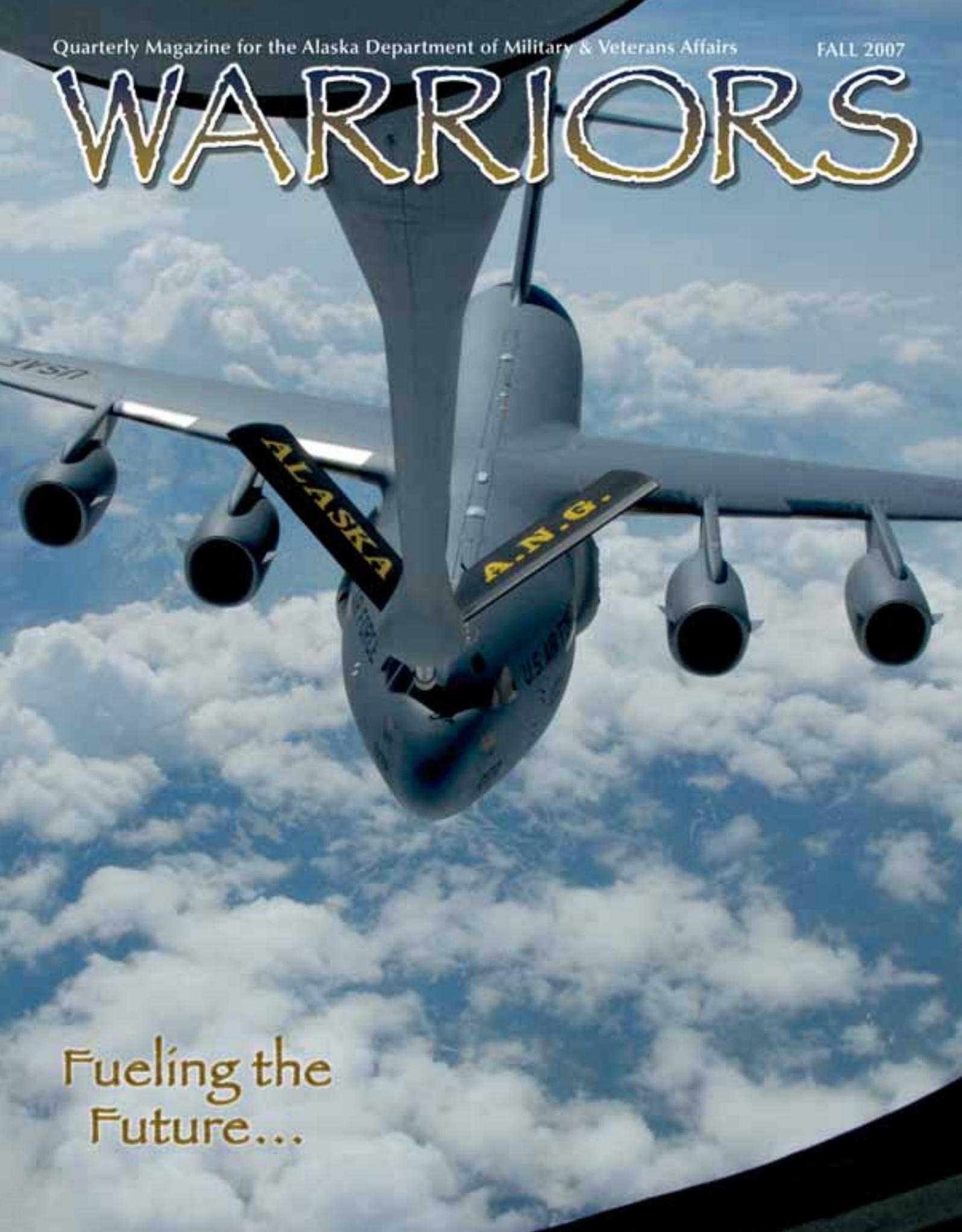


Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

FALL 2007

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Airborne. Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell, left, takes a ride with Master Sergeant Christopher Widener, of the 212th Pararescue Squadron, on an Alaska Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter. In August, Parnell received a first-hand look at the capabilities and operations of the Alaska Air National Guard's rescue squadrons.
Photo: Technical Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing



Fueling the Future. An Alaska Air National Guard KC-135 from the 168th Air Wing refuels one of the newest additions to the Alaska Air National Guard, the C-17 Globemaster III.
Photo: Master Sergeant Robert Wieland, 354th Fighter Wing 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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Dispatches from the Front...

Facilities Get Facelifts

By Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs



Upgraded Look, Upgraded Safety. Still for a moment, a concrete-cutting machine rests against the backdrop of construction in progress under the late-August sun. New concrete was poured to form heated walkways to the Armory's main entrance. The long-term benefits of enhanced safety, increased aesthetics and improved wear life will provide an ongoing benefit to the Anchorage Armory's users and guests.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Across Alaska, the buildings and infrastructure of the DMVA are getting makeovers and improvements to meet modern needs and security requirements to address today's threat environment.

The purpose behind the changes? To assist the DMVA in reaching the goals outlined in the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan. Brigadier General Thomas Katkus, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Army National Guard, said, in addition to new requirements driven by the Global War on Terrorism, the ongoing transformation of the 207th Infantry Group into the 207th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade plays a big part.

The Anchorage Armory is one of the major projects underway. While some of the changes address concerns that have demanded attention since the Armory was built 17 years ago, modifications are required to more effectively support the expanded missions and structure of the current DMVA, said Colonel Tim DeHaas, Alaska Army National Guard's chief of staff.

Throughout the Alaska National Guard, construction projects are transforming the familiar into the new and improved.

"We've got a vision of anticipating future needs and providing security for a rapidly emerging and constantly changing threat," Katkus said. "Separate from the Base Realignment and Closure relocation of Kulis Air National Guard Base to Elmendorf, different from the joint basing process, this process will focus exclusively on the needs of the Alaska National Guard," he said.

Some of the changes will address safety concerns in anti-terrorism and force protection. Some changes, like those planned for the Civil Support Team, will increase response capability.

Individual safety concerns, such as icy walkways into the Armory's main entrance and Ruff Road's new route and running track, will assist efforts to maintain a healthy, trained and ready combat force. Still other improvements address the needs of traditional Guardsmen, such as a completely overhauled locker room to store the gear they're required to keep on site.

By 2008, it's projected that building occupants will finally enjoy air-conditioned relief from the summer's heat. Throughout Camp Denali, Bryant Airfield, and Camp Carroll, offices and personnel will be relocated to consolidate units, with the goal of improving access and efficiency.

"If there's one thing experience teaches us, it is that change allows for improvement," Katkus said.

The entire construction process is complicated, with many moving parts. As a result, Katkus specifically requested user input, essential to preventing errors and missed opportunities. Despite the complexity required to make adjustments while meeting ongoing deadlines, Katkus said, "we're moving as fast as we can but as slowly as we must" to keep the projects on track.

To submit ideas or express concerns, please contact DeHaas, at timothy.dehaas@us.army.mil or call (907) 428-6040. ■



New and Improved. This picture, an aerial view of the Anchorage Armory, was used to show what security and operational improvements are planned. Photo illustration by Aaron Richins, DMVA Facilities Management

Alaska National Guard Black Hawks Help Fight Wildfires

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... In June, the state of Alaska's Division of Forestry called on the Alaska National Guard to assist in fighting the wildfires spreading throughout the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, with about 30 Guard members as support crews from the Alaska Army National Guard, helped in the fight. The Black Hawks were equipped with water buckets to assist with aerial fire suppression.

"The Alaska National Guard is always ready and prepared to take care of fellow Alaskans," said Brigadier General Deborah

McManus, chief of staff for the Alaska National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters. "We constantly stand poised to help the firefighting efforts in all areas of the state if called upon."

The State Emergency Coordination Center at Camp Denali was also on alert during the wildfire season.

"When the current fire danger is high, we monitor the activity and request assets from the Alaska National Guard as needed," said Tom Smayda, State Emergency Coordination Center manager, who coordinates the state's support requests with the Alaska National Guard's Joint Operations Center. ■

Where in the World



Welcome Home. Captain Eric Budd, of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, smiles at family and friends at Kulis Air National Guard Base, after returning home from a 43-day deployment to the Horn of Africa. The Airmen deployed for air refueling and rescue operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Kulis Airmen Return Home from Africa

By Captain Guy Hayes,
DMVA Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... Forty-five Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 211th Rescue Squadron and 176th Maintenance Group from Kulis Air National Guard Base returned to Alaska in August after a 43-day deployment to the Horn of Africa.

The Airmen deployed to the east Africa country of Djibouti, where they formed the 81st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Pete Manthey. They were part of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, and their mission was to refuel Marine helicopters, as well as to conduct combat and peacetime rescue missions in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"The Army Corps of Engineers and Navy Seabees were involved with humanitarian missions such as building schools and hospitals, and we were primarily there to support those missions," Manthey said. "We were on alert everyday and flew several missions to help the cause."

The Airmen also got to see how joint operations worked first-hand. They worked alongside Marines from North Carolina and pararescuemen from Nevada every day.

"It was great exposure, and a fantastic learning experience working in a joint environment," Manthey said. "You really get to see how things work, and we all did our part." ■



Preparing for Deployment. Technical Sergeant Andrew Seward, left, and Senior Airman Jay Adams perform a pre-embarkation inspection on one of the M240 machine guns from the 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard. The 168th Security Forces Squadron will provide command leadership, force protection, aircraft and installation security during its six-month deployment to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Courtesy 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard



Qualification Concentration. Sergeant First Class William Ray, retention non-commissioned officer of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, fires an M-4 Carbine Assault Rifle in the kneeling position during a recent qualification course on Fort Greely. Qualifying in the interior of Alaska can be challenging because of weather extremes. Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

Embedded Transition Team Busy in Afghanistan

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard Embedded Transition Team has been busy all across the deserts of northern Afghanistan since they arrived in July to help the Afghan

National Security Forces combat terrorism.

Some team members are working as Embedded Transition Team mentors with a Kandak (battalion) of the Afghan National Army. Other Alaska Guard team members are in Mazar-e Sharif working with the Afghan National Police as mentors, and still others are providing critical support at a U.S. military base.

"We have participated with both the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police in many presence patrols," said Major Wayne Hunt, the



En Route to Afghanistan. The Alaska Army National Guard's Sergeant First Class Robert Nunnally, left, Sergeant First Class Anibal Jorge, center, and Sergeant First Class Ramon Gutierrez take a quick break after offloading their gear at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. The Soldiers are members of the Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team and have been working with various police and security forces units in Afghanistan since July. Photo: Major Wayne Hunt, Alaska Army National Guard

Security Forces Deploy

By 168th Air Refueling Wing,
Alaska Air National Guard

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Thirty-one Alaska Air National Guard members from the 168th Security Forces Squadron, stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, are serving a six-month deployment in Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This is 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.

Major Carl Alvarez assumed command in September of nearly 200 Air National Guard Security Forces personnel from seven states responsible for the security of a major Operation Enduring Freedom forward operating base, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

"Security Forces' primary mission at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, is to provide air base ground defense to protect the installation and personnel, as well as protection from standoff weapons, which may pose a threat to the airfield and the aircraft during critical times of flight including takeoffs and landings," Alvarez said. "It's a privilege to lead and deploy with these dedicated Citizen-Airmen from such diverse backgrounds such as police officers, school teachers and a geologist."

For Senior Airman Jay Adams, an electrician apprentice from Fairbanks, this is his second deployment. He previously served in Iraq in 2005 for six months.

"Being a member of the Alaska Air National Guard gives me the opportunity to serve not only my family and friends in the local community and the state that we live in, but in the case of our deployment, serve as a member of the active duty Air Force and do my part in the Global War on Terrorism." ■



U.S. Citizens. Twenty-eight Marines, Sailors and Soldiers, including two Alaska Army National Guard members, take the oath to become citizens of the United States of America during a naturalization ceremony at a military camp in Kuwait. Left: Specialist Noli Batac, of Juneau, left, recites the Pledge of Allegiance. Below: Sergeant Erwin Durano, of Anchorage, fifth from right, stands proudly with other service members during the naturalization ceremony. Both men are originally from the Philippines and are serving with 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry in Kuwait. Photos: Specialist Giancarlo Casem, U.S. Army



operations officer of the Alaska Army National Guard's Embedded Transition Team. "Sergeant First Class Anibal Jorge and I have participated in cordon and search, as well as drug/explosive/ weapons raid operations, which address the most common problems we are currently having in the north."

"This is a critical mission in helping build and strengthen the local resources in Afghanistan to combat radical groups

that inhibit freedom," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "The Alaska National Guard family is proud of what they are accomplishing and the support they are providing to the people of Afghanistan."

The Embedded Transition Team is expected to return to Alaska during summer 2008, after serving a one-year deployment to Afghanistan. ■



For the People

Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



Taking Care of Alaska's Military

With winter quickly approaching and the holiday season fast on its heels, we turn our thoughts to the nearly 600 Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers returning from Kuwait. It has been almost a year since most Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, were in Alaska, and it is my goal to make their transition back to their homes and communities successful.

We have been working hard to fulfill the concerns voiced by many of the Soldiers I visited with while in Kuwait. With so many Alaskans having served our state and country in the Global War on Terrorism these last few years, we find an increasing need to provide services in the rural areas of Alaska.

A monumental accomplishment has been the recent signing of an agreement between the state and federal governments that will help ensure returning Soldiers receive the care they need no matter where they live in Alaska. The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the federal Veterans

Administration in Alaska are working together to provide resources in rural areas as well as increased staffing at VA facilities.

Together, teams of healthcare professionals and outreach staff will directly interface with Soldiers in remote areas to inform and teach them how to use their benefits, while assessing their needs.

Alaska Native healthcare organizations are receiving education on post traumatic stress disorder and reintegration issues for returning men and women. Regular meetings of state and federal officials will be held to ensure needs are being met and changes are implemented.

We are also working to accommodate the needs of subsistence living and hunting. Service members unable to participate in hunts themselves may transfer Tier II subsistence permits to substitute Alaskan hunters. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will also re-issue permits for service members who successfully obtained lottery permit hunts but were unable to use them.

Subsistence is a way of life in the rural areas of our state, and these military members must be rewarded for their service, not punished for being deployed. Their families will have food to sustain them through the winter because of the cooperation of our state departments.

I am extremely proud of our Alaskan men and women who continue to serve during this time of unrest. I look forward to joining all Alaskans in welcoming home our military members. Because of their unwavering service we are all privileged to call this great state home. ■



Soldiers' Concerns. During her recent visit to Kuwait, Governor Sarah Palin discussed Alaska issues with Captain Richard Mohammadi, Specialist Gabriel Donnelly and Specialist Thomas Sledge during a meal at an Army dining facility. The governor was visiting members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard stationed in Kuwait. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, Alaska Army National Guard



Alaska Pride. Governor Sarah Palin stands underneath the Alaska flag with Lieutenant Colonel David Osborn during her visit to Kuwait. The governor was visiting Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers who have been deployed to the country since October 2006. Osborn is the commander of the Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, Alaska Army National Guard



My Turn

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



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It has been many years in the making, and now the future has arrived. The newest addition to Alaska's skies, the C-17 Globemaster III, is delivering opportunity to members of the Alaska Air National Guard and the entire military community in our great state.

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Alaskans are friendly and generous people, always willing to help their neighbors, whether coordinated through a response by the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management in times of crisis, or just helping the person next door mow the lawn. People make this great land special, and people make the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs special.

The department is completing steps of change that will usher

in a new era of success. This series of accomplishment will not be complete without new people to step forward and take on the future challenges facing our state. There are opportunities to make teens into leaders with the Alaska Military Youth Academy, help communities initially respond to disasters with the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, learn the latest military strategy with the Alaska Army National Guard, or fly the most coveted air lifter in the world with the Alaska Air National Guard.

The best missions and the newest equipment are nothing without qualified, competent people who are willing to step forward and take on these challenges. Recruiting is my number one priority for the Alaska National Guard, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the Alaska Military Youth Academy and the Division of Administrative Services. The opportunities are endless with the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. If you are ready for the challenge, you can deliver the future. ■

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Veterans

STAND DOWN 2007 A SUCCESS

By Jerry Beale, DMVA State Veterans Affairs Administrator

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ... Stand Down 2007 was yet another success and assisted Alaska veterans in need in Anchorage and Fairbanks during August.

Both communities provided outstanding support for this annual veterans' program, as well as active duty military and Alaska National Guard personnel.

With perfect weather at both locations, more than 530 veterans signed in. The annual eagle release was the highlight of the Anchorage two-day event. One veteran said, "It brought tears to my eyes" when a wild eagle joined the rehabilitated eagle being returned to nature.

For the Fairbanks veterans, just getting together with other veterans was what was important to many of them. The great breakfast, lunch and various forms of assistance were well received too.

A special thanks goes out to the 49th Military Police Brigade, which provided security for both locations. ■



Honor Guard. The Honor Guard, comprised of veterans, opens the Stand Down retreat. Stand Down is a community-wide event, which assists more than 500 veterans in need annually.

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Sounds of Stand Down. Gene Horner, Alaska State Director for Bugles Across America, plays during a retreat at Stand Down. Horner was also recognized for his outstanding support of Stand Down and service as a volunteer at military ceremonies.

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Veterans Benefits to be More Accessible in Rural Alaska

By McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs

The State of Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System and Veterans Benefits Administration to improve outreach and linkage to VA services and benefits provided to veterans living in rural Alaska.

The MOU goals are to:

1. Ensure seamless delivery of health-care services to rural veterans
2. Enhance the home station reunion and reintegration workshop for returning Global War on Terrorism veterans to include Post Deployment Health Reassessments
3. Create multidisciplinary mobile outreach teams
4. Commit to meet regularly to address and work interagency issues

"Alaskans face unique challenges living in remote areas and regrettably healthcare is one of those challenges," said Governor Sarah Palin. "With our Army National Guard Soldiers living in more than 80 communities, it is important for the VA and the state to work together to provide the necessary services to assist veterans as they transition from their active duty service back to their home communities."

The Alaska Army National Guard will have about 600 Soldiers returning from northern Kuwait in the next couple of months, and many of these Soldiers are from rural Alaska where healthcare services are less abundant than the urban centers of our state.

"The Alaska National Guard is one big family, and we need to take care of our Soldiers and Airmen, especially after they have risked their lives to protect our freedom," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. "Increased outreach is the best way to keep our families whole and our communities strong after a long deployment to the desert." ■

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First Female Alaska National Guard Member Pinned as Brigadier General

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... A new star has emerged from within the Alaska National Guard, marking a bright future for the organization. Colonel Deborah McManus was promoted to Brigadier General in June and is now the chief of staff for Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska.

She is responsible for providing command and control of National Guard forces in executing homeland defense, defense support of civil authorities and other domestic emergency missions within the state of Alaska.

“Colonel McManus has a proven leadership record and an unwavering dedication to the Guard since she enlisted in the Washington, D.C., Air National Guard in 1981,” said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. “I am proud to see her step into this new role and lead our Guard members during a time when the Guard is increasingly called upon to help at home and abroad.”

“I think this is an opportunity to provide greater service to the Alaska National Guard, the state and the country,” McManus said. “The rank indicates a level of responsibility, but it’s more about



An Alaska Star. Governor Sarah Palin, left, and Captain Kelly Murphy pin the rank of brigadier general onto Deborah McManus as she is promoted. Murphy, a member of the 176th Air Control Squadron, is McManus' stepdaughter. McManus is the first female brigadier general in the Alaska National Guard.

Photo: Lieutenant Amy B. Siinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

the uniform and what it stands for than the actual promotion. I am privileged to lead our Soldiers and Airmen into the future to ensure we accomplish our daily mission and continue to make Alaska a safe and treasured place to live and call home.”

McManus is the first female general in the Alaska National Guard, but she says this is just the beginning of a new leadership face for such a diverse and talented organization.

“I am honored to be the first female promoted to brigadier general in the Alaska National Guard, but I know I will not be the last,” McManus said. “Alaska has a wealth of Guard members who possess strong leadership qualities and

who are willing to step up to the plate at any given time to help secure the state and protect the nation.”

McManus has served during a variety of overseas deployments to include Operation Northern Watch in Turkey, Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait, and most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 as the director of operations for strategic communications on the Multi-National Force – Iraq.

Military dedication is a center stone to the McManus family. McManus resides in Anchorage with her husband, retired Chief Master Sergeant Michael McManus. She has two stepdaughters who have a history of service with the Alaska Air National Guard as well. ■



The Big Picture. Lieutenant Luke Davis, Joint Operations Center officer in charge, and Brigadier General Deborah McManus, chief of staff for Joint Forces Headquarters-Alaska, discuss current and future operations involving the Alaska National Guard. McManus oversees the Joint Operations Center in her new position.

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

“I am privileged to lead our Soldiers and Airmen into the future to ensure we accomplish our daily mission and continue to make Alaska a safe and treasured place to live and call home.”

– Brigadier General Deborah McManus

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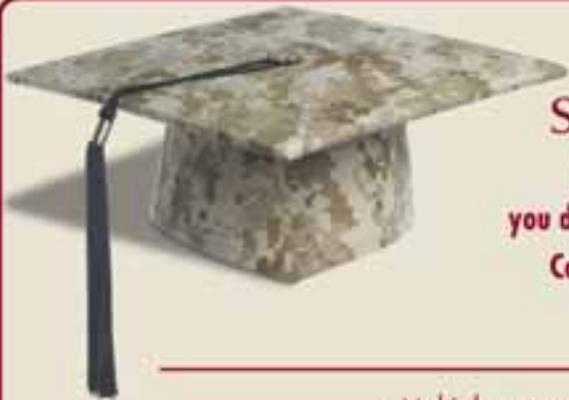
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New Military Funeral Honors Team

Story and photos by Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Respect and Precision.

Members of the Alaska Army National Guard present the colors at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in 2006.

High Honors.

Escorted by riflemen from the Elmendorf Air Force Base Honor Guard, Chief Warrant Officer Steven Ernst carries the American flag followed by Specialist Sean Francis with the Alaska flag. Both Soldiers are members of the Alaska Army National Guard Honor Guard Team.



CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Although the Department of Defense has been funding military funeral honors programs since 2000, for the first time in the history of the Alaska Army National Guard, a military funeral honors team has been put together utilizing this funding.

"This is the first team in the Alaska Army Guard to use the national funds, so we're excited about the opportunities this brings," said Rod Julian, Military Funeral Honors coordinator. "Alaska has 67,000 veterans – that's more per capita than any other state – so this program benefits Soldiers across the state."

Veterans with honorable military discharges and retired veterans with honorable military discharges are eligible for military honors. The current military funeral honors team of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers was organized by a specialist in 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation.

"I started the current team for the Alaska Guard because I felt it was the honorable thing to do," said Specialist Shawn Francis, of 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation and new Military Funeral Honors non-commissioned officer in charge. "Leadership saw the need to establish a constant team and hired Mr. Julian to run the program and make sure it became stable within the Guard. He was gracious enough to keep me on the team as the NCOIC."

"We will continue to present military honors all over the state, to include rural Alaska villages," Julian added.

Currently, the team has six Soldiers who serve on the Alaska Military Honor Guard, but Francis hopes to soon have a full team of 13 Soldiers on orders.

"The Soldiers will be trained according to the Old Guard standards – the same training as guards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," Francis said. "This fall, we are hoping to send some of the team to training, which will be held either at the Professional Educational Center in Little Rock or a remote training site in North Dakota."

The team stays sharp by regularly practicing drill and ceremony at color guard and change of command ceremonies.

"Prior to the funeral we get everyone together and do flag-folding training, casket and rifle practice, and we also go over wear and appearance of uniforms," Francis said.

Although the training and ceremony of the Military Funeral Honors program is by the book, the reasoning behind it is more than that.

"It's the right thing to do for Soldiers who have served their country," Francis said. "We remind their families that their loved ones are not forgotten; it's our final thank you for their service." ■

A Closer Look at Rebuilding Iraq

Story by and photos courtesy of Colonel Mike Bridges, Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team IRONHORSE

CAMP TAJI, Iraq ... In response to President George W. Bush's call to rapidly stand up the first 10 Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams and place them at the brigade and regiment levels in Iraq, I deployed to Iraq in April 2007. This is part of the overall "surge" strategy to work all levels of transition in government and security in Iraq.

Previously, the only formal reconstruction effort was centralized at provincial and large city levels. Very little was provided to work in smaller communities with local leaders, so the EPRT effort is intended to correct this shortfall.

Due to the time urgency, a nationwide call-out went to the Department of Defense, and most of the initial two phases of EPRT team members has come from the military reserves, a portion of active duty, mostly Navy and Air Force, and a handful of DoD or service component civilians. The mission is intended to turn over to all State Department civilians by spring 2008.

My mobilization included training at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute and the Army Combat Readiness Center at Fort Bliss, Texas. I received further training in Kuwait and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and I am now assigned at Camp Taji, embedded with the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Our team of 10 is known as the IRONHORSE EPRT. In July alone, the team conducted more than 70 missions throughout an area covering 347 square miles and in support of a population of nearly 1.3 million Iraqi citizens. We conduct assessments of factories, marketplaces, universities and colleges, government facilities, health facilities, veterinary facilities, and any other enterprise or service system for capability, capacity and potential.

We work with the government of Iraq, U.S. and Coalition military entities, non-governmental organizations, private investment groups and whoever might partner together to assist and

facilitate improvements and self-sufficiency. As Abu Ghraib and Taji are about 80-percent agricultural in history and industry, irrigation systems, farm cooperatives and all supporting activities are high on the list of priority.

The council and other facilities operate under unbelievable conditions. Taji has been receiving on average less than two hours of power per day for nearly six months.

The local civilian government council members are seriously unprepared to conduct their work as legitimate democratic-based councils, so one of our major tasks is to train them from the ground up on how to be a council and conduct their legislative, executive and administrative business.

This has been a unique challenge. In the short time I have been working with them, several have been killed, wounded or kidnapped. All live under direct threat of harm and require significant security support.

But the tribal sheiks have come together, in what they call an "awakening" (official reconciliation), in order to run off the enemy. They have partnered with U.S. and Iraqi security forces to defeat terrorist cells. The sheiks have said they need about one year under the current U.S. surge, and if they can show normalcy of these essential services to their tribes and communities, they foresee a new and peaceful Iraq. ■



Visiting With the Children. Colonel Mike Bridges, Alaska Army National Guard, takes time out of his day as a governance team leader for an embedded provincial reconstruction team to visit with local Iraqi children. The two Iraqi girls received candy and slippers courtesy of the Anchorage Hillside Rotary, which frequently sends care packages to Bridges to share with other Soldiers and Iraqi children.



Training Government Leaders. Colonel Mike Bridges, Alaska Army National Guard, conducts a local government training seminar with the *qada* and *nahia* council members in Taji, Iraq. A *qada* is equivalent to a county in the United States, and a *nahia* is equal to a city or town council.

In Ruins. In the International Zone of Baghdad, Iraq, Colonel Mike Bridges, Alaska Army National Guard, explores a former Saddam palace. Bridges is the governance team leader for an embedded provincial reconstruction team in Iraq. Bridges is from Anchorage.

Army Guard Hosts Air Assault School

By Sergeant Karima Turner,
DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ... More than 120 Army, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers graduated from Air Assault School in August, right here in Alaska. Hosted by the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade, the 10-day course was taught by instructors from the National Guard Warrior Training Center from Fort Benning, Ga.

"This is the first time this course has come to train Alaska Soldiers," said Master Sergeant Bradford Quigley, 207th Infantry Brigade operations sergeant. "The benefits gained by bringing an

Air Assault Course to Alaska gives a new capability to the organization."

The Air Assault Course is broken into three phases: air assault operations, sling-load operations and rappelling operations. During the course, Soldiers are put through strenuous physical and mental training, 10-12 hours a day.

"This is an opportunity for Soldiers that they wouldn't normally have," Quigley said. "It's HOOAH-challenging training; they should be proud of completing the course."

Quigley said that by bringing the Air Assault Mobile Training Team up to Alaska, they save money that can later be used for more training.

"It costs about \$9,000 to send one Soldier to Fort Campbell for Air Assault School; by bringing the National Guard's Air Assault Mobile Training Team to Alaska, we save money which enables us to send more Soldiers to ASI Schools [Additional Skill Identifier Schools] like Airborne, Pathfinder and Sniper schools."

In phase one, Soldiers are introduced to Air Assault Operations, mostly focusing on safety in and around aircraft. Calling for an aero-medevac and pathfinder operations, the Soldiers also get the opportunity for a helicopter ride that mimics search and rescue and elusive tactical maneuvers often used in combat.

"It's been a great experience for my instructors to come to Alaska and train and also for the troops to learn a new skill," said Sergeant First Class Brian McCarthy, B-Company Warrior Training Center. "Soldiers learn discipline through attention to detail, which is a very important aspect of Air Assault or any military training. In the end, it's something that can save lives."

Phase two teaches the Soldiers more about their duties and responsibilities as an Air Assault Soldier and how to rig equipment and properly hook it to a hovering helicopter so it can be taken to a new location.

The final phase of becoming Air Assault-qualified prepares Soldiers for rappelling from a helicopter more than 90 feet in the air. The Soldiers begin by learning about the equipment they will use when rappelling. They also learn how to tie a hip rappel seat, work on hook-up and tower rappelling procedures, belay procedures and finally, helicopter rappels.

"This group of Soldiers is different from what we usually train," Cavalier said. "Normally we have a course full of cadets and senior non-commissioned officers, but with this group, we're training more junior NCOs and junior enlisted; many of them haven't had much experience with aircraft, so this was a good experience for them – they learned a lot."

Private First Class John Starheim, 297th Support Battalion, said he's happy to have had the opportunity to attend this course.

"I think it's good that I've gotten to take this course at my rank," Starheim said. "There was a lot of good leadership here that I was able to follow and learn from."

Although Air Assault is a challenging course, it's a course that when completed, Soldiers can be proud of.

"I have a lot of respect for these Soldiers," Quigley said. "I've been there; they don't just give these badges away." ■



How It's Done. Honor graduates from the first Air Assault class to graduate Alaska National Guardsmen in Alaska rappel from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter into their graduation. One hundred twenty-six Soldiers from both the active duty Army and the Alaska Army National Guard graduated.

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Negotiating Obstacles. Specialist Nicholas J. Mikos, B Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, negotiates the Weaver on Day Zero of Air Assault School. The 10-day course was hosted by the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Early Warning: Sharing Resources to Prepare for Tsunamis

By Renee Nelson, DHS&EM Public Affairs

The earth shook for nearly 10 minutes Dec. 26, 2004, when an estimated 9.2 earthquake occurred off the coast of Indonesia near Sumatra. The Indian Ocean earthquake and resulting tsunamis killed 230,000 people – roughly the population of Anchorage south of Eagle River – placing this quake in the top three deadliest on record. It reportedly triggered earthquakes as far away as Alaska.

Following this disaster, the U.S. government committed to assist Indian Ocean countries in developing an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System. In July, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management sent two subject matter experts to Indonesia to take part in the continuing mission to prepare and protect the country's vulnerable coastal populations.

Bryan Fisher, then Alaska manager for Information Management Alert and Warning System, and Scott Simmons, former chief of the Mitigation section, provided presentations on technology, processes and preparedness at the Early Warning System workshop in Banten Province, Indonesia, July 11-13.

"The value for the province was our perspective," Fisher said. "Immediately following the disaster in 2004, the world responded with overwhelming support and national-level government experts. At this point, we can offer our experience and understanding of the challenges at the provincial level, the state-level equivalent."

Indonesia's political history adds to the challenges. Only 10 years ago, the country relied primarily on its military – controlled

by the central government – for emergency response. Now officials at the state, borough and local government-equivalent are gaining the responsibility, authority and limited funding to carry out the emergency management role.

To assist those officials, the division representatives provided translated copies of tsunami warning procedures from the division's State Emergency Coordination Center, Kenai Peninsula Borough and Juneau as examples.

"It's an interesting dichotomy," he said. "Culturally they're ahead of us in application of technology – the entire workshop was scheduled, booked and coordinated through use of text messaging – but they lack its application to tsunami warning."

He explained that at the regency or local level, villages still use night watchmen equipped with a warden's rattle. Like a New Year's Eve noisemaker, spinning the rattle makes a distinctive clicking sound that alerts residents to danger.

"Still, we have a lot of similarities and opportunities to learn from them as well," said Fisher, citing cultural issues, large tourist populations and the need to translate emergency messages into dozens of languages.

The U.S. IOTWS Program team includes the U.S. Agency for International Development, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, U.S. Department of State and U.S. IOTWS Program Integrator Contractor IRG-Tetra Tech Joint Venture. ■



Information Sharing. Bryan Fisher, then Alaska manager for Information Management Alert and Warning System, briefs emergency management officials during the Early Warning System workshop in Banten Province, Indonesia. Photo: Scott Simmons, DHS&EM



Lines of Communication. Indonesian emergency managers take part in a yarn exercise to demonstrate communication links among government agencies, testing the ability of the system to deliver emergency messages to citizens. Photo: Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM

GOVERNOR PALIN RECOGNIZES PEAK PERFORMERS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... A team of employees from the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, along with employees from the Division of Administrative Services, received the Customer Service Excellence Team Award from Governor Sarah Palin as part of the Peak Performance Denali Awards for their outstanding service to the public during the Hooper Bay fire.

Team members organized and mobilized emergency response assets, helped the local government establish an incident command structure, and accelerated procurement for temporary housing

and school construction, in an effort to return basic function to the village.

"This was a critical time for western Alaska, and this team of state employees rose to the challenge of helping a community pull through one of the largest disasters in our state," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

"I am very proud of the additional efforts provided by this winning team of state employees," Palin said. "Thank you for looking out for the best interests of Alaskans." ■



Top Honors For Team. From Left: Claude Denver, Alan Cavallo, Bob Stewart, Ervin Petty, Greg Gould, David Andrews, Division Director John Madden, Governor Sarah Palin, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Commissioner Major General Craig E. Campbell, Grant Fry, Mark Ford, Bruce Gazaway, George Coyle, Tom Smayda and Brent Nichols. Team members not pictured are Deanna Humphreys, Patricia Winn and Wanice Cowles. The team was recognized for their assistance to the people of Hooper Bay after fire swept through the community Aug. 3, 2006. Photo: Renee Nelson, DHS&EM Public Affairs

Flying into the future ... Alaska's

By Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton and Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... One of the most anticipated changes in the Alaska Air National Guard this year was the arrival of the C-17 mission. The Globemaster IIIs are a significant part of Alaska Adjutant General Major General Craig E. Campbell's strategic planning. The Globemaster mission ensures and emphasizes the Alaska Air National Guard's value to the state and nation throughout the next four decades.

"The Alaska Air National Guard is a perfect fit for the C-17 mission, and our Guard members have the experience needed to take on this new opportunity with success," Campbell said. "Having the Globemaster IIIs in Alaska will showcase and expand the talents and service of the Alaska Air National Guard."

The first member of the Alaska Air National Guard to jump on that opportunity was Lieutenant Colonel Carlisle Lincoln. He underwent training and became the first Alaska Air National Guard C-17 pilot.

"I used to fly KC-135s," said Lincoln, the commander of the new C-17 unit known as the 249th Airlift Squadron. "For more than 15 years, I flew big, swept-wing, four-engine heavy jets."

Since becoming a C-17 pilot this spring, Lincoln has also learned to fly other things, like helicopters and trucks – as cargo in his Globemaster III.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Braspeninckx, the new unit's operations officer, one of the most striking aspects of the new C-17 unit is that it is a "classic associate" unit, meaning that the active duty "owns

Leading the Way. Lieutenant Colonel Carlisle Lincoln, the commander of the new C-17 unit, shows off the Globemaster III after completing training at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Lincoln is the first member of the Alaska Air National Guard to be trained on the large cargo and troop transporting aircraft. Photo: Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

Touch Down. The first C-17 lands at Elmendorf Air Force Base, kicking off a special ceremony celebrating the arrival of this new mission. The aircraft will provide the Alaska Air National Guard with strategic airlift capability. Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Newest Airlifter

the tails,” and “we jointly fly the aircraft.” Both the Alaska Air Guard and the active duty have resources assigned to maintain and fly the aircraft, and both will have their own complementary missions.

In manpower terms, that means that what is usually a 5-to-1 ratio between crew and aircraft splits into a 3-to-1 ratio for the active Air Force and a 2-to-1 ratio for the Alaska Guard, making it easier for both components to staff.

Since the unit will have a total of eight C-17s, this means the 249th will field 16 crews – a minimum of 32 pilots and 32 loadmasters. Currently, they have only two crews, so the opportunities abound for those interested in gaining the necessary skill set.

By partnering with the active duty in the strategic airlift arena, the Alaska Air National Guard has a part in “the newest technology the Air Force has to offer in an airlifter: a 100-percent electronic, fly-by-wire aircraft,” Lincoln said.

“It’s a great airplane to fly; it can almost be flown without touching the controls,” Lincoln added. “This aircraft was constructed with direct input by pilots and loadmasters,” resulting in an aircraft tailored to military applications, he said.

Additionally, this particular strategic asset can deliver cargo directly to the warfighter. This cuts out the logistical challenge that required transferring cargo to smaller aircraft in order to make that “last mile” delivery to the warfighter on the ground. “The C-17 can fly from middle America to a dirt strip in Afghanistan,” Lincoln said.

The Alaska Air National Guard is proud to be an integral and important component to the warfight. It goes to show the C-17s are flying Alaska’s Guardsmen into a future full of opportunity. ■



New Mission Brings Smiles. Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, congratulates Brigadier General Tony Hart, 176th Wing commander, on the arrival of the first C-17 to be flown by crews of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing. Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



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Tuition Assistance and Online Training

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With the high operational tempo of the Army National Guard these days, Soldiers' civilian careers and educational plans are often impacted. Two important resources work hand-in-hand to help ARNG Soldiers pursue civilian career training while they continue to serve their country.

The first resource, made possible by the Internet, is distance (online) education. For Guard Soldiers, this shouldn't be confused with the National Guard's distance learning network, which allows Soldiers to complete military-occupation-skills-qualification training in their home states. Instead, distance education means that ARNG Soldiers can take a 100-percent online civilian education course in something such as real estate appraisal or home inspection, even while they're serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. All that is required is a computer and an Internet connection.

This option is proving popular with many Guard Soldiers who are trying to both serve their country and also ensure they will have the enhanced skills to compete in the civilian job market when their deployment ends. Many online schools also feature live student support, so Soldiers can e-mail or call education support representatives.

And how are enlisted Guard Soldiers supposed to find money for civilian job training? The good news is that they don't have to because Federal Tuition Assistance will pay up to 100 percent of an ARNG Soldier's tuition and fees for distance education (up to \$4,500 annually and other limitations may apply). Guard Soldiers are advised to apply as early as 90 days before the start of classes; applications for FTA are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, and funds may run out.

Guard Soldiers are in an enviable position because the ARNG is the only service branch that normally allows Soldiers to draw from both the G.I. Bill and FTA simultaneously. This may allow Guard Soldiers to cover their education costs and obtain funding for expenses while taking courses. It's not uncommon for ARNG Soldiers to use it in conjunction with the G.I. Bill and Kicker programs for maximum coverage.

Guard Soldiers can learn more about Federal Tuition Assistance at the National Guard's Virtual Armory site www.virtualarmory.com/education/ or can apply online at www.nationalguardbenefits.com. For more specific information about Alaska's Education Support programs, please go to www.guardedu.alaska.gov. ■

EDUCATION APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED



The Soldier Benefits Team. These are the troops who help administer not only the Education program, but also the G.I. Bill, bonuses and the other important benefits of serving in the Alaska National Guard. From left: First Lieutenant Les Poletzky, education support officer; Sergeant First Class Maria Weaver, retirement non-commissioned officer; Sergeant William Zeffery, discharge non-commissioned officer; Specialist Oscar Cedano, discharge specialist; Sergeant First Class Erik Vazquez, G.I. Bill and incentives manager; Sergeant Jessica Main, personnel non-commissioned officer. Photo: Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

For Alaska Air National Guard members, applications will be accepted beginning Nov. 1, 2007, for the University of Alaska Spring 2007 semester. Applications for open enrollment or for reimbursement for attending an in-state, non-UA school are processed on a continual basis.

Applications for Federal Tuition Assistance are accepted at www.nationalguardbenefits.com for Army National Guard members.

To contact the Education Support Officer or First Lieutenant Les Poletzky, call (907) 428-6477 or e-mail les.poletzky@us.army.mil. For assistance with the G.I. Bill, particularly if you are a first-time user needing to print a Notice of Basic Eligibility, please contact Sergeant First Class Erik Vazquez at (907) 428-6429. If you are calling from outside Anchorage, dial 1-888-290-6847. ■

A Fresh Perspective:

Sitting Down with the Adjutant General's Wife, Anne Marie Campbell

Q You have been married for 35 years and have seen a great deal of how the military treats people. What is the single largest change in the way families are treated from when you became connected to the military?

A When Craig joined the military, the Vietnam War was coming to a close. That was a painful period in America when the population did not appreciate military service. Today, I know that not all Americans support the War in Iraq; however, I see that virtually every American supports our great Soldiers and Airmen. America recognizes that today's military is comprised of Americans who are volunteering to serve our nation, no matter what the politics. This is also reflected by the tremendous support for families through our Family Support programs. Thirty-five years ago families did not receive the focus provided today. Today's military leadership recognizes that the family is an important part of a Soldier or Airman's life. That is a very positive change in our military.

Q You moved to Alaska in the early 1980s when then-Captain Campbell was finishing his tour as an active duty Airman. How have deployments helped grow the Alaska National Guard from what you saw then to what you see now?

A Like the previous question, the recent emphasis on the family is a very positive aspect of today's military service. The opportunity to have families come together prior to deployment to learn about the benefits and obligations is a significant difference from when we arrived in Alaska. It is always a very special time for Craig and me to have the chance to meet with families prior to deployments, to help them understand the significance of the forthcoming deployment, but also to offer our assistance should it be needed by family members during a Soldier's or Airman's absence. The National Guard is a family, and no where is that better reflected than in our support to families during deployments. I think the National Guard is a better organization because of our recent emphasis on families.

Q You are heavily involved in Operation Santa Claus. What do you see as the benefit of this program to Alaska?

A Operation Santa Claus is a terrific program conducted by our National Guard which brings gifts to kids in rural Alaska during the holiday period. There are so many benefits I can hardly adequately address them all here today. Of course, the most precious benefit is the sparkle in children's eyes when Santa comes out and hands out a Christmas gift. Beyond that, we deliver books to the schools and clothing for those who may desire it. But I think one of the most significant messages is that of our National Guard being in the villages, supporting Alaskan communities and setting a model example for young Alaskans to aspire toward. It clearly demonstrates that we are all Alaskans working together to take care of one another. That, I believe, makes this a very special program.



Truly Alaskan. Anne Marie Campbell models a gorgeous fur coat at an "Alaskan Fashion Show" held during the Adjutants General Association of the United States Conference 2007. Campbell played an integral part in planning the spouses agenda for the conference.

Photo: First Lieutenant Amy B. Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Q What do you consider your most significant role for Alaska?

A Ensuring that family needs are addressed has been my vision for this organization. I trust my contribution to Alaska has been helping ensure that we focus beyond just the military member to those who are supporting the military member. The past five years has given me the opportunity to do a number of things I never imagined I would have had the chance to do. From discussing family needs with Lieutenant General H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard, to advocating for family programs in Washington, D.C., my role has been as an ambassador for our state and our organization.

Q Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with the Alaska National Guard or the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs?

A The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is a very diverse department. I have had the distinct pleasure of seeing the tremendous results of our Alaska Military Youth Academy and STARBASE. These programs are making a difference for Alaskans, a difference that will have a positive impact on our state in future years. I also have seen a tremendous improvement in our state role in serving veterans. The new Veterans Home in Palmer, along with the program to secure military discharge certificates for members of the Alaska Territorial Guard, are two of the most significant accomplishments I have seen in recent years. These past five years have seen tremendous change in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Alaska National Guard. I have greatly enjoyed being part of this transformation and look forward to the day when Craig and I may reflect back on this period and be able to say, "We made a difference for Alaska." ■



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UNITED CONCORDIA



Missile Defense

On the Front Line of U.S. Missile Defense

Story and photos by Fred W. Baker III, American Forces Press Service



Teamwork. A fire direction center team in the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion runs through a simulated training exercise to test its procedures. Three five-man cells work eight-hour shifts at the center. During their shifts, crews run through required training and work through scenarios written to challenge their procedures and stress levels.

FORT GREELY, Alaska ... While most Americans were celebrating Independence Day in 2006, Major Joe Miley was at his post in the remote interior of Alaska, staring at blips on a computer screen reminiscent of a 1980s video game. But this was no game. Miley was in the “tank turret” of U.S. missile defense, scrutinizing 21st-century space-surveillance technology and monitoring a North Korean long-range ballistic missile test.

“It was quite a sense of awe. We had spent thousands of hours on the system, doing simulations, training for such an event and (then) actually watching the system and waiting for the sensors to pick up and see if we’d be directed to engage the missile,” Miley said. “It felt like this was what we had prepared for, and we were ready.”

The missile failed to become even a remote threat as it toppled within a minute of launch into the Sea of Japan. Had it assumed a threatening course and reached an altitude capable of propelling it to U.S. soil, Miley and a handful of Alaska Army National Guardsmen stood ready, upon direction, to smash it into pieces mid-course.

Miley is the executive officer of 49th Missile Defense Battalion, a ground-based midcourse defense unit. Stationed in this remote

post, about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, he and about 200 other Alaska Army National Guardsmen serve as the front line of U.S. missile defense.

“The world’s a dangerous place, and the future is uncertain, and technology allows us to have this capability,” said Colonel Thom M. Besch, Missile Defense Agency Alaska region director. “We know from 9/11 that if an event were to occur in a major city ... that the impact to human life and the cost in dollars would be astronomical.”

The 49th Missile Defense Battalion focuses primarily on intercepting missiles during their midcourse phase of flight, or while arching in the “exoatmosphere” – the region of space just outside the Earth’s atmosphere.

While the 54-foot-6-inch interceptors look like missiles, there are no explosive warheads attached. The main body acts as a booster vehicle. The booster vehicle serves to propel into space the embedded kill vehicle, a 152-pound “smart bullet” that basically steers itself into the path of the oncoming warhead, causing an explosion on impact.

The Guard was selected to run the site to allow for continuity in service. Guardsmen are not subject to rotations in and out of

assignments like active-duty Soldiers. With nearly 36 weeks of training just to become certified operators, the state is able to retain its qualified Soldiers there longer.

Soldiers cite the appeal of the countryside and uniqueness of the mission for their desire to accept full-time tours to the site. There are no traditional, or part-time, National Guard slots on the post.

Sergeant Jack Carlson III was a Florida-born resident of the Virgin Islands. He had never seen snow before signing up for a tour here. Now, he said, he loves the extreme weather.

“Whenever you get to 10 below, you have to survive. It’s interesting that at 50 below, although I’m cold, I can walk outside and look at the northern lights,” Carlson said.

Family members describe the post as “Americana,” offering a small town, tightly-knit sense of community. The post offers few amenities because of its size and location. Soldiers here joke that they have a McDonalds and a Wal-Mart – they just have to drive out the front gate, turn right and go about 100 miles, Besch said.

But for all of the appeal of Alaska’s sweeping beauty and the down-home country lifestyle well-suited for raising families, the mission is what gives Carlson and the others the most satisfaction.

“There is no other mission like it, in the Guard especially. It’s just an outstanding opportunity,” Carlson said. “Our mission is of the utmost importance, and what we do makes a difference.” ■

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Interceptor Home. An empty silo waits for a ground-based missile interceptor to be emplaced. Eighteen interceptors are emplaced in two fields on the 800-acre Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely. When finished, the complex will house 40 interceptors in three fields.



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Option 2: Complete PDHRA entirely over the phone.
If you do not have access to a computer or AKO, you may call 1-888-PDHRA-99 and complete the entire assessment over the phone.

 **Questions?** Visit <http://www.virtualarmory.com/mobiledeploy/PDHRA> for more information.

Alaska Army National Guard Prepares for Iraq ... from Fort Richardson

By Specialist Margaret Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Army National Guard is gearing up for another overseas deployment, and it is making history in the training process.

About 180 Soldiers from Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, are in the midst of their pre-deployment training. And instead of traveling out of state to undergo this training, they are staying here on their home turf, training at Fort Richardson.

"This is the first time since the World War II era that mobilized Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers are training in Alaska to support an overseas mission to serve and protect the security of our nation," said Captain Joshua Shrader, commander of Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion.

The Soldiers were mobilized in late August and have been taking part in a 45-day new mobilization and training program on Fort Richardson to prepare for deployment to Iraq in late October. Once in Iraq, they will be a security forces unit conducting missions ranging from base patrols to convoy security.

Part of the program includes training on the zeroing qualification range for the M16 and .9 mm, as well as the virtual combat convoy trainer. Soldiers will also be conducting a live-fire convoy and performing base defense operations and military operations on urbanized terrain.

"With Fort Richardson being the home of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division there are more resources to prepare Soldiers for missions without sending them outside Alaska," Shrader said.

Because this is the first time the new Fort Richardson training sites have been available for Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, many Guardsmen have been utilized to build several of the mock sites, and Guard members have been providing their own opposing forces to train each other, Shrader explained.

"We are providing the groundbreaking work for this new mobilization site," Shrader said. ■



Preparing for Deployment. Private First Class Lidia Jimenez, 297th Support Battalion, puts Small Arms Protective Insert plates into her newly issued Interceptor Body Armor. Her unit is set to deploy this fall in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Target In Site. Sergeant Richard Murphy, 297th Support Battalion, fires an M16-A2 rifle downrange. Murphy will be deploying to Iraq in October with about 180 other Alaska Army National Guard members.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Association of Village Council Presidents Honored

By Jamie Wunn, Alaska National Guard ESGR Support Specialist



Hard Work Recognized. Jerry Walton, Alaska National Guard's cultural resource manager and tribal liaison, Louis Crew, Alaska committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and Major Angela Kaleskas, 207th Infantry Brigade executive officer, listen as Myron P. Naneng Sr., president of the Association of Alaska Village Council Presidents, thanks his employees for their hard work. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... The Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, announced that the Association of Village Council Presidents was honored with the ESGR Seven Seals Award in recognition of the extraordinary support of local members in the Alaska National Guard and Reserve and their families.

Through many different events and fund-raising activities, AVCP staff raised \$5,500 to help the families of deployed Soldiers from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. Joining AVCP in the fund-raising was Calista Corporation, which donated \$3,000; Barrick, which donated \$3,000; Key Bank, which donated \$1,000; Mikunda Cottrell and Co., which donated \$1,000; and First National Bank of Anchorage, which donated \$500 to the fund-raising efforts.

AVCP is centralized in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, in the southwestern region of Alaska. It serves 56 federally recognized Native Alaskan tribes.

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 the employers of America's new Minutemen. ESGR provides education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ■

Thanks For The Support. Major Angela Kaleskas, 207th Infantry Brigade executive officer, presents the Seven Seals Award to Myron P. Naneng Sr., president of the Association of Village Council Presidents. The award was presented on behalf of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for outstanding support of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta's deployed Soldiers. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Keeping Convoys Safe in Iraq, Part of Alaska Guard's Mission

By Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait ... Ensuring convoys in southern Iraq are not harassed by insurgents is part of the Alaska Army National Guard's mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry is stationed in northern Kuwait, where it protects Coalition Forces, the battalion also helps provide security in southern Iraq.

The battalion has been operating in Iraq on a regular basis since April. Information on the operation was not released until September for security reasons, said Lieutenant Colonel David Osborn, commander of the 3rd Battalion.

"Protecting convoys has been an important mission for the Alaska National Guard," Osborn said. "It's been a big challenge, and our Soldiers have met the challenge and have done an outstanding job. These Soldiers are our future leaders, and the confidence they've gained from this experience means they are going to be very strong leaders."

The equipment we have is state-of-the-art, said Captain Jared Wandell, company commander for Delta Company.

"Our Soldiers are subject matter experts now," Wandell added. "When we come back to Alaska it means we are going to be at the pinnacle of how the Army works. We will be able to train other Alaska Soldiers."

"Many of the critical decisions on this mission are made at the squad leader level," said First Sergeant Andrew Swanston.

"You have specialists, sergeants and staff sergeants making on-the-spot decisions," Swanston said. "They do everything from

dealing with civilian populations to stopping vehicles to working with foreign soldiers like Danes, Lithuanians and the British."

The Soldiers that make up Delta Company come from communities scattered all across Alaska. They also come from a wide variety of military backgrounds.

"We have mechanics, cooks, fuel handlers, helicopter crew chiefs, administrative clerks and some infantrymen," Wandell said. "In other words, 90 percent of them did not have a combat arms background. They have done an outstanding job stepping up. They now understand how the infantry works. They know how to lead a combat patrol, and they know how to use crew-served weapons. This transition is a huge step for the Alaska Guard."

"Everyone from the company commander on down is licensed on Humvees," Swanston said. "Most are qualified on the M9 pistol, everybody is qualified on 240 Bravo machinegun and most are qualified on the .50-caliber machinegun. Our level of training allows us to carry on the mission no matter who is missing. We have outstanding equipment and all the tools we need."

The hard work has paid off, Osborn said. "The convoys are making it through our sectors without serious harassment, and that's a tribute to our Soldiers and the job they are doing."

The 600-member battalion is part of the largest call up of Alaska National Guard Soldiers since World War II. The battalion has been deployed since July 2006 and should return home sometime this fall. ■



Mission Complete. After a patrol in southern Iraq, a group of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers takes time to pose for a photo in Kuwait, where they are stationed. From left, standing; Staff Sergeant Jason Baker, Sergeant Wilkins Romero, Sergeant Nicholas Power, Specialist Jesse Spillman, and turret gunners Specialist Frankie Miles and Specialist Julio Pellicier-Cruz. Miles is from Wasilla and Pellicier-Cruz is from Puerto Rico. The other Soldiers are from Anchorage. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



Who We Are...

What Does Freedom Mean to You?

Ray Sawyer
Camp Denali Armory
Building Manager



"It means the right to have the liberties we have today."

Captain Eric Barlow
207th Aviation



"Freedom is important for the preservation of our society."

Lieutenant Colonel Edith Grunwald
Deputy Commander
176th Mission Support Group



"Freedom means a roof over our heads, jobs, food and transportation; many other countries don't have that, and because we are free, we are able to have an infrastructure to support our freedoms."

Staff Sergeant Mark Miller
Joint Forces Headquarters



"It means to be able to do whatever I want to do, within reason, practice whatever religion I want to and travel where I want to with no restrictions. The freedoms we have today are taken for granted."

Technical Sergeant Jason Johnson
Alaska National Guard
Family Programs



"Freedom means being able to make your own choices and not being told what to believe."



Directing Traffic. Sergeant Richard Chambers, of Anchorage, directs traffic during a reconnaissance patrol in southern Iraq. The Alaska Army National Guard patrol was escorting Navy Seabees who were inspecting road conditions.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

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Alaska Soldier Shines Above the Rest

By Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The only woman from the West Coast to compete for the regional Soldier of the Year title, emerged victorious and proves the Alaska Army National Guard has elite Soldiers among its ranks.

Specialist Cynthia L. Hatzis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 207th Infantry Brigade, went up against Soldiers from across the West Coast in May when they met in Camp Guernsey, Wyo., to see who would be named Soldier of the Year.

At the end of the competition, Hatzis took top honors.

The competition is geared to find the best of the best, testing Soldiers in physical fitness, warrior training, weapons qualifications and land navigation. Hatzis said the entire S-3 (operations) shop encouraged and entered her into the competition. She first participated in state level, then went on to regionals, which was held in Wyoming.

Hatzis said she couldn't have done this without help from other people and is grateful for all of the support.

"I studied the Soldier of the Year manual like a mad woman," Hatzis said. "We held mock boards within my unit, kept up with PT (physical training) and went out on the land navigation course.

"My boyfriend was a Ranger instructor, so he flew out from North Carolina to help with land navigation because I hadn't practiced that in a while. He also bought me an M-4 so I could go practice at the range," she said.

"Sergeant First Class John Drew from the 207th Infantry Brigade was my sponsor, and he actually took me to the range and helped me with CTT (Common Task Training)," Hatzis added.

Hatzis said that the actual competition wasn't particularly difficult for her – it was trying to juggle everything in her life.

"There wasn't one particular area that was difficult," Hatzis said. "It was trying to find the time to prepare and refresh my Soldier skills while I was working and going to school at the same time."

Hatzis said she would encourage other Soldiers to challenge



Tough Stuff. Specialist Cynthia L. Hatzis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 207th Infantry Brigade, belly crawls through an obstacle at Camp Carroll on Aug. 14, Day Zero of Air Assault School. Hatzis graduated from Air Assault School as an honor graduate. She also was named the Western Region Soldier of the Year. She could not compete for the national title because she was mobilized for a one-year deployment to Iraq.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

themselves because it helps them become better Soldiers.

"She's unique among Soldiers," said Major Joseph Lawendowski, 207th Infantry Brigade operations officer. "You put her into a class and she comes out honor graduate. She's the kind of Soldier you want to keep in your unit; if you put her in a challenging situation, she excels." ■

NOTE: Hatzis graduated from Air Assault School Aug. 24 and was named honor graduate.



Extending Service. Colonel Alan Ezzell, 207th Infantry Brigade deputy commander, left, gives Master Sergeant Gerald Christensen, right, the oath of enlistment, while Specialist Warren Johnson, interstate transfer coordinator, proudly holds the colors atop Mount Susitna. Christensen, 59, received a waiver to extend his service career as a food service sergeant in the Brigade because he fills a critical skills slot.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard



Awards • Decorations • Promotions

Legion of Merit



CW4 Danny O. Larson207th Avn
CW5 Roger D. ShowersJFHQ-AK (Army)

Meritorious Service Medal



MAJ Joel T. Gilbert3rd Bn
MAJ Edward C. Hamilton1st Bn
SFC Michael C. Kinville207th Avn
SFC Robert A. Kosusnik297th Spt Bn
SSG Terry D. Anderson3rd Bn
SSG Donnell Erickson1st Bn
LTC Craig J. SchreiberJFHQ-AK(Army)
SMSgt Keith M. McDonough168th CF
MSgt Amanda L. Israel168th ARW
MSgt Paula A. Murray213th SWS

MSgt Jason E. Harris168th ARS
TSgt William E. Russell168th AMXS
MSgt Alfred E. Kinzel176th ACS
CMSgt Charles E. Sutton176th CES
MSgt Douglass M. Patchin176th ACS
Maj Thomas J. Schonberger176th ACS
SMSgt Craig S. Wood176th MSG
MSgt Dennis C. Timmons Jr.176th ACS
MSgt Terry L. Smith176th ACS
MSgt Karl W. Howard176th MXG
SMSgt Daniel P. Anderson176th MXS
Lt Col Victor M. Winters176th MDG
Lt Col Donald G. Chiles176th MDG
MSgt Richard Lewis176th AMXS
Lt Col John Minney144th AS
Maj Tora Gore176th OSF
SMSgt Christopher Coshier176th MXG
Lt Col Scott Fell144th AS
Maj Randall Oefelein Jr.144th AS
Lt Col Dirk Cain176th OG
CMSgt Robert Price176th LRS
Lt Col Anthony Stratton144th AS

Lt Col Patty Wilbanks176th MXG
Lt Col William Toney144th AS
Lt Col Blake Gettys176th OSF
Maj Michael Griesbaum176th MXS
SMSgt David S. Champagne168th AMXS
MSgt Eugene E. Hodges168th MXS
MSgt Christine R. Lemieux168th MXG
MSgt Curtis O. Rogers168th ARW
MSgt John T. Bante168th MXS
MSgt Bryan E. Hoppough168th MSF

Army Commendation Medal



CPT Wayne R. Mitchell3rd Bn
SFC Matthew P. Roeber3rd Bn

Air Force Commendation Medal



SSgt Martina A. Delp168th LRS

Continued on page 30



Cadets Graduate from Alaska Military Youth Academy

After five months of demanding academic studies, life skills and physical training, at the place students call the toughest high school in Alaska, 140 cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy received their ChalleNGe Program diplomas in August. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is

a completely voluntary program that teaches discipline and self-respect to teens facing tough times in their lives.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, graduation keynote speaker, gave her congratulations and offered encouragement and support to the cadets.



Proud Smiles. U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski hugs Cadet Nikolaos Athanasiou, recipient of the leadership award, and praises him on a job well done while Craig Christensen, AMYA division director, stands by to offer his congratulations as well.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Jubilation. Cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy toss their berets into the air in celebration of their graduation. Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Ready for the Future. During the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski congratulates Cadet Kayla Muai and gives her a few words of wisdom. Muai also enlisted into the Alaska Army National Guard while attending the AMYA.

Photo: Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

AWARDS (continued)

MSgt Paula A. Murray213th SWS
 TSgt Julie L. Avey168th CF
 SSgt Bradley E. Newton176th ACS
 Maj Randall W. Oefelein Jr.144th AS
 Maj Gregg A. Origer144th AS
 Maj Eric W. Kelm144th AS
 MSgt Hector R. Navarro176th LRS
 SSgt Matthew C. Carse176th ACS
 Capt Sharyl L. Worrell211th RQS
 TSgt Victor Solano176th ACS
 SSgt Michael J. Sicotte176th MXS
 MSgt Shawn Arnzen176th MXG
 SMSgt Chester Deptula176th MXS
 TSgt Brian Boucher176th MXS
 TSgt Mark Koeckritz176th AMXS
 MSgt Michael Phillips176th MXS
 CMSgt Dennis HoganJFHQ-AK (Air)
 MSgt Wayne Hughes176th MXS
 MSgt Creighton Moore176th MXS
 SSgt Mark Patricks176th MXS
 TSgt Elizabeth Bloomer176th AMXS
 TSgt James J. Gengler168th MXS
 TSgt Teresa L. Taylor168th OG
 SrA Monica M. Menninger168th MSF

Army Achievement Medal



SPC Brandee L. EubanksJFHQ-AK (Army)

Air Force Achievement Medal



MSgt Douglas D. Hubbart168th MXS
 TSgt Joseph T. Deano168th MXS
 TSgt Shane F. Jenkins168th MXS
 SSgt John A. Adams168th CF
 SrA Kristopher A. Olsen168th CF
 Maj Keith M. Grimes213th SWS
 Capt Michael G. Scadden213th SWS
 2Lt Eric L. Vantrease213th SWS
 SMSgt Patrick J. Skinner213th SWS
 SrA Travis R. Robotkay144th AS
 TSgt Mary J. Younkins144th AS
 SrA Steven J. Baldwin176th MXS
 Capt Matthew M. Frieze176th WG
 TSgt James Pasquale176th LRS
 MSgt Edward Kenna176th MXS
 MSgt Lorraine Guthrie176th MXS
 TSgt Kelly Burdick176th MXS
 SrA Katelyn Magnuson176th WG
 TSgt Jennifer Johnston212th RQS
 SSgt Brad Baldrige176th CES

Army Good Conduct Medal



SPC Alex G. Barnes207th Avn
 1SG Ronald A. Braun207th Avn
 SPC Anthony L. Brown207th Avn

SFC Ronald R. HallSPT BN
 SGT Donald Chapman207th Avn
 SGT Kevin G. Clark Jr.207th Avn
 SGT James A. Corbin IIIRRD
 SPC Lydia B. Edwards207th Bde
 SPC Robert P. Faust207th Avn
 SGT Carl N. Gilmore Jr.207th Avn
 SPC Miguel M. Gomez207th Avn
 SSG Rusty M. Hofbauer207th Avn
 SPC Dara L. Johnston207th Avn
 SGT Nicholas S. Lime207th Avn
 SFC Michael R. Lundvall207th Avn
 SPC Timothy M. McCormick207th Avn
 SPC Nicholas J. Mikos207th Avn
 SGT Richard L. Morrison Jr.207th Avn
 SPC Karla L. Moses297th Spt Bn
 SFC Eric S. OdegaardJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGT Ray W. Parker207th Avn
 SGT Bradford R. Roman207th Avn
 SGT Thomas N. Semmens207th Avn
 SPC Sarah J. Seymore49th MDB
 SSG John C. Smith207th Avn
 SGT Rodney L. P. Spaulding Jr.207th Bde
 SPC Jordan T. Williams207th Avn
 SFC John T. CarricoRRD
 SPC Levi J. Dull1st Bn
 SSG Troy J. Godwin103rd CST
 SFC Seth A. Gordon (2nd)207th Avn
 SFC Seth A. Gordon (3rd)207th Avn
 SFC Allen S. Hulse103rd CST
 SSG BettyGail M. Keao (1st)JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG BettyGail M. Keao (2nd)JFHQ-AK (Army)
 SSG Dick B. Kugzruk1st Bn
 SFC Todd N. Patnode (1st)RTI
 SFC Todd N. Patnode (2nd)RTI
 SGT Sean R. Penetac1st Bn
 SSG Pete J Peter (4th)1st Bn
 SSG Pete J Peter (5th)1st Bn
 SFC Tracy QuigleyRRD
 1SG Shawn D. Rall (2nd)1st Bn
 1SG Shawn D. Rall (3rd)1st Bn
 MSG Eric Schlemme103rd CST
 SSG William C. Schultz (2nd)1st Bn
 SSG William C. Schultz (3rd)1st Bn
 SFC Robert F. Shaw3rd Bn
 MSG Jerauld F. Troupe1st Bn
 SSG Scott A. Wesierski1st Bn
 SFC Paul M. Wonder (3rd)103rd CST
 SFC Paul M. Wonder (4th)103rd CST
 SFC Russell D. Wood1st Bn
 SSG Dempsey H. Woods Sr.1st Bn
 SFC James R. YoungRTI

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



MSG Michael D. CoyRTI
 SFC Denise MarshRTI
 SSG Carl White Jr.2nd Bn
 MAJ Edward C. Hamilton207th Avn

SFC Robert A. Kosusnik297th Spt Bn
 SGT Donald W. McCleary207th Avn
 1SG Samuel W. Myers2nd Bn
 SSG Pete J. Peter1st Bn
 LTC Richard E. SpeirsJFHQ-AK (Army)

Alaska Commendation Medal



CSM Kerry J. AverettRTI
 SPC Norman B. Penwarden297th Spt Bn
 SGT Mark R. Wardell207th Avn Bn
 LTC Craig J. SchreiberJFHQ-AK (Army)

Air Assault Badge

PVT Erick M. Bacod297th Spt Bn
 SPC Benjamin R. Chapman1st Bn
 SGT Jeremy L. Christensen49th MDB
 SGT Andrew M. Corcoran1st Bn
 SGT Joshua J. Cormier207th Avn
 CPT Daniel J. Crawford49th MDB
 MAJ Paul T. Darling103rd CST
 SGT Nicholas J. Dutton207th Bde
 SPC Robert P. Faust207th Avn
 SGT Donald E. GumRRD
 SSG Michael L. Haney3rd Bn
 SGT Benjamin N. Hankins1st Bn
 SPC Murray D. Harrison49th MDB
 SPC Cynthia L. Hatzis207th BdeP
 SFC Jody A. Heffele1st Bn
 2LT Eric Hurtado2nd Bn
 1LT David B. Kang207th Avn
 PFC Trevor N. KeefeJFHQ-AK (Army)
 PFC James E. Kempner1st Bn
 CW4 James H. Keyes207th Avn
 1LT Bryan S. Koyles207th Avn
 PFC Guadalupe B. Limon207th Avn
 SGT Michael J. Mathews49th MDB
 SSG Kevin R. Mcgaha49th MDB
 SGT Oliver S. Meza3rd Bn
 SPC Nicholas J. Mikos207th Avn
 SGT Richard G. Murphy3rd Bn
 SPC Daniel L. Nelson3rd Bn
 SFC Mark Nieto297th Spt Bn
 SPC Matthew S. Nore3rd Bn
 SPC Brian V. Norris1st Bn
 CPT Corbin G. Sawyer207th Bde
 CPT Joshua L. Shrader3rd Bn
 SPC Russell L. Smith49th MDB
 SGT Ronald W. Snyder1st Bn
 PFC Jon C. Starheim207th Bde
 2LT Brian K. Tapley207th Bde
 SGT Jeffery C. Tipton49th MDB
 CPT Samuel L. VestJFHQ-AK (Army)
 PFC Adam P. Wallis1st Bn
 SGT Al L. Wiggins207th Avn
 SPC Deshawn K. Williams1st Bn
 SPC Jordan T. Williams207th Avn
 SGT Joseph W. Zimmerman207th Avn

PROMOTIONS

Colonel

Timothy R. DeHaasJFHQ-AK (Army)

Lieutenant Colonel

Christopher D. Michl144th AS
Amy J. Carle176th OSF
Dan E. CollinsJFHQ-AK (Army)

Major

Malcolm G. Brown3rd Bn
Mark F. Kiraly49th MDB
Lyle E. Ward49th MDB
Marty A. Armentrout144th AS
Howard W. Potton211th RQS
Morgan J. Goring3rd Bn
Martin B. Hanson3rd Bn
Mark A. MelsonJFHQ-AK (Army)

Captain

Bryan S. Perez3rd Bn
Timothy S. Kile210th RQS
Carl A. Catone207th Avn
Randall K. Russell297th Spt Bn

First Lieutenant

Carlos N. Delreal1st Bn
Les Poletzky207th Bde
Robert T. Weakland207th Avn

Second Lieutenant

John M. Romspert212th RQS
Scott D. Owen176th OSF

Chief Warrant Officer Four

Melvin W. Rush207th Avn

Chief Warrant Officer Three

Gregory T. Beach297th Spt Bn
Marcia L. HarrisonJFHQ-AK (Army)
Ralph B. Baklarz207th Avn Det 54
Justin C. Lindell207th Avn

Chief Master Sergeant

Mark R. Renson168th MXS
Kevin M. Brown176th MXS

Sergeant First Class

Jere F. Just207th Bde

Master Sergeant (E-7)

Joseph T. Debano168th MXS
Paul E. Wright Jr.168th MSF
Claudia N. Barclay168th MSG

Kenneth G. Joyce176th AMXS
Tiffany C. Gregory176th MDG
Karl W. Morris176th WG
Michael R. CarruthersJFHQ-AK (Air)
John E. Swearingin176th CES
Anthony J. Liberty176th CES
Mark A. Ziesmer176th APF
Brian L. Johnson176th LRS
Kevin K. Slayden176th CF
Angela L. Hunter176th MSF
Clinton Walker176th CF
Kaprice J. Zuke176th WG
Terry A. Kurth176th WG

Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Nicholas J. Dutton207th Bde
Jeanette M. Padgett49th MDB
Thaddeus M. Tikiun2nd Bn
Donald E. GumRFD
Kip E. Jones49th MDB
Stephen J. Moulfair207th Avn

Technical Sergeant

Diane E. Holmes168th MSG
Dakonya L. Lemke168th MSG
William H. Taylor168th MSF
Paul V. Zagorski144th AS
Joseph H. Dirksen176th MXS
Robert N. Holmes176th MXS
Brian C. Nosich144th AS
Leonard O. Bundridge176th AMXS
Eric I. Langerman210th RQS
Thomas E. Bradley Jr.176th CES
Scott A. Braley176th CF
Tadd E. Mccauley176th LRS

Sergeant

Daniel L. Garner49th MDB
Anthony R. Montoya49th MDB
Russell L. Smith49th MDB
Noli C. Batac3rd Bn
Colin A. Bunes3rd Bn
John M. Carson3rd Bn
Michael W. Garrison3rd Bn
Shane Guszregan3rd Bn
Karima L. Turner134th PAD

Staff Sergeant

Anthony W. Lesle168th LRS
Jay D. Adams168th SFS
Nathan W. Alonzo168th CF
Thomas Jared206th CCS
Jay J. Schmidt176th ACS
Michael C. Cooper176th LRS
Jessica L. Lingo176th APF
George B. Kale II176th APF

Matthew J. Soukup176th APF
Heidi M. Gould176th APF
Marc R. Ocampo176th MDG
Zachary R. Darnell176th ACS
Benjamin R. Lund176th MXS
Elijah PB. Wamack210th RQS
Katelyn E. Magnuson176th WG
Junnale D. Courtright176th MDG
Eric B. Brinkman176th MXS
Donna M. Judkins176th MSF
Benjamin D. Butcher176th MSF
Vershawn A. Idom176th CES
Natoya Harris176th MDG
Corbett C. Ercolani210th RQS
Ryan S. Broussard176th MXS
Douglas B. Meyer176th MXS
Nina V. KolyvanovaJFHQ-AK (Air)
John P. Brummer176th MXS
Franz D. Deters176th SFS
Athena M. Hromada206th CCS
Shantavia N. Odom176th ACS

RETIREMENTS

SSG Roy C. Brendible Jr.2nd Bn
SFC Denise M. MarshRTI
CSM Russel W. Port207th Bde
Lt Col Michael H. Quinn168th ARW
MSgt James W. Kimberly Jr.168th MXS
MSgt Amanda L. Israel168th ARW
Victoria Pennington176th ACS
Gaylen Schaugaard176th MXS
Roy L. Duckworth176th MXS
Victor D. Winters176th MDS
Troy Civitillo176th CES
William M. Walden176th LRS
Charles Sutton176th CES
Frank J. Sinerius176th CES
Linda OliverJFHQ-AK (Army)
Roger D. ShowersJFHQ-AK (Army)
Maj Steven Bucholz213th SWS
SMSgt David S. Champagne168th AMXS
TSgt Thomas Blair168th MXS



Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

176th Wing

Benjamin Gray
 Steve Klump
 Titus Peterson
 Luke Quirion
 Theodore Sullivan
 Jack Baker
 Austin Mcpherson
 Michael Knecht
 Susie Ramsey
 Jennifer Roe
 Alan Lankford
 Franz Deters
 Daniel Sharp
 Elisabeth Phelps
 Marty Armentrout
 Neil Schlosser
 Grant Cooper
 Ferdie Villaflores
 Michelle Gomez
 Michael Zener
 Paul Rauenhorst
 David Baker
 Michael Buck
 Paxton Chatfield
 Krista Dahl
 Michael O'Brien
 Morgan Wirum
 William Serra

168th Air Refueling Wing

Thannon Agha
 Lee Heineken
 Kenneth Whitlock
 Christina Wolf
 Michael McKenzie
 Donald Cronce
 Steven Havens
 Matthew Caven
 Christopher Moore
 Mathew Moore
 Julia Niemuth
 Jamie Schliebe
 Everett Dryden
 Carrie Stokes
 Raymond Allen

207th Infantry Brigade

Jiz Lomboy
 Garrett Dolling
 Sarah Romero
 Scott Bailey

207th Aviation Battalion

Thomas Porter
 Leslie Chilton
 Damien Tserlentakis
 John Helmer
 Eugene Daw
 Andrew Mason
 Kayla Muai
 Russell Leavitt
 Christina McDowell
 Joseph Nichols
 Lindsay Leavitt

297th Support Battalion

Christian Renald
 Jennifer Keohanam
 Alexis Christian
 Kathleen Tolson
 Shannon Standridge
 Joseph Curry
 Brian Mason
 Robert Kitchen
 Trevor Borseth
 Joshua Young
 Galen Shelley

1/297th Infantry

Raymon Armitage
 Clifton Charles
 Michael Charles
 Michael Chailer
 Ambros Mazion
 Tyler Morris

2/297th Infantry (Scout)

Kameron Wagner
 Calvin Haywood

3/297th Infantry

Ediver Thompson
 Matthew Rojas
 Karl Heitman
 Joshua Ellis

Medical Detachment

Jason Hofbauer
 Eric Fortner
 Sarah Clayton
 Nicolai Campbell
 Elsie Alexie
 Paige Henslee

134th Public Affairs Detachment

Chet Brennan

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.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Alaska National Guard			
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	13-14	3-4	1-2
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	13-14	16-18	1-2
Alaska Army National Guard			
207th Infantry Group	5-7	2-4	30 Nov, 1-2
1/207th Aviation Regiment	12-14	2-4	No Drill
297th Support Battalion	13-14	3-4	30 Nov, 1-2
Regional Training Institute	20-21	3-4	1-2
Alaska Air National Guard			
168th Air Refueling Wing	13-14	3-4	1-2
176th Wing	13-14	3-4	1-2
Alaska State Defense Force			
Headquarters	20-21	17-18	15-16

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