



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR November 1, 2017**

**Alaska National Guard**

**17-064**

### **Alaska State Defense Force deploys out of state for first time in history**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** –For the first time in history, Alaska State Defense Force Soldiers have been activated to deploy outside of Alaska. The deployment is to support continuing humanitarian disaster relief efforts in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico after category-five Hurricane Maria hit the island head-on in September.

The ASDF is a volunteer organization, comprised of approximately 120 Soldiers, whose primary role is to augment and support the Alaska National Guard.

<Name of DV> will be sending off the small contingent of four ASDF Soldiers as they depart for the island-state this Wednesday from Ted Stevens International Airport.

Once the ASDF members arrive in Puerto Rico, they will work in tandem with both Alaska Army and Air National Guard members to operate one of nine Joint Incident Site Communications Capability systems on the island. The JISCC system is essential for effective communication during relief efforts and help to bridge the communications gap between military and civilian agencies by providing shared non-secure Department of Defense and civilian network capabilities.

ASDF Soldiers deploying to Puerto Rico hail from Kenai, Fairbanks, Bethel and Wasilla.

In the last two months, Alaska National Guard Airmen and Soldiers have deployed to support Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands after Hurricanes Irma and Maria; Florida, after Hurricane Irma; and to Texas during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

###

What: Alaska State Defense Force deploys out of state for the first time in history, send off by <DV>

Who: Alaska State Defense Force

Where: Ted Stevens International Airport

When: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1:00 p.m.

For additional information, please call 2nd Lt. Marisa Lindsay at 907-428-6039.