

**Brig. Gen. Torrence Saxe**

*Commissioner & Adjutant General*

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**Alaska National Guard**

*Department of Military  
and Veterans Affairs*

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

**STATE OF ALASKA**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

### **Alaska Army National Guard Infantry Soldiers deploy to Kosovo**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Soldiers of the Alaska Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, are deploying to Kosovo this week. Half of the unit departed this morning from JBER and the remaining half of the deployers depart tomorrow morning.

The battalion will deploy for peacekeeping operations in support of NATO's Kosovo Force. The alliance has been leading a peace-support operation in Kosovo since June 1999 in support of wider international efforts to build peace and stability in the area.

NATO-KFOR's mission is to contribute to guarantee a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all citizens in Kosovo, as mandated by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. In carrying out its mission, NATO cooperates and assists the United Nations, the European Union and other international actors, as appropriate, to support the development of a stable and peaceful Kosovo.

KFOR is NATO's longest-running operation, and for the past nineteen years, KFOR has been helping transform Kosovo into a safer place.

In 1999, there were 55 thousand troops supporting KFOR and now, after almost 19 years, there are approximately four thousand troops belonging to 28 nations; both NATO members and partners.

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#### **DETAILS:**

**What:** Alaska Army National Guard 1-297th Infantry deployment.

**When:** Meet Public Affairs Officer Candis Olmstead at 8:30 a.m.

**Where:** JBER, Boniface Gate, visitor's center parking lot, for escort to the departure location.

**Note:** Media interested in attending the deployment departure should contact Candis Olmstead at 428-6030 by 5 p.m. today and *leave a voice message with name of news organization, reporter and contact phone number* in case times change day-of.

**Media Contact: Candis Olmstead, 428-6030, candis.olmstead@alaska.gov**