



**Media Travel Invitation
FOR June 24, 2016**

State of Alaska leases National Guard facility to U.S. Coast Guard in Kotzebue
Five-year lease agreement provides facility for USCG arctic operations

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska Army National Guard will turn over its aviation operations facility in Kotzebue to the U.S. Coast Guard June 24. Alaska National Guard Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Laurie Hummel and U.S. Coast Guard District 17 Commander, Rear Adm. Michael McAllister will host a “roll-in” ceremony for the Coast Guard’s MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter to enter the facility.

The Kotzebue hangar represents the Coast Guard’s first long-term lease of an operating post north of the Arctic Circle. The five-year lease agreement with the State of Alaska will allow the U.S. Coast Guard to perform operations in the Arctic region.

The State of Alaska and NANA Corporation will also honor John Schaeffer during the event. Schaeffer is a former Alaska National Guard adjutant general, from 1986 to 1991, and he is a long-time prominent leader in local, regional and statewide government.

After the roll-in event, the entire community is invited to a barbecue lunch hosted by local civic leaders at the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities building at the airport. Simultaneously, tribal, corporate, and community leaders will meet with Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, Brig. Gen. Hummel, and Rear Adm. McAllister at the NANA Board Room.

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Details:

What: USCG leases aviation facility; helicopter “roll-in” ceremony and community lunch

When: Friday, June 24

Where: Kotzebue

Note: There are a limited number of seats on the flight to Kotzebue from JBER. Media interested in attending the ceremony and flying on military aircraft to the event must email candis.olmstead@alaska.gov or call Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead’s direct line at 907-428-6030 to RSVP *no later than 12 noon, Monday July 20 in order to be considered for the flight*. Please include name, affiliation, and phone number. (Manifested reporters will meet at Boniface gate at 6:16 a.m. and departure from Kotzebue is planned for 1:30 p.m.)