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WARRIORS

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High Honor.
Vice President Dick Cheney pins the Bronze Star Medal with Valor onto Specialist Veronica Alfaro of the Alaska Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion. Alfaro earned the award through exceptional gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States on Jan. 15 while her unit was serving in Iraq on a six-month deployment.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard



Family Fun. Dylan Brown, 7, son of Ian Brown, a maintenance generalist with the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, enjoys a successful descent from the rock wall as Cadet Morgan Fitka from the Alaska Military Youth Academy looks on during the department's family picnic in July. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

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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 Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



Assisting Veterans and Service Members a Priority

The 2008 legislative session was a success for the administration, especially for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. You followed my efforts to keep government small and service-oriented, while at the same time giving to those in our state who deserve our support the most.

The number of veterans in the state is growing. We need to continue a comprehensive outreach program to make sure veterans are getting the medical support they need and are taking advantage of the benefits afforded to them from their service.

This session we extended the grant program to veterans service organization officers for increased outreach travel. Providing more funding will increase the travel budget for these service organization officers to reach veterans in rural parts of the state.

Veterans will have a chance to share their contact information with these service organizations through a voluntary section on the Permanent Fund Dividend application. When veterans are filling out their PFD application this winter they can choose to give their contact information to a local veterans service organization officer.

These service organizations will visit with these veterans, upon their request, and make sure the veterans are receiving all of the benefits they earned with their service in our military. This will especially help new veterans in Alaska who might not be familiar with what the state provides and how to take advantage of those opportunities.

We also recognized the importance of National Guard and Reserve members in our state by giving them free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. When I visited the Alaska Army National Guard in Kuwait in 2007, the number one thing they missed about Alaska, other than their families, was hunting, fishing and trapping.

Guard and Reserve members choose to plant roots in Alaska, but they also volunteer for our military and many times serve overseas. These residents give so much to make our community safe that making their hunting, fishing and trapping outings a little more cost-effective is just a small token of our appreciation for their service. ■

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My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



Honoring our Heroes

Pinning heroes is an honor and a privilege we see in the military. Here in the Alaska National Guard, where we have many heroes, prestigious medals and honors decorate the uniforms of many in our ranks.

The Alaska Army National Guard's B Company, 297th Support Battalion spent six months providing crucial security detail and convoy support in some of Iraq's most dangerous cities and highways. This extraordinary group of 180 Soldiers received many medals and accolades; some were recognized by Governor Sarah Palin and Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell, one Soldier was even pinned by Vice President Dick Cheney.

But aside from the awards, one specific moment stood out to me on this deployment – it was when the company was notified they would be returning home early, six months early! The unit was sandwiched between the U.S. Army deployment schedule reset and their desire to serve and defend our state and nation.

The reports I received didn't talk about celebrations and homecoming plans, the Soldiers said they wanted to stay their 12 months. In fact, half of the Soldiers in the company applied for extensions to add on to other units already in Iraq.

This was a tough mission; these Soldiers were coming under

fire every week, pulling convoy security and facing regular improvised explosive device attacks. Yet after all of this, they still wanted to serve their country and fight for what is right in Iraq. These Soldiers were seeing the difference they were making in the country, and that is what makes them heroes.

We are honoring them at home with benefits and respect.

This summer the governor signed HB 326, which pays Alaska National Guard members who are called up to fight wildfires the same amount of money as the other firefighters on the job. You see, in the past, Guard members were not paid the same as the other firefighters due to a small loophole in state statute. This session, the governor had that changed, and I am thankful for her help as our commander in chief.

The governor also took a big step to honor those military members who choose to stay in Alaska through the Guard and Reserve programs. This winter you will have the opportunity to receive free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses if you're a member in good standing. To find out how you can apply, just go to our Web site at www.dmva.alaska.gov for all of the details. This is just a small way for the State of Alaska to say, "Thank you for your service." ■



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Dispatches from the Front...



Passing of the Torch. Colonel John O. Griffin, left, shakes hands with Colonel Donald "Scott" Wenke following a change of command ceremony in April in which Wenke took command of the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force Base.

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

New 168th Wing Commander

By Major Kelly Mellard, 168th Air Refueling Wing

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing welcomed their new commander, Colonel Donald "Scott" Wenke, and said goodbye to Colonel John O. Griffin in a change of command ceremony held in April.

"The Alaska National Guard is grateful for the service and leadership Colonel Griffin has provided," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "The 168th Air Refueling Wing is a stronger unit because of him, and we thank him for helping shape one of Alaska's finest military components. We look forward to working with Colonel Wenke and expect continued strong leadership to take us into the future."

Wenke recently served as vice commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's

168th Wing. While assigned to the 168th, he served in Southwest Asia as the commander of the 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and director of the Joint Operations Center, 384th Air Expeditionary Wing, in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours of flight time, which includes 326 combat flying hours.

"I look forward to working with Colonel Wenke as the Alaska Air National Guard embarks on a new vector of future missions and takes on new challenges," said Brigadier General Deborah McManus, commander of the Alaska Air National Guard. "It's an exciting time for the Alaska Air National Guard."

The 168th Air Refueling Wing is home to more than 675 Airmen and eight KC-135R Stratotankers. ■

Seven Hunters Rescued

By Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard rescued seven hunters in the Goodnews Bay area in just one weekend in late May.

The Alaska State Troopers in Bethel were informed May 24 that there were two groups of hunters in need of assistance, but Troopers were unable to get to them because of bad weather and the specific location proved difficult to land. Troopers then requested assistance from the Alaska National Guard's Rescue Coordination Center.

"They contacted the Rescue Coordination Center, and we requested the use of the Alaska Army National Guard to rescue both groups of hunters," said Master Sergeant Sal Provenzano, of the 11th Rescue Coordination Center.

The Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Aviation out of Bethel responded with a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to locate the two groups.

"The first group of hunters had been traveling with two boats to Quinhagak when one of their boats got swamped; when the first boat got back and the second didn't come in, they knew there was a problem and notified the Alaska State Troopers," said Chief Warrant Officer Michael Edwards, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot with 207th Aviation out of Bethel. "When they were initially found by the Alaska State Troopers, they were wet, cold and hypothermic, but Troopers were able to drop some dry clothes and radios and check on their condition. They had already spent a night there and had been able to start a fire and warm up, but they felt they could not wait until a boat could pick them up."

Provenzano said that approximately 20 miles away another



Flight Crew. Alaska Army National Guardsmen with the 207th Aviation out of Bethel stand proudly atop their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that was used to rescue the seven stranded hunters from the Goodnews Bay area in May. From left: Chief Warrant Officer Three Michael Edwards, pilot; Sergeant Robert Pike, crew chief; and Captain Michele Edwards. Photo: Courtesy of 207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard

group of hunters had crossed a river and were stranded because the ice had melted. So, the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter picked them up as well and brought them back to safety and medical care in Bethel.

"I've been here for 14 years, and this is the most saves all in one shot for this type of request for assistance by the Alaska Army National Guard that I can remember," Provenzano said. "We all read about them deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq, supporting their country and the federal mission, but this is a great example of how they also support the state mission by rescuing their fellow Alaskans."

The Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Aviation out of Bethel was awarded seven saves. ■

Where in the World



Humanitarian Assistance.

The airfield at Chhnang Province, Cambodia, is teaming with Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, Alaska National Guardsmen and U.S. Air Force members in efforts to get operations underway for Pacific Angel 2008, a joint humanitarian assistance operation conducted in the Pacific. The Alaska Air National Guard C-130 was the first U.S. military aircraft to land at this countryside airfield since it was built in 1975 under the Pol Pot's regime. Photo: Technical Sergeant Tom Czerwinski, U.S. Air Force

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Medical Supplies Delivered to Cambodia

By Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...

Seventeen Guardsmen from the Alaska Air National Guard at Kulis Air National Guard Base landed in Cambodia at the end of May in support of Operation Pacific Angel.

The Guardsmen deployed to support a joint humanitarian assistance operation in the Pacific region and were the first members in a U.S. military aircraft to land at Kampong Chhnang Province Airfield, Cambodia, since the airfield was built in 1975.

"The Alaska National Guard continues to set the standard of excellence," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "As Alaskans, our Guardsmen know firsthand the importance of providing relief and assistance to those in need. It's part of our culture, and this mission further demonstrates our forces' flexibility in accomplishing multiple missions at home and around the world."

The Guardsmen delivered a 3,000-pound pallet of medical supplies to a multinational team of medical professionals who processed the supplies for movement to clinics in Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Cham Provinces. ■



Missile Interceptor. Members of the Missile Defense Agency and The Boeing Co. listen intently as Chief of General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, General Franciszek Gagor, inquires about the capabilities of the exo-atmospheric kill vehicle seen mated to the ground-based interceptor shown. Gagor visited the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely and received an overview of the ground-based midcourse defensive system similar to the proposed missile defense base in Poland.

Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



Ahead of the Pack. Alaska Air National Guard Technical Sergeant Jason De Heus, 168th Air Refueling Wing traffic manager from North Pole, keeps a steady pace in the 31st Annual Lincoln/National Guard Marathon. Photo: Major Kevin Hynes, Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs

Air Guard Returns from Kyrgyzstan

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing welcomed home deployed Guard members from Kyrgyzstan in March.

"It was with great pleasure and excitement that we welcomed home our heroes of the 168th Security Forces Squadron,"

said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "They completed a successful deployment in an austere region and served their nation and state admirably."

Thirty members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron had served at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since September 2007. Their primary mission was to provide air base ground defense to protect the installation and personnel.

This was the 168th Security Forces Squadron's second mobilization since 2001, having deployed to Qatar and



Marathon Team. Alaska Air National Guard members from the 168th Air Refueling Wing and the 176th Wing competed in the 31st Annual Lincoln/National Guard Marathon in May in Lincoln, Nebraska. From left, with respective finish times: First Lieutenant James Zwiefel (2:59:46), Technical Sergeant Jason De Heus (3:15:08), Major Paulette Goodwin (3:40:04), Senior Master Sergeant

Paul Gregory (3:47:32) and Technical Sergeant John Brunsberg (3:28:15). Zwiefel and Goodwin each earned one of 58 elite spots on the National Guard's "All Guard" Recruiting and Retention Marathon Team. Throughout the year the team will travel across the country competing in various military and civilian running events while promoting physical fitness, self-discipline and esprit de corps among National Guard members.

Photo: Courtesy of Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs



Wash Down. After surveying a terrorist cell with a clandestine laboratory during a recent exercise, Sergeant Holt Duffin, 103rd Civil Support Team gets decontaminated by Staff Sergeant Troy Godwin, also of the 103rd Civil Support Team. The scenario was part of the unit's annual training exercise in June.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Team U.S.A. The 2008 Biathlon International Brigade Ski Military Championships were held in Ruhpolding, Germany, in late February. These annual competitions are held in various European countries with a goal to strengthen and build military friendships through sports. Thirty-three biathlon and giant slalom teams from 10 different countries were in attendance for the competition. Team U.S.A., from left: Sergeant First Class Lauren Kostoff, Alaska Army National Guard; Master Sergeant Mike Zeigle, Wisconsin Army National Guard; Chief Warrant Officer Three Mike Hoffner, Oregon Army National Guard; Sergeant First Class Brian Beason, Montana Army National Guard; Sergeant Brain Letourneau, Vermont Army National Guard; and Lieutenant Colonel Matthias, interpreter from the German Army Reserve. Photo: Courtesy of Sergeant First Class Lauren Kostoff, Alaska Army National Guard

Saudi Arabia previously. It was the fifth combat deployment for the squadron since the start of the Global War on Terrorism and the second combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. ■

Hawaiians Help 103rd CST Hone Skills

By Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

WASILLA, Alaska ... To hone the skills of the Alaska National Guard's 103rd

Summer 2008 • WARRIORS

Civil Support Team, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Training and Readiness Division from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, came to Alaska to assist in an annual training exercise in June.

"The exercise entailed us setting up some form of terrorist activity involving a chemical, biological or radiological terroristic event," said Ray Toves, director for the Weapons of Mass Destruction Training and Readiness Division, Fort Shafter, Hawaii. "We do this to help the Soldiers sustain their current training level because they can be called at any given time here in the state of Alaska to do

their job, and they need to be proficient at it."

For the Soldiers and Airmen of the 103rd Civil Support Team, every mission is unique; they never know exactly what kind of laboratory they might be entering, and until they are able to determine that, the sites are classified as "clandestine labs."

"We classify these sites as clandestine labs, because we don't know what they are, if it's biological, chemical or even if there are explosives being made. They could also be making methamphetamines, which is something they make in Wasilla a lot," said First Sergeant Eric Schlemme, 103rd CST. "We don't go in with any assumptions; we look for clues, we take a lot of pictures and bring them

back to have our medical and analytical guys take a look and determine what they think it is."

Civil Support Teams throughout the nation are unique because they must be certified and recertified by the Secretary of Defense to continue to perform their mission. This makes training extremely important because it's vital that it resembles real-world scenarios so they are prepared for any situation.

"This is exactly what we'd do in a real-world mission," said Peterman. "For us this is as close as it gets to the real thing." ■

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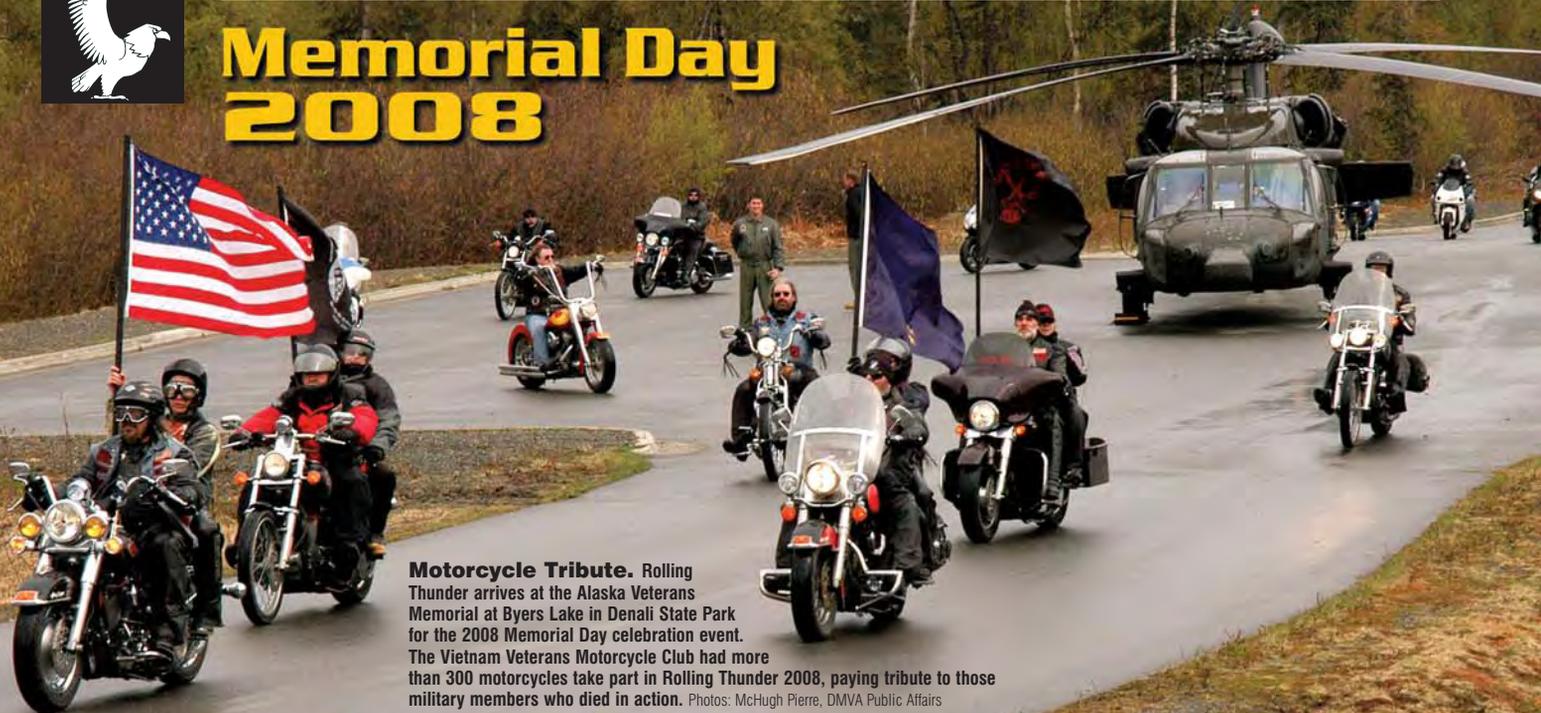
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Veterans

Memorial Day 2008



Motorcycle Tribute. Rolling Thunder arrives at the Alaska Veterans Memorial at Byers Lake in Denali State Park for the 2008 Memorial Day celebration event. The Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club had more than 300 motorcycles take part in Rolling Thunder 2008, paying tribute to those military members who died in action. Photos: McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs



Important Messages. Major General Craig E. Campbell, left, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, stands with Brigadier General Tom Tinsley, 3rd Wing Commander at Elmendorf Air Force Base, while a veteran speaks at the Memorial Day event at the Alaska Veterans Memorial at Byers Lake in Denali State Park.



Honoring the Fallen. Fred "Bulldog" Becker, of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, addresses the 400 people attending the Memorial Day event at the Alaska Veterans Memorial at Byers Lake in Denali State Park. More than 300 motorcyclists rode together to honor military service members who fell during battle.

Veterans Service Grant Increases

By McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs

The State of Alaska is increasing the grant money given to the veteran service organizations for outreach to rural veterans. Governor Sarah Palin signed both the state operating budget and the state capital budget into law at the end of May approving the \$30,000 dollar grant to veterans service organizations.

Congressionally sanctioned veterans service organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, are key elements for getting the word out to local veterans about changes in benefits, health care issues and social opportunities in the community.

Outreach is exceptionally important because many veterans live away from the urban centers of Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. It takes resources beyond what is normally allocated by the federal government to reach these veterans who live in remote parts of Alaska.

This grant money will go from the service organizations to the outreach officers to support their travel efforts. These officers respond to queries made from veterans who are looking for help. Many veterans reach out to someone in hopes of finding assistance, and this money will get these veterans that assistance. ■

TRANSFORMATION

Enhances Opportunities, Relevance



New Guard Era. During the Alaska Army National Guard transformation ceremony, Soldiers of the 207th Infantry Group (Scout) salute before their unit's colors are cased, signifying the transition of Soldiers from the 207th Infantry Group (Scout) to the provisional 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Scout) and 38th Troop Command.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

By Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... After several years of coordination and planning, the Alaska Army National Guard began its transformation into a new Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and Troop Command in order to be more relevant to today's military as well as the state of Alaska.

In line with changes throughout the National Guard, the Alaska Army National Guard started the transformation to a new force structure and new equipment. The transformation is scheduled to be complete this fall.

Soldiers assembled in mid-April to mark the ceremonial casing of colors for the 207th Infantry Group (Scout) and the transfer of Soldiers to the new 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Scout) and 38th Troop Command.

"We are becoming a modernized resource that is best prepared to secure the state and defend the nation," said Brigadier General Thomas Katkus, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard. "The transformation provides us with relevant and recognizable formations that are common across the full spectrum of war fighting requirements."

The 297th BFSB (Scout) will encompass counterintelligence, long range surveillance and tactical exploitation of national capabilities. The 38th Troop Command will include the public affairs detachment, civil support team, contingency contracting team,

regional training institute, ground-based midcourse missile defense battalion, military police battalion, aviation battalion, recruiting and retention command, medical command and an air-borne infantry company.

"This makes it so we are able to do the things necessary to complete our mission and provide opportunities for Soldiers to do and see other things within the organization," said Colonel Antonio C. Shumate, commander of the 38th Troop Command.

Through this transformation the Guard will enhance Soldiers' opportunities for career advancement as cavalry scouts, air defenders, military police, military intelligence and communications.

"Many of the Soldiers will have to be retrained from infantry in order to meet the requirements of the new units," said Command Sergeant Major Brad J. Quigley, 49th Missile Defense Battalion.

Quigley stressed the importance of informing Soldiers that "no one will lose their status as a Guard member but many of them will have to retrain."

A major impact in the restructuring of the Alaska Army National Guard is the new career options it opens to women who are serving or want to serve in the Guard.

"Converting from a strong infantry group to one with a large military police unit means that the opportunities for women will increase significantly," said Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Seine, 38th Troop Command executive officer.

The goal of the transformation is to keep the Alaska Guard relevant to national defense, bring in new units and equipment to further improve the state emergency response and community support capabilities, and also create new positions with job skills applicable to civilian careers.

"With this restructuring it may appear that we are decreasing our presence in some of the outlying communities. The reality is we are opening up more opportunities in all of our Alaska communities," said Command Sergeant Major Mallie C. Hall, 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Scout). ■



New Equipment. Specialist James Bates, a military police officer with A Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion out of Fort Greely, sits in the turret of an 1151 up-armored Humvee, fitted with an M-240B machine gun. This Humvee is new equipment allocated to the 38th Troop Command and is equipped with a fire suppression system, electrical turrets and doors that can stop improvised explosive devices.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Joint Forces

Ready to Serve



Governor Signs Bills Benefitting Alaska Guardsmen

By Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Governor Sarah Palin signed House Bill 326 and Senate Bill 214 to show the state's appreciation to Alaska's military families at a ceremony held in June on the banks of Ship Creek in Anchorage.

"Our military families are incredibly important to Alaska and make up a large percentage of the population," Palin said. "We appreciate our service members every day, and today, we honor them by signing two exciting new bills into law."

House Bill 326 deals with National Guard members who work alongside firefighters from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to provide wildfire assistance.

"I am very proud of the hard work that Alaska's Soldiers and Airmen do to protect our state during the most extreme conditions," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. "The governor fully appreciates what you do every day and the Legislature shares her appreciation as evidenced with the signing of these two bills."

For years, Guard members have been called up to assist during the dangerous fire season and received state active duty pay, which is one quarter to half the amount of what other firefighters doing the same job are paid.

"They consistently give their best to us when we need their skills and abilities, and they deserve the best from us," said Tom

Irwin, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. "This bill will allow us to do just that."

This summer Alaska National Guard members fighting wildfires will earn full emergency firefighter pay for their efforts to protect Alaskan lives and property.

Senate Bill 214 allows Alaska residents who serve in the Guard and Reserve, who are members in good standing, to receive free hunting, trapping and fishing licenses beginning Jan. 1, 2009. Active-duty military members stationed in Alaska will be offered hunting, trapping and fishing licenses at resident rates.

While visiting with Soldiers deployed in Iraq, the governor was moved by the fact that the two things they missed the most, other than their families, were hunting and fishing in Alaska.

"I made the commitment to them that I would work to get hunting and fishing added as a benefit to serving," Palin said. "Today that commitment has become law." ■

Supporting Service Members. (Photo above.) In front of several Alaska National Guardsmen and with the support of Representative Nancy Dahlstrom; Major General Craig E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, and Tom Irwin, (not pictured), commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, Governor Sarah Palin signs Senate Bill 214 at Ship Creek in June. Senate Bill 214 allows military personnel stationed in Alaska and serving in any National Guard or Reserve to receive free or reduced Alaska hunting, fishing and trapping licenses effective Jan. 1, 2009. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Tsunami Ready

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

VALDEZ, Alaska ... A siren sounds in the distance. People stop what they are doing and begin to move with a sense of urgency. Crowded vehicles and people on foot make a hasty retreat away from the coast.

Clearly posted Tsunami Evacuation Route signs guide the withdrawal.

In a few short minutes, the people are safe thanks to the Tsunami Ready program.

The city of Valdez became the fifth Alaskan community certified Tsunami Ready on May 19. Valdez used the scientific expertise of the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center along with the emergency management experience of the Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management to meet the National Weather Service Tsunami Ready requirements. Among the criteria set by the National Weather Service are a tsunami educational program, designated evacuation routes/centers and a tsunami warning system.

"In addition to disaster preparedness programs such as Tsunami Ready, we have relied on DHS&EM assistance and information during many disasters," said Valdez Fire Chief George Keeney. "We have worked very closely with them in the past and will continue to cooperate in the future."

A city's tsunami warning system is activated when the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center sends the community a tsunami alert or when local officials determine that evacuation is necessary. DHS&EM assisted the city of Valdez with the purchase and installation of the signs and sirens necessary for Tsunami Ready certification.

"The education element is the key to the Tsunami Ready program," said Ervin Petty of DHS&EM. "All the signs and sirens in the world won't make much difference if people do not know what to do and when to do it."

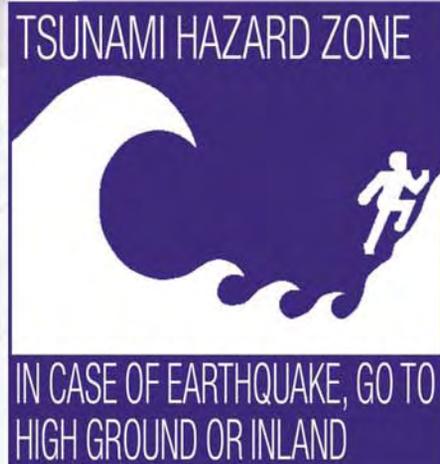
The 1964 Good Friday earthquake was the strongest quake ever recorded in North America, and sadly illustrated the need for tsunami preparedness in Alaska. The 1964 earthquake caused 115 deaths in Alaska. One hundred six of those deaths were due to tsunamis generated by tectonic uplift of the sea floor and by localized landslides.

A tsunami generated by a tectonic uplift has tremendous energy and can travel long distances. The 1964 Alaskan earthquake generated a tsunami that hit Alaska and traveled more than 1,600 miles, killing 11 people in Crescent City, Calif. The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center has the ability to detect these types of tsunamis and then alert the vulnerable communities, sometimes hours in advance.

Local tsunamis happen when large pieces of earth are shook free during an earthquake. The movement of material into and through the water generates a local tsunami. During the 1964 earthquake, all of the tsunamis that struck Valdez were locally generated. Valdez lost 32 people and sustained \$15 million in damages.

"If the earth shakes violently for more than 30 seconds everyone in a tsunami-vulnerable area should head to higher ground," said John Madden, DHS&EM director. "Local tsunamis can strike with such speed that local emergency managers may not have time to activate the warning system. People should recognize the danger and act accordingly."

The vast shoreline, steep ocean-side mountains and regular tectonic activity make Alaska one of the most tsunami-vulnerable states in the country. In Valdez, the people are safer thanks to the efforts of local, state and federal agencies. The Tsunami Ready program goes beyond a basic alert system – it empowers the entire community to take an active role in its own survival. ■



Good Friday Quake Aftermath.

The 1964 earthquake generated a tsunami that hit Valdez with tremendous force. A large part of the city was either completely destroyed or buried in debris.

Photo: Courtesy of University of Alaska Fairbanks





Preparing for Disaster. Representatives from the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, National Weather Service and city of Valdez met in May at the Valdez Museum Annex for the Tsunami Ready Recognition ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Mark Roberts, Sam Albanese, John Madden, John Hozey, Ervin Petty, Laura Furgione, Robert Hopkins, Paul Whitmore, Debra Elliot and George Keeney. Photo: Audrey Rubel, National Weather Service

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Heroes. Nearly 180 Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard's B Company, 297th Support Battalion stood in formation during the official welcome home ceremony, after returning from a successful six-month deployment as security forces based out of Camp Anaconda, Iraq. Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

ARMY GUARD

COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL SECURITY MISSION

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Nearly 180 Soldiers with the Alaska Army National Guard have successfully completed a six-month deployment to Iraq.

Guard members from B Company, 297th Support Battalion returned to Alaska in April after serving as security forces based out of Camp Anaconda, Iraq, since October 2007.

"These Soldiers faced a tough enemy with courage and determination," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "Our Guard members had the difficult and dangerous mission of providing convoy and route security, in addition to their other security forces duties; we are proud that they returned home safe and victorious."

The Soldiers of the 297th Support Battalion were mobilized for active duty at the end of August 2007. They hail primarily from South-central Alaska, although most regions of the state



Welcome Home Hugs. Private First Class Michelle Jennings, B Company, 297th Support Battalion is rushed by her kids Zeimaurion Fleming, 10, and Malajah Jennings, 4, at the Alaska National Guard Armory. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Mini Me. Corporal Nick Phillips, B Company, 297th Support Battalion gets a hug from his brother, Jack Newell, 7, after the welcome home ceremony that was held at the Alaska National Guard Armory. Phillips served as a truck commander during his six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

are represented by unit members. They spent two months training at Fort Richardson in preparation for the deployment to Iraq.

“We executed our security mission effectively and efficiently while we were deployed to Iraq, despite attempts by the enemy to counter our productiveness,” said Captain Joshua Shrader, commander of B Company, 297th Support Battalion. “We encountered numerous improvised explosive devices and enemy fire while on missions, but our training, skill level and the caliber of our Soldiers were no match for the enemy; we are returning to Alaska with success and the knowledge that we helped keep U.S. and Coalition Forces safe while we were there.”

The unit was recognized for exceptional service while deployed. So far, unit members have received four Bronze Stars for Valor, 21 Bronze Stars for Service, two Army Commendation Medals for Valor, 62 Army Commendation Medals for Service, six Purple Hearts, 79 Army Achievement Medals for Service, 31 Combat Action Badges and four Combat Infantry Badges. ■



Perfect Timing. Nanwalek resident, Private First Class Elias Kvasnikoff, second from left, is surrounded by his siblings at the National Guard Armory after serving six months with the Alaska Army National Guard’s B Company, 297th Support Battalion in Iraq. His siblings (from left: Tammy, Annastasia and Connan Kvasnikoff) said they look forward to having him home in time to help with subsistence hunting and fishing.

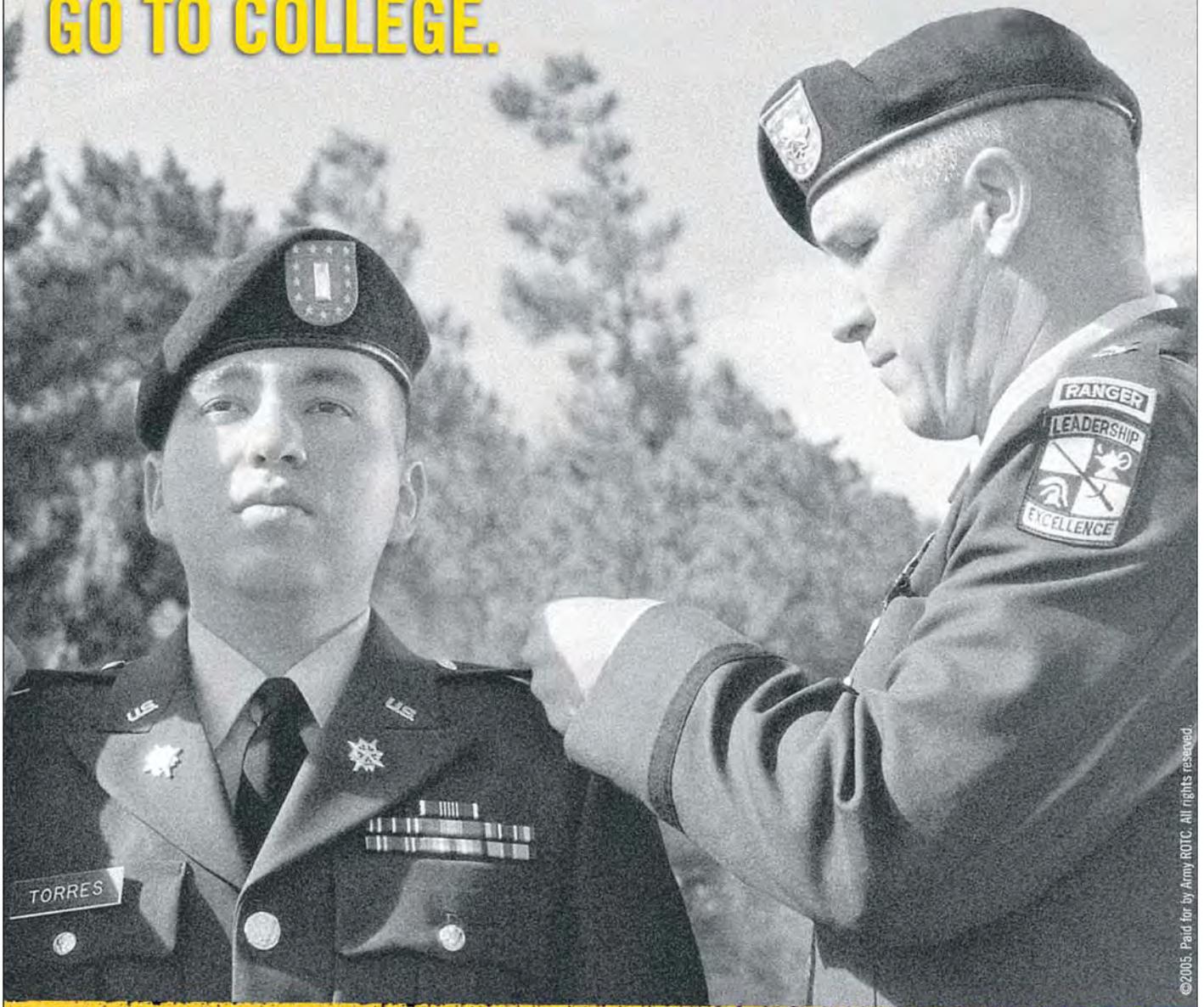
Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs



With Appreciation. Governor Sarah Palin shakes hands with Corporal Ben Chapman, of Fairbanks, prior to the official welcome home ceremony for the Alaska Army National Guard’s B Company, 297th Support Battalion. The governor gave letters of appreciation to several Soldiers who were awarded Bronze Stars with Valor and Purple Hearts. While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Chapman acted as lead truck commander for 1st Platoon.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

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Employers Honored for Extraordinary Support

By Jamie Abordonado, ESGR

KENAI, Alaska ... The Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, honored Jon Bartelds from Crowley Maritime Corp. and John Rafferty from BJ Services at the Kenai Freedom Salute in June with the ESGR “My Boss is a Patriot” award in recognition of extraordinary support of their employees who serve in the Alaska National Guard and Reserve.

According to Michael Machulsky, ESGR Alaska chairman, “The ESGR ‘My Boss is a Patriot’ award was created to publicly recognize American employers who provide extraordinary patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the Minutemen before them, have answered their nation’s call to serve. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation’s National Guard and Reserve units.”

Soldotna Mayor Dave Carey was presented with the Seven Seals Award, symbolizing his support to all service men and women from each branch of service here in Alaska.

As the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions within America’s borders and beyond, ESGR will continue to be the resource for employers of America’s new Minutemen. ESGR provides education, consultation and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ■



Supporting Service Members.

Michael Machulsky, right, Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state chairman, presented Soldotna Mayor Dave Carey the Seven Seals Award for his development of the “Red, White and Blue” letter-writing campaign during the Alaska Army National Guard Freedom Salute. The campaign supports deployed Kenai Peninsula service members from every branch of the military by sending care packages and letters.

Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs



Outstanding Support. Richard Fitzwater, left, of the 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, thanks his supervisor, Robert Molloy, of the Federal Aviation Administration Western Service Area for his support during Fitzwater’s deployment to Afghanistan. Molloy was presented with the My Boss is a Patriot award in April. Fitzwater said, “Molloy continuously places the needs of his country and organization ahead of his personal convenience ... his actions show his support for the Air National Guard and its members.”

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

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Operation Enduring Freedom

Story by Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs. Photos by Lieutenant Colonel Timothy O'Brien, 210th Squadron Commander

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... Members of the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base have been supporting combat search and rescue missions in Afghanistan since January as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Combat search and rescue missions are critical to ensuring American troops come home safely,” said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “Our Airmen are experienced and trained to save lives in the most difficult of situations. They are true professionals who epitomize the rescue motto, ‘These things we do that others may live.’”

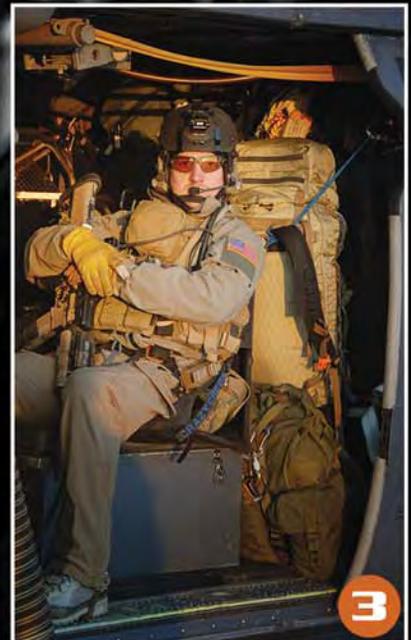
Guard members from the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, the 176th Maintenance Group and the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron have been on rotating deployments for approximately 60 days to Afghanistan. They are part of the overall rescue deployment to Bagram Air Base that the 176th Wing is fulfilling.

The Airmen rotate in and out of Afghanistan every two months or so, and at any given time there are about 65 Guard members from the 176th Wing deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism there.

“The Airmen of the 176th Wing continue to step up and support operations world wide,” said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “We are proud of our Guard members and their continued success in missions overseas.” ■



In Control. Captain Brian Kile, with the Rescue Coordination Center, sits in the pilot's seat ready to lead the next mission over the Afghanistan desert.



1 - Scanning the Scene. An aerial gunner with the 210th Rescue Squadron, Staff Sergeant Edward Bos, scans the desert scene.

2 - Desert Gunner. Technical Sergeant Andre Marron, an aerial gunner with the 210th Rescue Squadron peers out the window of a combat helicopter during a mission in Afghanistan.

3 - Mission Ready. Technical Sergeant Brandon Stuemke, a pararescueman with the 212th Rescue Squadron, sits ready for the mission in Afghanistan.

4 - Sunset Training. An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crew from the 210th Rescue Squadron conducts a stoke-litter training on a frosty Afghanistan day with pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron.

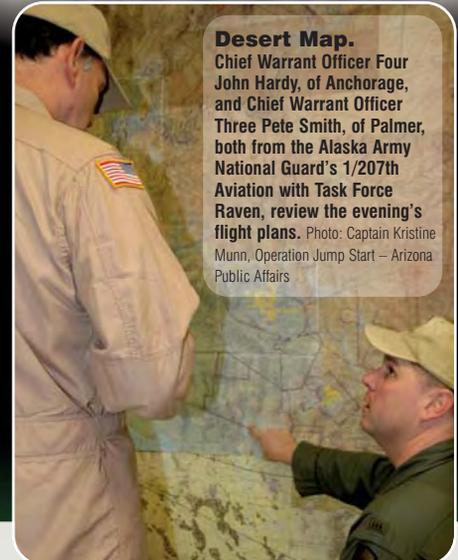


Aviators Head South to Secure Border



Night Vision. Sergeant Ray Parker, of Nome, with the Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation, monitors a forward looking infrared screen assisting agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol track a group of suspected undocumented aliens.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Benjamin Cossel, Operation Jump Start – Arizona Public Affairs



Desert Map.

Chief Warrant Officer Four John Hardy, of Anchorage, and Chief Warrant Officer Three Pete Smith, of Palmer, both from the Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation with Task Force Raven, review the evening's flight plans. Photo: Captain Kristine Munn, Operation Jump Start – Arizona Public Affairs

Task Force Raven is the aviation component of Operation Jump Start in Arizona, the two-year, presidentially-mandated mission aiding U.S. Customs and Border Protection in securing the U.S./Mexico border. A contingent from the Alaska Army National Guard has, on several occasions, provided crews and specially equipped UH-60 Black Hawks to support the OJS mission. This is an excerpt from a layman's account of one such mission.

By Captain Kristine Munn, Operation Jump Start – Arizona Public Affairs

You learn a lot during a seven-hour flight on a helicopter – especially when that flight takes place on a uniquely equipped UH-60 Black Hawk supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection on the U.S./Mexico border ... at night.

Task Force Raven, the aviation element of Operation Jump Start, provides ongoing reconnaissance, observation and utility aviation support to CBP in Arizona's Tucson and Yuma sectors. Their mission includes assisting in the interdiction and apprehension of undocumented aliens and illicit drugs, providing search and rescue capabilities, and offering utility helicopter support such as troop movement and aerial sling load.

Our "day" begins at 9 p.m. Nearly every mission I fly with Task Force Raven seems to start at an unusual hour, and for anyone who's not used to it, there's just something odd about getting ready for work after dinner.

It's a comfortable evening in late February as we prepare for the mission, and although a typical workday is about eight hours, the thought of that much time in a helicopter is a somewhat formidable notion. Then, one of the pilots asks if I brought anything warm to wear. Ha!

On this night, we would provide aerial assistance to Border Patrol agents working on the ground to track and apprehend illegal crossers. The helicopters from Alaska are equipped with a forward looking infrared system, and when combined

with night vision goggles, we're literally able to see in the dark.

The clarity, perspective and detail with which night vision goggles allow you to see is pure scientific magic. It's almost like looking at the world through green tinted glasses on an overcast day.

Things start happening fast. Soon after takeoff, CBP requests our assistance finding a group of illegals that have crossed north of the border near Sasabe. The crew's energy is apparent as "Raven 66" springs into action and heads fervently for the area coordinates. Within minutes, we're hovering over the site and a Border Patrol agent on the ground is guiding us to the last known location of the undocumented aliens.

After a quick search, the FLIR system targets in on a group of eight suspected aliens holed up under a bunch of trees. Suddenly, roles reverse as the aircrew now directs an agent toward the group, literally telling him to walk left then "over to the big tree on the right," where the last undocumented alien is doing his best to blend in with the desert's darkness to no avail. There's no hiding from the "eye in the sky." The agents thank Raven for the help, and it's on to the next venture.

Tonight's mission actually includes two Task Force Raven helicopters. It's a busy night as usual for the Border Patrol, and on our way to pick up where the other crew left off, we're diverted by CBP to find a group of 17.

In the same radio breath, CBP adds a third request. With complete courtesy and professionalism, the pilot asks which request of the three requests we should tend to first. There's a chuckle through the radio waves and CBP sends us to the one that's been pending the longest.

Arriving at a location recently vacated by our "sister ship," we establish contact with the Border Patrol agent working the area, and flip the switch on the FLIR – scanning left and right, zooming in and out, and using different variants of the infrared imaging. A few minutes go by with nothing, then a few more, and a few more after that ... still nothing.

It's 3:30 a.m., and we've been surveying the same area for more than two hours. While the agents on the ground are tracking the group using a technique called sign cutting, the lively banter of the aircrew has dissolved into sparse, sporadic small talk. Finally, after apologizing for the disappointing outcome, the agents call off the search. As the crew says farewell and decides to return to base, it's obvious that there is a tremendous amount of mutual respect between the Border Patrol agents and the Guardsmen of Task Force Raven.

I too have an immense admiration for the men and women of the Border Patrol as well as a newfound esteem for the Guardsmen of Task Force Raven. I'm exhausted and, for all intents and purposes, wasn't even doing any of the work. ■

Guard Member Honored for Outstanding Volunteer Service

By Second Lieutenant Christopher Perham, 176th Air Control Squadron



Tax Relief. Master Sergeant Nance Pitts, 176th Air Control Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, assists Technical Sergeant Aaron Pflcock with his taxes. This year Pitts personally conducted 75 reviews and prepared 60 tax returns, yielding more than \$120,000 in tax refunds for others. Photo: Second Lieutenant Christopher Perham, 176th Air Control Squadron

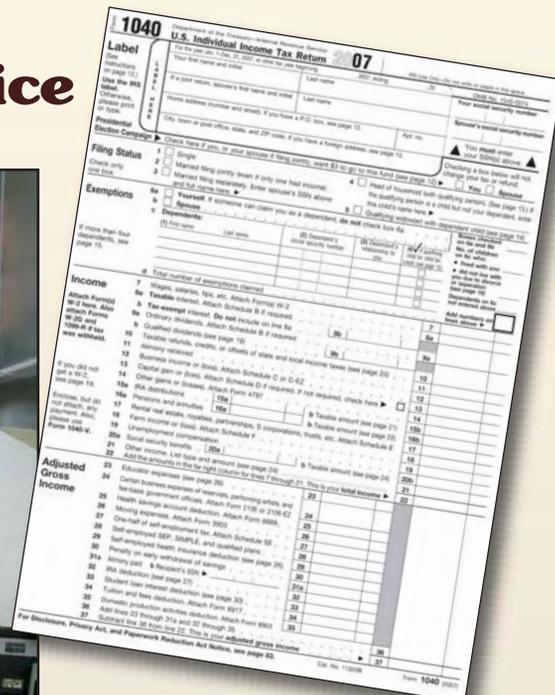
When Master Sergeant Nance Pitts moved to Alaska in 2000, she never dreamed she would have made such an impact on the Elmendorf community throughout the next eight years. As an Active Guard Reserve member with the 176th Air Control Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, Pitts juggles her time between family, work and school. For most Guard members that leaves little personal time, let alone time for community service.

Yet when tax time rolls around, she can be found poring over W-2s and tax documents, assisting military members, dependents and civilians, all working toward that April 15 tax deadline.

Brigadier General Thomas Tinsley, 3rd Wing commander, recently recognized Pitts, along with several others, for their outstanding service to the Elmendorf community during the 2007 tax season. She was one of a handful of volunteers who contributed to nearly a quarter of a million dollars saved in preparation fees, leading to the recovery of more than \$2.5 million in refunds.

"I saw an opportunity to get involved with the community here and have been doing this ever since," Pitts said.

This year Pitts personally conducted 75 reviews and prepared 60 tax returns. Throughout the 50-plus hours she spent, she saved \$12,100 in preparation fees and helped recover \$120,000 in tax refunds. Last year, she spent more than 135 hours



preparing 83 returns.

Pitts has been in the Air Force for more than 19 years, with nearly five with the Air National Guard. She is a shift supervisor in the squadron's Computer Maintenance Flight. She transferred to Anchorage in 2000 with her husband, Lee, and three children. They adopted another child two years later. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Software Engineering and will be graduating from Colorado Technical University in December, boasting a 3.76 grade-point average.

"Nance has blended her 'citizen-warrior' role perfectly," said Major Gordon Birdsall, commander of the Computer Maintenance Flight. And while her springtime activities can be taxing on her personal life, she has no plans to stop volunteering her time. Come tax time, she can be found doing what she loves – helping others. ■



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Family Support

Yellow Ribbon Program

By Kimberly Leary, Family Programs

The Yellow Ribbon Program, mandated by the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, is designed specifically for the National Guard and Reserve forces.

This support program provides a proactive approach for continued care for service members and their families throughout the entire cycle of deployment, and ensures proper care and services are provided in order to support as normal a life as possible.

The Yellow Ribbon Program places a high priority on utilizing partnerships with various veteran service organizations. Those groups include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and AMVETS, as well as partnerships with family organizations, such as 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the National Military Family Association.

The primary features of this program are the 30-day, 60-day and 90-day reintegration activities held following demobilization. These activities shall focus on reconnecting service members and their families with the service providers introduced during pre-deployment trainings and other pre-mobilization events. It's all to ensure that service members and their families understand what benefits they are entitled to and what resources are available to help them overcome the challenges of reintegration.

The reintegration activities shall also provide a forum for service members and their families to address negative behaviors related to combat stress and transition.

For more information on the Yellow Ribbon Program, or about other programs supported through the Alaska National Guard Family Programs office, please call your local Family Assistance Center at one of the following locations:

- Anchorage (907) 428-6663
- Toll Free. (888) 917-3608
- Bethel (907) 543-2759
- Clear (907) 585-6225
- Eielson (907) 377-8715
- Fairbanks (907) 590-7201
- Fort Greely (907) 873-4907
- Juneau (907) 465-1351
- Kulis (907) 249-1130
- Nome (907) 443-6263

As part of this program, education will be provided on a variety of assistance and services. Those include:

- marriage counseling
- services for children
- suicide prevention
- substance abuse awareness and treatment
- mental health awareness and treatment
- financial counseling
- anger management counseling
- domestic violence awareness and prevention
- employment assistance
- preparation and updates for family care plans
- development of strategies for living with a member of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury
- other services that may be appropriate to address the unique needs of members of the Armed Forces and their families who live in rural areas



Wal-Mart Presents \$5,000 Check



A Helping Hand. Marty Howard, Dimond Wal-Mart manager, along with Dimond Wal-Mart co-managers Larissa Tapia and Ferdinand Dominic present a \$5,000 check to Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and Technical Sergeant Jason Johnson, Alaska National Guard Family Programs assistant. The check was put toward the "Friends of the Guard and Reserve," a program set up to help service members and their families in need. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Missile Defense

MOTORCYCLES FUN NOT FATAL

By Captain Timothy M. Brower, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

This year Soldiers at Fort Greely have committed to operating their bikes safely so that motorcycles remain fun, not fatal this season.

Back in late March, motorcycle enthusiasts from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely joined together to sign the Battalion's Motorcycle Safety Agreement and Rider's Covenant. All Soldiers in the unit who own and operate a motorcycle – 19 total – signed the covenant.

As part of the covenant, Soldiers agree to wear the following:

- 1) A Department of Transportation approved motorcycle safety helmet and eye protection
- 2) Long sleeve shirt or jacket
- 3) Long sturdy pants
- 4) Sturdy boots or over the ankle footwear
- 5) Full fingered gloves
- 6) Brightly colored outer upper garment

Additionally, Soldiers agreed to complete the Army approved Motorcycle Safety Course.

Commenting on the training, Lieutenant Colonel Ted Hildreth, commander of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, explained, "I wanted to personalize motorcycle safety with my Soldiers. We expect and they deliver sound decision making on the Missile Defense Complex every day – that's what I want them to apply to motorcycle safety. Wear the right gear, certify on the bike they own and take care of one another when they are riding together." ■



Preparing for Summer Safety. Motorcycle enthusiasts from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion celebrate signing the Battalion's Motorcycle Safety Agreement and Rider's Covenant.

Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



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Top Honors. These Cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy took first place in the small schools division in the 23rd Annual GCI Alaska Academic Decathlon in March. The Alaska Military Youth Academy has entered this competition four times throughout the years and placed first all four times. Pictured, from left: Top row - Cadet Kody Lafond, Cadet Ryan Joe, Cadet Conrado Walsh, Cadet Billy Miller Jr., Cadet Steven Kershner; Middle Row - Cadet Arin Hanohano, general studies teacher Mark Balts, English and reading teacher Chana Boyko, Cadet Devin-Paul Wright, Cadet Mikel Insalaco; Front Row - Cadet David Espinal, Cadet Tabitha Parson, Cadet Tyler Peterson. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

Air National Guard Breaks Ground

By Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing held a historic ground breaking ceremony in June on Elmendorf Air Force Base signifying the move of Air National Guard assets from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Elmendorf by 2011.

"You are witnessing the birth of a new Alaska National Guard with a more relevant, more vibrant and more ready total force," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "The only way we survive as a National Guard, active duty Air Force and Reserve in the future is as one team."

The move to Elmendorf is a Base Realignment and Closure success story which allows the 176th Air National Guard Wing to grow, remain a vital part of the Alaska National Guard and join forces with active duty and reserve Air Force components.

"Fifty years ago Alaska became a state and today we see the total force we've been talking about," said U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. "Congratulations to all of you for being a part of it."

In 2005, the Department of Defense recommended to close Kulis Air National Guard Base and relocate the 176th Wing and associated aircraft to Elmendorf Air Force Base. The move, which is estimated to save the Department of Defense \$146.7 million over the next 20 years, consolidates two installations, reduces infrastructure and retains the skilled, highly trained Alaska National Guard personnel. ■



Historic Day. Distinguished officials ceremoniously break ground on the Elmendorf Air Force Base construction site that will be the new home to the 176th Alaska Air National Guard Wing.

From left: Brigadier General Thomas Tinsley, Elmendorf Air Force Base 3rd Wing commander; Brigadier General Tony Hart, Kulis Air National Guard Base 176th Wing commander; General Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler, Pacific Air Forces commander; U.S. Senator Ted Stevens; Major General Craig E. Campbell, Alaska National Guard adjutant general; Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell; Senior Airman Charity Orriss, Airman of the Year, 212th Rescue Squadron; Bud Alto, CH2M Hill; and Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, Alaskan Command commander. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs



Who We Are...

What is your favorite Alaska food?

Lieutenant Colonel Tracy Smith
168th Air Refueling Wing



"Alaska blueberries made into a blueberry cake with an old family recipe of my husband's Aunt Betty."

Specialist Sarah Ingram
1/207th Aviation
Alaska Army National Guard



"My favorite Alaskan food is Alaskan King Crab."

Corporal Steven Powell
Bravo Company,
3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



"Halibut baked on onions and lightly seasoned with a white wine and butter sauce."

Lonnie Leibbrand
DMVA
Data Processing Manager



"I love fishing on the Copper River, and my favorite Alaska food is a grilled red salmon, caught fresh from my secret Chitna dip netting spot."

Captain Marvell Hawkins
297th Military Police Company



"Fresh caught shrimp, grilled and served in a shrimp linguini."

DMVA Denali Peak Performance Award Winners

Story and photo by McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The employees at the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs serve selflessly every day of the year. There are some who make outstanding choices to provide extremely good service to Alaskans, and they have been recognized by Governor Sarah Palin with a Denali Peak Performance Award.

"I am proud to see those who give their life to serving Alaskans recognized with this award," Palin said.

Nora Firmin, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, received the award for Customer Service Excellence, one of the top awards in state government.

Jerry Beale, state veterans administrator, received the DMVA Co-Worker award and received the honorable mention from Palin at the governor's award level.

Larry Harrison, Army Guard Facilities Maintenance office, received the Denali Peak Performance Award for exceptional coordination of projects across the state.

The Alaska Territorial Guard team was acknowledged with a Denali Peak Performance Award for submitting more than 1,000 applications for official discharge certificates in the last calendar year. The team consists of Jerry Beale, Jerry Walton and Jeanie Gusty.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's dining hall staff was awarded the Denali Peak Performance Award for Customer Service Excellence. They have provided at-risk youth with nourishing meals in a very professional and mentoring manner.

"Too often we forget about those who give their careers to local and state government service," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. "These awards are a special honor by the governor and are held in high esteem by the department." ■



Customer Service Excellence. Major General Craig E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, presents the Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award for Customer Service Excellence to Nora Firmin, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.



Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Meritorious Service Medal



Lt Col John G. Hilgenbrink168th OSF
 Maj Deborah A. Garrett168th LRS
 Col Thomas R. Bird168th MDG
 Col Donald S. Wenke168th ARW
 Lt Col John D. Davis213th SWS
 Lt Col Martine M. Pommenville168th ARW
 Maj Edward F. Borneo168th ARW
 Maj Stephanie C. Rowland168th OSF
 CMSgt Todd A. Cook168th ARS
 MSgt Teresa M. Renson168th ARW
 MSgt Bryan K. Hailey168th SWS
 Lt Col Troy R. Dunn168th ARS
 Maj Carl R. Alvarez168th SFS
 CMSgt Stephen C. Fuller168th ARW
 MSgt Andrew G. Brady213th SWS
 LtCol John K. Jacobs176th OG
 LtCol Phillip L. Resseguie176th WG
 LtCol Andrew J. Mamrol176th CE
 Maj Edward M. Soto176th CE
 Maj Thornton176th ACS
 Capt Rebecca S. King176th WG
 CMSgt James M. Ebelacker176th MDG
 MSgt Nathaniel L. McElroy176th ACS
 MSgt Sonny W. Dean176th ACS
 MSgt William E. Beltzer176th ACS
 MSgt Stephen G. Weyrick176th ACS
 MSgt Debra A. Hall176th WG
 MSgt Barbara Jackson176th CE
 MSgt Lyn Garrett176th WG
 MSgt Geraldine C. Kile176th MDG
 TSgt Tammie N. Pennywell144th AS
 MAJ Joseph L. MileyJFHQ-AK (Army)
 MAJ Richard Mauser207th Bde

Army Commendation Medal



SPC Samantha Dehling49th MDB

SSG Christopher Fillman207th Avn
 SFC Lauren Kostoff49th MDB
 SGT Katja Paul49th MDB
 SGT Seth Paul49th MDB
 CPT Jesse Schexnayder49th MDB
 SGT Joshua WhiteJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG Donald Reeder49th MDB
 SSG Eric MaschmeierMed Det
 MAJ James Palembang207th Bde

Air Force Commendation Medal



TSgt Dakonya L. Smith168th MSG
 TSgt Arnold R. Leach213th SWS
 TSgt James O. Brownlee213th SWS
 TSgt Jessup J. Olson168th OSF
 Maj Cindra D. Bobby176th MDG
 MSgt Michael D. O'Keefe176th LRS
 MSgt Cheryl A. Sweet176th LRS
 TSgt Pauline Y. Jones176th LRS
 TSgt James W. Asselin176th MXS
 TSgt Jennie A. Shinsato176th MDG
 TSgt Michael E. Pollard176th LRS
 TSgt Christopher D. Adams176th ACS
 SSgt Tracy L. Hartless176th ACS
 SSgt James E. Richardson176th ACS
 SSgt Adam A. Muller176th ACS

Army Achievement Medal



SPC Elaina Nicholson49th MDB
 PFC Jay Daw207th Avn
 SGT Martin JohnsonJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SPC William HartigMed Det
 SGT Ned TriMed Det
 PFC Joshua MyhreMed Det
 SPC Anthony SenkoJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SPC Katrina RosnerMed Det
 SPC Vanessa PetersonMed Det
 SFC Kendre JonesMed Det
 SSG John SmyreMed Det

Air Force Achievement Medal



Lt Col Bobby L. Crenshaw168th MSG
 Maj Ashton T. Reynolds168th LRS
 Maj William E. Hunstein168th OSF
 CMSgt Cindy L. Gollwitzer168th CF
 CMSgt Barry D. Beck168th AMXS
 SMSgt Rebecca L. Donovan168th MSF
 SMSgt Keith J. Henrys168th ARS
 MSgt Brian W. Schlumbohm168th ARW
 MSgt Amy Stalder168th LRS
 TSgt Melvin D. Birch168th MSG
 TSgt Alvin L. Baker168th ARS
 SMSgt Jerome L. Hanson168th AMXS
 MSgt Michael W. Williams168th AMXS
 MSgt Daniel J. Ruonavara168th AMXS
 MSgt Adam W. Heineken168th AMXS
 MSgt David W. Pointer168th AMXS
 TSgt Dennis K. Jutras168th AMXS
 TSgt Shaun R. Loeffler168th AMXS
 TSgt William J. McIntosh168th AMXS
 TSgt Ronald A. Frerichs168th AMXS
 TSgt Sam Amos168th AMXS
 TSgt Jessup J. Olson168th OSF
 SSgt Nathan R. Outten168th AMXS
 SSgt Blain S. Abbott168th AMXS
 SSgt Nicholas W. Fountain168th AMXS
 SSgt Nathan A. Gray168th AMXS
 SrA Justin K. Sawyer168th AMXS
 SrA Walker J. Haken168th AMXS
 SrA Ezra S. Pitzer168th AMXS
 Maj Kelly J. Mellard168th ARW
 MSgt George N. Snyder213th SWS
 SrA Derek V. Frazier176th MXS

Army Good Conduct Medal



CSM Mallie Hall207th Bde
 SPC Scott Smith207th Bde
 MSG John Drew1st Bn
 SFC Jody Heffele207th Bde
 SGT Daniel Garner49th MDB
 SSG Danny Counts1st Bn
 SSG Michael NelsonRTI
 SSG Kevin Earl1st Bn
 SSG Donald GumRRD
 SFC Tracy QuigleyRRD
 SFC Gregory RayRRD
 SFC Trevor HodgeRTI
 SFC Richard FlemingRRD
 SFC Eric VazquezJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGM Clinton BrownRRD
 SFC Lonnie StaibRRD



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PROMOTIONS

Colonel

Andrew J. Mamrol176th WG
Susan L. BailarJFHQ-AK (Air)

Lieutenant Colonel

John M. Darnall176th WG
Richard Koch207th Bde

Major

Richard A. Rymerson176th MDG

Captain

Wayne R. Oman176th ACS
Kevin C. Asher210th RQS
Marvel Hawkins3rd Bn
Ryan Richard49th MDB

First Lieutenant

Stephen M. Ludwig176th STU FLT
James D. Campbell249th AS
Linda Tomisser207th Avn
Jessie Janes2nd Bn

Second Lieutenant

Aaron C. Bunn144th AS
Aaron J. Hunter176th STU FLT
Christopher D. Perham176th ACS
Ryan N. McGrail249th AS
Elizabeth A. Williams176th MDG

Senior Master Sergeant

Charles M. Pasco II176th SFS
Richard L. Shull176th MXS
Alphonzo W. Allen168th SFS

Sergeant First Class

Paul Donaldson49th MDB

Master Sergeant (E-7)

John A. Zarr176th MXS
James G. Williams176th MXS
Carl S. Kancir176th MXS
Duane E. Gonzales176th SFS
Arnold R. Leach213th SWS

Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Duncan Heaney3rd Bn
Orlando Morero3rd Bn
Marvin Ronimous3rd Bn

Technical Sergeant

Daniel W. Henry168th ARW
Frederick D. Suavillo213th SWS
Christopher A. Albritton213th SWS
Nathan R. Outten168th MXS
Dawn R. Boyer168th ARS
Dustin P. Brown213th SWS
Derek W. Mills168th MXS
Kenneth V. Mayfield176th CES

Jesus F. Maglaqui176th MXS
David M. Roles144th AS
Robert D. Townsend176th OSF
Clinton B. Miller212th RQS

Sergeant

Brandon Amarone49th MDB
Paul Freeman49th MDB
Ann Hayden207th Avn
Michael Maher49th MDB
Kenneth Nydam49th MDB
James Reaves Jr.49th MDB
Ann Tamai Hayden207th Avn
Brandon Amarone49th MDB
Paul Freeman49th MDB
Michael Maher49th MDB
Kenneth Nydam49th MDB
James Reaves Jr.49th MDB
Wanda Solomon207th Avn

Staff Sergeant

David A. Nethken Jr.168th SFS
Timothy L. Robinson213th SWS
Monica M. Menninger168th MSF
Heather J. Fields176th MSF
Daniel R. Krueger176th MXS
Tia M. Oshop176th AMXS
Misa K. Ruiz176th MSF
Christine M. Dickson176th WG
Rawley J. Langvardt176th AMXS
William S. Broussard176th MXS
James E. Jones176th MXS
Sara M. BishopJFHQ-AK (Air)
Kent Q. Bryant176th OSF

RETIREMENTS

MSgt Jennifer J. Nelson168th AMXS
TSgt Tommie B. Hutto168th MXS
TSgt Michael Burrell168th MXS
MSgt Dawn Vargo168th MOF
MSgt Mark W. Homchick168th MXS
Lt Col John G. Hilgenbrink168th OSF
LTC Leonard Andrews297th Inf
LTC Debra BlaylockJFHQ-AK (Army)
SSG Gordon Howe207th Avn
CW3 Stephen Law207th Avn
MSG Elizabeth Burdette207th Avn
SGT Cyprian Augline1st Bn
CW4 Charles Hosack207th Avn
MAJ Philip Lagasse3rd Bn
CW4 Jesse Baxter207th Avn
COL Steven BalmerJFHQ-AK (Army)
MSG Norman Yeaw207th Avn
SSG Ralph Danford207th Bde
SGT Lisa Thompson297th Spt Bn
Roger D. Olson206th CCS
Richard J. Robotkay206th CCS
Rodney A. Hansen206th CCS
Paul A. Reddington212th RQS
Lorraine H. Guthrie176th MXS
Donald G. Frederick176th SFS
Mark W. Saddler176th MXS
Tamara A. ThunanderJFHQ-AK (Air)
Roger Newton176th MXS
Debra A. Hall176th WG
Donald J. Seliger II210th RS
John B. Gazaway176th WG
Brian R. Dufresne176th MXS
Linda D. FlegleJFHQ-AK (Air)
Michael J. Manning206th CCS



A Goodbye Wash. The UH-60 Black Hawk, piloted by Chief Warrant Officer Four Chuck Hosack on his last flight before retirement, is sprayed down as it taxis down Bryant Army Guard Airfield on Fort Richardson in April. Hosack, assigned to Alpha Company, 1/207th Aviation has 42 years combined active and Guard service; he has been with the Guard since 1981. Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs



Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

176th Wing

Richard Rauckhorst
 Travis Smith
 Melissa Erhard
 Daren Hill
 Chadwick Dyson
 Holly Arant
 Jason Apalategui
 Steven Katkus
 Laurel Foster
 Wayland Baker
 Josef Lenz
 Jeremiah Brewer
 Benjamin Leonard
 Josef Rauch
 Matthew Loehr
 Pryce Brown
 John Webb
 Darrel Swan
 Carl Childers
 Jeremy Paroan
 Daniel Miceli
 Michael Sims
 Michael Goncharov
 Bobby Phillips
 Fasheion Rideaux
 Beverly Robotkay
 Lindsay Townsend

168th Air Refueling Wing

Eric Faulkner
 Victoria Ruedy
 Alex Rivera
 Devaughn King
 Seeyaa Charpentier
 Krstal Cooper
 Jeffrey Skaggs
 Deanna Roberts
 Patrick Enters
 Robert Segla
 Tanya Land
 Mark Redinius
 Michael Hofmann
 Matthew Powell
 Robert Thomas
 Willow Greenwell
 Thomas Hall
 Charles Hill

207th Infantry

Sasha Matthew
 Jason Schlegel
 Vanessa Cropley
 Joseph Yeager
 Silas Bryant

Mary Pavloff
 Shannon Stalker
 Krystal Thibault

297th Infantry

Brian Wasky
 Carlos Rivera
 Justin Nick
 John Evan
 Amanda Baxter
 David Smart

207th Aviation

Sonny Cooper
 Jamey Joseph
 Robert Peters
 Kevin Brownell
 Corneluis Mitchell
 Jaysane Hagstrom
 Samuel Medina
 Cody Lewis
 Jeramy Ragan

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Branon Sargent
 Jordyn Carter



Missile Defense Milestone. The SATCOM Systems Company installs the “lid” onto the second Defense Satellite Communications System located at the Missile Defense Complex on Fort Greely. This is the final “golf ball” that will be dominating the terrain on this remote Alaska outpost. Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for all Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. Dates for subordinate units are the same as their parent headquarters, unless otherwise indicated. All dates are subject to change. Most Alaska Army Guard units perform annual training (AT) through the winter.

	July	August	September
Alaska National Guard			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	12-13	9-10	6-7
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	No Drill	8-10	6-7
Alaska Army National Guard			
207th Infantry Brigade	No Drill	2-3	6-7
1/207th Aviation Regiment	No Drill	AT	4-7
297th Support Battalion	25-27	AT	6-7
Regional Training Institute	12-13	9-10	20-21
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	12-13	9-10	20-21
176th Wing	12-13	9-10	6-7
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	19-20	16-17	20-21

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