



JOINT PRESS RELEASE
11th Air Force
Alaska Air National Guard
3rd Wing | 168th Wing
176th Wing | 354th Fighter Wing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Updated information | May 14, 2020

Air Force and Air Guard Salute to Alaska for COVID-19 responders and essential workers

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – Aircraft from U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard units in Alaska will honor frontline COVID-19 responders and essential workers with flights over 20 communities in the state May 15.

The flyovers, allowed as part of an approved training mission, are part of the Air Force Salutes initiative designed to show appreciation to the countless heroes around the world battling the pandemic, and to lift morale in communities across America.

Participating JBER aircraft include the C-17 Globemaster III, F-22 Raptor and HC-130 Combat King II. Participating Eielson Air Force Base aircraft are the F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-35 Lightning II, and KC-135 Stratotanker. These flyovers are a collaborative salute to healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential personnel to showcase solidarity with all of Alaska during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Alaska Air National Guard's HH-60G Pave Hawk and HC-130J Combat King II conducted flyovers in Eagle River, Palmer, and Wasilla yesterday.

HC-130 and KC-135 flyovers in Bethel, Nome and Kotzebue scheduled for May 12 were cancelled due to weather and then an in-flight emergency while en route. They have been rescheduled for May 15.

May 15 flyover schedule

Four F-22 Raptors: Eagle River at 1:31 p.m., Whittier at 1:44 p.m., Seward at 1:55 p.m., Homer at 2:11 p.m., Soldotna at 2:27 p.m., Kenai at 2:29 p.m., Nikiski at 2:30 p.m., Sterling at 2:33 p.m., Girdwood at 2:46 p.m., Anchorage at 3:10 p.m. (3rd Wing, USAF aircraft, based at JBER)

Two C-17 Globemaster IIIs: Wasilla at 10:10 a.m., Palmer at 10:15 a.m., Valdez at 10:35 a.m., Cordova at 10:45 a.m., Juneau at 12 p.m., Ketchikan at 12:40 a.m., and Sitka at 1:20 p.m. (176th Wing aircraft with blended aircrew of ANG and USAF airmen, based at JBER)

HC-130 and KC-135: Bethel at 12:15 and 3 p.m, Nome at 1:15 and 2 p.m, Kotzebue at 1:15 and 2:15 p.m. (ANG aircraft; 176th Wing at JBER and 168th Wing at Eielson AFB, respectively)

F-16s and F-35s: Fairbanks at 11:30 a.m. (354th Wing, USAF aircraft, based at Eielson AFB)

KC-135: Fairbanks at noon. (168th Wing, ANG aircraft, based at Eielson AFB)

- Routes and times, next -

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Detailed flight routes for the JBER-based aircraft are on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Facebook page at www.facebook.com/JBERAK/, and for Eielson-based aircraft on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EielsonAirForceBase.

More information:

Residents should maintain all social distancing guidelines during these events. They should also refrain from gathering in large groups to view the flyovers.

A video interview of JBER's 3rd Wing Commander, Col. Robert Davis, is available here for use in advertising efforts: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/751980/col-davis-flyover-interview>

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