



## PRESS RELEASE

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By Spc. Michael Risinger

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### Alaska Guardsmen Prepare for Deployment

#### JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska —

The Alaska Army National Guardsmen of the 49th Theater Gateway, 297th Regional Support Group, were honored at a deployment ceremony Oct. 13, prior to their one-year deployment to the Middle East.

The 49th Theater Gateway will be tasked with serving as the gatekeepers to the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility where they will assist in processing service members into and out of theater operations throughout the region.

During the ceremony, Cap. Jill King, commander of the 49th and Sgt. 1st Class Diane Singh, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 49th, cased the unit colors in preparation for their deployment. The unit will uncase the colors when they arrive in theater.

“For the past year, Cpt. King and the Soldiers of the 49th Theater Gateway have trained and prepared themselves for this deployment,” said Col. Peter V. Mondelli, commander of the 297th Regional Support Group.

Mondelli added that the many lessons that have been learned throughout the training process will be applied as other units prepare for deployment in the future. The 297th Military Police Company is scheduled to deploy in 2019.

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#### PHOTOS

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small 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.)  
(add link here)
3. **DVIDS link** includes story and selected full-resolution photos. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.)  
(<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3865621/49th-theater-gateway-deployment-ceremony>)  
(<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/558460/49th-theater-gateway-deployment-ceremony-b-roll>)

**Writer:** Add three 300-500kb photos and cutlines in the press release Word doc, here. It will be used to save the pdf and then deleted for the email. Photos will not be pasted into the email or attached.

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Soldiers of the Alaska National Guard's 49th Theater Gateway stand in formation during the deployment ceremony held in their honor on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Oct. 13, 2017. The deployment ceremony allowed families to say farewell to their Soldiers and gave them an opportunity to learn more about the deployment. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Michael Risinger /Released)



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Col. Peter V. Mondelli, commander of the 297th Regional Support Group, addresses the crowd gathered during the 49th Theater Gateway, Alaska Army National Guard, deployment ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Oct. 13, 2017. The Soldiers will deploy for approximately one year to the Middle East where they will serve as gatekeepers to the United States Central Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Michael Risinger /Released)



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Cpt. Jill King, commander of the 49<sup>th</sup> Theater Gateway, and SFC Diane Singh, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 49th, case the unit colors in preparation for battle during a deployment ceremony on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Oct. 13, 2017. The colors will be uncased upon the unit's arrival to the Middle East. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Michael Risinger /Released)

