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By Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla

Alaska National Guard

**New Alaska Air Guard leader takes command**

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — A new commander for the Alaska Air National Guard officially took charge at a change-of-command ceremony here April 19.

The outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Timothy O'Brien, returned the organization's command flag to the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, after more than two years of holding command.

Hummel, in turn, passed the flag to Mansfield, signifying Mansfield's acceptance of responsibility.

"I cannot think of a finer officer to head the Alaska Air National Guard," O'Brien said of Mansfield.

Mansfield returns to the Alaska Air Guard after serving more than four years with the Washington Air Guard, most recently as the director of staff.

"Gen. O'Brien, congratulations on a job well done," Hummel said. "One of the signs of your success will be the ability of your organization seamlessly to adapt to new leadership, and I have confidence they will. Col. Mansfield, I look forward to working with you for our Airmen, our state and our nation."

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JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, Alaska - Col. Karen Mansfield, center, receives the Alaska Air National Guard's flag of command from Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, at the Talkeetna Theater here April 19, 2015. Mansfield assumed command from Brig. Gen. Timothy O'Brien (right), who has led the organization for the last two years. National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. N. Alicia Halla.