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Alaska welcomes 24 countries to the Pacific Environmental Security Forum

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska National Guard is hosting the 2017 Pacific Environmental Security Forum, organized by U.S. Pacific Command, which will be conducted in Anchorage, Alaska, May 9-11, 2017.

The PESF, launched in 2010 by USPACOM, provides a unique opportunity for militaries in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to work with their civilian counterparts on enhancing environmental security, protection, and management in the region.

The 2017 event will bring together civilian and military representatives from 24 countries to discuss environmental considerations as they relate to environmental security in a military context, climate change, water security, waste, energy and biodiversity protection. The intent of the forum is to increase awareness of environmental considerations, discuss best practices and lessons-learned in environmental stewardship, and identify collaborative opportunities for militaries in the region to support ongoing and future environmental programs related to all domains, including air, land, sea, and space.

The PESF includes sessions with subject matter experts, panel discussions and group activities. The event will foster collaboration among participating nations to help gauge the success of and identify gaps in current methods, creating opportunities for process improvement. The forum will include biodiversity work group activities and site visits that enforce PESF themes and demonstrate military roles. The forum will also feature an environmental project concept development assembly, allowing various countries to identify key projects or topics where the military may be able to collaborate with civilian agencies and other nations. The PESF will conclude with an after-action review for all participants to contribute to a final report with recommendations and an action timeline for implementation in the region.

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PESF opening ceremony, Tuesday, May 9

Dena'ina Center, 600 W 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

Reporters, please be at the event **no later than 8 a.m.** if you require set-up. Event begins at 8:30 a.m. Please contact AKNG public affairs to RSVP 428-6031. POC is Lt. Col. Olmstead.

Additional coverage options will be available and notification will be shared Tuesday.