

MEDIA UPDATE: March 5

If links are broken in the body of the email, please see the attached pdf for links

--OF NOTE--

U.S. Secretary of Defense/Mar. 5

Platform: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

Copy: The Alaska National Guard has been demonstrating its arctic capabilities by conducting high-level training in extreme cold-weather conditions during #ArcticEagle20. My thanks to these Service Members & first-responders who are braving the elements to increase their readiness & interoperability.

Reposted: U.S. National Guard



-- HEADLINES --

- 1. Alaska National Guard 'Arctic Eagle 2020' tests homeland security, emergency response in Arctic environment**
- 2. Alaska Air National Guard Refuels HC-130J Combat King II at 20,000 feet**
- 3. Indiana's 19th CERFP unit trains in Alaska for Arctic Eagle 2020**

-- TRADITIONAL MEDIA --

- 1. Alaska National Guard 'Arctic Eagle 2020' tests homeland security, emergency response in Arctic environment**

webcenter11/March 4

FAIRBANKS, Alaska. (KTVE) Around one thousand national guardsmen from 15 different states have been in Alaska as part of a large exercise known as 'Arctic Eagle 2020'. The Alaska National Guard hosted the exercise, held every two years for training in the arctic environment. It tests the homeland security and emergency response capability of the National Guard.

Since February 22, soldiers have traveled across the state from Bethel to the North Slope Borough as part of the exercise.

Director of public affairs for 'Arctic Eagle 2020', Major AJ Ruggieri, says the harsh environment of Alaska lets them test their equipment and techniques in the unique terrain and extreme cold temperatures.

“We obviously can't find that everywhere, so it is important that we make sure our soldiers were prepared, and that the Alaska National Guard is prepared and that these agencies are prepared to work in these kind of conditions. So, it's only an opportunity we get every couple years," said Ruggieri.

The large-scale exercise included 130 aircraft, flying more than 50,000 miles, and carrying more than 450 tons of cargo. Two hundred federal participants were involved, representing agencies ranging from the FBI to the EPA. There were also 400 Alaskan first responders, search and rescue, and medical personnel participating.

“The exercise has been going very well. The soldiers are getting very familiar with the equipment and the conditions that they're working in. The overall intent is absolutely being met and I think that when these troops go home they will have an experience, that they'll be able to remember and talk about for a long time,” said Ruggieri.

Partners from other countries took part in the exercise as well, including Canadian forces.

"Obviously their terrain is very similar to our terrain, so there are things that we can share with them, and things they can share with us. This year, we also have some soldiers from Mongolia, also very similar terrain. They're also observing how we do things, kind of learning from us, and opening that exchange of information so that we not only will have partnerships if we ever need to work with those countries but we'll have good friendships as well," said Ruggieri.

More: <https://www.webcenter11.com/content/news/Alaska-National-Guard-Arctic-Eagle-2020-tests-homeland-security-emergency-response-in-Arctic-environment-568486621.html>

2. Alaska Air National Guard Refuels HC-130J Combat King II at 20,000 feet

Alaska Native News/March 4

EIELSON AFB, Alaska — Pilots crowded around a long, wooden table inside a briefing room early on the morning of Feb. 27 to receive their mission. The day's tasks: a series of touch-and-go landings followed by mid-air refueling.

The KC-135 Stratotanker crews prepared to board would meet up with an HC-130J Combat King II in the air over Fairbanks, Alaska, to pass fuel, which would allow the C-130 to push further north as part of Arctic Eagle 20, a joint, multinational, arctic exercise being conducted across Alaska and hosted by the Alaska National Guard.

This act, known colloquially as “random air refueling,” is just one skill that these highly trained experts keep in constant practice, alongside other technical maneuvers. In theory, the action is a simple one. The KC-135 is equipped with a long, remote controlled boom that enables it to move fuel from its tanks to those of a properly-equipped friendly aircraft. The C-130 simply pulls up behind and below, and maneuvers itself into position, where the boom links with a port above the cockpit.

“We'll be at 20,000 feet over the Fairbanks VOR [local navigational area], and we'll meet up with them [the C-130],” said Capt. Julie Keeney, an Alaska National Guardsman and pilot with the 168th Air Wing.

The reality, however, is that the aircraft are a combined 230 feet long, and each is moving in excess of 240 miles per hour. Careful piloting and constant radio communication allows the two aircraft to act as one in the hands of the operators.

Ultimately, the lynchpin of a refueling operation is the boom operator, an airman who lies prone in a special cradle and directs the movement of both aircraft as well as the boom itself. Air Force Tech. Sgt. William Sartin is one such operator, an Alaska National Guardsman of 10 years, who has been stationed out of Eielson since 2013.

"Instead of sitting in an office, and just sitting at a desk, I get to go fly every day and refuel airplanes at high speed," Sartin said. "It's pretty awesome."

The refueling mission was a small but vital piece of the larger exercise, and one of many such pieces that together allow a massive, multinational effort to be successful.

The difficulty inherent in performing such aerial feats seems nothing short of a miracle, but for these professionals, it's just another day at work.

More: <https://alaska-native-news.com/alaska-air-national-guard-refuels-hc-130j-combat-king-ii-at-20000-feet/47904/>

<https://www.newsbreak.com/alaska/eielson-air-force-base/news/00KlvYiC/alaska-air-national-guard-refuels-hc-130j-combat-king-ii-at-20000-feet>

3. Indiana's 19th CERFP unit trains in Alaska for Arctic Eagle 2020

U.S. Army/Feb. 28

ALASKA - The Indiana National Guard's 19th CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package practiced search-and-extraction measures in Alaska as part of Arctic Eagle 2020, which brought together Guard units from 15 states to work with local, state and national agencies for several weeks.

"In this environment, the training got our team talking and thinking about different ways to approach our current mission," said Sgt. Cory Seifer, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the reconnaissance squad with the 19th CERFP. "We don't always think about what would happen if we were called to support disasters in arctic conditions, and now we have that realistic experience to take back to our unit."

In 2004, Congress authorized the activation of 12 National Guard CERFPs. Congress increased the authorization to 17 strategically located CERFPs throughout the United States. All 17 align with corresponding Federal Emergency Management Agency regions.

"We are part of FEMA Region V, so it is not unrealistic that we would need to operate in this type of environment," said Sgt. Sara McMahan, the noncommissioned officer in charge of breach and break with the 19th CERFP. "This exercise was a way for us to learn more about our equipment capabilities, specifically what would and wouldn't work in constant below freezing temperatures."

FEMA Region V serves Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The CERFP assists civil authorities during domestic incidents, searching collapsed buildings and

structures, rescuing trapped victims, performing medical triage and mass decontamination.

Testing and validation of equipment are crucial to the success of domestic and foreign National Guard missions. To ensure collaboration and realistic training, the exercise forced participants to break out of their original teams and conduct missions with new members.

"Our mission here was to conduct search-and-extraction procedures," said Cpl. Shelbylynn Hulse, the bravo team leader assigned to the 19th CERFP. "We were able to do that and more. My favorite part was being exposed to working dogs. Learning how to act around them and complete our mission was fun."

The teams included FEMA Task Force One from Utah, active-duty Marines and National Guard members. During a real disaster, the CERFP supports the local incident commander and emergency first responders.

Exercise Arctic Eagle 2020 began Feb. 20 and ends March 7.

More: https://www.army.mil/article/233221/indianas_19th_cerfp_unit_trains_in_alaska_for_arctic_eagle_2020

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/2097290/indianas-19th-cerfp-unit-trains-in-alaska-for-arctic-eagle-2020/>

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/00HE7GJk/indianas-19th-cerfp-unit-trains-in-alaska-for-arctic-eagle-2020>

<https://m.facebook.com/IndianaGuardsmen/posts/10157071522088602>

-- SOCIAL MEDIA --

Post #1

Platform: Instagram, twitter

Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III from the 144th Airlift Squadron, flies over a camp during a rescue resupply mission at Deadhorse, Alaska, in support of exercise Arctic Eagle 2020, Feb. 26. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro)
#ArcticEagle20 #AlaskaNationalGuard #ArcticReady



Post #3

Platform: Instagram, Twitter

Copy: During exercise Arctic Eagle 2020, team members from the Fairbanks Police Department, Alaskan State Troopers and other federal agencies practice a simulated building breach Feb. 24. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kierra Harris)

#ArcticEagle20 #AlaskaNationalGuard #ArcticReady #ArcticTough



Post #3

Platform: Instagram, Twitter

Copy: With the Alaska Range's Mount Hayes towering on the horizon, Spc. Nathan MacDonald (left) and Sgt. Patrick Combs, both UH-60 Black Hawk crew chiefs for the New Hampshire Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion, stand by their helicopters as they try to warm in the sub-zero temperatures during Arctic Eagle 2020 on Feb. 26 near Fairbanks, Alaska. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Frost, 114th Public Affairs Detachment)

#ArcticEagle20 #AlaskaNationalGuard #ArcticReady #ArcticTough



Post #4

Platform: Facebook, Instagram

Copy: Staff Sgt. Zuzzy McFeron and Master Sgt. Franz Deters, airmen with the 176th Force Support Flight, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, melt chocolate on a cake Feb. 25, 2020, at Fort

Wainwright, Alaska. McFeron and Deters traveled from Anchorage to help support exercise Arctic Eagle 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Shannon Chace)
#arcticeagle20 #arcticready #chow



-- TAGS AND HASHTAGS --

Air National Guard/March 5

Platform: Facebook

Copy: Jumping out of a perfectly good plane? ✓

Alaska National Guard Airmen from the 212th Rescue Squadron parachute out of a HC-130J Combat King II in response to a simulated alert rescue scenario during Arctic Eagle 2020 in Alaska. Arctic Eagle is a joint-force, emergency response exercise designed to enhance member's ability to operate in extreme cold. @176th Wing, @Alaska Air National Guard @211th Rescue Squadron



--YouTube SHARES--

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6BZV-Mirs4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kltulz1bPMI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDo6rzbpYP0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOOcCSTeafA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiduNN3qpoQ>

**If you find Alaska National Guard news that was not included, please forward the link so it may be added to the next update.*

**This is a product for internal use. It is a snap shot of media coverage (favorable, unfavorable, true, false) and not a validation by the PA office.*