RCC on a rotating schedule all have a background in either rescue operations as a member of the Alaska Air National Guard’s 210th, 211th or 212th Rescue Squadrons, or they are command and control specialists with a background in rescue control operations.

The RCC relies heavily on the support of other agencies during search-and-rescue missions. Aside from the Alaska Air National Guard and Alaska Army National Guard, during a mission these agencies can also be called upon: Alaska State Troopers, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, Civil Air Patrol, National Park Service, North Slope Arctic Borough Search and Rescue, Alaska Mountain Rescue, SEADOGS K-9 Search and Rescue Team, Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol and various other volunteer search groups.

“As attention turns to the arctic, the RCC is also the primary controlling agency for any aviation mission in that region as well, working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and international partner agencies,” Carte said.

The busy season follows the weather trend with an increase in search-and-rescue missions toward the end of summer into the fall hunting season. But ask anyone in the business, and you’ll hear that no two search-and-rescue cases are alike. Throughout the years, there have been many high-profile missions that have led to the 5,000 total.

In 2002, Jack Tackle, an experienced climber from Montana, was stuck at about 9,500 feet on Mount Augusta in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park with a broken back, fractured neck and bruised spinal cord. The RCC coordinated his rescue, and the Alaska Air National Guard pararescueman, Chief Master Sgt. David Shuman, who rescued Tackle, was awarded the Airman’s Medal for heroism. The entire rescue crew received the Earl Ricks Memorial Award for the national rescue of the year.

In 2006, the MV Cougar Ace, a car carrier vessel from Singapore, lost power

more than 200 miles south of Adak and listed 60 degrees to port. The RCC coordinated the U.S. Coast Guard assets and Alaska Air National Guard rescue of all 23 crew members on board.

In 2010, a single-engine float plane crashed 17 miles north of Dillingham killing five on board, including former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. The RCC coordinated the efforts of the Alaska Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard to get to the scene and rescue four survivors.

Recently, the RCC was recognized for its outstanding contribution to commercial aviation safety and its response to numerous aviation incidents throughout the state with the 2013 Alaska Air Carriers Association Emergency Response Award.

“The RCC approaches each mission as if it were one of our family in distress,” Carte said. “We know the citizens and state depend on us, and it’s not a responsibility we take lightly.” ■

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# SITKA COMMUNICATION EXERCISE

By Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...** Eight Alaska Army National Guardsmen participated in a joint agency communications exercise in Sitka in February to improve the city's ability to respond during an actual emergency.

Six members from C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, and two members from the 103rd Civil Support Team joined members from the Sitka Fire Department, U.S. Coast Guard, Sitka Mountain Rescue, Sitka Police Department, City of Sitka Public Works, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the U.S. Forest Service to prepare for a simulated tsunami that destroys communication on Sitka's Japonski Island.

"Our main objective in Sitka was to evaluate what plan they have in place for a significant event and to see how we can fit in to assist and augment their incident command," said First Lieutenant Isaac Hernandez, communications platoon leader, C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance. "We got a lot out of this training, and it was a great opportunity to work with so many agencies."

Sitka, like many Alaska communities, is not directly accessible by road, so getting communication in and out of the city is extremely important when a natural disaster strikes there. As a state asset, the incident command in Sitka needs to know what assets are available and more importantly, how to use those assets in an emergency.

"The exercise was an opportunity to meet all the organizations involved, build relationships, lay out equipment and give us an idea of what people have available," said Staff Sergeant Colin Oppgard, communications section chief, C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance. "We tested the communications plans in Sitka proper. We sent teams up on Harbor Mountain and another out to Kruzof Island via Jay Hawk to see if they could relay communications. It taught us a lot about what would work and what we can do better to assist the community."

Providing forces and capabilities to civilian authorities across Alaska is the objective of the Alaska National Guard when it is called in to support. Scenarios like these, according to Hernandez, go a long



**Locating Communication Infrastructure.** Sergeant First Class Paul Petersen, C Company (Long Range Surveillance), 1-297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance, Alaska Army National Guard, gathers information after looking at a map with U.S. Forest Service personnel to determine where the current communication infrastructure is located in Sitka and the surrounding area. Petersen was one of eight Alaska Army National Guardsmen who supported a communications exercise in Sitka to improve the city's ability to respond during an actual emergency.

Photo: First Lieutenant Isaac Hernandez, Alaska Army National Guard

way to ensure that his unit can reestablish communications in an emergency.

"We're in a position now that if they were to call us today or tomorrow, we'd know the plan and could jump in and help,"

Hernandez said. "We're much better off and prepared because of this training. Bottom line is we learned a lot, but more importantly, we got to help them out and let them know we're always here." ■



**Equipment Offload.** Members of the Alaska Army National Guard unload communication equipment from an Air National Guard C-130 to assist the incident command team during a communications exercise held in Sitka in February.

Photo: Alex Reeves, Alaska Army National Guard



# Alaska State Defense Force



## ASDF Officer Candidate School and Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy

By Colonel Walter Gilmour, ASDF

The Alaska State Defense Force has developed an Officer Candidate School and Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy for its members.

This course has offered the entire ASDF brigade a chance to reinforce its missions, policies and procedures and mission essential task lists. Major emphasis is being placed on a reserve force to assist with missions the Alaska National Guard assigns to the ASDF as a force reserve.

A working group of ASDF senior officers developed the course to prepare candidates for roles in the ASDF. The group defined course titles, objectives, instructors and reviewed lesson plans. Test questions were developed to match objectives.

All of the material was placed in a matrix developed by the California Reserve Officer Program. After analyzing the California matrix, an Alaska-specific matrix was designed to cover the course developed by California.

To ensure that the program was relevant and to meet the needs of the present configuration of officers and senior noncommissioned officers, ASDF Soldiers attended all of the classes as they were developed and instructed. The course development began in July 2011, with the first courses delivered to the brigade staff and selected officers in August 2011.

All promotions were placed on hold pending successful completion of the entire course, with individual candidates being advised that completion was mandatory for all present staff. All incoming personnel will be required to complete the course within 18 months.

As the course materials were developed, instructed and tested, the commander and staff began to take them to the field to prepare battalion instructors for their use. The final examination taken by brigade headquarters staff, with elements of the 2nd and 4th Battalions, was used to measure the test questions, ensuring that they matched course objectives and instruction delivered.

Additional self-learning concepts were used by each Soldier. The assignment was to select a book related to military forces in action and analyze the action with regard

to the nine principles of war. Soldiers had to write a 500-word paper on their selection, emphasizing what principles made the action a success or failure. The officer or noncommissioned officer then made an oral presentation to peers. Poise, clarity and delivery were evaluated.

After the working group reviewed the final exam, academy staff began to deploy to the battalions, completing a review and administering the final examination. Among the current officers and noncommissioned officers, 90 percent have completed this course.

All new members joining the ASDF will hold brevet ranks for up to 18 months to allow each candidate to complete the course. Failure to complete the course (without special considerations) will necessitate a review of the candidate's ability to serve.

The following officers and noncommissioned officer have participated in course development, many as instructors, testers and students: Colonel Walter Gilmour, Colonel Michael Schowen, Lieutenant Colonel John James, Lieutenant Colonel John Bilyeu, Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Lund, Lieutenant Colonel George Siter, Master Sergeant James York and First Lieutenant Randall Cosper.

Their participation in every stage of this course ensured content, a top-down development process, clarity of mission and strong correlation with other Officer Candidate School courses. ■

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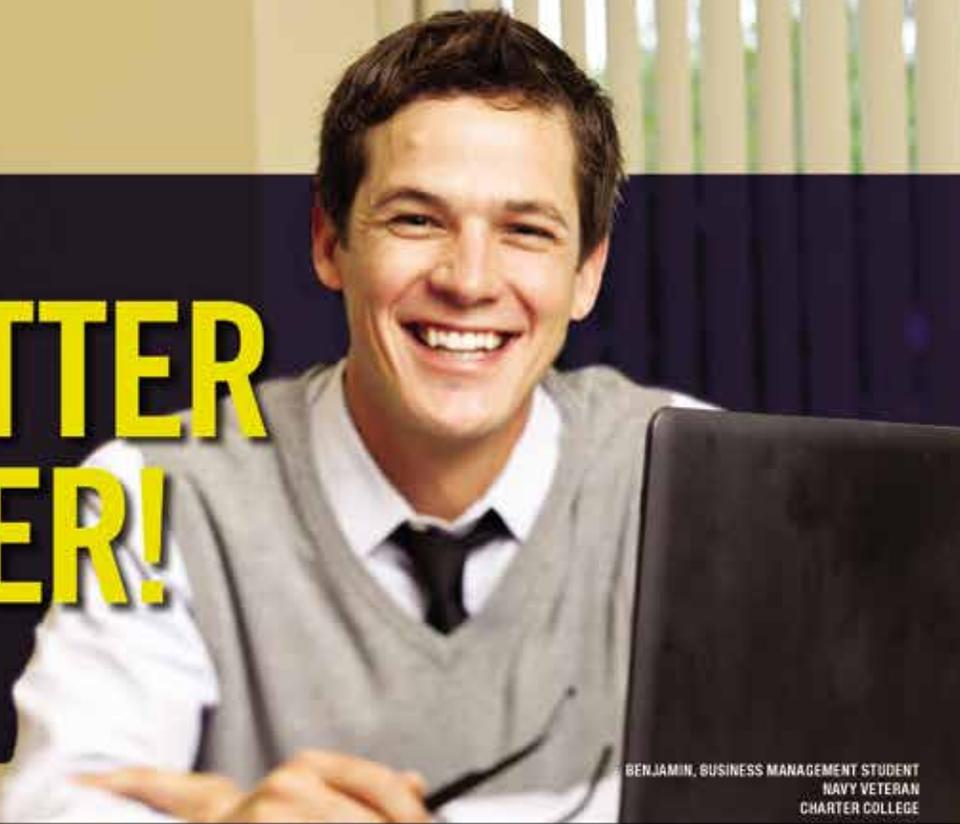
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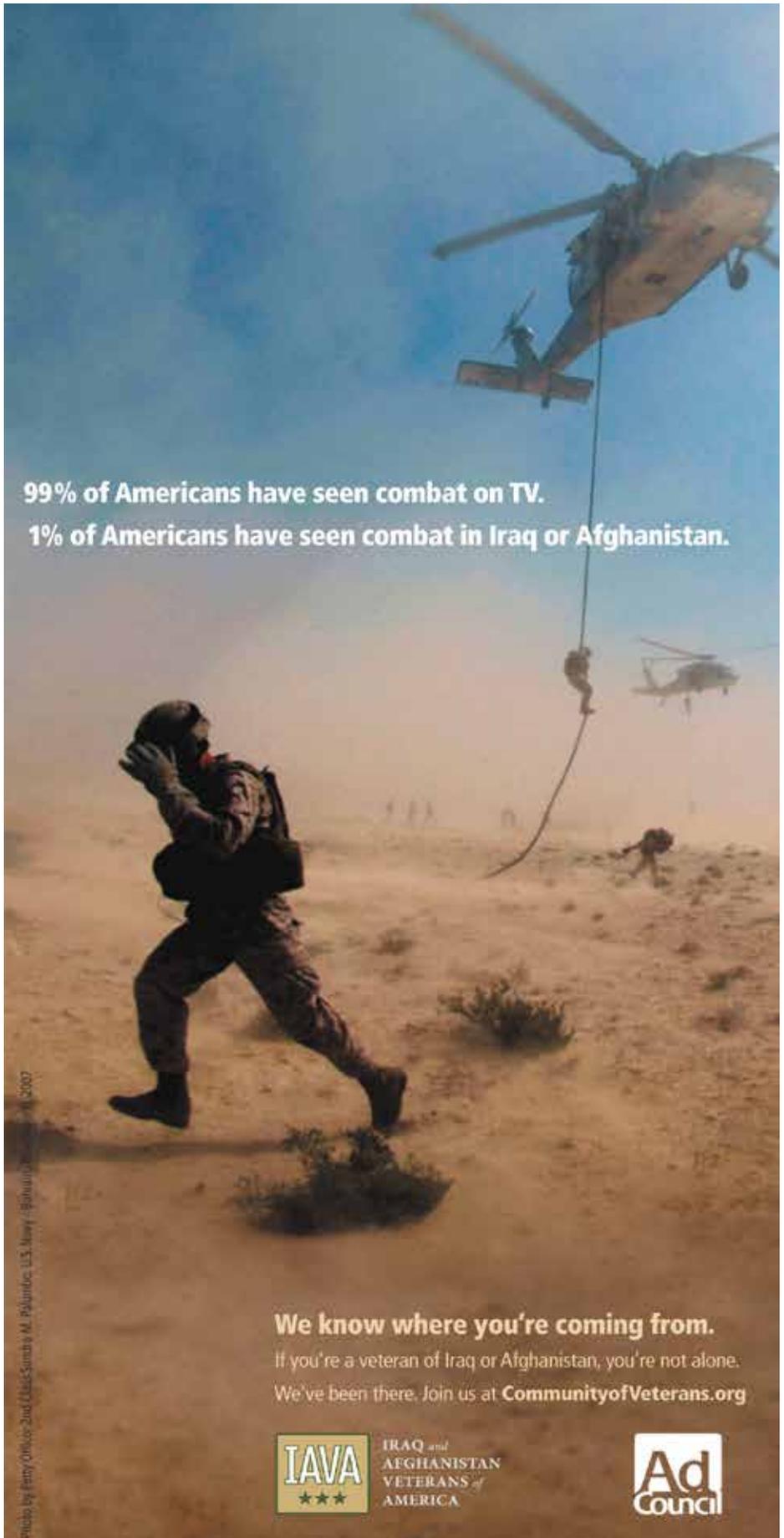
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## Alaska Military Youth Academy Cadets Graduate

Story and photos by Kalei Rupp,  
DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** – The Alaska Military Youth Academy celebrated the graduation of 144 cadets of class 2013-1 from its ChalleNGe program in March during a ceremony at the Dena’ina Center in downtown Anchorage with Governor Sean Parnell as the guest speaker.

The 144 graduating cadets of class 2013-1 had the highest class retention rate in AMYA history. The average academic grade level improvement of this class is the highest since 2006.

During their 22-week residential phase at the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academics, military style discipline, physical fitness, vocational training and community service.

The 144 cadets joined the 3,795 who have completed the program since 1994. This is the 38th class to have graduated from the AMYA ChalleNGe program.

Graduates take part in a yearlong post-residential phase in which they return to their communities to enter the workplace, continue their education in high school or higher education, or enter the military. The



**Happy Graduate.** Governor Sean Parnell hands a diploma to cadet Daysiah Muasau, of Anchorage, and congratulates her during the graduation ceremony of class 2013-1 of the Alaska Military Youth Academy at the Dena’ina Center in March.

goal of this phase is to sustain and build on the gains made during their academy time.

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.



**Elation.** Cadets from class 2013-1 celebrate their graduation with the iconic Alaska Military Youth Academy beret toss upon completion of the ceremony at the Dena’ina Center in Anchorage in March.



**A Job Well Done.** Governor Sean Parnell congratulates cadet Jenna Tait, of Anchorage, upon her graduation from the Alaska Military Youth Academy in March. Tait graduated on the Director's Top Performers list and received a \$1,000 Alliant Tech Systems scholarship.



**Graduation Smiles.** Cadet Antonion Brown, of Anchorage, stands proudly with friends and family after his graduation from the Alaska Military Youth Academy in March. Brown graduated on the Director's Top Performers list.



**Congratulations.** Cassey Bobby, Alaska Military Youth Academy platoon leader, right, congratulates cadet Tre'shauna Lawhorn, of Wasilla, upon her graduation from the Academy's ChalleNge program in March. She is now one of the nearly 4,000 graduates of the program.



The mission of the National Guard Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNge Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth. We produce program Graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. Over 80% of the Program's graduates go on to become successful citizens by joining the work force, the military or by continuing their education.

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# Alaska Military Youth Academy

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's ChalleNge Program is designed to provide life coping skills and meet the educational needs of 16 to 18 year old Alaskans. The Youth ChalleNge Program is a 22 week residential school with a 12 month post-residential aftercare follow-up phase.



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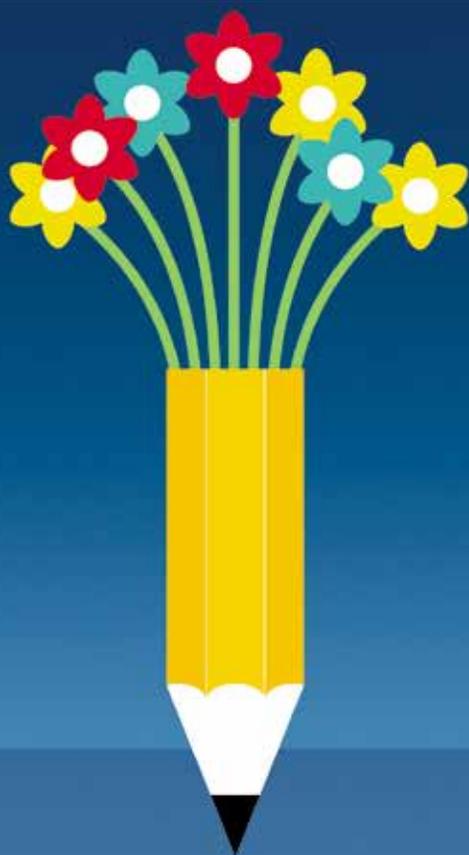
# CHANGE OF COMMAND



**Assumption of Command.** Lieutenant Colonel Chad Parker, right, receives the colors of the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, as he assumes command of the unit from outgoing commander Colonel Michael Thompson during a ceremony in February. In his 26-year U.S. Army career, Parker said he is most humbled and honored by this assignment as brigade commander. The 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade is organized to conduct, plan, prepare, execute, and assess intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations including joint, multinational and national capabilities. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



**Appreciation to Outgoing Commander.** Brigadier General Mike Bridges, assistant adjutant general-Army, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Colonel Michael Thompson for his dedicated service in commanding the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, for two years. Thompson relinquished command of the unit to Lieutenant Colonel Chad Parker during a ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in February. Photo: Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs



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**New 168th Air Refueling Wing Commander.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, left, passes off the Alaska Air National Guard 168th Air Refueling Wing flag to Colonel Mark Hedlund, who took command of the wing in March. Previously, Hedlund was the 176th Wing Maintenance Group commander, and prior to his role there, he led the 176th Wing's 144th Airlift Squadron, held a variety of operational flying and staff assignments at the wing level, and served as the state director of operations and state director of staff for the Alaska Air National Guard. Hedlund is a command pilot with more than 4,500 military flying hours and more than 10,000 total flight hours. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



**Assistant Adjutant General-Air.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, left, hands the Alaska Air National Guard flag to Colonel Timothy O'Brien, symbolizing his new role as the assistant adjutant general-Air for the Alaska Air National Guard during a ceremony at Eielson Air Force Base in March. O'Brien's previous duties have included the 168th Air Refueling Wing commander, 176th Wing's 210th Rescue Squadron commander, as well as a variety of operational flying and staff assignments at the wing level. He is a command pilot with more than 3,300 flying hours in various models of the HH-60G, HH-3E and other aircraft. Photo: First Lieutenant Bernie Kale, DMVA Public Affairs



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## *My Boss is a Patriot*

My Boss is a Patriot is an award for which service members or spouses can nominate their employer to recognize outstanding support. It is the first level of recognition, and many times becomes the beginning for higher levels of recognition in the state.

My Boss is a Patriot awardees recognized at the employer recognition breakfast in March:

The Arc of Anchorage - Daniel Parish

Era Alaska - Ryan Stanley

Alaska State Troopers - Sergeant Mike Burkmire

Walmart Stores, Inc. - Kimberly Castle

Crowley - Greg Miller

Honeywell - Todd Schroeder



**Seven Seals Award.** Dr. John Lapkass, of Anchorage Fracture and Orthopedic Clinic, displays his Seven Seals Award with Sergeant Balinda O'Neal, DMVA Public Affairs, who nominated him for the award for his outstanding physician support and care. The Seven Seals Award honors a wide array of support for service members and is the only ESGR award that bridges both the employer and volunteer recognition programs.

Photo: Jamie Abordonado, ESGR



**Pro Patria Award.** Craig Campbell, state chairman of the Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, along with Brigadier General Mike Bridges, assistant adjutant general-Army, presents the Pro Patria Award to Joe Buskirk, director of talent management for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Energy Services. The Pro Patria award is the highest award in the state given to a civilian employer by ESGR. The narration submitted by Bobby Stone III, a member of the Alaska Army National Guard and employee of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation: "I am a very young Inupiat Alaska Native serving my country in the Alaska Army National Guard. My civilian employer, ASRC Energy Services, provides me with a job that teaches heavy-duty and light-duty mechanic skills in one of the harshest environments in the world. ASRC AES also works around my military schedule so that I can train in the Alaska Army National Guard. This is a huge benefit since I can work and train both with my employer and with the Army National Guard." Photo: Jamie Abordonado, ESGR



# Who We Are...

*Where do you plan on vacationing this summer?*

**First Lieutenant  
Joshua Lester**  
210th Rescue Squadron



*"I'm taking a South America motorcycle trip at the end of summer."*

**Staff Sergeant  
Tori Hammel**  
168th Air Refueling Wing



*"We will be doing a lot of camping because we are moving out of state at the end of the year."*

**Erik Johnson**  
Bryant Army Airfield



*"We just took a vacation to Hawaii, so I foresee staying home this summer."*

**Staff Sergeant  
Michele Weinheimer**  
Army Guard Medical Detachment



*"I will be in Tennessee jet skiing and camping at a lakeside cabin."*

**First Lieutenant  
Vance Johnson**  
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade



*"I'll be fishing, hiking and prepping for the upcoming hunting season."*

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# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Legion of Merit



CSM Daniel Goodwin . . . . . 38th TC

## Meritorious Service Medal



MSG Lana R. Hebert . . . . . 168th LRS  
Lt Col William E. Hunstein . . . . . 168th OSF  
COL Michael Thompson . . . . . 297th BFSB  
LTC Wayne Hunt . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
LTC Joseph Streff . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MAJ Kevin Quinn . . . . . 38th TC  
MSG Jay Klaassen . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MSG Douglas Lee . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MSG Jason Nesslage . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MSG Christopher Simmons . . . . . 761st MP  
SFC Kenneth Seymore . . . . . 49th GMD  
Col Ronald Kichura . . . . . 176th MDG  
SMSgt Christopher Widener . . . . . 176th OG  
Capt John Romspert . . . . . 176th OG

## Army Commendation Medal



SSG Brandee Gresham . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SSG Al Wiggins . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SGT Balinda O'Neal . . . . . 134th PAD

## Air Force Commendation Medal



TSgt Beth A. Norman . . . . . 213th SWS  
TSgt Tillman W. Stovall . . . . . 168th CF  
TSgt Ronald A. Frerichs . . . . . 168th AMXS  
Capt Dean U. Thibodeau . . . . . 168th ARS  
MSGt Erik P. Storoy . . . . . 213th SWS

## Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA Jared M. McDonald . . . . . 168th LRS  
Capt Dean U. Thibodeau . . . . . 168th ARS  
Maj Eric Budd . . . . . 176th OSS  
Capt Joshua Flye . . . . . 249th AS  
TSgt John Martin . . . . . 249th AS  
SrA Jennifer Fitzpatrick . . . . . 249th AS  
SrA Brett Laichak . . . . . 249th AS

## Alaska Legion of Merit



CSM Daniel Goodwin . . . . . 38th TC  
MSG Douglas Lee . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



LTC Wayne Hunt . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

1SG Richard Deblizan . . . . . 49TH GMD  
MSG Eric Odegaard . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MSG Christopher Simmons . . . . . 761st MP  
Lt Col Daryl Peterson . . . . . 176th WG  
SMSgt Neill James . . . . . 176th ACS  
MSGt Todd Hemmert . . . . . 176th ACS

## Alaska Air Medal



CMSgt Michael Schmidt . . . . . 211th RQS

## Alaska Commendation Medal



CPT Marvell Hawkins . . . . . 761st MP  
SFC Paul Donaldson . . . . . 49TH GMD  
SSG Jack Carlson . . . . . 49th GMD  
SPC Joshua Austin . . . . . 38th TC  
TSgt Jennifer Theulen . . . . . 176th WG

## Alaska Community Service Medal



SGT Robert Haas . . . . . 49th GMD  
SGT Juliana Jameson . . . . . 49th GMD  
SGT Shane Moore . . . . . 49th GMD



**Emergency Response Award.** Alaska Air National Guardsmen with the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center accept the 2013 Alaska Air Carriers Association Emergency Response Award in February. The RCC was recognized for its outstanding contribution to commercial aviation safety and its response to numerous aviation incidents throughout the state. From left: Robert Lewis, FAA Alaska Region administrator; Major John Morse, RCC deputy director; Master Sergeant Ken Bellamy, RCC controller; Staff Sergeant Tiffany Alexander, RCC controller; Technical Sergeant Michelle Gillett, RCC controller; Senior Master Sergeant Rob Carte, RCC superintendent; and Mike Stedman, Alaska Air Carriers Association president.

Photo: Rob Stapleton, Medallion Foundation

# PROMOTIONS

## Lieutenant Colonel

James Michael Palembas Jr. . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 Corrine F. Olivera . . . . . 176th MDG  
 Michael A. Majchrowicz . . . . . 176th MDG

## Major

Rafael Santiago Pacheco . . . . . 207th MFTR

## First Lieutenant

Amy M. Johnson . . . . . 176th MED GROUP  
 Lucas A. Hernandez . . . . . 176th OSS  
 Darryl Wilson . . . . . 176th STU FLT

## Chief Warrant Officer Four

Peter James Smith . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Chief Warrant Officer Two

Molly Marie Reque . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Moses Evan Jr. Toyukak . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Sergeant Major

Jeremy Ray Tenkley . . . . . 1-297th CAV

## Chief Master Sergeant

Chad E. Parsons . . . . . 213th SWS  
 Karl Howard . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Christopher Cosher . . . . . 176thAMXS  
 David Rodkey . . . . . 176th MXS

## First Sergeant

Jeffery Michael Alberts . . . . . 1-297th CAV  
 Arthur Scott Honea . . . . . 1-207th AVN

## Senior Master Sergeant

John P. Brunsberg . . . . . 168th LRS  
 John R. Duhaime . . . . . 168th OG  
 Christopher Gragg . . . . . 176th ACS

## Sergeant First Class

Rodney Lee Spaulding Jr. . . . . R&R  
 Blair Andrew Seward . . . . . R&R  
 Kenneth Leroy Cross . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 David Dean Dewey . . . . . 297th MP  
 Albert William Burns . . . . . 297th R&S

## Master Sergeant (Air)

Cornelius L. Mingo . . . . . 168th ARW  
 James R. Tritle . . . . . 168th LRS  
 Clinton B. Miller . . . . . 168th LRS  
 Stephen C. Proctor . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Matthew T. Sutton . . . . . 168th MSG  
 Richard M. Smith . . . . . 168th OSF  
 Terry Friend . . . . . 176th MXS  
 George Smith . . . . . 176th MXS

## Staff Sergeant (Army)

Jeffery Lee Liford . . . . . 297th BFSB  
 Robin Sharron Munnlyn . . . . . 103rd CST  
 Lina Maria Wood . . . . . 297th BFSB

John Lea Skaar . . . . . 297th BFSB  
 Nathaniel Ryan Sandback . . . . . 761st MP  
 Jason Paul Stokes . . . . . R&R  
 Eti Edward Faaaliga . . . . . R&R  
 Jonathan Michael Hillman . . . . . 1-207th AVN  
 Jordan Kirk Gray . . . . . MED DET  
 Logan Joshua Thomas . . . . . 207th BSC

## Technical Sergeant

Jeffrey M. Skaggs . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Tracy J. Tipton . . . . . 168th OSF  
 Matthew S. Markowski . . . . . 168th MXS  
 Michelle Gillett . . . . . 176th WG  
 Jonathan Bellerive . . . . . 176th OSS  
 Michael Zwiselsberger . . . . . 176th MXS

## Sergeant

Daniel Emerson Thornton . . . . . 1-143rd IN ABN

## Staff Sergeant (Air)

Julia M. Niemuth . . . . . 168th MXS  
 Marc A. Meston . . . . . 168th MXS  
 Christopher L. Moore . . . . . 168th AMXS  
 Cynthia D. Julien . . . . . 168th OSF  
 Brandon Frock . . . . . 176th MDG  
 Calvin Jaynes . . . . . 176th ACS  
 Lindsey Medinas . . . . . 176th ACS  
 Gregory Keffer . . . . . 176th SFS  
 William Forsyth III . . . . . 212th RQS

# RETIREMENTS

MSgt Robert A. Thomas . . . . . 168th MXG  
 TSgt Adam Benson . . . . . 168th MOF  
 Lt Col Stephanie C. Rowland . . . . . 168th LRS  
 MSgt Sammy M. Mabrouk . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Lt Col Mark A. Burley . . . . . 168th ARW  
 Lt Col Kevin J. Kenaston . . . . . 168th OG  
 CMSgt Paul Nunemann . . . . . 168th ARS  
 SMSgt Rebecca J. Scherich . . . . . 168th MOF  
 TSgt Beth A. Norman . . . . . 213th SWS  
 MSgt Erik P. Storoy . . . . . 213th SWS  
 MSgt Lana R. Hebert . . . . . 168th LRS  
 TSgt Duane E. Middleton . . . . . 213th SWS  
 CMSgt Catherine A. Pointer . . . . . 168th FSF  
 LTC Kevin Peterman . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 MAJ Kevin Quinn . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 LTC Wayne Hunt . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SGT Richard Brown . . . . . 49th MDB

CSM Daniel Goodwin . . . . . 297th BFSB  
 Richard Tingstad . . . . . 176th LRS  
 Michael Schmidt . . . . . 211th RQS  
 Lisa Snook . . . . . 176th ACS  
 Mary Bramer . . . . . 176th MOF  
 Richard Lewis . . . . . 176th AMXS  
 Timothy Rogers . . . . . 176th AMXS  
 Joseph Kley . . . . . 211th RQS  
 Brian Marang . . . . . 176th OSS  
 Kristian Mauk . . . . . 103rd CST  
 Michelle Balagtas . . . . . 176th HQ  
 Mark Patricks . . . . . 176th MXS  
 Jon Molt . . . . . 176th LRS  
 Ronald Kichura . . . . . 176th MDG  
 Daryl Peterson . . . . . 176th WG  
 Howard Windel . . . . . 176th MXG  
 Wayne Hughes . . . . . 176th MXS





# Start of the Trail

Welcome to our newest members & employees

## 176th Wing

Anna Greene  
 Anthony Barker  
 Benjamin B. Davis  
 Benjamin Eby  
 Calvin Jaynes  
 Christina Kisskeys  
 Christopher M. McKnight  
 Daniel Dickman  
 Elijah Tingstad  
 Heather A. Paxson  
 James Mainoffi  
 Jason L. Cameron  
 Julnudda D. Jackson  
 Ladonna M. Dean  
 Lane K. Williams  
 Lindsay Delevante  
 Matthew Coleman  
 Matthew L. Bryan  
 Michael P. Sweet  
 Miles M. Monroe

Neil Schlosser  
 Oral Scott  
 Rachel L. Dye  
 Raylene Bernotat  
 Raymond Ashcraft  
 Robert Wilton  
 Sara A. Kepler  
 Seth J. Peterson  
 Taylor Blair  
 Thomas Elliott  
 Todd Pederson  
 Willard Lee

## 168th Air Refueling Wing

Adrian R. Miller  
 Andrew W. Love  
 Casey M. Watson  
 Charles A. Raabe  
 Christina L. Stiverson  
 Clinton B. Miller  
 Cody D. Stiverson  
 Edmund J. Weatherford  
 Edward E. Hansen

Elysia M. Wilson  
 Erik A. Jerome  
 Mary Barnes-Smith  
 Nicole K. Eidson  
 Sean W. Sylvester  
 Stanislav V. Barilov  
 Willow S. Greenwell

## 1-297th Reconnaissance Surveillance

Keiran McCafferty  
 Cameron Connally  
 Samuel Vencill  
 Anthony Jannone  
 Michael Coronado  
 Nathaniel Monteith  
 Isaac Searles

## 207th Combat Support Company

Joe Reyes  
 Sean Boyle  
 Denaeuh Davis

## 761st Military Police Battalion

Vasilii Jenescu  
 Mark Marcaida

## 297th Military Police Company

Mark Jack Jr.  
 Joselito Reyes  
 Sheldon Moseley  
 Micole Candelaria  
 Cory Bryan  
 Samuel Matlock

## 207th Engineer Equipment Support Platoon

Kamealoha Kamai  
 Brianna Antonson  
 Christopher Campbell  
 James Mason Jr.  
 Ryan Thomas  
 Robert Stone

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# WARRIORS Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for most Alaska Army *and* Air National Guard units. All dates are subject to change.

Alaska National Guard	May	June	July
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	18-19	1-2	13-14*
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	18-19	6-9	No drill
Alaska Army National Guard			
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	18-19	9	No drill
38th Troop Command	17-19	8-9	No drill
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	18-19	1-2	13-14
176th Wing	18-19	1-2	13-14*
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	11-12	8-9	6-7

\*(for make up only)

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