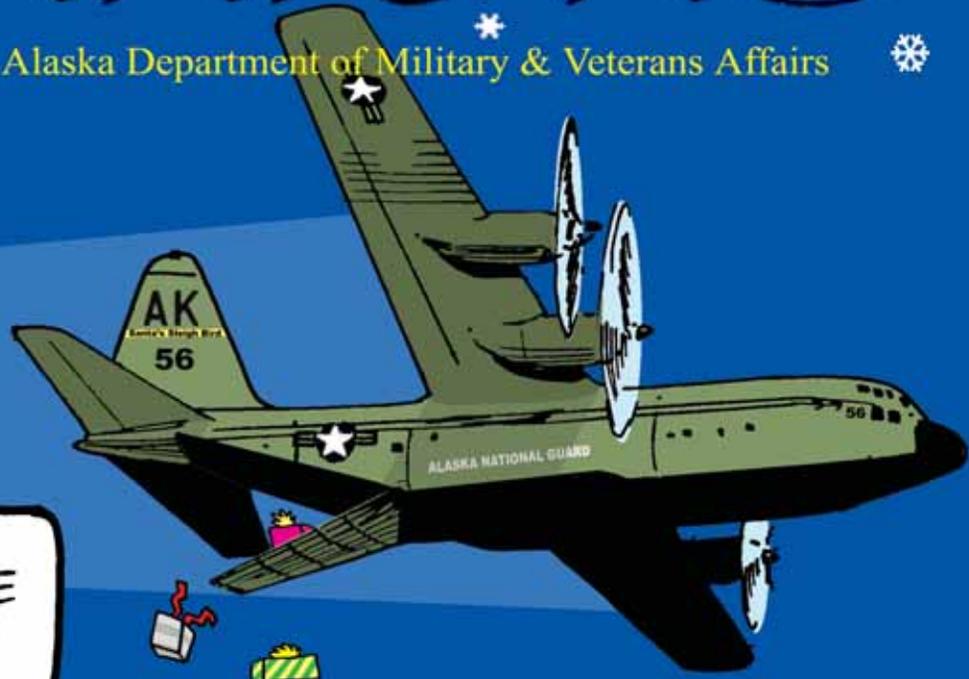


WINTER 2006/2007

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



WHERE ARE THOSE DARN REINDEER?!



- 2006 Villages
- St. Mary's
  - Emmonak
  - Nenana
  - Little Diomed
  - Anderson
  - Chalkyitsik
  - Galena
  - Hooper Bay



WHO CARES. THE GUARD IS ALWAYS READY AND ALWAYS THERE!

Chris Carpent...

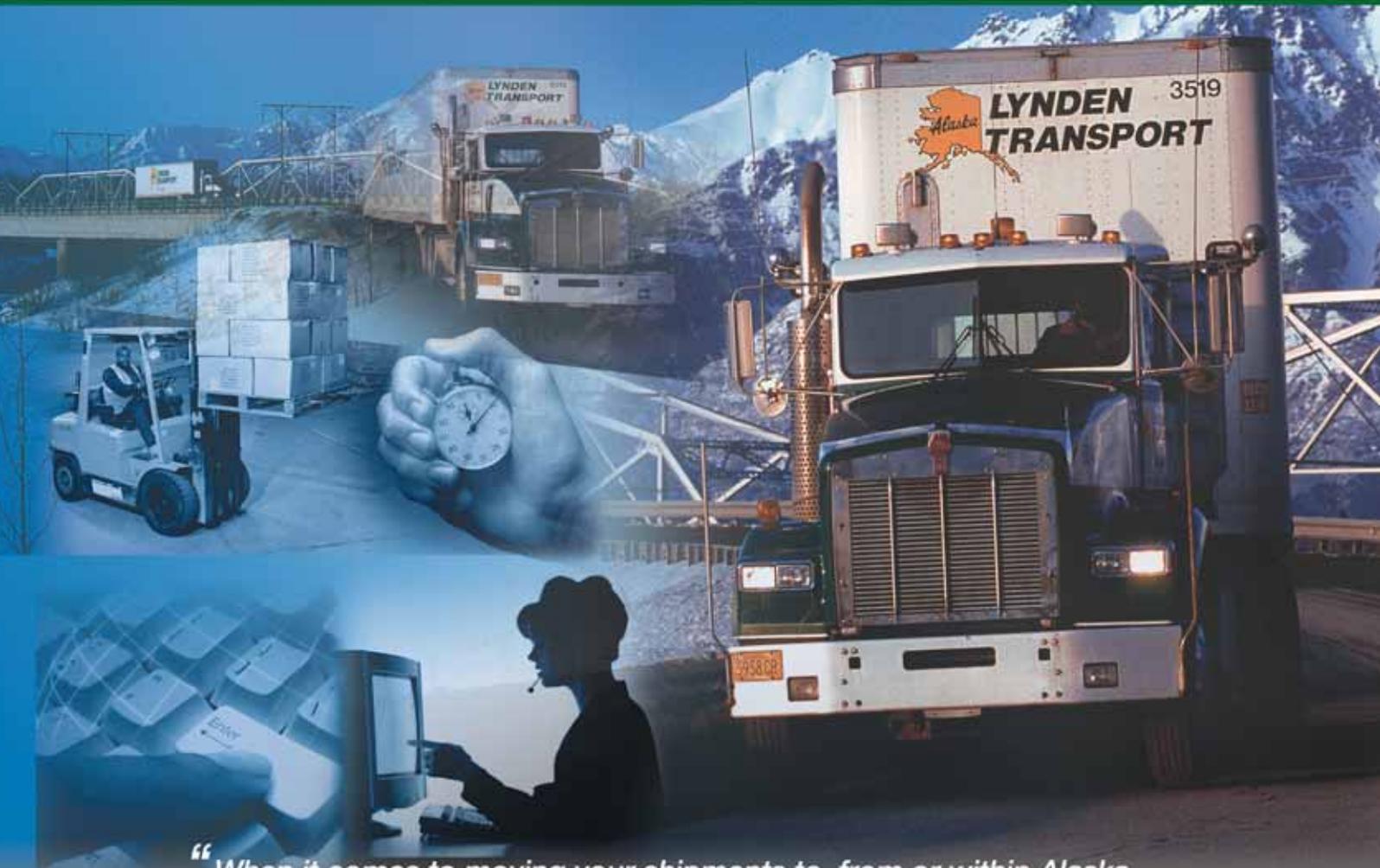


**OPERATION SANTA CLAUS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY**



*The most important  
mile is...*

*The Last Mile!*



*“When it comes to moving your shipments to, from or within Alaska,  
all transportation companies are not alike.*

- Lynden is the only company with our own multi-modal capabilities,*
- A suite of e-commerce services,*
- The largest terminal network in Alaska,*
- The most experienced employees,*
- And the highest on-time record.*

*Call Lynden and we'll help your business run smoothly by delivering  
your shipments that most important mile.”*

[www.shiplynden.com](http://www.shiplynden.com)

1-888-596-3361

The Lynden Family of Companies

Innovative Transportation Solutions





**Governor Sarah Palin**  
Commander in Chief



**Major General Craig E. Campbell**  
The Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner of the DMVA

**Mr. McHugh Pierre**  
DMVA Director of Communications

**Major Michael L. Haller**  
Managing Editor / Alaska State Defense Force

**Ms. Kalei Brooks**  
DMVA Public Affairs

*Contributors*

**Chad Carpenter**

**NASA/George Shelton**

**Gianna Simmons**

**Beth Bragg**

**Ms. Christine Nangle**

**Mr. James Littrell**

**Colonel Marcel Majors**  
Canadian Forces

**First Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro**  
**Staff Sergeant Phillip Chang**  
**Private First Class Margaret J. Moonin**  
134th Public Affairs

**Major Rob Barr**  
**Major Jeff Roach**  
207th Infantry Brigade

**First Lieutenant Randy Russell**  
297th Support Battalion

**Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe**  
**Specialist Jeff Bogle**  
3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

**Major Nancy Hansen**  
**Sergeant Mayra Kennedy**  
345th Public Affairs

**Sergeant Jack Carlson**  
49th Missile Defense Battalion

**Staff Sergeant Sarah J. Wiley**  
168th Communications Flight/  
SCBN Air National Guard

**Staff Sergeant Brian Raley**  
U.S. Army

**Sergeant Sarah Scully**  
Desert Voice Staff Writer

**Bob Ulin**  
Publisher

**Susan Harrington**  
Editor

**Gloria Schein**  
Art Director

**Darrell George**  
Advertising Sales



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

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

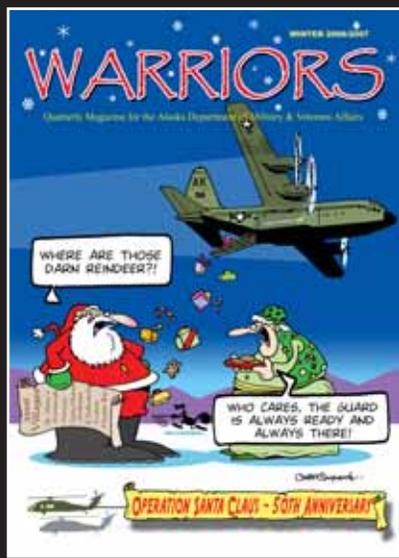


## Features:

**Those Who Have Witnessed War** ..... 8  
**To Kuwait from 'The Land of the Midnight Sun'** ..... 11  
**Task Force Grizzly Soldiers Eliminate Insurgents** ..... 13  
**Operation Santa Claus** ..... 14

## Departments:

Dispatches from the Front	..... 3	ESGR	..... 21
Where in the World	..... 4	Legacy	..... 22
For the People	..... 6	Who We Are	..... 23
My Turn	..... 7	Awards & Decorations	..... 24
Veterans	..... 8	Promotions	..... 26
Joint Forces	..... 10	Retirements	..... 27
Homeland Security	..... 12	Training Schedule	..... 27
Education	..... 18	Start of the Trail	..... 28
Family Support	..... 20		



Operation Santa Claus Going Strong at 50. Alaskan cartoonist Chad Carpenter captures the mirth and moment of the season as Operation Santa Claus returns to its beginnings in St. Mary's. Thousands of Alaskan children and their families have benefited from the works of energetic elves.



In Awe. Sergeant Duane Ostrowski, of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, stands in awe of the northern lights display over Fort Greely. A sunspot erupted, hurling clouds of gases towards Earth, sparking lights such as these over most of the northern latitudes. Photo: Sergeant Jack Carlson, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

Concepts for section head logos derived from clipart provided by Alaska Native Knowledge Network. [www.ankn.uaf.edu](http://www.ankn.uaf.edu)

**Warriors** is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership, quarterly, by the State of Alaska, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 5800, Camp Denali, Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-5800, phone (907) 428-6031, fax 428-6035; and AQP Publishing Inc., 8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the State of Alaska. All photos are Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs photos unless otherwise credited. Circulation: 5,000.

**Distribution:** **Warriors** is published for all current civilian employees, military members, veterans, and their families, of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. It is distributed, free of charge, via mail and distribution, through each Division within the Department. It is also available at our Web site: [www.ak-prepared.com/dmva](http://www.ak-prepared.com/dmva).

**HOW TO REACH US**

**Letters:** Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. **Submissions:** Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members,

veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

**Warriors Magazine**  
**Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs**  
**Office of Public Affairs**  
 PO Box 5800, Camp Denali  
 Ft Richardson, AK 99505-5800  
 (907) 428-6031 / Fax 428-6035

# UNITED ROAD

## NATIONWIDE VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION

**The Nation's Largest  
Transporter of Privately  
Owned Vehicles**

- FREE QUOTE • LOW PRICES
- DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE
- OPEN & CLOSED CARRIERS
- FULLY INSURED & BONDED
- RELIABLE ON-TIME DELIVERY



All Military—Call for a  
**5% Discount**  
CODE W2006

[www.vehicletransportusa.com](http://www.vehicletransportusa.com)

# TOLL FREE 800-354-6007

## GET OUT OF LINE

Government  
Services  
←



Now you don't have to wait in line for government services and information because now the government is officially online at [FirstGov.gov](http://FirstGov.gov). In an instant, you can print out tax and Social Security forms you used to wait in line for. You'll also find passport and student aid applications and more. [FirstGov.gov](http://FirstGov.gov). Lose the wait.

**FirstGov.gov**

The official web portal of the Federal Government

For government information by phone, call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.



# Dispatches from the Front...

## Joint Recruiting Office Grand Opening

By Staff Sergeant Phillip Chang,  
134th Public Affairs

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska . . .** Hot dogs, HUMVEES, an obstacle course, vehicles emblazoned with the Alaska Guard logo and an Honor Guard from Ben Eielson High School helped with the grand opening at the River Mall.

"This is the first ever joint recruiting effort in Fairbanks," said Colonel Wendy Wenke, executive state support officer for the Alaska Air National Guard.

"It's only the second for the state," added Lieutenant Colonel Beth Law, then recruiting and retention commander for the Alaska Army National Guard.

"We were recruiting out of our armory."

"It's a huge move for us to be on a main street," Wenke said.

The event included a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house.

"Once we had everything put in place for our office to host the open house, we got the go ahead to have the event," said Senior Master Sergeant Mike Stoltz, superintendent of the Alaska Air National Guard recruiting and retention team.

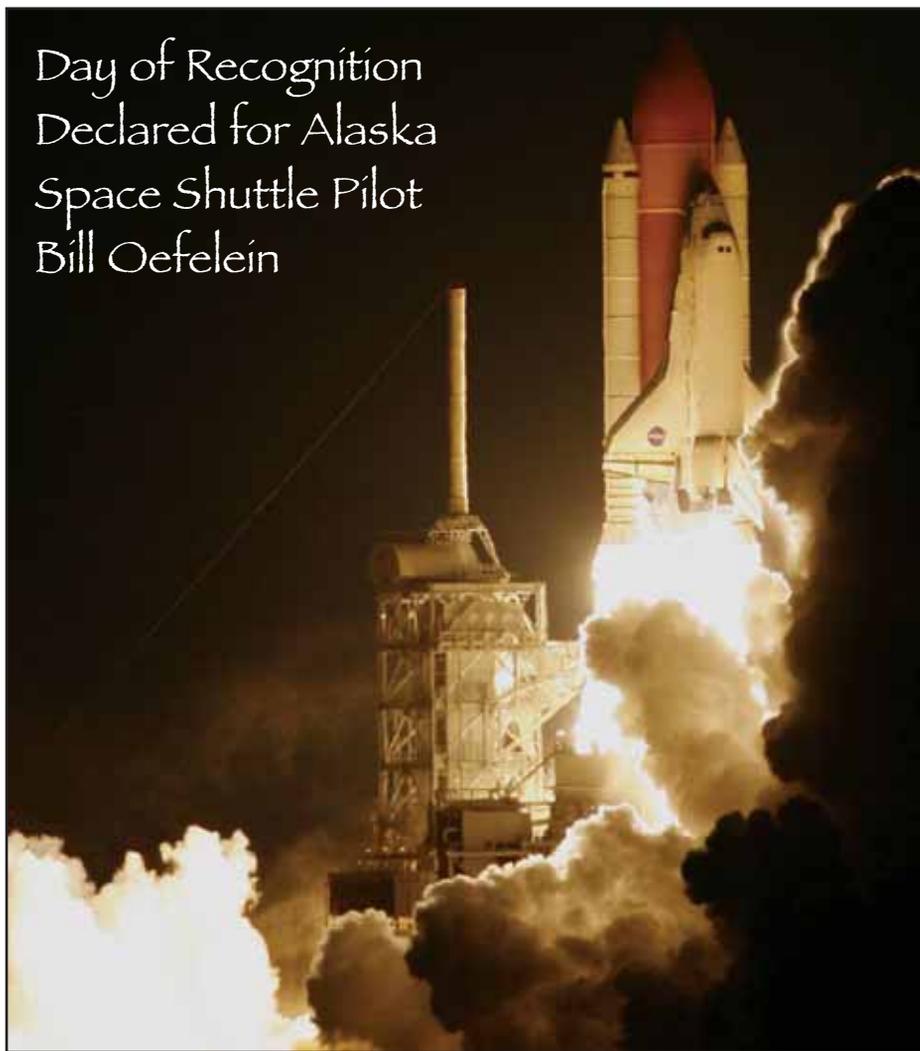
"This location has increased the number of walk-ins we've had since our move," said Master Sergeant Ron Lovell, recruiting supervisor of the 168th Air Refueling Wing. "Since May, we've seen a 300 percent increase of walk-ins."

"We want Alaskans to know that the Army and Air National Guard have unique and rewarding opportunities available – now only one stop is needed to find out more about both," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. ■



Opportunities Open. Brigadier General Timothy W. Scott, commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, left, and then-Governor Frank H. Murkowski join Fairbanks' Guard recruiters in opening their new center at the River Mall. Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing

## Day of Recognition Declared for Alaska Space Shuttle Pilot Bill Oefelein



Oefelein Pilots Shuttle. Flooding the night sky with its blazing light, Space Shuttle Discovery leaps toward the sky from Launch Pad 39B on mission STS-116 at 8:47:35 p.m. EST on Dec. 9, 2006. This is Discovery's 33rd mission and the first night launch since 2003. This is the 20th shuttle mission to the International Space Station. Anchorage resident Navy Commander Bill Oefelein piloted the Space Shuttle Discovery. Oefelein's mother is employed by the Alaska Air National Guard at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. Photo: Courtesy of NASA/George Shelton

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida . . .** Dec. 1 was declared "William A. Oefelein Day" in recognition of the achievements of Navy Commander Bill Oefelein, an Alaskan who piloted the Space Shuttle Discovery on its ambitious and complex mission to complete the International Space Station on Dec. 9.

Then-Governor Frank H. Murkowski noted Oefelein's high level of accomplishments. "He brought great honor to Alaska. He provides Alaska's youth a great role model of excellence through hard work and commitment to science. We're very proud of him."

Oefelein, a 1983 graduate of West Anchorage High School, and his parents, Randall and Billye Oefelein, reside in Anchorage. Oefelein's mother is employed by the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base.

Upon graduation from West, Oefelein completed a degree in electrical engineering at Oregon State University and an advanced degree in aviation engineering at the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

Oefelein, who was commissioned into the Navy in 1988, earned his Navy aviator wings in 1990. During his distinguished military career, he's earned many special honors including logging more than 3,000 hours in more than 50 aircraft. He completed the Navy's Top Gun and Test Pilot's schools. Oefelein joined NASA in 1998. ■

# Where in the World

## Guard Welcomes Home Aviators

### 'Arctic Cowboys' are Home on the Range

By Christine Nangle,  
DMVA Public Affairs

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska . . .** Nearly 50 Alaska Army National Guardsmen from Company B, 207th Aviation, returned home after serving a one-year deployment in Iraq.

"These Soldiers have been through extreme trials while deployed," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "Alaska is very proud of their service and dedication to protect our freedom."

While in Iraq, the unit performed air assault, airlift and varying missions, including moving Soldiers from different operating bases in Iraq. Air crews flew thousands of hours while deployed.

"These men and women have accomplished success beyond words that will be recorded in history," said Colonel Mike Bridges, 207th Infantry Brigade deputy commander.

The Alaska Army National Guard leadership credits this unit with making significant contributions to the War On Terrorism, primarily in Northern Iraq. ■

## Afghan Forces Raise \$\$\$ for Cancer Help

### Commander Shaves Head

By Major Nancy A. Hansen,  
345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan . . .** Nearly 400 runners representing the Alaska Army National Guard and a number of Coalition Forces

Mongolia



**Weapons of Choice.** Major General Craig E. Campbell, second from left, reviews weapons used by the Mongolian Forces during a recent visit to Ulaanbataar. The Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program is highly active and successful. While Campbell was in Mongolia, he was able to discuss potential future cultural exchanges.

Photo: McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs



**Every Homecoming is Special.** Soldiers from B Company, 207th Aviation, returned home to family, friends and employers after a one-year overseas tour in Iraq. Thus far, nearly 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard have been deployed overseas. The impact and importance of families and friends have never been more important than it is now.

Photos: Christine Nangle, DMVA Public Affairs



recently took part in the Terry Fox Run to raise funds to support cancer research.

"I remember seeing the movie about Terry Fox when I was a kid," said Captain Guy Bailly, 207th Infantry Brigade, who was among the top finishers in the 8.5 kilometer run. "I thought it would be great to raise money for cancer research while we're here in Afghanistan."

To Canadians, Terry Fox is one of the greatest humanitarians and cancer activists. It began in 1977 when Fox, 18, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer. The Winnipeg

resident had his right leg amputated in an effort to stop the spread of the cancer.

Fox started the Marathon of Hope in an effort to collect one dollar from every Canadian citizen and raise awareness of the importance of finding a cure. He pledged to run across the entire breadth of Canada to raise awareness of the need to fight cancer. In a 143-day period, he completed 3,339 miles, averaging about 24 miles each day. Fox died in 1981 at the age of 22.

This inspirational story has been kept alive in Canada since that time. Each year a number of Terry Fox runs are



**The Mummy Returns Part III.** Soldiers from the 207th Infantry Brigade and 297th Support Battalion headquarters enjoy some light moments during Halloween. This homemade costume won for best reflective mummy.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

**Windy City Run.** Ever run a 6:43 mile? Ever done it for 26.2 miles? That is exactly what Staff Sergeant Jason De Heus, 168th Air Refueling Wing, did on Oct. 22 at The LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon, setting a personal record of 2:56:20. He finished 719th overall out of 33,600-plus runners, ranking him in the top 2 percent. Captain Paulette Goodwin, also of the 168th ARW, ran it in 3:48:09, finishing in the top 24 percent. Both are members of the "All Guard" Marathon Team, which enhances both recruiting and retention for the National Guard by instilling physical fitness, self-discipline, and esprit de corps among members from all 50 states and territories. Contact Goodwin, the state coordinator, at (907) 377-8519 if you are interested in representing Alaska at the Annual Marathon Trials in May.

Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing



## Infantry Unit Returns From Iraq

### 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, Completes Successful Mission

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

#### CAMP DENALI, Alaska . . .

Alaskans welcomed home more hometown heroes in November. About 60 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, returned to Alaska in November after a one-year overseas tour in Iraq.

While deployed, the unit was tasked with command and control of security forces – generally speaking, Alaska Soldiers were in charge of military police units.

"We maintained the security of Forward Operating Base Camp Bucca," said Major Ken Blaylock, the civil military affairs and public affairs officer for Camp Bucca. "It's the largest detainment facility in the world where the most terrorists and insurgents are being held, and we were responsible for the security of the entire place."

Most of the Soldiers who deployed with the unit hailed from Nome, 1st Battalion's headquarters, but Guard members from the Anchorage/Mat-Su area and Fairbanks were also deployed with the group.

"This is a diverse unit of Soldiers who came together to complete a common mission in protecting and building the freedom of a formerly oppressed nation," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "Their mission was critical in supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and we commend them for a successful tour and a job well done." ■



**Southeast Alaskans.** Six of the approximately 550 Soldiers serving with the Alaska National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, in Kuwait are from Wrangell, a small island community of about 1,700 people in Southeast Alaska. Pictured from left to right are: Staff Sergeant Dennis Dillon, Private First Class Ali Strickland, Specialist Colin Buness, Major Mark Turner, Specialist Joseph Whitefeather and Private William Shiltz.

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

**For a Good Cause.** Colonel Stephen Williams reacts to sudden hair loss. Soldiers from the U.S. National Command Element, made up of Alaskan and Coalition Forces, challenged Williams to have his head shaved if they raised more than \$1,000 for the Terry Fox Run in support of cancer research. They raised more than \$1,500 for the haircut challenge and more than \$5,000 overall from the run, which was held at Kandahar Air Field in October.

Photo: Lieutenant Randy Russell, 297th Support Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard



**Welcome Home.** The people of Nome, together with the Nome Family Readiness Group, hang signs throughout the town to welcome home Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, in November. About 60 Guard members from the unit were deployed to Iraq for one-year with the mission to command and control operational forces.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

sponsored to raise money for cancer research.

"More than 5,000 U.S. dollars have been raised here as a direct result of sales of T-shirts and donations," said Canadian Lance Corporal Christopher Lenzhan, one of the event organizers from the 1st Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group.

In an effort to raise money, Soldiers from the U.S. National Command Element issued a challenge to their commander, Colonel Stephen Williams, from Chugiak. He agreed and set a goal of \$1,000. In exchange, he'd shave his

head if the goal was met.

"We raised \$1,571, which goes to a great cause," said First Lieutenant Randall Russell, an Anchorage resident and commander of Logistics Task Force 297. "I grew up in Canada and remember this event in school, so when I heard about it here, it reminded me of home."

Russell explained, "Cancer is very prevalent in my family, so this is why I pushed so hard to raise the money to shave the commander's head."

Williams is now sporting a new hairstyle. ■



# For the People



**Governor Sarah Palin**  
Commander in Chief

*A*  
**NEW**  
*Year with*  
**NEW**  
*Energy*

It is an honor to serve as Commander in Chief of the Alaska National Guard! Four days after taking office, I had the privilege of welcoming home 60 National Guard troops returning from a year in Iraq. After brave and successful missions in the War on Terror, our Alaska troops proved to the rest of the world what we Alaskans already know: our troops are the best in the world.

One of the first appointments to my cabinet was Major General Craig E. Campbell as

Adjutant General and Commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. He is doing a fantastic job changing and growing the National Guard while providing the crucial leadership to make Homeland Security a discipline, not a reaction. Together, we will achieve great success for Alaskans. I am proud to have him as a member of my administration.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is one of the most crucial departments in state government. Tasked with being the initial response and recovery agency for natural disasters on local, national and global levels, you also stand ready to supplement active duty forces during national emergencies and war. I support your courage, commitment, teamwork, self-discipline and absolute dedication to protecting our freedom.

As we look to the future, a new era of possibility awaits us, one full of promise and prosperity. I look forward to your continued excellence. ■



**A Double Welcome Home for the Troops.** Then-Governor-Elect Sarah Palin, right, joined with Senator Ted Stevens in welcoming home the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, after their year-long tour of duty in Iraq. The majority of the Soldiers are from the Nome region with elements from Fairbanks and the Anchorage/Mat-Su region. Soldiers were assigned to direct security operations at the largest prison facility in Iraq. Photo: First Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, 134th Public Affairs



# My Turn

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



## TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES CHANGE IMPROVES OUR DEPARTMENT

While we continue to change with the times, adapting to meet the needs of the state and the nation, some things remain the same. I am pleased to be reappointed as Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and Commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs by Governor Sarah Palin. I pledge to keep the commitments of Palin and advance her priorities to keep Alaskans safe and secure while demonstrating transparency in state government.

One of the things remaining unchanged is Operation Santa Claus. For 50 years the Alaska National Guard has delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus and loads of gifts to children across the state. This winter we went back to the place where it all began, St. Mary's. When we stepped off the plane the joy of the season could be felt in the air.

Now change is in the air.

The board of directors is looking at how we can redefine Operation Santa Claus to make sure the spirit of the mission remains unchanged while service improves.

Changes are being made in the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. John Madden, the former deputy director for Homeland Security, is now the director of the division. This marks a distinct change from an emphasis on emergency management to an emphasis on homeland security. We react to natural disasters when they occur, and this is no less important, but we need to maintain constant vigilance on protecting our borders 365 days a year. To steal one of Madden's catch phrases, "homeland security is a discipline not a reaction," and that's why he's been appointed by Palin.

At the Alaska Military Youth Academy, Ed Wicher is now the acting director. The Academy is at a crossroads; there are more students than ever before, and results are more astounding. Former cadets are graduating from U.S. service academies, working crucial jobs for the military and the White House and showing tremendous accomplishments that make Alaska shine. Now, how do we expand the program to serve more Alaska teens? The answer to this question will be a priority for Wicher as we move forward as a department to give cadets more choices and experiences to make them better Alaskans. How and where we expand the Academy will drive the future success of cadets.

The Army National Guard is expecting more deployments and the reports from Soldiers coming home are fantastic. These Soldiers are the future leaders of the Alaska Army National Guard, and they have proven themselves in an extraordinary manner. Lieutenant Colonel Chip Andrews and his unit just came home from Iraq, and they had a successful mission at Camp Bucca. While they were getting ready to come home, Lieutenant Colonel Duff Mitchell and 550 Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, left on the single largest Alaska Army National

Guard deployment since World War II and arrived in northern Kuwait in October. Reports from theater prove they are setting the standard for those who work with them, and they are making their families and friends proud.

If you missed the reports, let me recap the success of the Alaska Army National Guard in Afghanistan. Colonel Stephen Williams and the 207th Infantry Brigade have had Fox News, stringers for KTUU-TV and reporters from the New York Times embedded with them. As deputy commander of the NATO forces in southern Afghanistan, Williams and the 207th Infantry Brigade are proving their worth in removing Taliban insurgents from critical towns during missions such as Operation Medusa. Farther north, the Alaska Air National Guard is redefining tactical air drop, supporting Soldiers by dropping crucial ammunition from Bagram Air Force Base to those on the frontlines of battle. Just wait until they have the C-17 this summer. Our Airmen will remain the most renowned for their skills and tenacity.

We change so we can better meet the needs of the nation, but we will always be ready to serve those in Alaska. We are Alaskans first and foremost, and your friends and loved ones can rest assured we will always be ready, and we will always be there. ■



Ready For the Next Six Years. Soldiers of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, take the oath of extension/reenlistment while serving a one-year deployment in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From left to right, Specialist Artemo Rivera, of Sitka; Specialist Joseph Whitefeather, of Wasilla; and Specialist Lance Cagle, of Wasilla, were sworn in by their Company Commander, Lieutenant Bryan S. Perez, of Ketchikan, in front of the company's command post at Camp Buehring.

Photo: Specialist Jeff Bogle, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry



## Those Who Have Witnessed War Are Never The Same

By Colonel Marcel Majors, Canadian Forces

**Editor's note:** The following story was originally presented as a speech during the annual Veterans & Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, 2006, at Camp Denali. More than 1,000 veterans and military members, together with their families and friends, attended the ceremonies held in the Armory. Some years ago, the Canadian Forces and the Alaska National Guard began a new tradition, merging efforts to honor the heroism and fidelity of veterans of Alaska and Canada. A true friend of Alaska, Colonel Marcel Majors, commander of the Canadian Forces in Alaska, offered timeless remarks worthy of our reflection.

Some of you may recall these words from my opening statements of the past two years.

The first year my speech appealed mostly to the heart and the intellect, with its many references to those who, in past wars, made the ultimate sacrifice, and the authors that maintain their spirit alive.

Last year, I highlighted the subtle differences that exist between the U.S. Veterans Day and the Canadian Remembrance Day noting that "Remembrance Day" is the culmination of "Canadian Veterans Week." Additionally, 2005 "The Year of the Veteran," celebrated the principals: remember, honor, teach, thank and celebrate.

This year, our theme "Share the Story" highlights the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Peacekeeping Force and invites Canadians to share personal stories as a way to develop a deeper understanding of the sacrifices and achievements of those who serve Canada.

*By sharing memories, we honor those who risked it all for their country.* When we share the story, we become part of a legacy of remembrance – a chain of events that will link our past with our future, and preserve the memories of our military heroes.

Although our presence is often inconspicuous you are not alone in the War on Terrorism.

*First, a bit of perspective.* Not unexpectedly, it is easy for one nation, especially one as powerful as yours, to judge another nation's contribution by its own performance standards.

Although Canada is a large country, the second largest in fact, its population – now at more than 33 million – is approximately equal to that of the state of California, or about 10 percent of that of the United States.

If the Canadian Chief of Defense Staff was to order every civilian and uniformed man and woman from the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force to walk into and take a seat in the Toronto Skydome, the largest sports arena in Canada, he would still not be able to fill it.

At just over 60,000 strong, our combined forces are about equal to the number of U.S. Guard and Reserves operating under Title 10 last month. At just over 13,000, our Air Force is outmanned by the New York City subway employees.

None the less, in spite of our small numbers, the Canadian military is involved in a multitude of operations dispersed throughout the world – its reach, presence and influence, although modest, is global.

Canada's military continues to make significant contributions to the international campaign against terrorism. Here are some interesting items:

- 23,000 Canadian military members have been deployed since October 2001
- Canada was the first U.S. ally to deploy to the northern Arabian Sea after 9/11
- In 2004, a Canadian lieutenant general commanded NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul
- 22 Canadian warships have been deployed in the War on Terror
- Canada has, to date, deployed UAVs, CC-150 Airbus Strategic Airlift, CC-130 Hercules, CP-140 Aurora Maritime Patrol Aircraft and CH-124 Sea-King Helicopters
- Our Joint Task Force 2 Commando Counter-terrorism Unit was involved since day one

When American military forces were fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Canada quietly increased troop numbers in Afghanistan and continued naval operations with U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

On March 14, 2002, President George W. Bush stated, "We know the Canadians have put troops on the ground in Afghanistan, and they have performed brilliantly."

America has awarded 30 U.S. Bronze Stars to Canadian service members in the War on Terrorism.

In all, more than 40 Canadian Soldiers and one diplomat have been killed since the Canadian military deployed to Afghanistan in early 2002.

*This is who they are.* The Canadian Chief of the Defense Staff, in his Remembrance Day message, said: "In Afghanistan, in other parts of the world, across this continent and through this country, your work echoes the courage and tenacity of your predecessors of some 90 years ago."

*In a statement that could easily be applied to all of us present here, the chief added, "On November 11th, whether you stand at a local cenotaph in the crisp autumn air or at the Canadian Monument at Kandahar Airfield, I know you will be thinking of your comrades and friends who have sacrificed so much to give Canadians the freedom we enjoy today. I also know that your hearts will be reaching out to the families who have recently lost their loved ones. Throughout, they have shown a level of dignity, commitment and grace that is an inspiration to us all. Like them,*

we cannot and will not forget that our freedom has come at a steep price. It is a sacrifice that will be remembered for generations and that will forever make us proud."

David E. Meadows, a retired Mustang U.S. Navy Captain and author of numerous military thrillers, refers to Canada as, "A close uncle who constantly argues, badgers and complains about what you are doing, but when help is truly needed, you can't keep him away." He adds, "Our unique friendship has weathered world wars, global crises and the ever-so-often neighborhood disagreement."

Canada has been such an integral partner with the United States in the Global War on Terrorism that on Dec. 7, 2004, when President Bush awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to Commander Joint Forces South for combat successes in Afghanistan, he was also recognizing the secretive Canadian Joint Task Force 2 Commando Counterterrorism Unit.

In the words of Captain Meadows, "Canada is more than a neighbor. It is a close family member with the gumption to disagree with its brother to the south, but always there when disaster strikes and America needs help."

There should never be any doubt in your mind as to where Canada stands.

Being a veteran is not about politics, nor is it about expressing the correctness or superior moral value of one war over the other, it is about serving your country by putting, without question or reservation, life and limb on the line to preserve the freedom enjoyed by your fellow countrymen.

While Remembrance Day is about remembering those who have fallen, the Canadian Veteran's Week and the U.S. Veterans Day is about honoring the survivors.

As the senior Canadian military representative in Alaska, your neighbor and a citizen of a nation who has been your most trusted ally, I salute veterans from all wars, past and present, from both our great nations. ■

*(Upon completion of Colonel Majors' remarks, the first people to leap to their feet with applause were Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 207th Infantry Brigade, who'd just returned home from their assignment in Iraq the day before).*

## **Governor Palin Orders Flags Lowered to Honor Brigadier General Kenneth Taylor Sr. and for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

**JUNEAU, Alaska** . . . Governor Sarah Palin ordered Alaska flags to be lowered to half staff, in honor of former Alaska Air National Guard Commander Brigadier General Kenneth Taylor, Sr., 86, who died in Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 27, 2006. Taylor was a Pearl Harbor veteran and rose to the rank of Colonel during his 27 years of active duty. He then dutifully served the Alaska Air National Guard and retired in 1971 as a Brigadier General.

"General Taylor was an outstanding American and Airman who unfailingly put others' needs before his own," Palin said. "The bravery he demonstrated during the attack on Pearl Harbor stands as an enduring example of selfless courage in the face of extreme danger. I am grateful for General Taylor's many years of devoted service to our nation and our state and extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends."

Taylor is most recognized for his daring efforts to fight off Japanese planes during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Then Lieutenant Taylor, under heavy Japanese fire, managed to take off in his own fighter and engage enemy aircraft until the battle's end. Taylor's plane was one of only two American fighters able to lift off and take the fight to the enemy.

"The Alaska National Guard is a better organization today because of General Kenneth Taylor," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "To this day, young Airmen and Soldiers are inspired by his courage and benefit by his contributions."

Governor Palin ordered state flags to be flown at half staff from Dec. 6 throughout Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Dec. 7. ■



Honoring Fallen Heroes. Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, and Sharon Long, mother of fallen Lance Corporal Grant Fraser, on Nov. 11, unveil a bronze plaque with the names of the first 10 Alaskan military members killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Fallen Alaskans Memorial Plaque is located at the Anchorage Veteran's Memorial flagpole on the Delaney Park Strip. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



## Sergeants Pass on Skills Through **PAINTBALL WARS**

Guardsmen vs. Locals in Paint Wars. Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers and Kenai Peninsula community members take part in paintball war games in northern Kenai over drill weekend. Guard members were practicing perishable skills – shooting, moving and communicating in a fire team exercise. Participants were (back row L to R) Staff Sergeant Ken Felchle, Sergeant First Class Will Schwenke, Joe Jones, Teagan Coreson, Nick Kellie, Josh Vance, Reece Parrish, James Cockrell, Sergeant First Class Troy Zimmerman, (front row L to R) Private Anthony Kline, Corey McGee, Private Lawrence Kline.

Story and photos by Private First Class Margaret J. Moonin, 134th Public Affairs

**KENAI, Alaska . . .** On a crisp fall afternoon a group of seasoned Company B, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, sergeants from Kenai showed two new Soldiers the ropes at a paintball range. After running several standard assault drills to develop teamwork, they were ready for a challenge.

The five Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers faced a fierce foe – high school students and two of the course creators – in that chilly northern Kenai air. After several skirmishes against the locals, the Alaska Guardsmen were victorious in laying adequate suppressive fire to take out the enemy.

Though the locals tried to hold their ground and gain the advantage with a long, snake-like bunker, they were no match for the knowledge and skills of the Guardsmen. The agenda for the day was to work on movement techniques and have some fun with a group from the local community, said Staff Sergeant Ken Felchle, a squad leader with the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

New Soldiers Anthony Kline and Lawrence Kline returned from Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Ga., in August to finish their senior year of high school. They are both a part of the National Guard's split-training enlistment option and will return for the advanced training in spring 2007.

The two said they have not had the opportunity to review any of the training they received at Fort Benning until now. "It refreshed my memory on how to do the movements and clear rooms," Anthony Kline said.

"Training new Soldiers is something noncommissioned

officers do naturally," said Sergeant First Class Will Schwenke, a 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, platoon sergeant. "We are always training. In the next couple of years, we might be gone. Naturally, we want to train the youth for if that happens."

"The advantage of this kind of training is the Soldiers get to develop their individual movement techniques, work on suppressive fire and pinpoint shooting," said Sergeant First Class Troy Zimmerman, acting 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, platoon leader in Kenai. "These are perishable skills and they are so easy to forget."

"The veterans instruct our young Soldiers on how to shoot, move and communicate," said Sergeant First Class Roy Brendible, the supply and readiness noncommissioned officer for the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, in Kenai.

Brendible, Zimmerman, Schwenke and Felchle returned in early 2006 from a year-long deployment in Iraq. They share the knowledge they learned while there with new recruits, deployed Soldiers and their families.

"We visit with the families because we want to show them support and how important it is to take care of the other Soldiers," Schwenke said. "We know because we have been through it."

The training done here not only helped the seasoned and new Soldiers, but also gave a few members of the community a glimpse at the type of teamwork and training that goes into making an Alaska Army National Guard Soldier. ■

# To Kuwait from 'The Land of the Midnight Sun'

## Alaska National Guard Troops Reporting for Duty

By Sergeant Sarah Scully, Desert Voice Staff Writer

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait . . .** Instead of climbing aboard a snowmobile to track prey and patrol the vast wilderness, they now slide into military vehicles and police the sandy wasteland for suspicious activity.

Leaving behind frozen tundra to serve in a scorching desert, hundreds of Soldiers from the Alaska National Guard took over the quick reaction force and other security measures. As the largest deployed unit of the Alaska National Guard since World War II, the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, has important missions to accomplish during the next year in support of Third Army/U.S. Army Central in Kuwait.

And they have a diverse population of Soldiers with unique skills to succeed at those missions while stationed at Camps Navistar, Buehring and Virginia. The unit has a large segment of minorities – roughly more than a third of the Soldiers are of Eskimo or American Indian heritage.

"There's nothing in this theater that's going to put them out," said Lieutenant Colonel Duff Mitchell, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, commander. "Some guys have killed many bears – they're not worried about insurgents."

Each region of the "Land of the Midnight Sun" contributed Soldiers to travel halfway around the world to guard and defend fellow service members. Many of the Soldiers come from a military family, and Alaskans have a history of volunteering to serve their country in times of war.

"It's a way of life out there that's been passed down from generation to generation," said Command Sergeant Major Alan Feaster, the battalion command sergeant major.

While most people might find Alaska Natives and the Kuwaiti desert contrasting and incompatible, these Soldiers look at it differently. The flat and barren desert with occasional camps resembles the frozen tundra of northern Alaska, where remote villages dot the landscape. And the hardships they may face in the desert, many have already confronted in the tundra.

"When you're in Alaska, and it's 10 degrees below zero, you have to trust yourself, have confidence in yourself," Mitchell said. "And you just have to persevere."

Some of the Soldiers are whaling captains, subsistence hunters and fishermen – all men used to dealing with hardship on a daily basis.

"They grew up with the warrior spirit," said Mitchell. "The 'Warrior Ethos' is a natural part of their everyday life."

With infantry Soldiers stationed at Camp Navistar and regularly making trips into Iraq, they have many chances to display those warrior skills. The Soldiers had an opportunity to bond and get used to warmer weather during a 90-day training session at hot and humid Camp Shelby, Miss., before the unit deployed to Kuwait.

"That was quite a shock to the system," Mitchell said. "One of the Soldiers came up to me and said, 'Sir, this is just like being in a sweat lodge – but there's no door.'"

There are other differences from home they must endure – culture, food and language. To combat the homesickness, the Soldiers have photos of their hometowns picturing tranquil lakes, soaring mountains and bald eagles. They also get care packages from family filled with dried caribou, smoked salmon, berry jellies and dried fish.

As a farewell gift, the governor of Alaska brought whale



Covering Each Other's Backs. Private First Class Darin Olanna of Nome, and Sergeant Keith Hudson of New Stuyahok, cover each other's backs as they participate in a simulated raid on a suspected terrorist cell during a training evaluation at Camp Shelby, Miss. Both Olanna and Hudson are members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, which underwent an evaluation to test its combat readiness prior to deployment to Kuwait in October. Photo: Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

blubber to the Soldiers at their departure ceremony in October.

With these reminders of home, they look out at the desert and continue their service. Guarding the camps with the Big Dipper constellation emblazoned on the unit's patch, the Soldiers live up to the native "Yuh Yek" motto meaning, "Be on watch – ready to fire."

They've already walked the walk in their own lives," Mitchell said. "They're solid Soldiers." ■



Changing of the Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Duff Mitchell, left, commander of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry; Sergeant Sherman Stebbins, center, and Command Sergeant Major Alan Feaster unfurl the 3rd Battalion's colors at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, during a transfer-of-authority ceremony on Nov. 3. The Alaskans formally took over a security mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from an outgoing Wisconsin Army National Guard unit.

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



## 4-Peat! Alaska Picks Up Its Fourth Federal Disaster of 2006

By Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM Public Affairs

With President George W. Bush signing the federal disaster declaration in December for October's severe storm disaster, it capped a very busy year for staff at the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. The October storm declaration was the fourth federal declaration the state received in 2006. The other declarations came for the spring flooding disaster, which impacted numerous communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, the August flooding disaster for the Matanuska-Susitna and Denali Boroughs and the Chugach Regional Educational Attendance Area, and the Hooper Bay fire that destroyed more than a dozen homes, the old school building and a local store.

"I am pleased President Bush granted the state's request for federal assistance," said Governor Sarah Palin. "These storms caused widespread damage in Cordova, Valdez, Seward and many places in between. This assistance will go a long way in making sure all of the impacted communities return to normal."

The federal declaration makes the declared areas of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Copper River and Chugach Regional Educational Attendance Areas eligible for federal public infrastructure disaster relief after they were hit with flooding, landslides, mudslides and high winds caused by powerful storm systems that crossed over the region from Oct. 8-13, 2006. Numerous public infrastructure components, as well as commercial and personal property, sustained damage during the storm.

Seventy-five percent of the disaster costs for repairing eligible public infrastructure in the named areas may be covered by the federal government, while the remaining 25 percent will be paid by the state. The State Individual Assistance Program, enacted under the state disaster declaration back in October, will assist individuals and families recovering from the storm.

"This is welcome news for the state and the communities affected," said David Liebersbach, then director of the

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. "After personally visiting the areas devastated in this disaster, I know how much the federal assistance, along with the state assistance, will help these communities get back on track and on with life."

Three of the four federal disasters are being worked by the State of Alaska and FEMA from an Anchorage Joint Field Office. Joint state and FEMA disaster recovery teams visited communities in the declared areas before Christmas to conduct initial meetings with the local governments. More visits are planned for the beginning of 2007. ■

Valdez. Rain waters engulfed the Richardson Highway, damaging large sections of the roadway and cutting off the city of Valdez for several days. Keystone Canyon looked more like a raging river than a highway. Photos: Courtesy of DHS&EM



Seward. Heavy rains caused widespread flooding and landslides in the Seward area, cutting off access to Lowell Point and damaging several residences and local businesses. Photos: Courtesy of DHS&EM



# Task Force Grizzly Soldiers Eliminate Insurgents

By Major Rob Barr and Major Jeff Roach, 207th Infantry Brigade



**Offensive Operation.** Task Force Grizzly Soldiers cleared a grape vine area in Pashmul, Afghanistan, before conducting an offensive operation against enemy insurgents in Panjwayi in September 2006 during Operation Medusa. Soldiers fought more than 1,000 insurgents in the area during the 20-day operation.

Photos: Sergeant Mayra Kennedy, 345th Mobile Public Affairs



**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan...** The Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade recently made a dramatic push into the Taliban stronghold in the villages of Panjwayi and Pashmul with only days to plan.

The effort was in support of Operation Medusa, the main effort in the destruction of the Taliban in southern Afghanistan. Operation Medusa's goal is to eliminate a very determined, entrenched enemy force of 1,000 Taliban insurgents in the Panjwayi and Zhari districts of Southern Afghanistan.

The 207th Infantry Brigade formed Task Force Grizzly on short notice when assigned the task of defeating the Taliban. Task Force Grizzly included a Canadian Infantry Company, an Afghan National Army Infantry Battalion, other coalition forces and the Alaska Army National Guard.

Soldiers from the 207th Infantry Brigade have been taking part in combat operations, as well as humanitarian assistance and rebuilding efforts in southern Afghanistan since early June 2006. They used their experience and determination to move rapidly to their destination and immediately engage the enemy.

According to Major Jeff Roach, 207th Infantry Brigade operations officer, "Task Force Grizzly played a vital role in moving Operation Medusa forward and defeating the enemy in the Panjwayi and Zhari districts."

Task Force Grizzly within days planned the attack across the Arghandab River to drive the enemy from "Objective Rugby" the south side of the town of Pashmul. After extensive aerial and artillery bombardment from U.S. and Canadian forces, 207th Commander Colonel Stephen Williams gave the order to cross the Arghandab River and assault the compounds harboring Taliban insurgents, bunkers and weapons caches.

As a team effort with mutual supporting fires and maneuver, the elements of Task Force Grizzly swept through the enemy's elaborate tunnel and bunker complexes. The urban area was mostly walled masonry compounds that had to be cleared carefully and systematically.

ANA Soldiers from Kabul, the 201st Kandak, assaulted complexes alongside the Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers. Close radio coordination provided command and control for the maneuvers. U.S. combat engineers also cleared the area roads of numerous Improvised Explosive Devices and land mines to provide safe travel for friendly forces.

Task Force Grizzly rapidly established security maintaining friendly advances for more than 15 days of fighting in support of coalition actions in the area. The joint effort of Task Force Grizzly along with direct and indirect fire support defeated the Taliban insurgents and improved security for the local population in the area. This operation set

the conditions to allow humanitarian assistance such as food and clothing to help the residents. Nothing of this size and success has been seen since 2001 and the initial assault in Afghanistan. ■



**unitech of alaska**  
FULL LINE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS  
AND EQUIPMENT  
Duck Ponds  
Portable Tanks  
Filtration  
Solidifiers  
Spill Packs  
Pit & Berm Liners  
Chemical Sorbents  
Industrial Supplies  
Geomembranes  
Skimmers  
Full Line of Sorbents  
Barrels & Drums  
Containment Boon  
2130 E. Dimond • Anchorage, AK 99507  
Unitech@alaska.com  
Phone: (907) 349-5142  
Toll Free: 800-649-5859

# OPERATION SANTA CLAUS - 50TH AN

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



## Tradition Yields Gift of Hope, F

volunteer elves, working year-around, that make the magic happen.”

**Santa’s Guard gift-lift began in 1956.** It was, from the start, an answer to a kindly simple prayer offered on behalf of nearly 200 children who wouldn’t have had any Christmas.

Spring floods denied a fishing season that year. The drought that followed stole away the four-legged food that hunters and trappers would normally have gathered for their families and the children of the orphanage. Every bit of money the Mission had was used to pay for food to be shipped in. As Christmas loomed, it appeared that nothing was left for the children – this weighed heavily on the hearts of the sisters who ran the Mission.

It has been said, by those who knew her, that the St. Mary’s miracle began as a sweet prayer whispered by Mother Superior Antoinette on behalf of *her family*.

The notion to write a letter explaining their extraordinary need came into her heart. It found its way to members of the Alaska Air National Guard in Anchorage.

By Major Mike Haller, Alaska State Defense Force

**In the Far North of Alaska.** When the seasons change and the whirling snow rolls across the tundra, it is a sure sign that *Operation Santa Claus* is close at hand. Legions of elves are readying the sleigh that will carry Santa and Mrs. Claus on their far-flung adventures.

The elves are always busy. This year they traveled to Emmonak, Nenana (and Anderson), Galena, Little Diomed, Chalkyitsik, Hooper Bay, several communities throughout Southeast Alaska and to the village where it all began 50 years ago – St. Mary’s.

Some 300 elves, and their friends at the Alaska National Guard, were busy throughout last year preparing for the series of annual visits that share gifts of holiday spirit with children and their families across Alaska.

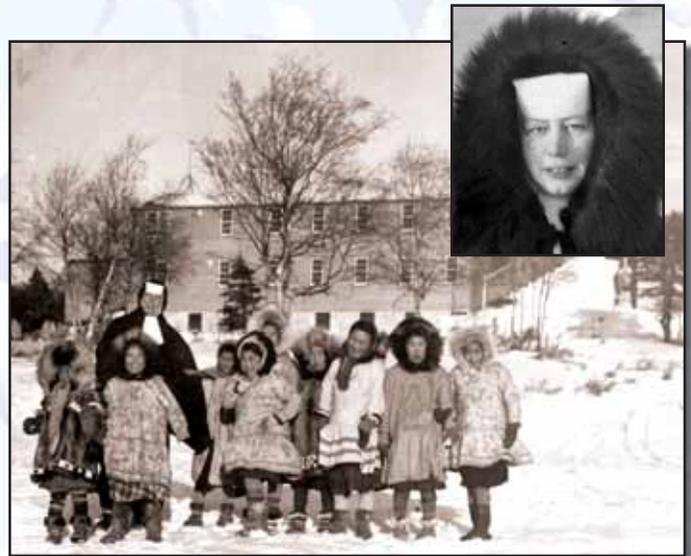
One elf explains that it is the proving ground – “*test trips*” for Santa, Mrs. Claus and the delivery elves to ensure that all will go well on Christmas Eve. The Guard just happens to help out with C-130 Hercules aircraft and UH-60L Black Hawks he adds.

“If you’re a child, or simply young at heart, you know where real warmth is to be found,” he said. “And you can hardly form the words, lest you spill the magic into the air. The best season is upon us.”

“This was our 50th anniversary year for *Operation Santa Claus*,” said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. “We went back to St. Mary’s where it all began, and we visited our friends in other parts of Alaska as well. It was terrific.”

*Operation Santa Claus*, with its many Alaska National Guard partners, delivers toys, clothing, books, school supplies and water.

“Thanks to our friends at Tastee Freez, as an example, we even bring sundaes to, believe it or not, places where they’ve never appeared before,” Campbell said. “It takes our 300



Circa 1956. Mother Superior Antoinette Johnson with children in front of St. Mary’s Mission. Photo: Courtesy of Jesuit Oregon Province Archives

The selfless request was as simple as the prayer it was inspired by. The children needed to have Christmas – basics were covered. However, there was a need for that which all children should have – toys and games – things that youngsters need to occupy their time and imaginations. Ask any kid, they’ll agree.

She recognized the greater need: to have their spirits lifted with laughter on their lips, fun in their play, and a sense of the gift that overcomes both the giver and receiver of the gift.

Radio and television stations and the two Anchorage newspapers spread the word across the city. Within just a few days, Alaska Air Guard members received generous donations of both new and used toys from people across the community.

The Guardsmen fixed any worn parts, painted them like new

# ANNIVERSARY

## Friendship & More

and handed them over to the jolly old elf for delivery aboard an Alaska Air National Guard aircraft.

Santa's ideas about using this as a pre-season event took shape. The truth is he liked this mission so well he and the Guard developed their efforts together – even as the Guard changed missions and aircraft moving from a C-47 “Gooney” Bird to the C-123J Providers that they acquired in 1960. In 1976, 20 years into the *Operation Santa Claus* mission, the 144th Airlift Squadron upgraded their support to a C-130E Hercules; later, in 1983 to the current C-130H Hercules.

As time passed, other villages, schools and groups invited *Operation Santa Claus* to visit. Literally tens of thousands of Alaskan schoolchildren and their families have enjoyed Santa and Mrs. Claus's company.

“We want folks to know that just because the Alaska Air National Guard use their mighty C-130 Hercules aircraft and the Alaska Army National Guard use their rugged UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and the C-23B+ Sherpa fixed wing aircraft, doesn't mean the reindeer get a free ride in any of this,” added the elves. “Dasher, Dancer, Donner and Blitzen are older, but they've not lost a step of quickness to get airborne at the right time when it's their turn.”

Santa's whole body shakes as he laughs and nods his head in agreement. Yes, the telltale signs are all about.

### Not just a jingle-bell view.

“This enterprise could get overwhelming,” Mrs. Claus said. “Your heart cannot help but smile, though, when you look into the eyes of each of these wonderful children – so full of joy and life.”

“It's much the same way when the elders step forward – you can actually see the child-like sweetness settle upon their faces,” Santa added.

Though St. Mary's Mission closed many years ago, the memories of those who called it home whisper on. Ask any one of them about *Operation Santa Claus*, and the smiles on their faces lead to a ready gleam in their eyes.

The prayers of a saintly sister echo lightly on the ears and profoundly in the hearts of all who both give and receive. ■



Holiday Happiness. An elder from St. Mary's shares a laugh with Mrs. Claus and Santa during an *Operation Santa Claus* visit on Dec. 6. Photo: First Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, 134th Public Affairs



Santa Smiles. Students from Nenana take a final photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the end of an *Operation Santa Claus* visit to the school on Nov. 9. Students from the nearby town of Anderson drove down to Nenana to also take part in the festivities. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Santa's Sleigh. Santa and Mrs. Claus return to their sleigh (a C-130 Hercules from the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron) after a day's work in St. Mary's. Photo: First Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, 134th Public Affairs

# Operation Santa Claus... Behind the Curtain



C-130 Christmas. Operation Santa Claus elves brave the frosty weather and unload Santa's sleigh (a C-130 Hercules from the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron) in Nenana on Nov. 9. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

**The Santa Claus Show.** Well-known radio personality Jim Robbins, of K-Bear radio, emcees much of the Santa Claus Show entertainment. He's been joined, at different times, by such headliners as the Air Force Band of the Pacific, Brigham Young University's Living Legends – Native American song and dance group, the Balloonatics, local story tellers and dancers and numerous other top performers. Santa and Mrs. Claus have also been joined by well known Alaskan artists Barbara Lavallee and Chad Carpenter. The K-Bear and other critters often appear to delight the children.

**Warming the Spirit.** Toys! What would Christmas be like without special toys for the children? With help from the Salvation Army, support from Canadian Forces, the Military Spouse's Club, the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and the Top Three Non-Commissioned Officer's group at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Sam's Club, Costco, Wal-Mart and many others, toy collection is a great success.

**Warming Heart & Hand.** About 11 years ago, Operation Santa Claus began collecting new and slightly used clothes. Anchorage's school children and young adults are very generous – most people consider it as lost and found – we like to

## How to Help:

Operation Santa Claus readily accepts gifts from individuals and businesses. New school supplies and toys are always needed. Other donated items can be new or 'gently used.' Clothing is needed for all ages, especially newborns and preschoolers. Matched pairs of gloves and mittens are in high demand. Books and videos should be family oriented or appropriate for youth. To make arrangements for dropping off donations, or to volunteer your time, call Suzanne Coomes at (907) 428-6189.

Monetary donations may be sent to:

Operation Santa Claus  
c/o Alaska National Guard  
Attn: Public Affairs Office  
PO Box 5800 – Camp Denali  
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-0800



think of it as gift giving. We acquire more than 20,000 unclaimed items annually with the help of the Anchorage School District. Numerous churches also donate.

Volunteers sort through and organize mountains of clothing that arrive at the Operation Santa Claus Workshop. The clothes are then moved on to one of several volunteer cleaners, including Candy's Cleaners, Peacock Cleaners and the military's QuarterMaster Laundry on Fort Richardson.

Once cleaned, pressed and sorted, clothing is distributed in balanced amounts to some dozen or more villages that identify the need. With a smile of appreciation, a volunteer or group takes it from there.

**Warming the Mind.** Ten years ago some of the elves took note of literacy challenges facing youth in our communities. Operation Santa Claus added books to the gift list. When Santa arrives, whether aboard a C-130 Hercules or his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, he can be seen delivering large boxes of books to school or community librarians – more than 8,000 books – new or lightly read – each year.

Title Wave Books has handled the bulk of the book mission for seven years. Five years ago, Scholastic Books began helping as well. Cook Inlet Books, Borders and many others have added to the efforts.

All of this is a key part of the Guard's Literacy Project focused in rural Alaska. The Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson Chapel communities continue to provide significant seed money that yields dynamic returns with the literacy efforts. Artique Limited, K-Bear radio, Alaska National Guard Officer's Association and the Enlisted Association make generous donations. Many others kindly donate time, effort and products in support of Santa's journey each year.

**Supplying the Basics.** In the past five years, Office Depot, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, Jen's Southside Bistro and other local restaurants, several local auto dealers, and various church and youth organizations including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire and private individuals continue to help build-up the level of school supplies for rural youngsters.

**The Goodies – and Then Some.** Fresh fruit, bottled water and candy canes are among the more prized items found in the "Goody Bags" that the elves give to children who are in line awaiting an opportunity of a personal interview with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Something new, thanks to Tastee Freez, many youngsters are now actually experiencing sundaes for the first time. Thanks also to Coca-Cola, Rick's American Café, Food Service of America and many, many others for their support. ■

"Tastee" Treats. Tastee Freez Owner Rich Owens, blue shirt, brings individual sundaes for everyone in St. Mary's on Dec. 6. Owens donates hundreds of sundaes for Operation Santa Claus visits each year.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



# 49th Gives New Soldiers Taste of National Mission

Story and photos by Sergeant Jack Carlson, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

**FORT GREELY, Alaska** ... Fifteen Soldiers arrived on a chilly night at Fort Greely on Dec. 1 for a weekend that was going to be much different than what they had previously been used to. The recruits, dressed in their extreme cold weather gear, were in town with the Alaska Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program, and they were about to undergo training with some very experienced Soldiers.

"A typical drill weekend for our recruits covers basic Soldier training such as Common Task Training," said Sergeant First Class William Giese, Team Central Recruiting and Retention noncommissioned officer in charge. "Being able to train boots-on-the-ground with an active unit is a real benefit."

The next morning, the recruits found themselves doing physical fitness training with Soldiers of Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). Alpha Company is charged with securing and defending the Missile Defense Complex, which the new Soldiers would see after lunch.

Following a series of in-briefings from the command element of the 49th, the Soldiers headed out to the Missile Defense Complex. Once they finished the standard tour of the complex, the on-duty Military Police officers gave the new Soldiers some Military Operations on Urban Terrain training.

"MOUT training is very relevant to the current war doctrine overseas and a great opportunity to give the privates some exposure to real world missions," Giese said.

This initial weekend is to be the first of many, as the recruits will be returning monthly until their Advanced Individual Training commences. The 49th will be their host throughout that transition, helping to pave the way for the Soldiers to move into the National Guard force.

"For the first time I felt like I was a warrior on a drill weekend and not a civilian," said Private Ian Beers, one of the 15 RSP Soldiers receiving training at Fort Greely. ■



**Hands On Training.** Private Kevan Katkus, of the Alaska Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program, volunteers to be searched as part of a training example to the other recruits training with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely.



**All In A Day's Work.** Staff Sergeant Donald Reeder, weapons operator with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, describes the daily duties of his position to the new recruits training with the 49th as part of the Recruit Sustainment Program.

**Welcome to Fort Greely.** Soldiers with the Recruit Sustainment Program arrive at Fort Greely on a chilly Dec. 1, for their first iteration of training with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard.





# Education



Members of the Alaska National Guard and their spouses have an opportunity to develop stronger bonds through a new marriage enrichment program. Because Guard members are deployed for various lengths of service, communication processes between couples can be impacted as they come back together.

The program gives several examples of how to communicate, adding helpful tools to the communication tool box. It also takes into account both a woman's perspective and a man's perspective.

Soldiers and Airmen can experience a difficult time transitioning from their wartime deployments to their lives at home.

One of the transition points the Guard has recognized is the need for Guard members to take time for themselves and their families upon returning home. That means not coming back to take part in drills for up to 90 days.

The separation of space and time between family members is a challenge that needs to be worked through, not avoided, postponed or overlooked.

The National Guard Bureau has adopted the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program, known as PREP, as a means to decrease the effects of long deployments on the marriage relationships of our deployed Airmen and Soldiers. Since fall 2005, several seminars have been conducted throughout Alaska for Guard members. Our mission is to make this program available to all Guard members, especially those who have been or will be deployed.

State Chaplain Captain Gilbert Campbell and Chaplain Assistant Sergeant First Class Kelly Repnow have traveled to Juneau, Fairbanks, Seward and Anchorage to conduct the two-day seminars/workshops. PREP assists couples in becoming more effective at open communication with each other.

PREP offers a fresh approach to teaching couples the skills they need to nurture a lasting love. It is a multicultural, multi-national, research-based educational workshop offering insights to couples wishing to cultivate enduring love.

The facilitator begins by teaching effective communication skills, addresses problem resolution strategies that work, reveals how to discover the hidden issues in every relationship, and then moves into caring, fun and friendship. Couples hear about matters vital to a successful marriage, including safe and constructive speaking, problem solving, and being heard and understood.

Participants spend most of their time in special discussions or practicing skills. Key topics include expectations, commitment, forgiveness and sensuality. Couples learn the danger signs that can lead to marital discord and relationship breakdowns. They learn to express their concerns constructively and examine

## *PREP Getaway Benefits Couples*

By Staff Sergeant Sarah J Willey,  
168th Communications Flight/SCBN Air National Guard

Understanding the problem is 90 percent of solving it. Learning how to understand the problem is what you learn from the 12-hour PREP course. Not only is this a wonderful tool for beginning to understand 20-year, deep-rooted issues, but it's also a wonderful tool for avoiding possible future miscommunications.

When entering the classroom no one knew what to expect, but we all fell into ease shortly after we shared a little with each other and found out that we are no different from the next couple. The instructors had created the perfect setting to concentrate on each other and start understanding the process of healthy and safe communication. To help us do this we viewed different approaches that we saw other individuals take and how it effected their communication.

One of the main ingredients for the healthy and safe communication was a technique called "the floor." This technique was practiced among the couples in order to slow down communication to allow time for understanding. One person would be the speaker and the other would be the listener. The speaker would say a small amount of what they felt, and the listener would repeat back to the speaker what they felt the speaker had said. This process would go until the speaker felt the listener completely understood what he or she was saying, and then the roles would switch and allow the listener to share what he/she thought and felt.

PREP provided and arranged the hotel stay and paid for all lunches and dinners. Not only did individuals learn wonderful communication skills and other relationship skills that can be used in everyday life events, but it also allowed for a wonderful getaway for couples to be able to enjoy each other and just sit down from life for a weekend.

For the evening, Chaplain Campbell, our instructor, gave us the assignment of practicing "the floor" technique and also directed us to choose something fun to do together that both individuals would enjoy.

PREP allowed for non-retribution conversation and many laughs. My husband and I had a wonderful time enjoying each other and learning better ways to handle each other through times of disagreement or misunderstandings. I would recommend this training for anyone, as all couples present, truly enjoyed their time.

hidden issues and expectations that can build in a marriage.

This workshop is an opportunity to gain fresh insight into why men and women see life so differently. Couples leave with a whole new appreciation for who they are and whom they love. Plus, becoming more effective at open communication while knowing how to keep discussions from escalating into arguments is beneficial at work as well as home.

When a married couple is happy at home they will be more productive at work, earn more money and be happier overall with life. What this means for the Guard is that it's a huge boost to

# *Determination Takes Former Troubled Youth from* **ANCHORAGE TO ANNAPOLIS**

By Beth Bragg, Anchorage Daily News Columnist

Clint Desjarlais, 24, just had the kind of week that Hollywood makes movies about.

Desjarlais learned that when he graduates in May from the U.S. Naval Academy, he'll begin training as a Marine Corps pilot.

This year's Army Navy football game had special meaning for the former AMYA Cadet. He donned the most revered football jersey in Navy history – Roger Staubach's retired No. 12 – and covered kickoff returns in Navy's 42-6 win over Temple, his first and last game of organized football.

Oh wait. Hollywood already made that movie – “Rudy.”

But this isn't a little-train-that-could story. It's a headed-down-the-wrong-track story, one that began long before Desjarlais had ever heard of Annapolis or military academies.

The story starts when his parents split up when he was just 9, the oldest kid in the family. The turmoil of a broken home followed him to Dimond High, which kicked him out for fighting. At age 16, he found refuge at Covenant House, the downtown shelter for homeless and displaced kids.

Then Desjarlais heard about the Alaska Military Youth Academy, a military style school at Fort Richardson that gives troubled teens a chance to earn a GED and maybe steer clear of more trouble. It steered Desjarlais in the most remarkable of directions – to a high school diploma, to enlistment in the Marines, to acceptance to the Naval Academy, and to his brief shining moment in a big-time college football game.

“If I hadn't gone to the youth corps, I don't think I would've graduated high school,” he said Thanksgiving week from Maryland. “I had a real hard time with public high school. I didn't have healthy peers. I had negative influences.

“As a kid I was kind of used to taking care of myself, so going to the youth corps was a structured environment. Everything was easy. You just had to do what you were told to do and you would excel.”

By the time Desjarlais left the youth academy, he was ready to return to public high school. He moved to the Valley to live with his mom, Linda, worked with her as a volunteer for the Central Mat-Su Fire Department, graduated from Colony High and joined the Marines as a firefighter.

When a commanding officer told him about a program that allows enlisted men to attend the Naval Academy, Desjarlais listened. Despite his early troubles in school, he had always dreamed of going to college.

“I can think of no greater joy than to go to college and serve my country at the same time,” he said – and not in a way that makes you think he's saying what people want to hear.

When Desjarlais says he's humbled by his opportunities, when

he says he seeks to honor his parents – who have inspired and encouraged him, despite the difficulties of their divorce – you believe every word. And not just because he calls you “ma'am.”

When his father, Ken, says he's not surprised at the way his son's life turned out, you believe him, too.

“I always knew he was driven,” he said. “There's people out in the streets pushing drugs that are driven too. Any kid that's driven, if he goes in the wrong direction, he's in trouble. If he uses it positively, it's a blessing.”

Desjarlais used it to become the first alum of the nationwide military youth academies – programs made for at-risk kids – to attend a service academy. He used it to play on Navy's football field Nov. 18, in front of nearly 35,000 screaming fans who watched his story get a Hollywood ending.

Three years ago Navy football coach Paul Johnson initiated “the 12th Mid” program. Each of the academy's 32 companies nominates a senior midshipman to try out for a one-game-only spot on the team. The chosen player wears No. 12, the number retired in honor of Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach.

Though he never played organized football, Desjarlais – who measures 6-foot-2, 190 pounds – played two seasons of soccer at Colony and rec-league hockey in Anchorage. He's the fastest in his class on the obstacle course. So he's got some talent.

Each day for weeks he found an empty field to run wind sprints, and on the day of tryouts he was chosen as the alternate. He kept running wind sprints, just in case.

The week of the game, the coach told reporters he would use two 12th Mids against Temple. Desjarlais had impressed him that much. “That kid has worked his tail off,” the coach said.

Desjarlais covered three kickoffs and was the first to reach the ball carrier each time. On his first play, he slipped past a blocker who was frustrated enough to put an illegal hold on him and draw a flag. Thanks to Desjarlais, Temple took over way back on the 16-yard line.

He had his Rudy moment.

“I was elated,” Desjarlais said. “It was a dream come true.” And again you believe him, because Desjarlais knows something about the improbable.

“When you're chasing dreams you never know what will unfold,” he said, “but you've gotta chase something. When I was a teenager, I had no goal, no hope, nothing to live for. Now I have everything to live for.” ■

*This article appeared previously in the Anchorage Daily News and was reprinted with permission.*

family readiness.

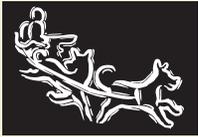
The Alaska National Guard is committed to families. Attend a PREP workshop and learn the secrets of keeping busy lifestyles from crowding out the fun in relationships. The Family Readiness Team or State Chaplain can assist couples with registration. Check with the local Family Assistant Center for more details.

Contact the State Chaplain with any questions by phone (907) 428-6904, or e-mail gilbert.campbell@us.army.mil. ■

## **PREP**

### **(Marriage Enrichment) 2007 Schedule**

Anchorage . . . . .	February 24-25
Fairbanks . . . . .	April 28-29
Juneau . . . . .	June 23-24
Anchorage . . . . .	August 25-26
Fairbanks . . . . .	October 27-28



# Family Support

## Let Me Bring You Into My World

*The following is an excerpt from a speech given by Gianna Simmons, the wife of a deployed Alaska Army National Guard Soldier. Her husband is an Anchorage police officer and is now stationed in Kuwait with 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry. He is serving a one-year tour and is expected home this coming fall of 2007.*

I once heard a Soldier say, "I am not scared to die. I am scared of what it will do to my friends and family."

My name is Gianna Simmons. I am the proud wife of Sergeant First Class Christopher Simmons, who is currently serving his third combat tour.

I thought for weeks about what I would like to say. I could mention how many times in the first two months of this deployment my heat has strangely gone out. First downstairs, then upstairs, then downstairs again. Then the heat in my truck. Or how the garbage disposal blew up, or the dryer went out. I could mention all kinds of things like that. But those are things we assume will go wrong. And that is something we just deal with.

But I could not figure out how to express in words what it is like to be the wife of a deployed Soldier.

I could not figure out how to explain to you why I cry when I hear the National Anthem. Or why I swell with pride and tears when I say the Pledge of Allegiance. Or why, when I watch the news, I cry for every single fallen Soldier as if they were my very own Soldier.

How do I explain to you that most nights I stay awake until I can not keep my eyes open one more second because I'm scared that dream will come back – the one where I open my door to see two Soldiers standing there to offer me their condolences.

How do I bring you into my world?

Prior to being married, I grew up like many people I suspect from my age group. We didn't know very much about the military – at least my friends didn't. My dad was in the Army, stationed here at Fort Richardson, but in general, the military just wasn't talked about.

Then I married a military man, and not only a man in the Army, but an infantry paratrooper. My life, well, let me say there are no handbooks to prepare someone for the changes in their life. I soon became a mother, a wife and a sister to all my husband's friends, and for that matter the company. We had them over for dinner, breakfast and on some days, lunch. I listened to them for hours talking about girls, movies, "guy talk."

I watched them grow into incredible men, who soon had families of their own. Then their new families and our family all

became one. We vacation together, we celebrate holidays together, our kids play together. We are a huge modern family, spread out over the states and now countries. We are not bound by blood; we are bound by love.

On April 16, 2002, I received a phone call from New York – one of our family members had died the day before. Staff

Sergeant Brian Craig, 27 years old, died as a result of an explosion during a clearing operation, confiscating large caliber rockets from former Taliban dump sites in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Also killed were Staff Sergeant Justin Galewski, Sergeant Jamie Maugen and Sergeant First Class Daniel Romero.

These Soldiers went out every day, found the old bombs and rockets and took them to a safe place to detonate them so they would not explode and hurt others.

In May of 2002, my husband and I flew to Washington, D.C., for Memorial Day. Walking into Arlington National Cemetery, I can not begin to describe

the flood of emotion that welled through my body.

Quietly we stood at section 60, site 7756, looking down at the four names on the markers. Brian, Jamie, Daniel and Justin. All four men were buried on one site. The explosion was too large to distinguish between the bodies.

Tomorrow when you wake up and go throughout your day, you may forget what I look like. You may forget some of what I have said today. What I hope and pray is that you will not forget Staff Sergeant Brian Craig. I hope that you tell his story often and with such emotion that you feel as if you too lost a family member in that explosion on April 15, 2002. Because then, I will know that I brought you into my world.

These Soldiers are fighting for you, for me, and for the lives of every single family in the United States of America. And while they fight, their families are here fighting for them – staying strong so they are able to focus on their job.

We can not all serve, but we can all support. Thank you for the support you've given the military and our families.

God Bless America, God Bless you all, and God Bless our troops and families. ■



*"We can not all serve,  
but we can all support."*

# STATE FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

## Anchorage Family Assistance Center

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Camp Denali, Room E-103, Fort Richardson  
P.O. Box 5800, Fort Richardson, AK 99505  
(907) 428-6663 Main Line  
(907) 632-3378 24-Hour Line  
(888) 917-3608 Toll Free  
(907) 428-6685 Fax

## Bethel Family Assistance Center

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Bethel Armory  
P.O. Box 508, Bethel, AK 99559  
(907) 543-2223 Main Line  
(907) 543-4188 Fax

## Fort Greely Family Assistance Center

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Fort Greely Chapel  
P.O. Box 310009, Fort Greely, AK 99731  
(907) 873-2482 Main Line  
(907) 873-2477 Fax

## Juneau Family Assistance Center

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Wednesday & Friday  
9 a.m.-12 noon, Thursday  
Juneau Armory  
P.O. Box 210000, Juneau, AK 99821-0000  
(907) 465-1351 Main Line  
(907) 465-1356 Fax

## Nome Family Assistance Center

8 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Nome Armory  
Pouch 490, Nome, AK 99762  
(907) 443-6263 Main Line  
(907) 443-6275 Fax

## Clear ANG (Clear AFS)

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Wednesday  
P.O. Box 40013, Clear AFS, AK 99704  
(907) 585-6225 Main Line  
(907) 585-6357 Fax

## Eielson ANG (Fairbanks)

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday  
168th Air Refueling Wing  
Family Program Coordinator  
2680 Flightline Ave., Ste. 117  
Eielson AFB, AK 99702-1740  
(907) 377-8715 Main Line  
(907) 377-8716 Fax

## Kulis ANG (Anchorage)

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
176th Wing Family Program Coordinator  
5005 Raspberry Rd., Bldg. 37  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
(907) 249-1130 Main Line  
(907) 249-1648 Fax

**Operation Homelink** is a program designed to connect military families with their deployed Soldiers via Internet connection. This program donates computers to families who do not yet have a computer but DO have an Internet access option in their area. Operation Homelink is available to all families with a deployed Soldier between the ranks of E1 and E5. A minimum of 100 families desiring a computer is needed before an order can be placed. The Family Assistance Center is assessing the need to bring this program to Alaska. **If your family is interested and meets the qualifications above, contact us one of the following ways:** call (907) 428-6663 (in Anchorage), or (888) 917-3608 (toll free), or e-mail [kimberly.leary@us.army.mil](mailto:kimberly.leary@us.army.mil). For more information, visit [www.operationhomelink.org/](http://www.operationhomelink.org/).



## Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve

# AWARDS



Supportive Employers. ESGR State Chairman Michael Machulsky, center, stands proudly with Pam Gallivo, left, and Sharon Doyle from Weaver Brothers Inc., after presenting them with a My Boss is a Patriot award. Photo: McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs

Joined by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) State Chairman Michael Machulsky and Awards Chair Gretchen Nealy, the Southcentral Region of ESGR hosted a Patriot recognition luncheon on Nov. 9. My Boss is a Patriot awards were presented to SAIC, Handle Construction, IBEW, Alaska Airlines, Weaver Brothers Inc., Grace Christian School, The Mat-Su Borough, ALCAN Electric and Dimond Electric. Also attending the luncheon were 176th Wing Vice Commander Colonel Sharon Dieffenderfer, Alaska Army National Guard Chief of Staff Colonel Alan Ezzell, 207th Infantry Group Deputy Commander Colonel Mike Bridges and 176th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Mamrol.

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization providing free education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security. The My Boss is a Patriot award is recognition bestowed on employers through the nomination by their Reserve component member employee.

"Employers recognized today are true Patriots in every sense of the word," Machulsky said. "I am proud to be in your company today and personally thank you for supporting the men and women who serve to defend our way of life." ■



# Legacy

Passages from *Soldiers of the Mists*

We are continuing to share passages from Alaska National Guard Historian Emeritus Cliff Salisbury's book, "Soldiers of the Mist." Major General John Schaeffer, the Adjutant General from 1986 to 1991 said, "It is important for present and future generations to understand the sacrifices our Minutemen and women have always made for Alaska." Our Legacy...

Next *Legacy* installment from *Soldiers of the Mists* series: *Between the Wars – Part III*.

*Soldiers of the Mists* was published by Pictorial Histories Publishing of Missoula, Montana, March 1992. It is available through fine bookstores throughout Alaska and online.

## BETWEEN THE WARS – PART II

The governor received a letter from Brigadier General H.M. Lord informing him that U.S. ordnance property could be demanded by the Chief of Ordnance on 30 days notice. Governor Riggs was well aware that he was personally responsible for Uncle Sam's rifles. On Feb. 4, 1919, Riggs sent a wire to the chief ordnance in Washington, D.C., it said: "Territory has 325 Russian rifles issued by War Department for Home Guard purposes not needed now. To whom shall these rifles be returned?"

Washington replied that directions would be sent from the supply officer at Fort Mason in San Francisco as to where the Russian rifles should be sent.

One of the major problems concerning the federally owned rifles was the transportation costs of returning the weapons to the federal arsenals. The various Home Guard units found that the steamship companies demanded shipping payments prior to delivery. The Russian rifles were separated from the Springfield rifles and were finally shipped to California on the Pacific Steamship's City of Seattle on March 7, 1919. A week later, Riggs sent a letter to the remaining Home Guard units informing them that there were no appropriations available to keep Home Guard units going.

Eventually there was only one holdout from the disappearing militia army. Captain Calvin C. Hazelet informed the governor that Cordova would like to continue its unit. Although attendance was down because of the flu epidemic, the 45 remaining men had formed a new organization with stateside militia bylaws. These bylaws were being sent to members of the next Territorial Legislature in hopes favorable Home Guard legislation would be enacted. The Cordova Guards also requested a machine gun. They would find an instructor among the returning veterans who could show them the proper techniques to operate the

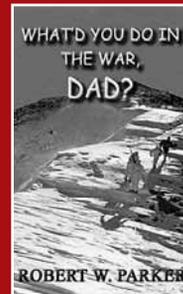
weapon, "as a moral persuader in case of any Bolsheviki trouble among our laboring element (of which we have a few rumors) it would hold high rank."

At the 19th Annual Convention of the National Guard Association of the United States in Richmond, Virginia, November 1919, each state and territory was assessed \$25 to help defray expenses. Alaska did not respond because it did not have a National Guard or an organized militia. Territorial government has been in force for some eight years but colonial status still abounded. The frustration of being part of the Grand Union without political clout would continue unabated for another forty years.

These were the years the National Guard itself was struggling for its separate place in the sun. The Association had earlier in 1919 issued a news release from New York City. It favored the compulsory universal training of every young man in the country and called for "the overthrow of the military dictatorship which had used but never considered the National Guard (Re: the regular Army)." It opposed any form of compulsory service that would "thrust young men into the regular military household at an age where they were not yet fully qualified to decide for themselves to lead life of professional Soldiers with all its temptations, and with the narrow influences which broad men know that a Soldier's life is filled with." The National Guard Association felt, "It would be better for a boy to receive universal military training to give him a deep sense of obligation to his country, and to any opportunity that may be offered to him for patriotic service; but do not let us tempt him to go into the regular Army and adopt as his career the life of the professional Soldier. Train him in military matters in small doses over a period of two or three years, then with the foundation well laid, graduate him into the

Citizen Soldiery of the nation-The National Guard.

The statement issued by the National Guard Association concluded by saying, "It is important at the outset of the people to understand that The National Guard Association has no quarrel with the personnel of the Army, but that it demands that the pernicious system, which has been the outgrowth of the military bureaucracy of Washington, which has dwarfed officers and made them unwilling tools of a self perpetuating body, must be abolished and its supporters driven out of power." The American debate over standing armies was clearly alive and well in 1919. ■



### What'd You Do In The War, Dad?

A personal look at 34 months in the 10th Mountain Division in World War II; including their tour of duty

in the Aleutian Campaign.

By Robert W. Parker  
Company E & Headquarters  
Company  
87th Mountain Infantry

Rio Grande Publishing  
304 Calle Oso  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Library of Congress Control Number:  
2005902367  
ISBN: 0-9642561-0-X  
Copyright 2005



# Who We Are...

## Are You Personally Prepared for a Disaster?

**Scott Simmons**

*Hazard Mitigation Officer  
DHS&EM*



"Most certainly. We have more than the recommended seven-day supply of food, water and gasoline for our generator."

**Windy Roberts**

*Accounting Technician  
Division of Administrative Srvc.*



"No. I probably should be more prepared."

**Colonel Jeff Arnold**

*Director of Military Support  
Alaska Army National Guard*



"Absolutely. I've got about a month's worth of supplies for both myself and my animals."

**Michele Stickney**

*Special Assistant to the  
Commissioner*



"Probably not as well as we want to be, but we have a pantry full of supplies and gasoline for our generators."

**Tiffany Passmore**

*Administrative Assistant  
DHS&EM*



"Not exactly. We have some stuff but we are working on getting more so we can be ready."

## DMVA Expansion Brings More Room for DHS&EM

By Jamie Littrell, DHS&EM Public Affairs



B-Wing Extension Excitement. Major General Craig E. Campbell, Commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, celebrates with Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management then Director Dave Liebersbach, after cutting the ribbon on the B-Wing extension. This new area provides comfortable work spaces for members of DHS&EM. Photo: McHugh Pierre, DMVA Public Affairs

A new year brings a new office for the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. The new space arrived thanks to a new expansion at the north end of the Alaska National Guard Armory on Camp Denali. The new expansion means the division will be getting two large offices, a new conference room and 15 cubicle offices for its staff.

"This new space will allow us to better handle disaster response and the paperwork involved in closing these files," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, Commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. "The federal grant process can take years, and this space will give people the ability to better concentrate on finishing their work in a timely and professional manner."

"The new space is greatly needed for our staff," said DHS&EM then Director Dave Liebersbach. "It gives us a chance to bring some of our staff who have been in different parts of the Armory back together. It also gives us space to accommodate the new employees we have to bring on to work on all aspects of the numerous emergency management and homeland security issues we deal with."

Building construction was completed in mid-December and came in under budget, according to Gale Johnson with the Facilities Management Office. Office equipment was installed before the Christmas holiday and DHS&EM employees moved in during January.

"I think it's good that we're getting more room," said DHS&EM's James Johnson, who will be moving into the new section of the building. "I look forward to the change. Change can be a good thing." ■



# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Legion of Merit



SCSM David R. Hudson . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MAJ Darrin D. Dorn . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Meritorious Service Medal



SSG Gregory Pugh . . . . .49th MDB  
MSG Manfred Colley . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Eric S. Odegaard . . . . .49th MDB  
SMSgt Walter D. Ames . . . . .168th MXS  
MSgt William K. Miller IV . . . . .168th AMXS  
MSgt Christina J. Wylie . . . . .168th ARW  
MSgt Scott D. Selk . . . . .168th CF  
SMSgt Salvador Fernandez . . . . .168th OSF  
SMSgt Steven J. Schmitz . . . . .168th ARW  
MSgt Bryan K. Thompson . . . . .213th SWS  
TSgt Pamela A. Nelson . . . . .168th MXS  
Lt Col Carlisle A. Lincoln . . . . .210th RQS  
Lt Col Donald O. Keese . . . . .211th RQS



**Purple Heart.**  
Colonel Stephen Williams, left, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Brigade and the U.S. National Command Element in Southern Afghanistan, pins a Purple Heart on Major Dan Collins during an awards ceremony on Oct. 8. Collins received shrapnel wounds when a rocket fired by enemy insurgents on June 29 hit a dining facility on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Brian Raley, U.S. Army



Lt Col John K. Jacobs . . . . .210th RQS  
Lt Col Peter A. Katinsky . . . . .176th WG  
Lt Col Thomas A. Bolin . . . . .176th OG  
Lt Col Thomas E. Lawrence Jr . . . . .144th AS  
Maj Adriene R. Dallas . . . . .176th WG  
Maj Christopher E. Finerty . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Air)  
Maj Erika L. Sorum . . . . .210th RQS  
Maj Paul N. Vanderweide . . . . .210th RQS  
Maj Thomas J. Stephens Jr . . . . .212th RQS  
Capt Joseph E. Conroy . . . . .212th RQS  
Capt Kenneth A. Weiss . . . . .176th SFS  
CMSgt Bruce W. Erb . . . . .211th RQS  
CMSgt Robert M. Garger . . . . .210th RQS  
SMSgt Angela K. Mattila . . . . .176th CF  
SMSgt Brian T. Hartley . . . . .176th MSF  
SMSgt Clifton W. Snapp . . . . .176th ACS  
SMSgt Harold O. Wood . . . . .176th AMXS  
MSgt Blaine H. Miller . . . . .176th SFS  
MSgt Carla A. Casler . . . . .176th LRS  
MSgt Eugene L. Demeter . . . . .176th AMXS  
MSgt James C. Neill . . . . .176th ACS  
MSgt John A. Goetz . . . . .176th CES  
MSgt Lance R. Jordan . . . . .144th AS  
MSgt Mario M. Romero . . . . .212th RQS  
MSgt Michael R. Curtis . . . . .176th ACS  
MSgt Paula M. Parrish . . . . .176th MSG  
MSgt Ricardo C. Montana . . . . .212th RQS  
MSgt Ryan C. Voigt . . . . .176th MDG  
MSgt William G. Lerro . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt John D. Sims Jr . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt Richard L. Mattice . . . . .176th APF  
TSgt Shane L. Garling . . . . .176th AMXS  
TSgt Wayne H. Tinsley . . . . .176th LRS

## Army Commendation Medal



SPC Aracelis E. Ovalles . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SSG Trevore E. Hodge . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Air Force Commendation Medal



MSgt Rebecca L. Donovan . . . . .168th MSF  
SMSgt Shannon L. Stalder . . . . .168th LRS  
MSgt Amy K. Stalder . . . . .168th LRS  
TSgt John P. Brunsberg . . . . .168th LRS  
Capt Ryan T. Tilbury . . . . .168th ARW  
SSgt Tiffany E. Deeter . . . . .168th AMXS  
SSgt Kyla M. Root . . . . .168th MXS  
Capt Kelly J. Mellard . . . . .168th ARW  
Maj Matthew D. Mrzena . . . . .168th ARW  
SMSgt Mark R. Renson . . . . .168th MXS  
CMSgt Kenneth E. Latham . . . . .168th LRS

Maj Stephanie C. Rowland . . . . .168th OSF  
SSgt Robert E. Cave III . . . . .168th CF  
Capt Kelly M. Murphy . . . . .176th ACS  
Capt Sheila A. Lang . . . . .176th OSF  
Capt Steven R. Aragon . . . . .176th MDG  
MSgt Thomas E. Cicardo . . . . .211th RQS  
MSgt Thomas R. Martin . . . . .176th LRS  
TSgt Darren F. McGrevy . . . . .211th RQS  
TSgt Eugene J. Lazar . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt Jeremy D. Groat . . . . .210th RQS  
TSgt Kenneth P. Kotelman Jr . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt Michael S. Williams . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt Nance H. Pitts . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt Ronald J. Sekula . . . . .176th ACS  
TSgt Ryan J. Campbell . . . . .176th AMXS  
TSgt Shane L. Garling . . . . .176th AMXS  
TSgt Shawn E. Higby . . . . .176th MXS  
SSgt Amber L. Johnson . . . . .176th ACS  
SSgt Evan D. Budd . . . . .176th ACS  
SSgt John T. Callahan . . . . .176th WG  
SSgt Leslie S. Diermyer . . . . .144th AS  
SSgt Scott A. Braley . . . . .176th CF  
SSgt Stacey M. Browning . . . . .176th ACS  
SSgt Zandra O. Teodosio . . . . .176th ACS  
SrA Tina N. Parks . . . . .176th APF  
SrA Zachary R. Darnell . . . . .176th ACS

## Air Force Achievement Medal



TSgt Alicia R. Courtright . . . . .168th MDG  
SrA Tiffany A. Hutchison . . . . .168th MSF  
TSgt Deanna L. Meyer . . . . .168th ARW  
TSgt Travis L. Englund . . . . .168th ARW  
TSgt Michael P. McBarnes . . . . .168th MXS  
SSgt Frederick G. Adams . . . . .168th MXS  
SSgt William H. Taylor Jr . . . . .168th MSF  
SSgt Ronald D. Larner . . . . .168th MXS  
SSgt Terry J. Ahseln . . . . .168th MXS  
SrA Christopher M. Gyden . . . . .168th CF  
MSgt Barron G. McLain . . . . .176th CF  
MSgt Charles Whittaker . . . . .176th CF  
MSgt Dean F. Kalbfleisch . . . . .176th CF  
MSgt Delmar J. Schaefers . . . . .176th CF  
MSgt James A. Assenmacher . . . . .176th CF  
MSgt Todd E. Davis . . . . .176th CF  
TSgt Clinton Walker . . . . .176th CF  
TSgt Everett W. Emerson . . . . .212th RQS  
TSgt Kevin K. Slayden . . . . .176th CF  
SSgt Andrew G. Duren . . . . .176th CF  
SSgt Jonathan T. Diel . . . . .176th CF  
SSgt Neal J. Waltman . . . . .176th WG  
SSgt Scott L. Blair . . . . .176th CF  
SrA Jennifer R. Theulen . . . . .144th AS

### Army Good Conduct Medal



SFC Terry Servern .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Lisa M. Halliday .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Aerial Achievement Medal

Lt Col Erik M. Ohlfs .....176th OG  
Lt Col Nathan A. Braspeninckx .....176th OG  
Maj Daryl J. Peterson .....211th RQS  
Maj Joseph J. Kley .....176th OG  
CMSgt Robert G. McNeil .....211th RQS  
SMSgt Forrest M. Muhle .....176th OG  
MSgt Melissa M. Lindman .....211th RQS  
MSgt Michael J. Soik .....211th RQS  
TSgt Darren F. McGreivy .....211th RQS

### Armed Forces Reserve Medal



SFC Terry Servern .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal



SGT Walter P. Fermoye .....207th AVN  
SFC Arthur D. Hayes .....207th AVN

### Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM)



MAJ Joel Gilbert .....3rd Bn  
MAJ Joseph Lawendowski .....3rd Bn  
1LT Joshua Shrader .....3rd Bn

### Alaska Legion of Merit



Col Anne C. Moen .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
1SGT Michael P. Jones .....207th AVN  
MSG Manfred A. Colley .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



Patrica Bruce .....DH&SS  
SCSM David Hudson .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Alaska Commendation Medal



SGT Kip Jones .....49th MDB  
SPC Kristian Michael .....49th MDB  
SGT Robert Carson .....49th MDB  
SGT John Flood .....49th MDB  
SGT Douglas Fry .....49th MDB  
SPC Lisa Druga .....49th MDB  
SGT Kenneth J. Seymore .....49th MDB  
SPC Jeanette M. Padgett .....49th MDB  
SGT Joseph W. Zimmerman .....207th Avn  
Michael Bernhardt .....Mississippi  
Darlene M. Simono .....RRD  
MAJ Timothy M. Rooney .....NGB

### Alaska Domestic Emergency Ribbon



COL Roger E. Holl .....49th MP Bde  
MAJ George R. Siter .....49th MP Bde

MAJ John W. Engles .....49th MP Bde  
MAJ Daniel Golden .....49th MP Bde  
CPT Ronald Sencibaugh .....49th MP Bde  
1LT Mark D. Bellinger .....49th MP Bde  
2LT Michael J. Masters .....49th MP Bde  
SSG Larry A. Christensen .....49th MP Bde  
SFC Jane D. Lipp .....49th MP Bde  
1SGT Richard D. Wride .....49th MP Bde  
1SGT Rhonda L. Wade .....49th MP Bde  
PFC Alfred H. Andre .....49th MP Bde  
LTC Phillip M. Jones .....49th MP Bde  
CPT Clark C. Stanton .....49th MP Bde  
1LT Beverly M. Kirk .....49th MP Bde  
WO2 Lawrence D. Wood .....49th MP Bde  
PFC Lee A. Ervin .....49th MP Bde

### Senior Recruiter Badge

SGT Donald E. Gum .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Lonnie A. Staib .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SGT Jarrett W. Carson .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Felica Link .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Master Recruiter Badge

SGT Jerrick R. Lien .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Felica Link .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Russell E. Overman .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Basic Recruiter Badge

SSG Tracy Quigley .....RRD  
SSG Shannon M. Taliant .....RRD

## Combat Patch Awarded to Guard's 3rd Battalion Soldiers Latest Recognition Adds to Distinguished Service of Unit

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait**... As a desert wind brought in the cold air of winter, members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, were awarded their combat patch during ceremonies in Kuwait on Veterans Day. The combat patch represents the unit a Soldier serves while deployed to a wartime theater of operations, in this case Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Among your peers, this uniquely Alaskan symbol designates you as a veteran. You will be able to always wear the Alaskan flag patch on your right sleeve for the rest of your military careers," said Lieutenant Colonel Duff Mitchell, commander of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

The 3rd Battalion is the first infantry unit in the history of the Alaska Guard to wear the official symbol of the Alaska National Guard as a combat patch. The patch has seven stars representing the Big Dipper. Other Alaska Guard units receiving combat patches have been awarded the insignia of the non-Alaska units they were attached to.

The 3rd Battalion's history of mobilizations, battle streamers and combat patches goes back to September 1941 when the 297th Infantry was mobilized in anticipation of World War II.

According to officials, Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion have a distinctive history of service. During fall 2006, Soldiers were mobilized to provide security and disaster assistance for the Big Lake fire and Juneau mudslides. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, battalion Soldiers provided security at various airports throughout Southeast and Southcentral Alaska, and 33 Soldiers were mobilized to provide force protection for the Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage for two years. Alpha Company was mobilized in 2005 and served one year in Baghdad, earning a Combat Infantry Company Battle Streamer. Two Soldiers of the battalion served as advisors to the Mongolian Defense Forces in Baghdad, Iraq; eight Soldiers served as embedded trainers with the Afghan National Army at various locations throughout Afghanistan. ■

# PROMOTIONS

## Colonel

Catherine Jorgensen . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Jerry Kidrick . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Lieutenant Colonel

William J. Luce . . . . .207th Bde  
Theodore M. Bryant . . . . .144th AS  
David C. McPhetres . . . . .144th AS

## Major

James M. Palembang Jr. . . . .HHC, 297th Bn  
Scott A. Kirby . . . . .144th AS  
Michael E. Lyons . . . . .176th MDG

## Captain

Anthony J. Mortrud . . . . .49th MDB  
Tina Wagendorf . . . . .176th MDG

## Chief Warrant Officer Four

Jon D. Siers . . . . .49th MDB

## Chief Warrant Officer Two

Curtis W. Cain . . .HHC, 297TH CS BN FWD

## Chief Master Sergeant

Alan A. Carvajal . . . . .168th SFS  
Ronald L. Grether . . . . .176th ACS  
Scott R. Hamilton . . . . .210th RQS  
David M. Streit . . . . .176th WG

## Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (E-8)

Jennifer E. Heffele . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Jason R. Nesslage . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Bradford J. Quigley . . . . .207th Bde

## Senior Master Sergeant

Faith M. Worthen . . . . .168th LRS  
Lynn A. Ward . . . . .176th MDG  
William L. Lowen . . . . .176th AMXS  
James C. Neill . . . . .176th ACS  
Eric R. Howell . . . . .210th RQS

## Sergeant First Class

Michael M. Cortez . . . . .297th Spt Bn  
Desiree S. Chambers . . . . .207th Bde  
Tom D. Charlie . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
John Nieves . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
John I. Robinson . . . . .49th MDB  
Marvin Brown . . . . .1st Bn

## Master Sergeant (E-7)

Chad E. Parsons . . . . .213th SWS  
Amber O'Neal . . . . .176th MSF  
William E. Lewis . . . . .206th CCS  
Shawn E. Higby . . . . .176th MXS  
Ricky D. Houck . . . . .176th LRS  
Michael S. Williams . . . . .176th ACS

## Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Thomas P. Carl . . . . .2nd Bn  
John C. Smith . . . . .207th Bde

## Technical Sergeant

George D. Bender . . . . .168th MOF  
John T. Beaudreault . . . . .168th ARS  
Daniel Grant . . . . .168th LRS  
Scott J. Lefebvre . . . . .176th CF  
Christopher W. Hudec . . . . .210th RQS  
Andrew L. Butz . . . . .212th RQS  
Jack T. West II . . . . .176th MXS  
Michael J. Sullivan . . . . .212th RQS  
Christy A. Harmon . . . . .176th AMXS  
Michale A. Hancock . . . . .176th ACS  
Dana A. Nichols . . . . .176th APF  
Robin L. Spencer . . . . .176th WG  
Brian K. Curtis . . . . .176th ACS  
Jeffrey A. Rairdon . . . . .176th MXS  
Chad L. Jones . . . . .176th MXS  
Elizabeth A. Williams . . . . .144th AS  
Eric L. Mead . . . . .176th LRS  
Sean P. Mitchell . . . . .210th RQS  
Kevin J. Bratcher . . . . .103 CST  
Eric D. Addison . . . . .211th RQS  
Michelle N. Balagtas . . . . .176th ACS  
Paul C. Fruend . . . . .176th WG  
Tony J. Crank . . . . .212th RQS  
Ray L. Albeza . . . . .176th MSF  
Cecil R. Dickerson . . . . .176th APF

## Sergeant

Kevin W. Nelson . . . . .49th MDB  
Victoria S. Yancy . . . . .Med Det  
Reynaldo B. Canal . . . . .3rd Bn

Ned A. Tri . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Todd L. Turner . . . . .49th MDB  
Keith P. Forte . . . . .1st Bn  
Laurence E. Dirkes . . . . .3rd Bn  
Al L. Wiggins . . . . .207th AVN

## Staff Sergeant

Careas L. Parsons . . . . .213th SWS  
Tyler J. Toth Jr . . . . .168th MSF  
Joshua T. Ayers . . . . .168th SFS  
Wendy L. Duran . . . . .168th LRS  
Thomas C. Hough . . . . .144th AS  
Amanda B. Boswell . . . . .176th MDG  
Timothy B. Reed . . . . .176th CF  
Tiffany N. Sharpe . . . . .176th SFS  
Michelle Sabala . . . . .176th SFS  
Brian A. Kean . . . . .176th SFS  
Deane M. Norris . . . . .176th CES  
Christina M. Cordes . . . . .176th MXS  
Bryan C. Lance . . . . .176th AMXS  
John J. Carmen . . . . .176th SVF  
Theodore Champine III . . . . .176th MXS  
Jesse L. Stuart . . . . .176th MXS  
Benjamin J. Ahrens . . . . .176th MXS  
Brandon M. Dorochoer . . . . .176th LRS  
Steven J. Baldwin . . . . .176th MXS  
Scott J. Bartolo . . . . .176th CES  
Joshua C. Lester . . . . .176th APF  
Andrew I. McCrear . . . . .176th MXS  
Devin J. Hickey . . . . .176th SFS  
Roland M. Bugarin . . . . .176th CES  
Brian P. Thibodeaux . . . . .144th AS  
John J. Martin . . . . .206th CSS  
Lyconya Adams . . . . .176th LRS



Not sure if you've had too many?  
I'll check for you.



## SO BE PREPARED:

- If you drink, don't drive.
- Designate a sober driver.
- Call a taxi or ...
- Spend the night wherever you choose to celebrate.

Remember:  
When You Drink & Drive,  
You Lose.

## RETIREMENTS

Maj Mike Haller . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 MSgt Carrie L. Mullin . . . . .168th MSGT  
 MSgt Fresia J. Stalker . . . . .168th MXG  
 MSgt John A. Carter . . . . .168th LRS  
 TSgt Kenneth S. Lane . . . . .168th MXS  
 CMSgt Jeffrey H. Mason . . . . .168th MSF  
 CMSgt Vincent A. Foran . . . . .168th ARW  
 SMSgt Mary E. Grasso . . . . .168th ARW  
 TSgt Pamala A. Nelson . . . . .168th MXS  
 SMSgt Steven J. Schmitz . . . . .168th ARW  
 MSgt Scott D. Selk . . . . .168th CF  
 MSgt Robert Gunderson . . . . .176th ACS  
 MSgt Robby D. Phillips . . . . .176th SFS  
 SMSgt Janet Myers . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 MSgt Rebecca R. McClung . . . . .206th CBCS  
 TSgt Michael Bailey . . . . .176th MXS  
 CMSgt John R. Silsbee . . . . .210th RQS  
 MSgt Paul F. Walsh . . . . .JFHQ-AK(Air)  
 TSgt Chris Moen . . . . .176th CES  
 TSgt Nick Giannakos . . . . .176th MOF  
 SMSgt Harold Wood . . . . .176th AMXS  
 SGM Peter Jensen . . . . .RRD  
 MAJ Darrin Dorn . . . . .207th Avn  
 SGT Peter Ronald . . . . .2nd Bn  
 SSG Lawrence Brown . . . . .207th Avn  
 SGT Stanley Rodgers . . . . .2nd Bn  
 SFC Louis Crew . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SSG Samuel English . . . . .297th SPT  
 SSG Franklin Loomis . . . . .207th Bde  
 MAJ Keith Poorbaugh . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)

SSG Terry Durst . . . . .207th Bde  
 CW3 Michael Sisneros . . . . .49th MDB  
 SGT Charlie Tommy . . . . .2nd Bn  
 COL James Houseworth . . . . .Med Det  
 SPC Joseph Edwards . . . . .JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 1SG Michael Jones . . . . .207th Avn  
 1SG James Schneiders . . . . .207th Avn  
 1SG Samuel Myers . . . . .2nd Bn  
 CW4 David Small . . . . .207th Avn  
 SFC Jordan Niemuth . . . . .RRD  
 Col Harry J. Robinson Jr. . . . .176th MDS  
 Lt Col Thomas E. Lawrence Jr. . . . .176th WG  
 Maj Adriene D. Dallas . . . . .176th WG  
 CMSgt Bruce W. Erb . . . . .211th RQS  
 CMSgt John W. Wheeler . . . . .176th WG  
 CMSgt Robert Garger . . . . .210th RQS  
 SMSgt Brian T. Hartley . . . . .176th MSF  
 SMSgt Woodrow Sanders . . . . .176th CF  
 MSgt Carla Casler . . . . .176th LRS  
 MSgt Eugene L. Demeter . . . . .176th AMXS  
 MSgt Joann Lee . . . . .176th MSF  
 MSgt John A. Goetz . . . . .176th CES  
 MSgt Todd Davis . . . . .176th CF  
 MSgt William Lerro . . . . .176th ACS  
 TSgt Brian A. Hessert . . . . .176th MXS  
 TSgt John D. Sims . . . . .176th ACS  
 TSgt Richard L. Mattice . . . . .176th APF  
 TSgt Tony Houser . . . . .176th LRS  
 TSgt Wayne Tinsley . . . . .176th LRS  
 SSG Linda Fruster . . . . .176th AMXS



### Retirement Ceremony Held for 168th Air Refueling Wing Commander

**FAIRBANKS, Alaska** . . . A retirement ceremony was held recently to honor the former commander of the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Colonel Arne E. Moe.

During the ceremony, Moe was presented with the Legion of Merit award for his service by Brigadier General Timothy W. Scott, Alaska Air National Guard commander.

Moe was the commander from April 2003 to August 2006. In 1986, he became the first KC-135E pilot hired to help form the new Guard unit at Eielson Air Force Base. He has also overseen several deployments as the lead tanker wing in support of operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

“Colonel Moe has been the heart and soul of the unit, and it feels like a huge part of us is leaving,” remarked Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin K. Baker, commander of the 168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Moe’s 20 years in the Alaska Air National Guard have impacted the many Airmen who have been associated with the organization.

“Colonel Moe was my flight training officer and the first person I had ever reported to,” Baker said. “He was like a father figure to many of the Airmen here.”

His retirement marks the end of an era for the 168th Air Refueling Wing. ■

## 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.

Alaska National Guard	Jan.	Feb.	March
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	20-21	10-11	3-4
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	20-21	10-11	3-4
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>			
207th Infantry Group	20-21	9-11	2-4
1/207th Aviation Regiment	19-21	9-11	2-4
297th Support Battalion	20-21	9-11	2-4
Regional Training Institute	13-14	10-11	3-4
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>			
168th Air Refueling Wing	20-21	10-11	3-4
176th Wing	20-21	10-11	10-11
<b>Alaska State Defense Force</b>			
Headquarters	20-21	17-18	17-18



# Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

## Army Guard Medical Detachment

Lolitta Lapriel Goldfuss  
Joseph Michael Stalka  
Nicolai Evan Campbell  
Collins Eugene Tentis  
Elsie Kristina Alexie

## 297th Infantry

Terry Lee Proud  
Isaac Nathan Mullins  
Nicholas Gayle Heise  
Nolan Wanka Murphy  
Adam Peter Wallis  
Terry Lee Proud  
Isaac Nathan Mullins  
Nicholas Gayle Heise  
Thomas Irvin Bell  
Steven Scott Kirk  
Leonard James Wood  
Lindsey Joshua Tucker  
David William Schwenke  
Edward Anthony Pico

## 297th Support Battalion

John Joseph Urekar  
Mathew David Holtschlag  
Chantz Marcus Gaither  
Jessica Maire Nobles  
Logan Reece Reinhardt  
Manuel Tioxon Caguait  
David Alexander Dirkes  
Kawaski Demarcia Rutledge  
Jennifer Phakong Keohanam  
Alexis Teree Christian  
Kristine Marie Lowell  
Cory Phillip Reed  
Bret Thomas Hamrick Jr.  
Rickey Tzers Mason  
Raymond Lloyd Davis  
Luke Thomas Hamrick  
Elsezenia Alfhild Nagel

## 207th Aviation

Christopher Paul Thomas  
Kurt Kristopher Miller  
Jeffery Michael Rogers  
Randall Scott Gill  
Bradley Adam Mckenzie  
Zachary Adam Smith  
Charlie Edward Gallant

Thomas Edward Porter  
Tara Marie Gardner  
Jason William Harbin  
Charlene Agnes Peterson  
Andrew Jacob Mason  
Kathrina Amber Marie Dirkes  
Natashia Salote Taufaeteau  
Brandon Sean Monks  
Justyn Frederick Oconnor  
Julie Anne Wilson  
Erin Gretchen Eliz Michalec  
Dannette Larae Riley  
Suzanne Marie Jones  
Kathleen Rosalind Hyden

## 207th Infantry Brigade

Dustin Dean Fast  
Jon Casey Starheim  
Devin O Dean Corey  
Dustin Wilson Hill  
Luca Rossano Cicilese  
Jacob Morris Lingnau  
Bijay Singh Tamang  
Timothy Spencer Strelbel  
Anwaral Jamal Shakirfulford  
David Clayton Blome  
Jeanette Ley Derry  
Edward Lee Seddon  
Glen Nick Goozmer  
Jolene Rae Tolbert  
Nigel Franklin Lamar Brown  
Khoua Nmn Thao  
William Everett Mccarthy  
Jeremy Nicolas Veilleux  
Blake Andrew Nelson  
Nathaniel Ryan Sandback  
Christopher Lee Childs

## 176th Wing

Paul Freund  
Carter Cole  
Chris Wilson  
Jeffrey Johnson  
Mike Zwiselsberger  
Carrie Nuxoll  
Shawn Nuxoll  
Jason Martin  
Alex Van Nice  
Christopher Cox  
Aaron Parcha  
Ben Brelje



Recruiting Rewards. Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard, presents a \$4,000 check to Airman First Class Vincent McKiernon of the 168th Air Refueling Wing as part of the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). McKiernon, a member of the Logistics Readiness Squadron, joined the 168th ARW in May 2006 and has already helped to enlist four individuals into the unit. Eligible Guard members can earn up to \$2,000 for each recruit that they help enlist through G-RAP. Photo: Courtesy of 168th Air Refueling Wing

Tyler Sutton  
Chris Cruz  
Shelly Cain  
Jeffrey Netlund  
Jamie Wunn  
Stephanie Kerrigan  
Gordon Birdsall  
Sharolyn Lange  
Jeremy White  
Rasheeda Cajas  
Allen Wilson  
Patricia Clark  
Eric Hamilton  
Thomas Hinton  
Micah McDonald  
Charaine Harris  
Duane Hoefling  
Lee Polencheck  
Doug Villmer  
Robert Richardson  
Nathaniel Evans  
Duane Gonzales  
David Bailey  
Frank Bauder  
Gabriel Ekiss  
Richard Cardenas  
Christopher Pinero  
Richard Rymerson  
Francis Henderson  
Timothy Allwood  
Jessica Tiihonen  
Sabrina May  
Clinton Stone  
Paul Guzman  
Neil Tuttle  
Brandy Boatwright  
Curtis Watson Jr.  
Rebecca Sunde  
Crystal Stringer

Nathan Cox  
Lee Warnick  
Kevin Pavvoski  
Dewayne Parker  
Amanda Leonard

## 168th Air Refueling Wing

Callis Carlton  
Benjamin Mathias  
Keith Rowan  
Joseph Brunsvold  
Robert Jacobson  
Peter Gardella  
Robert Mercado  
Jan Dover  
Chris Ferris  
Lana Hebert  
Chad Muniz  
Michael White  
James Teeter  
Lucas Hernandez  
Jason Rode  
Tyrone Cray  
Daniel Henry  
Ryan Wenger  
Sharlene Rose  
Conor Devine  
Craig Fisher  
Jennifer Barto  
Joshua McDaniel  
Timothy Robinson  
Michael Mashburn  
Joshua Moore  
Tara Koch  
Ryan Gray  
Khelsea Knorr  
Trojan Smith  
Travis Marshal  
Anna Solomon

**Want to help  
Santa deliver  
a fabulous  
gift all year  
round?**

*Warriors  
magazine  
provides vital  
information  
to the troops  
all year round,  
and all around  
the globe.*

*Call today and  
advertise where it  
really matters!*

**(907) 562-9300  
or toll free at  
(866) 562-9300**



**AQP**  
PUBLISHING, INC.  
*America's Quality Publisher*

8537 Corbin Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99507



**YOUR FIREARM**

---

**IS NOT THE ONLY THING**

---

**AT YOUR SIDE.**



TO SEE HOW AMERICANS ARE SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS LOG ON TO

★ [WWW.AMERICASUPPORTSYOU.MIL](http://WWW.AMERICASUPPORTSYOU.MIL) ★

