



PRESS RELEASE

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Charlie Co. 2nd of the 641st Return to the Last Frontier

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Six Soldiers from Charlie Co. 2nd 641st Aviation Regiment, officially returned from their nine month deployment to Djibouti, Africa, Oct 14, 2017. The unit's mission was to move soldiers from different outposts and deliver mail.

“Delivering Christmas packages to the outlying outposts was one of my favorite tasks. We would get as much mail as we could in the plane on every trip,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mel Rush, standardization pilot, Charlie Co. 2nd 641st Aviation Regiment.

Soldiers count on mail for communication with families back home, as deployed members do not get to return for more than two weeks during a deployment.

“The deployment was good, it started off as a bunch of guys and gals barely knowing each other, ending the deployment with a sense of family. One of our Soldiers was a brand new private, she leaned on the more experienced members,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Symonds, standardization pilot, Charlie Co. 2nd 641st Aviation Regiment..

The unit returned to Alaska, May 18, 2017. They have spent the last few months at home relaxing with family members.

“Deployments ask a lot of Soldiers, but coming home, that first step back into America is the most amazing feeling after being gone so long,” said Symonds.

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PHOTOS:

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **DVIDS** link includes story and selected full-resolution, free downloadable images. (Primarily for media,

DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.) <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3865855/charlie-co-2nd-641st-return-last-frontier>

3. **DIVDS** Video B-roll link. [add link here](#)



Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers with Charlie Co. 2nd, 641st Aviation Regiment, unfurl their guidon as part of the homecoming ceremony held at Hangar 6 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Oct 14, 2017. The unveiling of the regiment's colors officially signals the unit's return to home station. (Courtesy Photo Provided)