



**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR May 5, 2018**

018-033

**Alaska Guard to showcase Airmen, aircraft at Great Alaska Aviation Gathering**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** – Airmen of the Alaska Air National Guard will showcase several aircraft types May 5 and 6 during the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering at the Federal Express Hangar at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

The National Guard aircraft are scheduled to include the HC-130J Combat King II, the HH-60G Pave Hawk and the C-17 Globemaster III of the 176th Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and the KC-135R Stratotanker of the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force Base.

This year's event marks the first time the Alaska Air National Guard will exhibit an HC-130J from the wing's new fleet, which arrived direct from the factory last year.

The Combat King is an extended-range version of the C-130J Hercules transport. Its mission is to support commander-directed personnel-recovery operations, which include airdrop, airland, helicopter air-to-air refueling, and forward area ground refueling missions.

The HH-60 is a highly modified version of the Army Black Hawk helicopter, which features an upgraded communications and navigation suite. Its mission is to conduct day or night personnel-recovery operations in hostile environments to recover isolated personnel during war. The Pave Hawk extends its range when it refuels with an HC-130J.

The C-17 is the newest, most flexible cargo aircraft to enter the airlift force and is capable of rapid strategic delivery of troops and cargo to units in a combat zone.

The KC-135 provides the primary aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force and has served in its role of enhancing the Air Force's capability to accomplish its critical mission of global reach for more than 50 years.

"We look forward to meeting with the Alaska community again this year at the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering," said Brig. Gen. Karen Mansfield, Alaska National Guard commander. "The event is always an excellent opportunity to show Alaskans who we are and what the Alaska Air National Guard is all about."

**Details:**

What: Alaska Air National Guard participating in the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering

When: May 5 and 6 (Airmen press availability will be May 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Where: Federal Express Hangar, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

Note: Media interested in speaking with Airmen should call Mr. David Bedard at 907-687-2738. Please leave a call-back number. Airmen will be available from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 5**. Bedard will be located at the HC-130J.

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