

Office of Public Affairs
Main: 907-428-6031
mvapublicaffairs@alaska.gov
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali
Ft Richardson, Alaska 99505-5800



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MEDIA ADVISORY

Alaska National Guard

FOR Aug 6, 2016

Release: 15-062

Alaska Army National Guard Community Day: Meet your Citizen Soldiers

Governor Bill Walker signs Alaska Code of Military Justice, units undergo historical changes and Alaska State Defense Force recognizes new commander

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – The Alaska Army National Guard is holding what may be their first-ever community event off base and there will be a large variety of activities the public is invited to enjoy. Alaska Army National Guard Community Day is Saturday, August 6 at the Delaney Park Strip downtown from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gov. Bill Walker will sign into law the new Alaska Code of Military Justice, there will be a historical deactivation of the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade as it transitions to the 297th Regional Support Group, and the Alaska State Defense Force will hold a change of command ceremony. There will also be a free barbecue lunch for the community, along with games, bounce houses, military vehicle displays and live demonstrations of tactical movements and equipment.

The new Alaska Code of Military Justice will help the Alaska National Guard shape constructive policies and positive actions for the future and it is a critical step for building and maintaining the trust and confidence of Alaskans in their National Guard. The new ACMJ helps define legal, ethical, and moral guidelines for the state's military force.

The 297th BFSB deactivation is one small piece of the Army's changing force structure designed to meet the nation's changing security requirements with a smaller military. The activation of the 297th Regional Support Group and infantry battalion provide new opportunities to enhance security partnerships in the Asia-Pacific and respond domestically in Alaska. Our changing force structure provides new, relevant ways for the Alaska Army National Guard to respond to Alaskans during times of need.

The Alaska State Defense Force, established in state statute, exists to provide a military force to assist Alaskans during times of emergency. The ASDF supports and expands community resilience across the state through assistance with incident response, communications, shelter and medical requirements. ASDF is comprised of volunteers, many who are military veterans and retirees, who are driven to protect the state and its citizens at a very low cost. Brig. Gen. (Alaska) Roger Holl will relinquish command of the ASDF to Col. (Alaska) John James.

Schedule of events:

11:30 a.m. 297th BFSB transitions to 297th RSG ceremony
12:30 p.m. Gov. Walker signs ACMJ into law
12:45 p.m. Barbecue begins and is served throughout the event
1:00 p.m. ASDF change of command
1:50 p.m. Live infantry demonstrations
All day Family activities and military displays

The event at the park strip will be between 9th and 10th Avenues, between I and E Streets.

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Details:

What: Alaska Army National Guard Community Day

When: **Saturday, Aug 6, 2016**

Where: Delaney Park Strip

Note: Media are asked to RSVP to 428-6030 *no later than 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6*. Please leave a message with name, affiliation, and a contact number. Meeting location will be at the park strip at 11 a.m., specifics identified with RSVP.