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MEDIA ADVISORY

Alaska National Guard

FOR Sept. 24, 2016
16-077

Director of joint staff, Alaska National Guard, will be promoted to general officer

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska National Guard will host a promotion ceremony here Saturday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. for Col. Blake Gettys, director of joint staff, Alaska National Guard. He will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Gettys began his 32-year military career as a student at the United States Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 1988. After serving one season as a graduate assistant football coach at the Air Force Academy, Gettys attended undergraduate pilot training. In his military and civilian careers, Gettys has flown nine different types of aircraft, including the C-130, C-17, HH-60 helicopter, DC-9 and B-747. Gettys is a command pilot with more than five thousand military flight hours.

Gettys was in the U.S. Air Force until 1999, when he transferred to the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing. He served the 176th Wing in a number of command positions, most recently as the wing commander. A copy of his full biography will be available at the promotion ceremony.

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Details:

What: Promotion ceremony, director of joint staff, Joint Forces Headquarters, Alaska National Guard

When: **Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.**

Where: Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Arctic Warrior Events Center

Note: Media interested in attending the ceremony must call or text Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead at 907-727-1972 by 10 a.m. Sept. 24. **Please leave a message** with name, affiliation, and cell number. Plan to meet at the Elmendorf gate visitor's center (Boniface) at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday for escort to the event.