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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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Increase in military aviation activity, blank ammunition firing, due to training event

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment is conducting annual training through August 7 at Alcantra Armory in Wasilla, Arctic Valley and Mount Susitna.

Citizens may notice an increase in military aviation activity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley over the next week as Alaska's Citizen-Soldiers train. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Guard's 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment will transport about 50 Soldiers from Wasilla Airport to Arctic Valley and back on Aug. 1, and will transport them to Mount Susitna next week.

During training, Soldiers will also conduct small arms blank firing with M4 carbine rifles and M249 squad automatic weapons. No live ammunition will be used, and the firing will take place within the fenced training area at Alcantra Armory off Bogard Road in Wasilla. Every effort will be made to limit inconveniences to the public.

The dual role of the National Guard to respond to domestic emergencies by order of the Governor, as well as maintaining readiness to mobilize for the United States in a time of war, demands the highest level of training and preparedness for service to the State of Alaska and the nation.

Guardsmen from 1-297th Infantry participating in the training are the rear detachment to the nearly 200 infantrymen with their unit who are currently deployed to Kosovo in support of NATO's Kosovo Force for a safe and secure environment.

Questions and concerns should be directed to the Alaska National Guard public affairs office media contact listed above.

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