



PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Guardsmen compete, share marksmanship skills at The Adjutants Generals Match

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska —More than 30 Soldiers and Airmen with the Alaska National Guard and Coast Guard Sector Anchorage participate in The Adjutant General's Match, Sept. 7-10, 2017.

The match is hosted by the Alaska Army National Guard utilizing multiple ranges at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The two branches of the National Guard work frequently together to accomplish missions. Comradery was shared through playful banter over the four-day competition.

"I think that there is a lot of respect between the members of the Army and Air National Guard, but they still enjoy the competition," said Sgt. Maj. Kenton Connolly, an operations noncommissioned officer in charge with Joint Force Headquarters. "The match is an opportunity for Airmen and Soldiers to compete in a marksmanship match using combat related skills."

Eleven teams came to compete in seven matches. Two of the matches are Excellence In Competition or EIC matches which members are able to earn points towards distinguished rifleman's and pistol badges. Two others matches were used to test an individual and team marksmanship skills.

There were many Soldiers and Airmen returning from previous years who worked with new participants teaching them marksmanship skills.

"I want Soldiers and Airmen to take the skills that they learn at this event back to their units, we are all riflemen," said Staff Sgt. Justin Smythson, an arms instructor with the 213th Space Warning Squadron.

While the uniforms may be different, every Soldier, Airman, Seamen, Coast Guardsmen and Marine are taught basic rifle marksmanship skills during initial entry training. Competitions like the TAG match, give the services opportunity to share and hone skillsets.

An awards ceremony was held Sept. 10 to recognize the top marksman of the event. The TAG's proficiency badge was awarded to members selected to represent the state in regional and national competitions.

Overall team winners of this event are Tech. Sgt. Matthew Moore, Staff Sgt. Justin Smythson, Senior Airmen Nathaniel Grimes, and Airmen Jose Urquiza from the 213th Space Warning Squadron.

Air National Guard participation was down this year due to real world missions responding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and in preparation of Hurricane Irma. Four teams were not present this year.

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1. **Attached pdf** includes story and selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **Flickr** link includes an event album with the complete selection of full-resolution, free downloadable images. (May not be accessible from all military computers.)
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard/albums/72157686526888203/with/36395755433/>
2. **DVIDS** link includes story and selected full-resolution, free downloadable images. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.)
3. **DVIDS** Video package link <https://dvidshub.net/r/2xvlmm>
4. **YouTube** Video package link (May not be accessible from all military computers.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzqZQfoTKsE>



Alaska Army National Guard Sgt. Michael Rodriguez, a military policeman with the 49th Ground Missile Defense Battalion, loads an M9 pistol magazine in preparation to compete in The Adjutant General's Match held at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson range complex, Sept. 8, 2017. The TAG Match is an annual event giving service members a chance to showcase their marksmanship skills. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Heidi R. Kroll)



A Soldier and an Airman of the Alaska National Guard score a target after a pistol competition during The Adjutant General's Match hosted at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson range complex Sept, 8, 2017. The TAG Match is an annual event, giving service members a chance to showcase their marksmanship skills. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Heidi R. Kroll)

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Alaska Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Matthew Moore, a flight sergeant with the 213th Space Warning Squadron, stands at the ready during a pistol competition as part of The Adjutant General's Match hosted at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson range complex, Sept. 8, 2017. The TAG Match is an annual event giving service members a chance to showcase their marksmanship skills. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Heidi R. Kroll)



Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard prepare to fire in a rifle competition during The Adjutant General's Match hosted at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson range complex, Sept. 8, 2017. The TAG Match is an annual event giving service members a chance to showcase their marksmanship skills. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Heidi R. Kroll)



Alaska Army and Air National Guard members are recognized during a ceremony at the completion of The Adjutant Generals Match on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Sept. 10, 2017. The TAG Match is an annual event giving service members a chance to showcase their marksmanship skills. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Heidi R. Kroll)