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## **Arctic Eagles return from hurricane relief operations on East Coast**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Alaska Army National Guardsmen from 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment returned here, Sept. 27, after assisting with Hurricane Florence relief operations in South Carolina for a week and a half.

The Guardsmen worked in conjunction with the South Carolina National Guard to assist civil authorities in their humanitarian relief operations.

“We really appreciate Alaska coming down here,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Lonnie Griffin, South Carolina Army National Guard, 59th Aviation Troop Command, 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion.

The 207th took two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters equipped with hoists and specially trained crews. The 300-foot hoists can carry up to 600 pounds and allow for aircrews to provide aeromedical evacuation, rescue people, and retrieve and deliver equipment and supplies where landing is not possible.

Approximately 30 mission hours were flown by the Alaska Guardsmen according to Warrant Officer Nicholas Lime, aviation maintenance technician, 1-207th Aviation.

During emergency situations, the National Guard is the first military responder supporting civil authorities, helping to facilitate a unified and rapid response.

“It’s not like annual training where we fold an airplane or we doing something in preparation to go somewhere,” said Lime. “Here we actually got out the door from start to finish in 48 hours. They asked for support and we were available.”

The National Guard plays a critical role in disaster response alongside officials from state and federal agencies. National Guard units frequently train side-by-side with state and local emergency responders, making them well-suited for disaster response missions.

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**Photos, next page**

## PHOTOS

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **Flickr link** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard/albums/72157701584361055>
3. **DVIDS link** <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/296383/arctic-eagles-return-hurricane-relief-operations-east-coast>



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska National Guard, unfold two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters that were transported from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, to McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina via a C-17 Globemaster III, Sept. 18, 2018. The Black Hawks are equipped with 300 foot hoists that will allow aircrews to provide aeromedical evacuations, rescue people and retrieve and deliver equipment and supplies where landing is not possible in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.



Spc. Jeff Hartmann, a helicopter repairer, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Brigade, participates in a pre-flight checklist prior to flying a mission from McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 22, 2018. The 207th assisted civil authorities through the use of two hoist-equipped UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and specially trained crews in response to Hurricane Florence.



Alaska Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Soldiers load a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter into a Tennessee Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III aircraft at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 27, 2018. The 207th was in South Carolina assisting with humanitarian relief efforts following Hurricane Florence.