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Alaska Army National Guard to attend basketball tournament at Bethel Regional High School
Local veterans will be recognized and receive awards

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Several members of the Alaska Army National Guard will attend the 1A Coastal Conference, 30th Annual Lower Kuskokwim School District basketball tournament March 2 - 4.

Between games on March 3, two local veterans will be recognized. Lt. Col. Wayne Don, commander of the 38th Troop Command, will present the veterans with retirement and service awards.

The impact of Alaska Natives who live in rural Alaska and serve in the National Guard is significant, and Don feels it is necessary to address the rich history that Native Guardsmen are part of in Alaska.

“Recognition for service to state and nation is important to service members,” said Don. “All veterans deserve to know they are appreciated for their contributions.”

Soldiers from the Army National Guard’s recruiting team will attend the tournament to talk with citizens from the community who may have questions about the National Guard or show interest in joining the Guard.

The Alaska State Defense Force will have a Soldier at the basketball tournament to provide information and answer questions about the governor’s volunteer state militia. There will also be Alaska Military Youth Academy information packets available.

Thirteen additional veterans from local communities have recently been identified by the Army National Guard as deserving of service awards that they did not receive during their military careers. The Guard is currently reaching out to all of the individuals in an effort to coordinate opportunities to personally present the awards.

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