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Mr. McHugh Pierre
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Ms. Kalei Brooks
Managing Editor/DMVA Public Affairs

Contributors

Captain Guy Hayes
Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton
Sergeant Karima Turner
Specialist Margaret Moonin
DMVA Public Affairs

Captain Tim Brower
Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III
49th Missile Defense Battalion

Sergeant Marc McNab
134th Public Affairs Detachment
Second Lieutenant John Callahan
176th Wing Public Affairs

Second Lieutenant David Campbell
249th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard

Sergeant Jasmine Chopra
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
U.S. Army Reserve

Captain Toni Tones
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

George Coyle
Kerry Seifert
DHS&EM Emergency Response

Staff Sergeant Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

Major Keolani W. Bailey
First Sergeant Andrew W. Blore
Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington
Alaska Air National Guard

Kimberly Leary
Family Programs

Alaska Air National Guard
Alaska Army National Guard
Parvin Ebadpour
U.S. Army Alaska
U.S. Navy

Bob Ulin **Susan Harrington**
Publisher Editor
Gloria Schein **Clem Mewmaw**
Art Director Advertising Sales



8537 Corbin Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 562-9300 • (866) 562-9300

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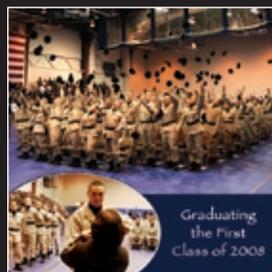
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Graduation Day!

Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates toss their berets into the air following their graduation ceremony March 1, at Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Fort Richardson. After

five-and-a-half months of military-style training and discipline, 123 cadets graduated the AMYA Challenge program. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy.

Inset Photo: Tuuese Faatafuga, of Anchorage, receives his diploma as the honor graduate for the first Alaska Military Youth Academy graduating class of 2008.

Photo: Sergeant Marc McNab, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Aerial Test.

A Soldier launches a Raven unmanned aerial vehicle on Donnelly Training Area at Fort Greely. Thousands of acres are available on Fort Greely, making an ideal training location for various assets within the U.S. military. Many new technologies are tested in the rigors of the arctic temperatures by the Cold Regions Test Center located at Fort Greely. Photo: Sergeant Jack

W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

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Dispatches from the Front...

Arctic Care 2008 Visits Kodiak

Story and photo by Specialist Margaret J. Moonin,
DMVA Public Affairs

KODIAK, Alaska ... After three years, the Alaska National Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Public Health Service returned to Kodiak Island in March with military medical professionals to work side-by-side with the Kodiak Area Native Association for Operation Arctic Care 2008.

The objective of Operation Arctic Care 2008 was to facilitate and provide health care for more than 800 patients living in villages on Kodiak, offering a wide array of medical services such as dental care, pediatric care, physical therapy and even veterinary care for family pets. This year's mission served the people of Old Harbor, Port Lions, Ouzinkie, Akhiok, Karluk and Larson Bay.

"We don't want this to be considered a humanitarian mission, but rather Americans helping Americans to get the provider care they would not normally have available to them," said Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Arends, officer in charge of Arctic Care 2008 with the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command.

KANA is a non-profit corporation providing health and social services for Alaska Natives of the Koniag region. It is responsible for the health care needs of these villages, but is not able to provide services as frequently as needed.

"The corporation has limited funds available to send medical professionals to the villages as often as needed or to fly residents out to see a provider," said Kodiak Area Native Association dentist Melissa Wages.

"It's our job as health care professionals with Arctic Care to help KANA catch up on their patient load," Arends said.

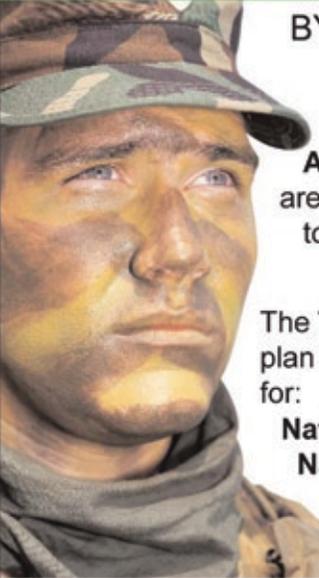
The work Arctic Care performs also improved readiness for disasters, as the teams laid logistical groundwork to see through the challenges of getting equipment in and out of remote areas. Service members also received the required annual cold weather training while conducting military operations.

Operation Arctic Care was created in 1996 by the 4th Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Reserves, to be an annual joint-service, joint-component exercise in medical readiness and logistics training. It helps to rebuild communities in underserved areas and offers training in moving people and materials to remote locations, providing healthcare under austere conditions. ■



Loading Supplies. Colonel Jeff Arnold, Joint Forces Headquarters-Alaska Army National Guard, lifts a case of bottled water onto the commercial fishing vessel "U Rascal" while Colonel James Fike, International Health Specialist Program consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General, wheels another load to the ship. More than a dozen cases of bottled water, Meals-Ready-to-Eat, and medical supplies and equipment were loaded onto the vessel for transport to the villages of Ouzinkie and Port Lions.

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UNITED CONCORDIA

Where in the World

Air Guardsmen Support Operation Jump Start

By Second Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

CAMP MORENA, Calif. ...

Thirty-six members of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to this remote military installation for two weeks in February to perform a variety of construction projects in support of Operation Jump Start, a federal effort to secure the border between the United States and Mexico.

The Squadron is part of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, based at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. Most of the squadron members – a mix of electricians, heavy equipment operators, construction specialists and other engineering personnel – are from Anchorage; others hail from Fairbanks, Kenai and Kodiak.

The deployment is called a Deployment for Training, a National Guard Bureau program to get training on real-world projects for members of civil engineer squadrons.

"The 176th Civil Engineer Squadron has very aggressively used the DFT program to go all over the world, getting real-world training for our members while doing a lot of good," said Major Ed Soto, the squadron's deputy commander. "I am always amazed at how much these dedicated men and women can get done in just two weeks."

During the two weeks the Guard members rebuilt roads used by the U.S. Border Patrol to monitor the U.S.-Mexico border fence, performed interior construction on a pre-engineered steel classroom building, and installed well pumps to produce water for construction purposes. ■



Operation Jump Start.

Technical Sergeant Warren Hollcraft, of Fairbanks, a vehicle mechanic with the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron, inspects a truck prior to its use by members of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron. Hollcraft was one of 36 Alaska Air National Guard members deployed for two weeks in February to the California-Mexico border in support of Operation Jump Start. Photo: Second Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs



North Wind.

Barrow resident Private First Class Steven L. Kaleak, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, provides roadside security while his counterparts in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force do a cordon building search during Operation North Wind 2008.

Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Rescue Squadrons Save Afghan Boy

By Captain Toni Tones, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan ...

Members from the 210th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons) were credited with helping save a 5-year-old Afghan boy's life after he was struck by a vehicle near Jalalabad

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Desert Bound. Members of the Alaska Air National Guard board a plane to Afghanistan for rotations lasting about 60 days. The Airmen, from the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, the 176th Maintenance Group and the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron, will put critical skills gained from Alaska training and rescue missions to use overseas, "so that others may live." They are part of the overall rescue deployment to Bagram Air Base that the 176th Wing is fulfilling from December 2007 through June 2008. Photo: Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

Airfield, Afghanistan, in February.

The squadron was tasked to medevac the young boy, who was reported to have a broken left patella and possible skull fracture. After receiving the green light, the helicopters were airborne in three minutes.

"This is a testament to our aircraft maintainers," said Captain Matt Calabro, 210th ERQS helicopter pilot. "They do a fantastic job having our aircraft ready, which allowed us to make the fast alert response."

After nearly an hour flight, the team arrived and immediately assessed the

Getting Set to Fire. Staff Sergeant James Zuelow, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, coaches an Afghan National policeman on marksmanship using a PKM machine gun. Zuelow has been in Afghanistan since July 2007, with the Alaska Army National Guard's Embedded Transition Team.

Photo: Lieutenant Jeffrey McAfee, U.S. Navy



Security in Iraq. Specialist Dennis Alakayak, a gunner from Manokotak, provides convoys with security while deployed with the Alaska Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion. Ensuring that all parts of his Armored Security Vehicle, including hatches, work properly is part of his job. Alakayak has been deployed to Iraq since October 2007.

Photo: Sergeant Jasmine Chopra, 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve

Recovering and Smiling.

Alaska Air National Guard members visit 5-year-old Zacharias, who was medevaced by the 210th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron after he was struck by a vehicle near Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, in February. The Guardsmen have been periodically checking in on the child, and Captain Keenan Zerkel even had the toy dog, pictured, sent over from the United States to give the child. The gift made the child smile, and the hospital reports it was the first time they had seen him smile. Pictured from left: Staff Sergeant Andre Marron, an Afghan interpreter, Captain Brian Kile, Captain Keenan Zerkel, Zacharias and his uncle.

Photo: Courtesy Alaska Air National Guard



patient's status, only to realize his diagnosis was worse than briefed.

"He had two fractured legs, fluid seeping from the ears and nose indicating skull trauma, multiple signs of bodily trauma, a scalp laceration that had been stitched, and he was on a ventilator," said Technical Sergeant Brandon Stuemke, 210th ERQS pararescueman. "The little guy was in pretty bad shape."

As the helicopters departed, the crew continued to administer medical care and keep the patient alive.

"We kept his airway suctioned and

monitored his blood pressure, pulse and ventilation," Stuemke said. "We constantly relayed his vitals to our flight doctor, who provided treatment options during the return flight."

When it was all said and done, the patient had multiple fractures and underwent abdominal surgery, which identified a lacerated spleen that was removed.

"I'm proud of the accomplishments of the combat search and rescue crew," said Lieutenant Colonel Timothy O'Brien, 210th ERQS commander. "I know this child would not have survived if not for

the efforts of the medical personnel at Jalalabad Airfield, our pararescuemen and aircrew and the hospital personnel."

The 210th ERQS is currently deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, providing 24/7 combat search and rescue alert coverage. ■

Soldiers Train in Japan

By Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP IWATE, Japan ... In March, Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers participated in North Wind 2008, a joint combined training exercise designed to enhance the interoperability of the U.S. Army Japan, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and several U.S. Guard and Reserve units.

The Alaska contingent consisted of Soldiers from almost every Guard unit and community throughout the state.

North Wind 2008 provided a platform for Soldiers to hone their combat skills and enhance security relations and cultural awareness.

"Training was challenging and rewarding for our Soldiers," said Lieutenant Colonel John Woyte, of Nome, commander for 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry. "Every exercise had to be done first by our Soldiers while the Japanese watched, then re-enacted by them and vice versa. The whole time an interpreter explained the operating procedures to our counterparts."

The leadership hopes that this exercise encourages a better understanding of cultural and military operations for the different U.S. branches, as well as those of our JGSDF allies.

"Communication can be tough at times but the Japanese soldiers have been very friendly and taught many of us basic terms and phrases," said Juneau's Sergeant Laurence Dirkes, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

In turn, the Alaska Guard members shared their Native delicacies and traditional dances at a dinner social. ■



For the People

Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



Changing Lives in Alaska

The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is changing the lives of Alaskans every day. You might find this a bit surprising from the department that responds to disasters and boasts of securing the state and defending the nation, but young Alaskans are learning from new experiences and building the skills they will need to become tomorrow's leaders.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy recently graduated 123 cadets from the 22-week volunteer program. These cadets endured some of the most difficult conditions teens will ever face: physical training at 5:30 a.m., four hours of job training, four hours of traditional school classes and two hours of mandatory study hall. These cadets maintain this schedule five days a week, and weekends are just as tough.

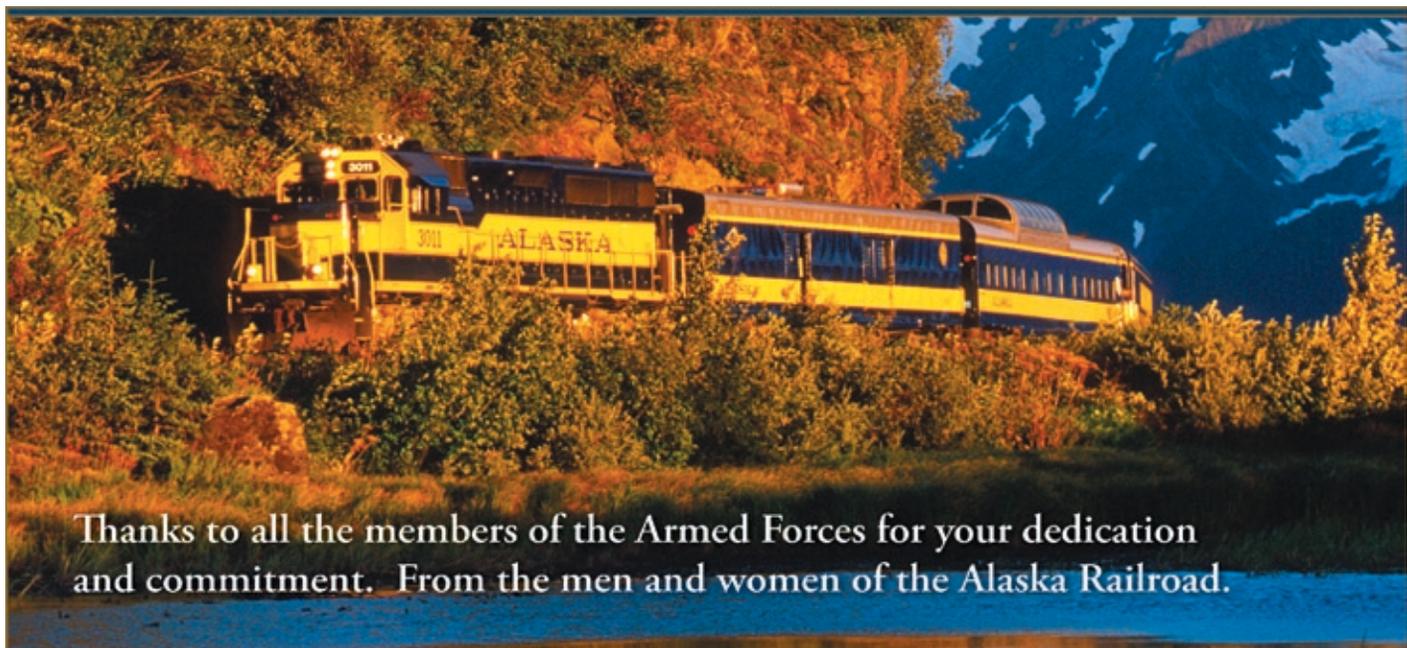
Every one of these teens volunteers to attend this academy because they have come to the realization that they must change their lives to reach success in the world. Cadet Ryan Joe came from a teen homeless shelter in downtown Anchorage. He is a Native teen looking for direction, and he found it at the AMYA. He participated in the statewide academic decathlon competition

and won. He graduated but was still involved with the competition. He traveled to the lower 48 as part of the team representing Alaska in the national competition.

We have 180 Army Guard Soldiers who are stationed just outside of Baghdad, Iraq. These young Soldiers are led by a courageous captain named Josh Shrader. At 28 years old, he has led the group through a successful deployment. So successful that half of his Soldiers want to stay deployed. The group was scheduled to deploy for one year to Iraq performing convoy security in one of the most dangerous areas in the country, and now that they have the opportunity to come home early, most are determined to stay.

This commitment to their mission is a testimony to the courage and bravery of our Alaska National Guard. The young people of our state are making great decisions and learning the importance of discipline and respect with the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. I have one piece of advice to all of you, listen and learn as much as you can from your elders. Their mistakes and successes will help you lead Alaska in the generations to come. ■

*The young people of our state
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My Turn

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



Changing Lives, Building Character

The story you won't hear from the major media outlets is how much character our National Guard members truly have. Alaskans are in harm's way right now fighting those who would like to take away the freedoms of others, especially our freedoms. These young men and women have volunteered for deployments, and many have signed up specifically to deploy.

The next generation of Alaskan leaders is focused, determined and very brave. Many of our Alaska National Guard members have joined during the last seven years to help defend our country and deploy overseas. Nationwide the enrollment for the Army National Guard is surpassing records. More than 355,000 men and women are currently serving in Army National Guard units across the country, and recruiting forecasters are expecting as many as 375,000 total Army National Guard members in the next two years.

Leaders are grown in the Alaska National Guard, and future leaders are found in the Alaska Military Youth Academy. The AMYA Cadets are teens who have dropped out of high school and are searching for the last saving grace to turn their life around.

The AMYA is a place where teens in need can learn self-discipline, learn life skills and learn trade basics to help provide employment after graduation. This combination of growth and

continued mentorship yields one of the most successful ChalleNGe programs in the country. Cadets who graduate from the AMYA have hope that brings a life of success and joy.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is changing lives in rural Alaska everyday. Most recently the division helped some of our most remote villages through a fuel crisis. Most Alaskans take heat and electricity for granted, but for communities like St. George and St. Paul, they rely on diesel fuel delivered by barge to generate heat and electricity for every home in the village.

Shipping schedules, combined with dangerous seas and ice-closed ports kept fuel barges from reaching these villages. The DHS&EM worked with local fuel shippers to make sure each village had sufficient supplies to run critical equipment until the full fuel barge could make it to port.

After saving the day and delivering the fuel, the DHS&EM is helping village managers work with other state agencies to draft the most protective contracts with shipping companies and manage local resources to avoid potential disasters.

Everyday, and in a different way, members of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs are changing lives and building character in our state. ■



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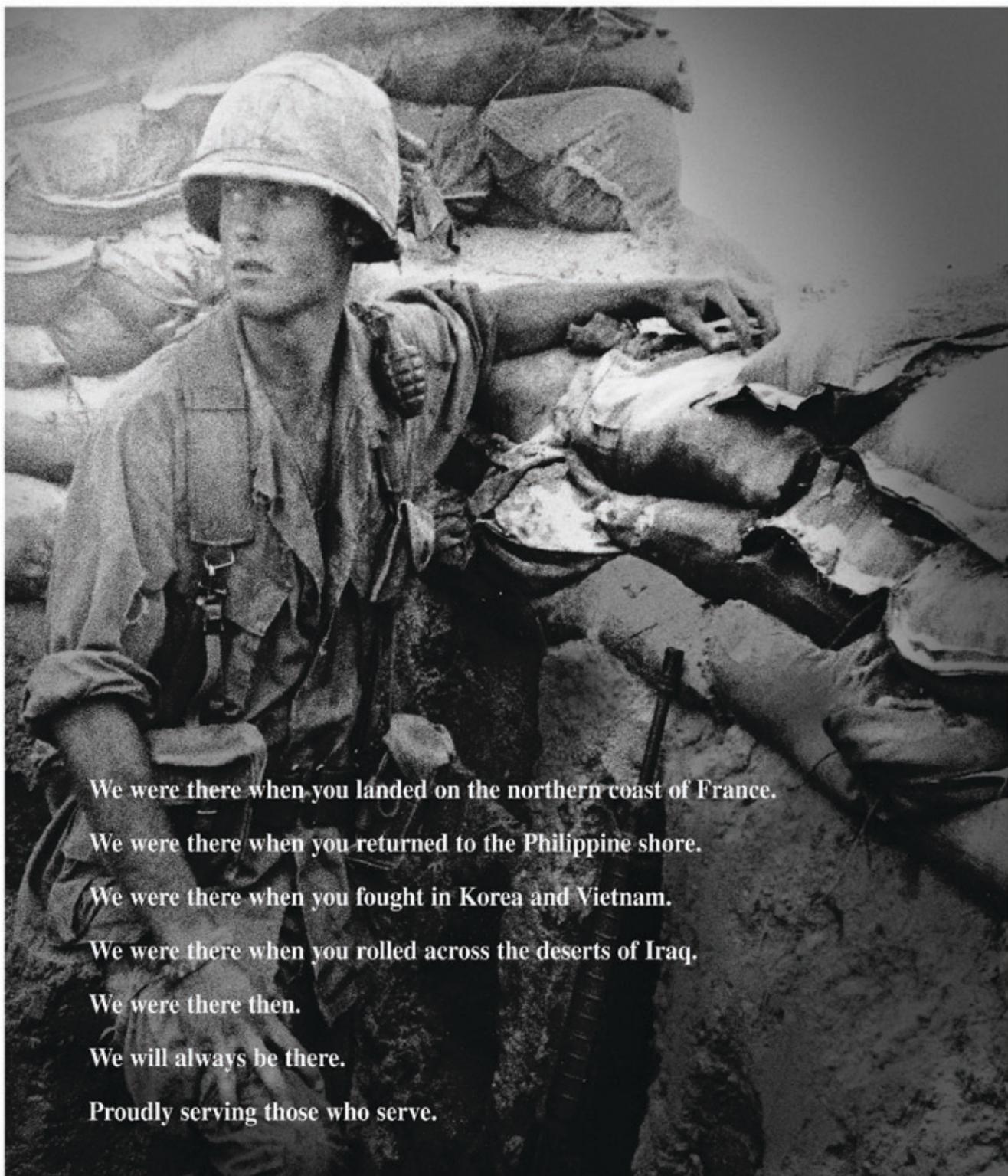
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Veterans

Alaska Territorial Guard Members Honored



Proud Service. Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus, center, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, stands with Sigurd Edwards, left, and Sally Edwards after a ceremony in which Sigurd received his formal discharge from the Alaska Territorial Guard. Edwards joined the Territorial Guard March 10, 1943, when he was only 16 years old.

Story and photos by Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

YAKUTAT, Alaska ... After more than 65 years, one of the last living Alaska Territorial Guardsmen received his formal discharge from the U.S. Army during a February ceremony in Yakutat, where 77 past members were also honored for their service during World War II.



Saluting Fallen Heroes. Sigurd Edwards, center, a former Alaska Territorial Guardsman, Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus, left, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard, and Colonel Thom Besch, assistant to the director Missile Defense Agency-Alaska Region, salute to honor fallen Soldiers during the playing of TAPS at a discharge ceremony for Alaska Territorial Guardsmen in Yakutat.

“It has taken a long time for some of these Soldiers to get the recognition they deserved for doing something so great,” said Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard. “It is my extremely humble honor to be here to acknowledge this important day in which we formally discharge Private Sigurd H. Edwards from the Alaska Territorial Guard.”

Edwards joined the ATG at 16 years old and was one of more than 10,000 Soldiers stationed in Alaska.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs along with the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood recognized 77 ATG members from Yakutat for their service during this ceremony.

The ATG members recognized were tasked with defending the Southeast panhandle coastline and the Yakutat Airfield, which was built by the Air Force in December 1941 as an auxiliary airfield.

“The service of Edwards and his fellow Soldiers is our history, and we need to remember and cherish that,” said Colonel Thom Besch, assistant to the director Missile Defense Agency-Alaska Region. “It’s an honor to be invited here



Remembrance Dance. Mount Saint Elias Dancers perform a remembrance ceremonial dance at the end of the Alaska Territorial Guard discharge ceremony held in Yakutat in February. The dance signifies the return of a hunting party where one of the hunters does not survive.

to take part in the recognition of Edwards and many of those who volunteered alongside him.”

In the past few years, many of the ATG members who began their service shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor have been formally discharged and recognized for their service at events held across Alaska.

“What a memorable and beautiful day to do something so important,” Katkus said. “I hope to see many more events where we recognize these brave Soldiers in the future.”

To apply for an ATG discharge, contact Jerry Beale, state veterans affairs administrator, at (907)428-6016 or jerry.beale@alaska.gov. ■



Alaska Mongolia Partnership Flourishes

Story and photo by Staff Sergeant Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau



Uniting Countries and States. Lieutenant General H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, speaks about the National Guard's State Partnership Program while Lieutenant General Tsevegsuren Togoo, chief of staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces and Major General Craig E. Campbell, the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, listen at the Pacific State Partnership Program Regional Workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii, in late January. The National Guard's State Partnership Program, which pairs states with foreign countries, is expanding in the Asia-Pacific region. Mongolia and Alaska are partners.

HONOLULU, Hawaii ... Sprawling territory, extreme cold, and rich natural resources are among shared conditions that have created a perfect marriage for Alaska and Mongolia in the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

The two paired up in 2003, and formalized the relationship in 2005. What they lack in longevity they've more than made up for in initiatives.

"Our partnership has grown dynamically," said Lieutenant General Tsevegsuren Togoo, chief of staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, during a break at the first two-day Pacific State Partnership Program Regional Workshop in late January. "We have done a lot in a very short time."

Mongolia's president visited Alaska in 2007, bringing business leaders and other VIPs. Alaska and Mongolia train together. Alaskan medical teams have treated

people in Mongolia. Mongolia has hosted bilateral exercises.

Military-to-military exchanges have been catalysts for civilian-to-civilian initiatives beyond the SPP. The partners' mining industries are cooperating. The Mongolian city of Erdenet has a sister-city relationship with Alaska's Fairbanks. Mongolian students are enrolled in Alaskan universities.

"Only the National Guard can do this," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "It can't be done by the active duty military. It can't be done solely by the civilian community. The reason is: the National Guard brings significant civilian expertise. We're Citizen-Soldiers. The majority of us have civilian jobs. We have that experience and skills from doctors to engineers to carpenters. We're the only ones that have that military and civilian combined in one package."

"The [beneficiaries] of our partnership are not only the military but also the civilians," Togoo said. "The partnership opened the way for the businessmen of the two countries. In the future, we will see Alaskan investment in Mongolia, and also we will ship our products to Alaska."

"The success that we have in this partnership is that both sides have a great interest to work together and that is the main basis of our partnership," Togoo said, predicting further growth.

Both sides expect increased cooperation on emergency management and response and natural disaster relief operations. ■



ALASKA

COMMON GROUND

MONGOLIA



Alaska and Mongolia have similar geography, topography, sparse population and weather challenges.

- Alaska covers 663,267 square miles.
- Alaska has the lowest population density of any state; the density of its 676,987 residents is about 1 per square mile.
- Mount McKinley, at 20,320 feet, is Alaska's highest peak.
- Mongolia covers 603,909 square miles.
- Mongolia has the lowest population density of any country; the density of its 2.95 million residents is about 5 per square mile.
- Khuiten Peak, at 14,350 feet, is Mongolia's highest peak.

State Partnership Stretches to Schools

By Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska National Guard exchange program with Mongolia reaches far beyond the borders of Alaska and Mongolia.

In June 2007, Major Keolani W. Bailey with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Air Control Squadron, volunteered to sponsor a Mongolian Army soldier, Major Douchinsuren Ganzorig "Gonzo," to attend a year-long course at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, Va.

Then, Master Sergeant Andrew W. Blore with the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade, started classes in August 2007, at the U.S. Sergeant Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas, with Leading Sergeant Enkbold, the current leading sergeant of the Mongolian Army, equivalent to the Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army.

Students at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College focus their studies on advanced war fighting, advanced leadership skills, operational arts, and cultural and inter-agency operations.

The emphasis for students at the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy is on military history, Army Non-Commissioned Officer Corps, leadership, military science and management.

"I had never met Major Gonzo [Ganzorig], as he is called by his classmates, before this training but we were paired together through our common ties to Alaska," Bailey said. "I signed up to be a part of this exchange program because of my awareness of our Mongolian efforts."

Blore first met Enkbold while he was teaching exercises to Soldiers during the 2006 Mongolian Khaan Quest exercise. "I had no idea he would be attending this program with me," Blore said.

Through this common thread the two pairs have been thrust together working not only on the bond between Alaska and



School Partnership. Major Douchinsuren Ganzorig, left, with the Mongolian Army, and Major Keolani W. Bailey, with the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Air Control Squadron, stand in front of the School of Advanced War Fighting at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Va.

Photo: Courtesy of Major Keolani W. Bailey, Alaska Air National Guard

Mongolia, but their individual leadership skills.

"Enkbold is the first Mongolian soldier to attend the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy and is the current Sergeant Major of the Mongolian Army," Blore stated. "He is a very confident NCO who wants to establish a good NCO program in Mongolia, which they don't have at this time."

Blore and Enkbold are in a class of 650 Soldiers which has international exchange students from 35 different countries.

Over in Virginia, with Bailey and Ganzorig, there is also a solid global presence.

"There are 200 students and 10 percent of them are international students," Bailey said. "It is a highly academic environment with 80 plus pages of reading a night, but Gonzo is a very hard working self reliant guy."

Neither Enkbold nor Ganzorig have been to Alaska yet, but Ganzorig has talked with many of his fellow Mongolia soldiers who have and looks forward to coming to Alaska some day, Bailey said.

Enkbold and Blore will graduate in early May, with a diploma of completion as a sergeant major. Ganzorig and Bailey will graduate in mid-June, after a year of intense, cutting-edge training with the opportunity to complete the requirements for a Master of Military Studies degree.

Each group said they will leave their training with a new outlook and perspective towards their military career and each other. ■



From Alaska and Mongolia to Texas. First Sergeant Andrew W. Blore, left, with the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade, and Leading Sergeant Enkbold, of the Mongolian Army, stand in front of the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. Blore and Enkbold first met in August 2006, during a multinational peace support operations and field training exercise called Khaan Quest held in Mongolia.

Photo: Courtesy of First Sergeant Andrew W. Blore, Alaska Army National Guard

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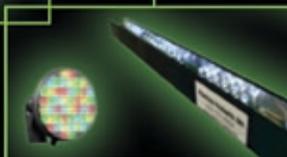
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RIVER WATCH: *Preparing for the Ice Melt*

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs



Heading to Higher Ground. Villagers in Kwethluk reach higher ground with alternative modes of transportation during the flooding in 2006. In 2007, ice jams were minimal causing no major problems, but only time will tell if 2008 will follow suit.

Photo: George Coyle, DHS&EM Emergency Response

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... As the chilly winter weather begins to fade, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management prepares for River Watch, a program that monitors ice jam prone rivers and gives flood warnings to 76 Alaskan communities. In the last 30 years, ice jam flooding has occurred 22 times, costing the state of Alaska millions of dollars in disaster assistance.

“Weather conditions play a big role in which rivers will flood,” said Claude Denver, DHS&EM response manager. “The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management partners with the National Weather Service in the spring to determine where ice jams are most likely to occur. We then position our River Watch teams where they can do the most good.”

River Watch teams survey the rivers by air looking for signs of ice jams. The bird’s-eye-view gives the teams an excellent vantage point to evaluate river conditions. The River Watch teams and the communities are then able to compare current conditions with historical information to determine if an imminent flood danger exists.

The River Watch program becomes active in late April or early May, when the frozen rivers begin to break up and head downstream. The large ice chunks are carried by snow melt down river. Shallow areas and bends in the river slow or stop the ice and create ice jams that can stretch several miles upriver. The ice jams reduce the flow of the water, causing the river to jump the banks and flood lowlands.

Water levels can rise rapidly and cut off a

community’s means of escape in a matter of hours. Giving people ample warning can mean the difference between life and death.

When they are not in the air, River Watch teams use their time to help the small riverside villages that are most vulnerable to spring floods.

“Beyond just warning communities about flood conditions, the River Watch program has engaged communities in flood preparedness,” said John Madden, DHS&EM director. “DHS&EM’s response expertise, National Weather Service technical information, and local knowledge all combine to make River Watch a very effective program.”

Community members are a key component of the River Watch team and participate in aerial surveys of ice conditions. Community members are able to report ice conditions to their villages using traditional language and the local names of landmarks. Personal relationships play an essential role in spreading flood information from one community to another.

For more than 30 years, the River Watch program has been successful in reducing the impact of ice jams to Alaskan communities through alerts and education. Using satellite photos, aerial surveillance and sophisticated climate models, the River Watch team has been able to estimate spring river conditions with greater accuracy.

While technology has made it easier to accomplish the River Watch mission, there is no substitute for old fashioned field work and partnerships. The most important tool used by the River Watch team may be the handshake. ■



River Break Up. Ice jams on the Yukon River in 2006 created flooding in the village of Alakanuk. River Watch crews will be monitoring ice break up to warn residents of potential risks in 2008.

Photo: Kerry Seifert, DHS&EM Emergency Response



Und Escap

Story and photos by Sergeant
Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ...

***MAY DAY!
MAY DAY!
MAY DAY!
ICY-44
GOING
DOWN IN
PRINCE
WILLIAM
SOUND!***



Ready for Impact. Captain Michele Edwards, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot for 207th Aviation, practices a crash position in a fixed-wing simulator before Captain Franklin Bithos, back right, and Sergeant Mike Lewis, back left, toss the contraption into the pool upside down to simulate a crash.

Underwater Breathment Training

Having to say those words and not knowing their outcome is probably one of the scariest things that can happen to a pilot.

When it comes to danger, the Alaska Army National Guard pilots and their crew chiefs have had their share of it, with deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, these men and women have been trained to show courage in the midst of danger.

But one thing that doesn't always cross their minds is the possibility of something going wrong while they are on a mission at home, here in Alaska.

Although they are highly trained and practice safety religiously, the fact is these pilots and their crew chiefs fly over water on a regular basis. For many of them, it's the norm. That's why Anchorage based Alaska Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Three Bryan Keese, operations officer for 207th Aviation, continues to have his Soldiers attend the Helicopter Underwater Escape Training course.

"At least for the last six or seven years, I've had our Soldiers go through this training," Keese said. "Brigadier General Thomas Katkus even went the very next

day, and he was stoked about it. He said how much he enjoyed the training and how valuable it was for our air crews."

In an intense eight-hour day, training with the Learn to Return School, six Alaska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk pilots and four crew chiefs completed the HUET in January.

"Anyone that's doing any kind of flying over water needs this training," said Tuck Brouhard, survival instructor for LTR. "In Alaska you have a pretty high survivability rate of an aircraft going down, what you don't have is a high survivability of the environment. People don't generally think about this type of training – no one really thinks past the crash itself. This class is designed to give them kind of a 'heads-up.'"

According to UH-60 Black Hawk pilot and Bethel resident Chief Warrant Officer Three Michael Edwards of 207th Aviation, his unit frequently has missions that carry them over water.

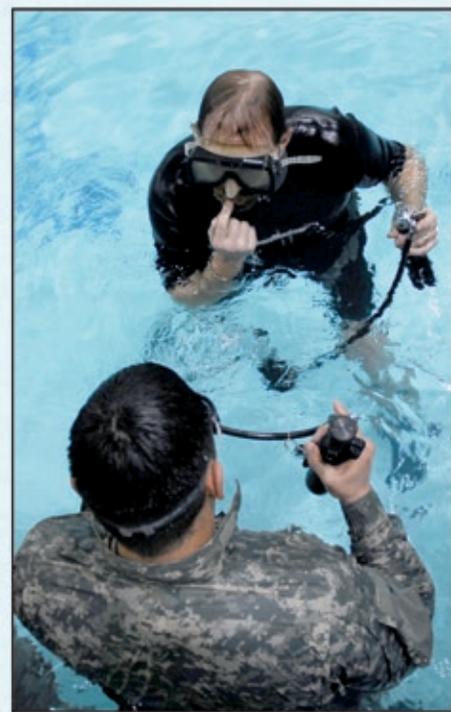
"If we're over water, and we end up having to ditch or have any incident causing us to go into the water, then this is absolutely necessary training," Edwards said. "That kind of situation is going to be quick, it's going to be stressful, and this is going to help us get rid of some of that stress and let us know what to expect if we go under the water."

HUET simulates an aircraft going into the water and shows the students that there's more to it than just getting out of the aircraft.

The Soldiers began their training at the Bartlett High School swimming pool, beginning with the basics of HUET – holding their nose with their right hand and protecting their face by reaching their left arm around and touching their right ear with their fist. This method ensures that they have some protection against the initial crash.

"We also worked with a Shallow Water Egress Trainer, basically to simulate a fixed-wing aircraft impact rather than a helicopter impact," Brouhard said.

One-by-one, Soldiers climbed into a cage-like contraption and prepared for a



Underwater Breathing. Brian Horner, director of the Learn to Return School, teaches 207th Aviation pilots and crew chiefs how to properly use Helicopter Assisted Breathing Devices, which are basically miniature scuba tanks with about a minute and a half of air.

"crash-landing" into water. Once the Soldier was prepared and simulated calling over the radio for assistance, five or six of the other pilots and crew chiefs helped to throw the cage into the pool, causing the cage to land upside down and rendering the caged Soldier a bit disoriented, much like a real crash. Within seconds the submerged Soldier had released his seat harness and found his way to safety.

The final step was instruction on what LTR calls a Helicopter Assisted Breathing Device, which is learning how to breathe with an air tank underwater.

"The military pilots are often flying with the HEEDs bottles, which are basically, a little scuba tank with about a minute to a minute and a half of air," Brouhard said. "We taught them how to properly use the devices, that way, if they go underwater they have a couple breaths of air to make some quick decisions and escape."

"It's very important because if we ever do over-water flights and we do burn in or something like that, then we have the training to get out of it," said Bethel resident Sergeant Vincent Salsburg, crew chief for 207th Aviation. "It's really good and informative training. I'd definitely recommend this training to other Soldiers and units because it would be beneficial for them to know how to get out of an aircraft in an emergency situation." ■



Moments before the "Crash." While sitting in a helicopter crash simulator, Chief Warrant Officer Three Michael Edwards, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot for 207th Aviation, receives instructions from Clint Homestead, left, an instructor with the Learn to Return School. Seconds after instruction, Chief Warrant Officer Four Dave Stettenberg, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot for 207th Aviation, turns the contraption upside down to simulate a helicopter crash into water.

High-flying Career. A training mission in Afghanistan in 2003, shows Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington high above the mountainous terrain in the region. Photo: Courtesy of Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington, Alaska Air National Guard

Dominating Denali. Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington takes a moment to enjoy the accomplishment of summiting Mount McKinley in 1990. He has reached the 20,320-foot summit of North America's highest peak on three separate occasions. Photo: Courtesy of Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington, Alaska Air National Guard



PARARESCUEMAN

Saves More Than 100 Lives in 25-Year Career

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ...

Three thousand three hundred hours of flight time, 750 parachute jumps, 526 rescue and recovery flights and an even more impressive 134 lives saved.

No, these are not the statistics of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing or even the 212th Rescue Squadron – these are credits of a single pararescueman. Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington, “Red” as he’s affectionately called by his fellow pararescuemen, has served for the past 25 years as a pararescueman. He officially retired from the Alaska Air National Guard on March 1, from a personal career that epitomizes the air rescue motto, “*That others may live.*”

“Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington embodies the courageous and dedicated spirit of the Alaska National Guard,” said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “Throughout his career he went above and beyond to save the lives of his fellow Alaskans and fellow Americans.”

“Red set the standard for selfless service,” said Major Thomas Stephens, commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron. “He’s a patriot – always the first to volunteer for



Desert Patrol. Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington stands in front of a helicopter near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in 2005. His unit was checking out a few of the border villages. Photo: Courtesy of Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington, Alaska Air National Guard

a mission or deployment. He spent time away from his beloved family for a noble cause.”

Throughout his distinguished career, Reddington has deployed to numerous austere locations within Afghanistan, Djibouti, Kuwait, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. He has stood on alert-watch on Denali six times and has reached the 20,320-foot summit of North America’s highest peak on three separate occasions. His efforts resulted in major contributions and advances in personnel-recovery operations worldwide.

“I’d say the most I’ve learned from Red is his ability to look at a situation and adapt to it, which is very important in any rescue mission because it’s dynamic – it changes and is fluid,” said Chief Master Sergeant Skip Kula, chief of the 212th Rescue Squadron who worked with Reddington for more than 20 years. “That ability to adapt and to prosecute the mission safely and effectively is what saves the lives of the people we’re going after.”

In his 25-year military career, Reddington has used his abilities and expertise to help shape search and rescue in Alaska. Reddington joined the U.S. Air Force in 1983, and by October 1989, Reddington’s knowledge and expertise was instrumental in the standup of the rescue squadron at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. Sixteen years later, in October 2004, he once again played a vital role in the activation of the 212th Rescue Squadron.

“He’s a great guy and a good friend,” Kula said. “He’s there when you need him, even if you don’t need him, he’s there asking, ‘what can I do to help?’”

Although, Reddington has officially retired from the military, he can still be found around the 212th Rescue Squadron in Anchorage. He has accepted a private contractor job where he is working with the unit as the team’s dive master.

“It’s great to still be part of the team, but I’ll miss flying and



After the Rescue. Senior Master Sergeant Paul Reddington, far right, poses with Jake Collins, center in red, and Rick Collins, center, along with some of his fellow Alaska Air National Guard members. The Guard members pictured were part of the team that rescued Jake in 2006, after he fell sheep hunting and became unconscious and hypothermic. Reddington credits the rescue as one of his most memorable and rewarding.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

all the rescue missions and the deployments, but this is better for me now,” Reddington said. “I get to spend more time with my kids and wife.”

Reddington credits his family as his backbone of support. He currently resides in Anchorage with his wife, Jeannette, and children, Holly, Pete, Brionn and Caroline. ■

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Family Support

New Guard Family Web Site

By Kimberly Leary, Family Programs

The Alaska National Guard Family Programs office is now using a new Web site for all its online needs: www.guardfamily.org. This Web site is your "one-stop shop" for finding information on events, programs, benefits, resources and more.

In order to view the Web site, you must first create a username and password. Once you've logged on, you have access to all of our online information. We post information on upcoming events, trainings, deals in the community and all other important news on either the "News" or "Announcements" link, which can be found under your "My NGB-FP" link on the left side of the screen.

On this Web site, you can also learn about family readiness and program services by clicking on the links to the left. Family readiness takes a look at the six-step family program model that keeps you informed and involved about your benefits as a military family. Program services provides an overview of various programs including family, youth and community outreach initiatives.

Through this site, you can also partake in the Guard Family Training Modules. The Guard Family Training Modules are designed for everyone: Guard members, spouses, parents, children, retirees, civilian employees and interested community members. It helps the Guard "Family" by teaching all aspects of life associated with the military, specifically the National Guard. ■

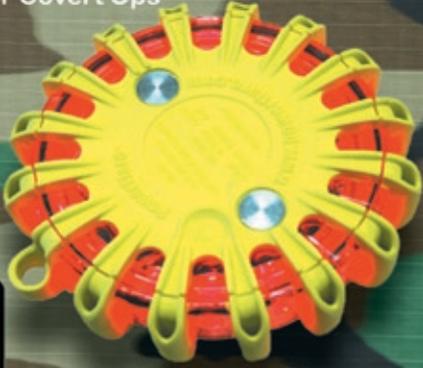


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Missile Defense

49th Soldier Performs as 'Good Samaritan'

By Captain Tim Brower, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

FORT GREELY, Alaska ... *"When I first saw the accident, I thought, there was no way someone could have survived that massive impact," said First Lieutenant Ryan Skaw of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. "I couldn't believe that no one was stopping to help her!"*



To the Rescue. Parvin Ebadpour's car is seen here the day of the crash in which First Lieutenant Ryan Skaw, of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion was able to save her from the smoldering wreckage.

Photo: Courtesy of Parvin Ebadpour

On Feb. 21, Parvin Ebadpour was hit by a drunk driver in Fairbanks. As she sat in her smoking vehicle, several vehicles just passed her by, but not Skaw.

After seeing Ebadpour's Toyota Camry smashed by a red pickup truck, Skaw responded. He told Ebadpour his name and that he needed to get her out of her car because it was filling up with smoke.

The driver's door was too badly damaged to open, so Skaw moved to the passenger side of the vehicle and directed an onlooker to call 911. After assessing that Ebadpour was alright to move, he pulled her across the vehicle and out of the smoke-filled cabin.

Skaw then reassessed her condition and checked for injuries. He noticed that Ebadpour was bleeding from her left hand and that her face was red from the air bag impact. She was also covered in glass.

Skaw moved Ebadpour to his vehicle away from her smoking Camry. Once in his vehicle, Skaw administered first aid by bandaging Ebadpour's hand and continuing to assess her condition.

Within minutes, the first police officer arrived and asked Skaw the status of the situation. Skaw worked with police and medical responders not only to care for Ebadpour but also to provide a statement regarding the accident and the hit-and-run perpetrator, who was later arrested for driving under the influence.

The following day, Skaw called the victim's mother to check on Ebadpour's condition. She informed him that her daughter was happy to be alive despite being sore, bruised and cut.

Skaw is a member of the Alaska Army National Guard and serves as the executive officer for the military police company guarding the ballistic missile defense system located here. ■



On the Job. First Lieutenant Ryan Skaw, left, executive officer, Ground Based Interceptor Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, shares his knowledge about maintaining tactical vehicles with Sergeant Todd Turner, military police officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. As the executive officer, Skaw is responsible for overall mission readiness within the military police company. Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



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ESGR Award Given to Elementary School Principal

Story and photo by Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Proud Principal. During an Alpenglow Elementary military appreciation family luncheon in January, Principal Rick Toymil, center, proudly shows off his recently acquired “My Boss is a Patriot” award with Gunnery Sergeant Bradley Miller, left, of the Alaska Marine Corps Reserve, and Rich Owens, Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Southcentral region chairman.

EAGLE RIVER, Alaska ... An Eagle River elementary school principal was pleasantly surprised in January when he was given an award for his extraordinary support of a U.S. service member who is also a teacher at the school.

Alpenglow Elementary Principal Rick Toymil was given the “My Boss is a Patriot” award during a school military appreciation family luncheon. Toymil was nominated for the ESGR award by Alpenglow teacher and Marine Reservist Rick Kohler, who was activated for a deployment to Iraq. Kohler is the first staff member at Alpenglow Elementary to be deployed under Toymil’s four-year tenure as school principal.

“I can’t tell you how happy I am,” said Toymil about receiving the award.

The “My Boss is a Patriot” award is recognition given to employers through nomination by their Reserve-component employee. Employers qualify for recognition when they practice leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

Toymil said 51 percent of the students at Alpenglow have some connection to the military. The school supports the military in several ways such as hosting military family nights and recognizing parents in the military with stars throughout the halls.

Kohler is currently training in Hawaii in preparation for his deployment and wrote this about Toymil: “He has supported my mobilization from the beginning and understands my obligation to my service and country.” ■

Six Alaska Businesses Nominated for Freedom Award

ARLINGTON, Va. ... Six Alaska National Guardsmen and Reservists nominated their employers to receive the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award is the U.S. government’s highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

The Freedom Award is particularly significant because only members of the National Guard and Reserve or their family members are permitted to nominate employers for the award. The following Alaska employers were nominated by their employees for the award:

- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Alaska Native Health Consortium
- Chugach Electric
- Maniilaq Association (Hospital)
- Northern Air Cargo
- Siemens Building Technologies

Nearly 2,200 National Guard and Reserve members from across the country nominated their employers for their outstanding support. Many employers, for example, provided continued benefits, differential pay, family assistance and additional support.

A national selection board comprised of senior defense officials and business leaders will select up to 15 recipients for this year’s award. The Department of Defense will announce the 2008 Freedom Award recipients this summer.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996, under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. Previous honorees include American Express, General Motors, Sears and The Home Depot. ■

Bronze Star with Valor Earned in Iraq

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... An Alaska Army National Guard Soldier has earned the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. military for her actions in battle while deployed in Iraq.

Specialist Veronica M. Alfaro, 23, distinguished herself through exceptional gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States on Jan. 15, earning the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, which identifies the award is a result of contact with the enemy. Originally from Modesto, Calif., Alfaro is a combat medic and driver with Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard.

“Specialist Alfaro’s bravery is a shining example to us all,” said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “I applaud her heroism in the midst of battle. We are grateful that the quick actions she took, as well as those of her fellow Soldiers, helped save lives on the battlefield.”

On Jan. 15, Alfaro was serving as the driver of a light medium tactical vehicle gun truck, which was escorting a convoy of third country nationals on the main U.S. supply route from Baghdad to Balad, Iraq.

Just after midnight, according to the award citation, “the convoy was ambushed by enemy forces with well aimed direct fire from four machine guns and numerous other small arms ... the terrain was relatively flat with lots of brush blocking the view of the enemy positions.”

She drove her vehicle into the line of enemy fire to protect the civilian drivers and allow her gunner the ability to return fire on the enemy. When Alfaro received word the driver was wounded in the third country national’s vehicle directly in front of hers, she instinctively grabbed a combat lifesaver bag and ran more than 50 yards through a hail of gunfire to reach him.

Alfaro’s truck crew, Sergeant Brandi Brenden and Specialist Stephen Vrabel, both of Eagle River, saw enemy bullets kicking up dust around her feet and tracer rounds streaking past her head as she ran.

Enemy fire was increasing, so she placed her body between the enemy and the civilian driver to shield him while she worked to assess his medical condition.

Radio communication indicated that there was another wounded in the convoy, so Alfaro took one of the gun trucks to treat the second wounded civilian. Her actions in treating the second third country national saved his life.

“Specialist Alfaro’s courage under fire is exceptional,” said Captain Joshua Shrader, of Juneau, commander of Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard. “She helps make this hostile environment a little safer through her actions and willingness to help protect everyone around her.”

She was given the Bronze Star Medal with Valor on March 19 in Iraq by Vice President Dick Cheney. ■



Honoring a Hero. 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.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard



Distinguished Service. Brigadier General J. Randy Banez, commander of the 207th Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, presents the bronze star to Captain Jared Wandell for his distinguished service as the commander for Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, during his deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo: Courtesy of Captain Jared Wandell, Alaska Army National Guard

Soldier Receives **BRONZE STAR** for Distinguished Service

By Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Captain Jared Wandell, of the Alaska Army National Guard, was presented the Bronze Star in January for his distinguished service as the commander for Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry during his deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Wandell was the driving force in the development and coordination of all aspects of route sanitation operations and security operations for the defense of a major crossing and the main supply route between Northern Kuwait and Southern Iraq.

“He is very resourceful and was always pushing and pushing to get the best equipment so his Soldiers could do their job successfully,” said Lieutenant Colonel David W. Osborn, the battalion commander of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

Under his command at Camp Virginia, Delta Company held the highest retention rate and had two Soldiers selected for Soldier of the Quarter.

“He ran a very tight-knit company from the command all the way to the individual Soldier level,” Osborn said. “He is a good planner and communicator and well liked by his Soldiers.”

One of the keys to his personal success as company commander was his experience, Osborn said. Much of his experience comes from also being the company commander for Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry and the executive officer of the Alaska Army National Guard’s Counterdrug Support Program. ■



Education

Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates First Class of 2008

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The first class of 2008 of the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduated from the program on March 1.

One hundred twenty-three cadets from all across Alaska successfully completed five-and-a-half months of demanding academic studies, life skills, community service, military style discipline and physical training, at the place students call the toughest high school in Alaska.

ChalleNGe Program diplomas were handed out to the cadets before a crowd filled of proud parents, family and friends. Many of the cadets said they now have a new, positive outlook on their future. ■

Honor Graduates. The first class of 2008 honor graduates of the Alaska Military Youth Academy, from left to right: Tu'uese Faatafuga, Paul Queenie, Anthony Smith, Eddy Dela Rosa, Eugena Pagh and David Espinal.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy



Successful Student. Alaska Military Youth Academy Cadet Eugena Pagh, of Anchorage, shakes hands with Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, while AMYA ChalleNGe Program Director Craig Christensen looks on ready to congratulate the new graduate. Photo: Sergeant Marc McNab, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Get the MOST from Your Educational Benefits

By Second Lieutenant David Campbell, 249th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard

Here are some things you can do to maximize your Guard educational benefits.

The GI Bill Selected Reserve

Use it! With few exceptions, most Guardsmen are eligible to use the program only while serving their military service obligation. It's not like the active duty GI Bill, which allows you to use the program after being discharged. For those that do use it, always take at least 12 credits to get the full monthly allowance.

GI Bill Kicker

The Kicker is an add-on to the basic program and can significantly increase your monthly entitlement.

Alaska State Tuition Waiver Program

This is a state program that provides financial aid to Guardsmen attending the University of Alaska.

Alaska State Tuition Reimbursement Program

This is another state program that provides financial aid to Guardsmen attending colleges other than the University of Alaska and to those seeking certificates at vocational or technical schools in Alaska. Usually this program cannot be used in conjunction with the tuition waiver program. It will reimburse Guard members up to \$2,000 a year for tuition and fees.

Pell Grants

Pell grants, as well as all federal and some state financial aid, are awarded based on a "financial need" formula determined by Congress using criteria submitted through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. As a National Guard member, one of the deciding factors determining your independent/dependent student status may come down to your veteran status.

A "veteran," as defined for financial aid purposes is different than the traditional VA definition. In this case, a "veteran" is someone who was on active duty Title 10 status (for other than state or training purposes) and was



Who We Are...

Where is the most unusual place you've been to with the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs?

Troy Nicolson

*Admissions Officer
Alaska Military Youth Academy*



"I have been very fortunate to have gone to a lot of great places. If I had to choose one place it would have to be New Hampshire – I really enjoyed all the great historical sites and features I saw while I was there."

**Private First Class
Lolitta Lapriel**

*Alaska Army National Guard
Medical Detachment*



"Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. – where I went for basic training after I joined the Alaska Army National Guard as a medic."

**Colonel
Wendy Wenke**

*Director of Staff
JFHQ-AK (Air)*



"Wake Island – it's a little island in the middle of the Pacific. It was the first TDY I went on."

**Master Sergeant
Donald Ramey**

JFHQ-AK (Army)



"Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – I went with the Alaska Army National Guard for a planning meeting."

Vicki Garner

*Commandant
Alaska Military Youth Academy*



"The most unique place I have been was repelling at Hatcher's Pass with a group of cadets."

released under a condition other than dishonorable. The member could be on active duty for only one day and still be eligible.

Enlisted Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

Eligibility depends on program criteria effective when you enlisted or reenlisted. If you are eligible, an annual payment will be made on your federally guaranteed student loans. It can be very difficult to maximize your benefits under this program because several restrictions are placed on the payments. Here are some things you can do to get the most out of the program.

Obtain Stafford Loans: Though there are other federal student loans out there, Stafford loans are the most prevalently available to students.

Maximize Repayment: The Enlisted SLRP currently pays 15 percent or a minimum of \$500 of the loan balance on each education loan up to the annual maximum of \$3,500. To maximize the annual payment, it's better to have several smaller loans than one large one.

Scholarships

It's amazing the number of people who don't apply for scholarships because they assume they aren't qualified. More often than not, scholarship programs go

either unused or end up going to applicants with less than stellar transcripts.

At first these programs can be frustrating to use, but in the end they will pay dividends. By the time I graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2005, these programs essentially paid for my entire college education. ■

Campbell recently graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training and is now flying the C-17 Globemaster III for the Alaska Air National Guard. He started as an enlisted Airman, earned his Bachelor of Science degree at UAA and was awarded a pilot position.

176th Wing is 'Air Force Outstanding Unit'

By Staff Sergeant Eric M. Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ...

The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing was recognized with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its service to the nation from Aug. 31, 2005, to Sept. 1, 2007.

"To be recognized as one of the premier units in the United States Air Force is a tremendous accomplishment in which our Alaska Air Guard members should be very proud," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "Here in Alaska we see how valuable our Guard members are on a daily basis, and it's gratifying that their hard work and dedication is acclaimed on a national level."

"I am deeply honored; this is a competitive award," said Brigadier General Tony Hart, commander of the 176th Wing. "There is no doubt our organization meets the high criteria the award solicits."

Among the successes cited by the award were the Wing's mobilization and deployments supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, as well as Operation Jump Start, the nation's southwestern border patrol mission. The Wing was also praised for sustaining normal peacetime airlift operations and 24-hour rescue alert.

"Our list of accomplishments during this time included numerous examples of meritorious service and outstanding achievement," Hart said. "These were all made possible by an organization of dedicated traditional and full-time Guard members

working around the clock, seven days a week, to protect our nation's borders and help secure our interests abroad."

Simultaneously, the 176th Wing supported Hurricane Katrina relief saving 1,282 lives and evacuating 11,927 people. The rescue detachment successfully rescued a downed Airman from an F-15/F-16 mid-air collision, and all four flying squadrons received national media coverage for the Cougar Ace mission, rescuing 23 people from a listing ship and earning the Jolly Green Association Rescue Mission of the Year Award.

The 176th Air Control Squadron maintained North American air sovereignty by detecting, monitoring and escorting 22 Russian bombers from within its area of operations. The Wing continued to provide community support, maintaining the 51-year Operation Santa Claus tradition of delivering Christmas gifts to remote Alaska villages.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award was first created in 1954, just seven years after the Air Force was formed. It is presented to commands of the U.S. Air Force—including Reserve and Air National Guard units—which perform "exceptionally meritorious service, accomplish specific acts of outstanding achievement, excel in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or conduct with distinction military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to, a hostile action by any opposing foreign force." ■

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High Honor for Soldier. 2007 Alaska National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sergeant Nicholas Dutton, and his wife, Megan, greet Senator Ted Stevens and General George Casey, U.S. Army chief of staff, at a reception before the Armed Services YMCA Salute to the Military banquet Feb. 22. Dutton is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 207th Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard. Photo: Brian Lepley, U.S. Army Alaska



Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Legion of Merit



COL Judith M. Eller Med Det

Bronze Star



SPC Veronica Alfaro
(w/V Device) 297th Spt Bn
CPT Jared Wandell 3rd Bn

Meritorious Service Medal



CMSgt Barry D. Beck 168th AMXS
MSgt Jennifer J. Nelson 168th AMXS
Capt Essex L. Richardson Jr. 168 ARW
CMSgt Alan A. Carvajal 168th SFS
SMSgt Thomas A. Sawyer 168th MXS
SMSgt Robert W. Fine 168th MXS
SMSgt Mark R. Renson 168th MXS
SMSgt Phillip L. Hunt II 168th MXS
SMSgt Walter D. Ames 168th MXS
MSgt Dawn M. Vargo 168th MOF
Lt Col Leigh A. Scarboro 168th LRS
SMSgt Brett S. Ayers 168th ARS
SMSgt Faith M. Worthen 168th LRS
MSgt Sean P. Cain 168th ARS
TSgt Michael P. Burrell 168th MXS
TSgt Tommie B. Hutto Jr. 168th MXS
MSG Elizabeth Burdette 207th Avn
COL Bradley Jorgensen JFHQ-AK (Army)
MAJ Billie Matthews 297th Inf
CPT William Nicholson 207th Bde
SSG Donald D. Jones 297th Spt Bn
SFC Ryan J. Weimer 207th Bde
MSgt John W. Cleveland 176th LRS
MSgt Brian C. Bunce 206th CBCS
MSgt William B. Yockell Jr. 206th CBCS
Maj Jean M. Liebig 206th CBCS
TSgt James V. Iagulli 206th CBCS
TSgt Karl W. Morris 206th CBCS
TSgt Thomas L. McCrae 206th CBCS
SMSgt Stephen L. Burris 206th CBCS
MSgt James M. Beeson 206th CBCS
LtCol Jeffrey S. Campbell 206th CBCS
Maj John B. Darnell 176th CES
Maj Kenneth A. Weiss 176th SFS
SMSgt Scott C. Belyea 176th CES
MSgt Roger D. Olsen 206th CBCS
CMSgt Richard J. Robotkay 206th CBCS
MSgt Rodney A. Hansen 206th CBCS
MSgt Donald G. Frederick 176th SFS
SSgt Oliver Andrus Jr. 176th LRS
MSgt Lorraine H. Guthrie 176th MXS

CMSgt Kevin M. Brown 176th AMXS
MSgt Harold L. Meier 176th MXG
MSgt David G. Bridenbaugh 176th MXS
MSgt Arthur J. Clark 176th ACS
MSgt Curtis D. Brenton 176th SFS
MSgt Todd A. Maynard 176th SFS
Maj Tora Gore 176th OSF
LtCol Paul H. Kvernplassen 176th ACS
MSgt Adam Galindo 211th RQS
LtCol Glenn R. Hughton 176th APF
SMSgt Paul A. Reddington 212th RQS

Army Commendation Medal



SFC Yolanda Cooper JFHQ-AK (Army)
CW3 Marcia Harrison JFHQ-AK (Army)
SGT Michael R. Montoya 49th MDB
CPT Rosemarie Rotunno Med Det
SFC Megan K. Simono JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Maria L. Weaver JFHQ-AK (Army)

Air Force Commendation Medal



MSgt Antonio Lucchesi II 168th MXS
MSgt Jeremy T. Amstrup 168th SFS
SrA Travis E. Olsen 168th AMXS
SSgt Saroya Warren 176th MSF
MSgt James B. Brewer 176th MXG
SSgt John J. Martin 206th CBCS
MSgt William E. Lewis 206th CBCS
MSgt Rebecca E. Webster 206th CBCS
TSgt Bryan S. Spake 206th CBCS
MSgt Robert E. Roberts 206th CBCS
TSgt Chaille D. Moore 206th CBCS
SSgt Beau V. Bellamy 206th CBCS
SSgt Thomas R. Berry 206th CBCS
TSgt Ariel O. Martin 176th WG
TSgt Luz M. Brown 176th LRS
SMSgt Paul D. Charron 176th LRS
MSgt Michael B. Murphy x 2 212th RQS
SSgt Tiffany N. Sharpe 176th SFS

SSgt Carrie A. Curtis 176th ACS
SSgt Erik M. Hauka 176th ACS
Capt Joseph E. Conroy 212th RQS
TSgt Jonathan R. Davis x 2 212th RQS
SMSgt Steven A. Slagle 212th RQS
TSgt Robert M. Schnell 212th RQS
SSgt John E.O. Swanson 212th RQS
MSgt Jeanette D. Gonzalez 176th ACS
TSgt Garrick C. Hoehne 212th RQS
TSgt Everett W. Emerson 176th ACS
TSgt Clarence M. Stevens 176th ACS
MSgt Paul L. Nelson 176th ACS
SSgt Douglas H. Kidwell 176th ACS
TSgt Bobbi J. Barker 176th ACS
Captain Robert L. Taylor 212th RQS

Army Achievement Medal



SPC Brandon L. Amarone 49th MDB
SGT Travis R. Amik 49th MDB
SGT Javier Arreguin 49th MDB
SSG Shawn S. Aubrecht 49th MDB
SPC Kirk D. Bausman 49th MDB
SPC Stephen R. Bearor 49th MDB
SPC James W. Bond 49th MDB
SPC Jason C. Bowman 49th MDB
SPC Charles S. Bynum 49th MDB
SGT Robert D. Carson 49th MDB
SGT Thomas J. Cleary 49th MDB
SGT Juan R. Coronel 49th MDB
SGT Anthony J. Craidon 49th MDB
SGT Quintrell Crayton 49th MDB
SGT Jeremy J. Curtis 49th MDB
SGT Henry H. Dehling 49th MDB
SGT Michael N. Diachenko 49th MDB
SSG Paul R. Donaldson 49th MDB
SGT Lisa M. Druga 49th MDB
SGT John J Dvorak III 49th MDB
SGT Sherman E. Ellington 49th MDB
SGT Robert C. Etheridge 49th MDB
SSG John T. Flood 49th MDB
SPC Paul D. Freeman 49th MDB



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 SGT Lewis C. Greer49th MDB
 SFC Troy E. Hein49th MDB
 SSG Bonnie L. HenningMed Det
 SGT Derrick L. Holmes49th MDB
 SSG Kip E. Jones49th MDB
 PVT Shayla B. KellyRRD
 SGT Francisco D. Marrero49th MDB
 SGT Larry W. Martin49th MDB
 SGT Matthew D. Martin49th MDB
 SSG Richard C. Mathieson49th MDB
 SGT Kristian D. Michael49th MDB
 SPC Daniel R. Morse49th MDB
 SSG Michael A. NelsonRTI
 SPC Elaina L. Nicholson49th MDB
 SPC Stephanie A. Oates49th MDB
 SGT Duane W. Ostrowski49th MDB
 SGT Nicholas J. Oswald49th MDB
 SGT Katja C. Paul49th MDB
 SGT Seth M. Paul49th MDB
 SSG Jose R. Peralta49th MDB
 SGT Andrew G. Pfeiffer49th MDB
 SGT Michael A. Piccirillo49th MDB
 SFC John I. Robinson Jr.49th MDB
 SGT Amy M. Rodriguez49th MDB
 SGT Kenneth J. Seymore III49th MDB
 SGT Luke K. Sinclair49th MDB
 SGT Casey R. Smith49th MDB
 SGT Jason M. Stolz49th MDB
 SGT Tommy D. Tanner49th MDB
 SPC Joseph L. Teneyck49th MDB
 SGT Jeffery C. Tipton49th MDB
 SGT Damian W. Tucker49th MDB
 SGT Todd L. Turner49th MDB
 SGT Reuben A. Vargas49th MDB
 SPC Sasha S. Wenberg49th MDB

Air Force Achievement Medal



MSgt Antonio Lucchesi II168th MXS
 TSgt Frederick G. Adams168th MXS
 SrA James R. Hannis168th MXS
 SrA Phillip G. Newton Jr.168th MXS
 TSgt Robert J. Albaugh168th AMXS
 Lt Col Benjamin K. Baker213th SWS
 1Lt Eric J. Haugen213th SWS
 2Lt Brandon Stephens168th ARS
 2Lt Jessica M. Hill168th MSF
 MSgt Lori D. Kelly168th MSF
 SrA Don R. McCartney206th CBCS
 TSgt Sherry A. Brown206th CBCS
 SrA Grian A. Hubble206th CBCS
 SrA Steven G. Clark206th CBCS
 SrA Ian W. Hromada206th CBCS
 SSG Athena M. Hromada206th CBCS
 SSG Jared T. Friesen206th CBCS
 SrA John C. Darnall206th CBCS

TSgt James D. Whitlock206th CBCS
 SSgt Joshua A. Traini206th CBCS
 SrA Neil A. Rutherford206th CBCS
 TSgt William M. Patton III206th CBCS
 TSgt Garrick C. Hoehne212th RQS
 TSgt Andrew L. Butz212th RQS
 TSgt Christopher J. Robertson212th RQS
 SSgt Tiffany N. Sharpe176th SFS
 TSgt Susan L. Rowland176th ACS

Army Good Conduct Medal



SPC Kirk Bausman49th MDB
 SGT Jeremy Christensen49th MDB
 SGT Thomas Cleary49th MDB
 SGT Quntrell Crayton49th MDB
 SGT Jarrod Cuthbertson49th MDB
 SGT Craig Davis49th MDB
 SGT Michael Diachenko49th MDB
 1SG Billie Dutton49th MDB
 SGT Sherman Ellington49th MDB
 SPC Michael Maher49th MDB
 SSG Steven Mich49th MDB
 SGT Katja Paul49th MDB
 SGT Seth Paul49th MDB
 SGT Andrew Pfeiffer49th MDB
 SGT Amy Rodriguez49th MDB
 SGT Aaron Rosine49th MDB
 SGT Kenneth Seymore49th MDB
 SPC Joseph Teneyck49th MDB
 SGT Damian Tucker49th MDB
 SGT Reuben Vargas49th MDB
 SGT Joshua White49th MDB
 SFC Rhame L. Grubbs49th MDB
 SSG Eric D. Wood49th MDB

Alaska Legion of Merit



CSM Robert Averett207th Bde
 LTC Debra BlaylockRTI

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



CPT William Nicholson207th Bde
 MR Mark PierceCIV
 SGT Teddy L. Charles2nd Bn
 1SG Robert A. Francisco207th Avn
 LTC William J. Luce2nd Bn
 SSG Steven S. Morrison207th Avn
 SFC Francis H. Utteriyuk2nd Bn

Alaska Commendation Medal



SSG Lakesha DavisJFHQ-AK (Army)

SSG Joseph ThibaultJFHQ-AK (Army)
 MR Lawrence WhiteCIV

Alaska Community Service Medal



MR Patrick LighthartCIV
 MS Dorothy SeymourCIV
 MR Jack SeymourCIV

RETIREMENTS

SMSgt Donald A. Claveau168th ARW
 MSgt Rodney J. Harker168th AMXS
 TSgt Charles A. Mitchell213th SWS
 Lt Col Todd M. Mackinaw168th ARS
 MSgt Gerald A. Boynton168th MXS
 CMSgt Barry D. Beck168th AMXS
 CSM Robert Averett207th Bde
 SSG William BeebeRRD
 SGT Kim DerrMed Det
 SFC James Fox297th Inf
 SSG Donald Jones207th Bde
 COL Bradley JorgensenJFHQ-AK (Army)
 1SG Daniel Randall297th Inf
 SFC Elizabeth Sanvig207th Bde
 SSG Michael Utteriyuk297th Inf
 SGT Vernon WagnerJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGT Mauriciot Yadao297th Inf
 LTC William J. Luce2nd Bn
 SSG Carl White Jr.2nd Bn
 MSgt Cynthia BierleJFHQ-AK (Air)
 MSgt Kimberly Stoltz206th CCS
 MSgt David Bridendbaugh176th MXS
 MSgt Adam Galindo211th RQS
 MSgt John Cleveland176th LRS
 Lt Col Paul Kvernplassen144th AS
 MSgt Glenn Sumabat176th LRS
 MSgt John Darnell176th CES
 TSgt Jose Robles Jr.176th CES
 CMSgt Charles Sutton176th CES
 SSG Byron Ipock176th LRS

PROMOTIONS

Brigadier General

J. Randy Banez207th Bde

Major

Eric D. Budd176th WG

Captain

Marvell Hawkins49th MDB
Patrick I. Lang144th AS
Nanette S. MartinezJFHQ-AK (Air)

First Lieutenant

Luke B. Davis176th LRS
Audrey L. Smith176th OSF
Andrew N. Beuch176th OSF
Koaalii C. Bailey212th RQS

Chief Master Sergeant

Phillip L. Hunt168th AMXS
Frank A. ShafferJFHQ-AK (Air)

Senior Master Sergeant

William G. Dixon168th AMXS
Todd A. Peplow210th RQS
Karl A. HowardJFHQ-AK (Air)

Master Sergeant

Michael J. Young168th MXS
John R. Duhaime168th OG
Barbara M. Maglaqui168th MDG
Troy L. Clinkenbeard213th SWS
Steven E. McDonald213th SWS
Bryan E. McPherson213th SWS
Lorri A. Heneveld213th SWS
Michael J. Travis168th LRS
Heather David-Damm168th MSF
Cen O. Claudia168th MSG
Mark A. Larroque144th AS
Nance H. Pitts176th ACS
Kevin W. Pollard176th ACS
Gary E. Swan176th MXS
Mark A. Patricks176th MXS
Brian J. Boucher176th MXS
Pauline Y. Jones176th MDG
Darren F. Mcgrevy211th RQS

Staff Sergeant (E-6)

John ChriswellJFHQ-AK (Army)
Javier Arreguin49th MDB
Kevin Clark Jr.207th Avn
Travis Cook207th Bde
Timothy Rhoades207th Bde
Russell Throckmorton207th Bde
Joseluis Villasenor297th Inf
James A. Blyler1st Bn
Andrew M. Corcoran1st Bn
Mark J. Scott49th MDB
Isaac J. Ukoidemabia1st Bn
Ryan F. Verkennis1st Bn

Technical Sergeant

Todd A. Limbaugh213th SWS
Julie A. Lackey168th MXS
Sandra C. Murphy168th ARW
James J. Castagna144th AS
David M. Roles144th AS
Evan D. Budd176th ACS
Douglas H. Kidwell176th ACS
Jonathan C. Smith176th ACS
Matthew Carse176th ACS
Theodore A. Dooley Jr.176th CES
Mark A. Smith176th CES
Brad L. Nelson176th CES
Robert L. Cowan176th LRS
Robin A. Knudsen176th LRS
Mary E. Bramer176th MOF
Robert E. Meacham176th MXS
Ronald M. Burns176th MXS
Jacob A. Robinson176th MXS
Jesus F. Maglaqui176th MXS
Richard J. Cardenas176th MDG
Gina M. Gonzalez176th MDG
Kristine A. Laughlinhall176th MDG
Robert D. Townsend176th OSF
Paul L. Guzman176th WG
Clinton B. Miller212th RQS

Sergeant

Matthew Armstrong297th Inf
Gabriel Ayojiak297th Inf
Kirk Bausman49th MDB
Tony Byers297th Spt Bn
Charles Bynum49th MDB
Robert Chapman207th Bde
Anthony Draino207th Bde
Norman Holman297th Inf
Enele Lefano297th Spt Bn
Jamie-Marie MagsayoJFHQ-AK (Army)
Tyson MaschmeierMed Det

David Mills297th Inf
Murphy Moo297th Inf
Brian Norris207th Bde
Joseph Robinson297th Spt Bn
Scott Smith207th Inf Gp
Talavou Tanuvasa207th Inf Gp
Tracy Tipton49th MDB
Mark Velasco297th Spt Bn

Staff Sergeant

Freda A. Smith168th LRS
Denise R. Meyer168th LRS
David J. Davis213th SWS
Daniel Brion213th SWS
Dasalyn R. Whitlock176th ACS
Shawn M. Foster176th AMXS
Mark D. Hill176th CES
Lawrence C. Erickson Jr.176th LRS
Carl C. Collins176th LRS
Diana J. Symbol176th MOF
Jason E. Posey176th MXS
Stewart J. Andringa II176th MXS
Tommie M. Hough176th MXS
Ryan A. Audett176th MXS
Nicholas T. White176th MXS
Jeffrey A. Orzechowski176th MXS
Courtney N. Dillingham176th MXS
Benjamin B. Klein176th MXS
James E. Jones176th MXS
Kent Q. Bryant176th OSF
Krystal S. Mitchell176th SFS
Cassie R. Cooper176th SFS
Wesley B. Rathburn176th SFS
Clifford W. Lien176th SFS
Raymond O. Ashcraft176th SFS
Sara M. Bishop211th RQS
Thomas R. Berry212th RQS
Brian A. Hubble212th RQS



Another Alaska Star

The Alaska Army National Guard's J. Randy Banez, commander of the 207th Infantry Brigade, laughs as twin sons, Brandon, left, and Matthew, change his shoulder boards from the rank of colonel to brigadier general Feb. 8, at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel. Banez said that although he has been commanding the 207th Infantry Brigade since June 2007, neither his responsibilities nor his focus will change after

the promotion and pinning-on of brigadier general rank. "I'll remain in the same position, but the one star rank will help to make me more visible and more public to the Guard as a whole, and I think that is a big thing," Banez said. "I love working with Soldiers; I've been very lucky to do that at the company and battalion levels and now brigade level. It's a lot of fun to work with the Soldiers, and they are my primary duty." Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

176th Wing

Peter Feld
 Julnudda Jackson
 Raymond Mixsooke
 Liliana Gallego
 Justin Young
 Johnpaul Lecompte
 Joseph Seaboalt
 Justin Robertson
 Darren Hildebrand
 Jason Williams
 Derek Hansen
 Brian Taffin
 Robert Williams
 Matthew Perdew
 Daniel Park
 Taylor Richey
 Donna Pasley
 Joanna Figueroa
 Tia Oshop
 Tomme Wheeler
 Robert Cabilan
 Deandra Torres
 Mark Hill
 Alea Babcock
 John Kershaw
 James Zwiefel
 Bruce Dougherty
 Matthew Kirby
 Jason Posey
 Christopher Smith
 Charity Mollison
 Robert Gertsch
 David Brauneis
 Douglas Hosier
 William Miller
 Melvin Casler
 Amy Anderson
 Richard Zambotti

168th Air Refueling Wing

Brandon Taft
 Marsha Christmas
 Audrey Agustin
 Tracy Bull
 Deeann Robinson
 Todd Quier
 Amy Shultz
 Paula Gardner
 Jasmine James
 Jherenmichel Svoboda
 Shane Potwin
 Matthew Kobza
 Rob Regan

Melissa Spencer
 Vanessa Svoboda
 Chad Hill
 James Campbell
 Ashley Hembree
 Robert Ives
 Nicholas Campiglia
 Joseph Garner
 John Stolz

207th Infantry Brigade

Ellic Peel
 David White
 Jack Sieler
 Ryan Rodriguez
 Nickolai Converse
 Daniel Fleckenstein
 James Hobbs
 Jonathan Ham
 Evan Harrington
 Kody Gratrix
 Thomas Willard
 Daniel Harkleroad
 Joshua Bishop

297th Infantry

Christopher Perez
 Andrew John
 Vernon Friday

Jose Cinco
 Tyler Peterson
 Joshua Banks
 Eric Pabon
 Axel Joe
 Charles Casterline

207th Aviation Battalion

Manefa Ruetov
 Brendon Allen
 Travis Douglas
 Arnol Farmer
 Christopher Miks
 Christopher Owens
 Erica Casarez
 Tiffani Hildebrand
 Mark Edquid
 Patricia Gutierrez
 Rebecca Kilway
 Douglas Scott
 Jonathon Huselton
 Brandon McGregor

Army Guard Recruiting and Retention

Jason Lyman
 Walter Williams



Guard Iditarod Team. Army National Guard Master Sergeant Rodney D. Whaley of Franklin, Tenn., fulfills a childhood dream of racing in the Iditarod, by riding down Fourth Avenue in Anchorage, with a team of 16 dogs "in the greatest race there ever was," he called it. Whaley and his National Guard sponsored team of sled dogs allowed a retired Soldier to also see his dream come true through the Idita-rider program.

Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Army Guard Medical Detachment

Brittany Mason

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

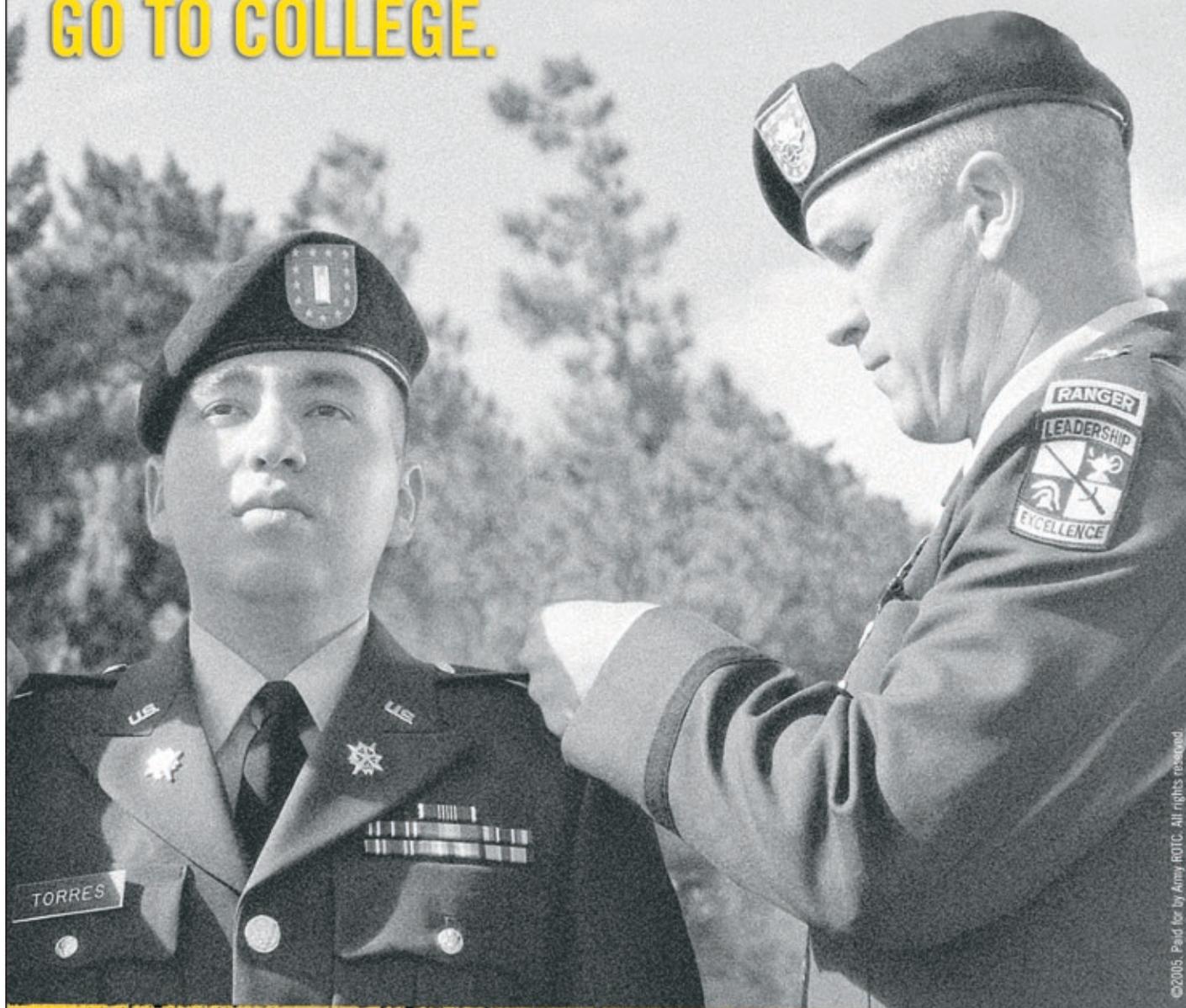
Richard Comeaux

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.

	April	May	June
Alaska National Guard			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	5-6	3-4	7-8
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	12-13	2-4	7-8
Alaska Army National Guard			
207th Infantry Brigade	11-13	2-4	6-8
1/207th Aviation Regiment	11-13	2-4	6-8
297th Support Battalion	11-13	2-4	No Drill
Regional Training Institute	12-13	17-18	20-21
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	5-6	3-4	7-8
176th Wing	5-6	3-4	7-8
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	19-20	17-18	21-22

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GUARD

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

The *Guard* *Recruiting* *Assistance* *Program*

promotes
strength
from within

by recognizing and rewarding those who help the Army National Guard achieve its goals.

Be a Guard Recruiting Assistant.

Qualify to become a Guard Recruiting Assistant through a simple online process.

- Earn additional income while assisting the Army National Guard
- Earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists



Our purpose is to:

- Transform the way the ARNG conducts recruiting and retention operations
- Return to community based recruiting — grassroots
- Reduce the cost of recruiting new Soldiers
- Increase the number of new Soldiers recruited

(866) 566-2472

grap@docupak.com