



# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS



## ANNUAL



## REPORT



# 2009







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# DMVA

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

**Main photo: Sergeant First Class Seth Gordon and Sergeant Zach Carbaugh, of 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, board a UH-60 with firefighting backpacks to stop a blaze downrange on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.** Photo: Sergeant Ann Hayden, 1/207th Aviation

**Inset photos (clockwise from top): Staff Sergeant Paul Deguzman, 176th Maintenance Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, stands before a C-130 Hercules on the flight line at Kulis Air National Guard Base.** Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Trubia, Air National Guard Creative Team

**Cadet Logan Douglas Lanni prepares to march with fellow Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets during the Chugiak-Eagle River Bear Paw Parade.**

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

**U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, right, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pins the Combat Action Badge on Master Sergeant Fenumiai Ilalio, of the Alaska Army National Guard, at Forward Operating Base Walton in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in April. Ilalio earned the Combat Action Badge along with fellow Alaska Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Jody Barnes during a cordon and search operation in which they and an Afghan National Army company came under small-arms fire from Anti-Coalition Forces.** Photo: Petty Officer First Class Chad J. McNeeley, U.S. Navy

**Many homes along Eagle's river front were damaged, ripped from their foundations and/or completely destroyed by the relentless surge of water and ice during the spring 2009 flood season.** Photo: Courtesy Department of Public Safety

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**Successful Program, Successful Cadets.** Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets from 1st Platoon, class 2009-2, take part in the Drill and Ceremony competition. This class produced 136 graduates during the 15th year anniversary of the program. Photo: Courtesy Alaska Military Youth Academy

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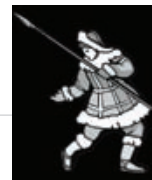
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# For the People

Governor Sean Parnell  
Commander in Chief



## Making a Difference at Home and Abroad

This has been another extraordinary year for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Alaska's Soldiers and Airmen, whether deployed overseas or currently at home, have performed remarkably in defending our nation and serving Alaskans in need.

We restructured the Alaska Army and Air National Guard this year in an effort to modernize, expand and reorganize to equip our Soldiers for 21st century missions. These critical improvements sustain our Alaska Guard members with the facility and personnel infrastructure necessary to fulfill state and national requirements. I am extremely proud of the Alaska National Guard's accomplishments in 2009.

Alaska's military is a vital asset to our state, and they are making a difference around the world. Our Guard members have proved their skills on the battlefield and have honed their abilities in the often harsh conditions of our great state. We are profoundly grateful for their assistance in rescue missions, their response to natural disasters, and their efforts in the fight for freedom and democracy. Missions are accomplished and excellence achieved!

These feats bear witness to the abilities of the extraordinary men and women who serve in our National Guard.

This year, Alaska faced numerous catastrophes – experiencing extreme flooding along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, in the city of Pelican and in Southeast Alaska. Because of the outstanding preparation of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the initial response and recovery efforts for each community was timely and efficient. Emergency managers continue to prove their ability to work collaboratively and effectively to respond and accurately assess the needs of Alaskans. I join all Alaskans in expressing our gratitude for their work.

As 2009 draws to a close, I am extremely thankful for the service provided by Alaska's Soldiers, Airmen and civilian personnel who dedicate their lives to the protection of our homeland. Their dedication in building Alaska's economy, providing local and national defense and delivering humanitarian relief around the world is invaluable. It is an honor to serve as your commander in chief, and I thank each of you for your service to all Alaskans.



**Checking on Progress.** On the ground in Eagle, Governor Sean Parnell ensures that the community's needs are being met during the rebuilding and cleanup process. From left: Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard; John Madden, director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management; Governor Sean Parnell; and Andy Bassich, Eagle rebuilding and construction team leader. Photo: Jack Heesch, FEMA





# The Adjutant General



**Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus**  
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

## A Year of Change and Exceptional Success

2009 was an extraordinary year for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Alaska had unprecedented natural disasters that included wildfires, volcanic eruptions, floods and coastal erosion. We continued to support a multitude of deployments for the Air and Army Guard to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and even Mongolia. We graduated the largest class in the history of the Alaska Military Youth Academy, investigated and recovered one of our Black Hawk helicopters damaged in a major non-injury accident in the mountains of Colorado, transformed and reorganized our entire Army maneuver element and awarded a \$20-million contract for construction of a new armory in Bethel.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing continued its movement plans to Elmendorf Air Force Base, while the 168th Air Refueling Wing provided extraordinary support to the active-duty Air Force as Guard members responded to the relentless Russian military activity along our western border.

All the while, the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion stood ready to defend our nation in response to North Korean activity, and the Alaska Army National Guard had its first Soldier cross the Iditarod finish line in Nome. As always, Guardsmen kept our families and loved ones at the forefront in all we accomplished.

As if all this wasn't enough, we experienced a complete change in senior leadership with the resignation of Governor Sarah Palin in July. We conducted all this activity without pause or distraction to our focus. This truly is a tribute to the tremendous professionalism of every member of this organization.

You – the employee, the Soldier, the Airman, the veteran – stepped up to the challenge of completing the mission and did so in an outstanding manner. You confronted multiple tasks and took the time to address the needs of our Alaskan residents. You met their expectations in their time of need. You often risked your lives to save others and sacrificed much of your personal time for the safety and security of our

great state. There is no greater sacrifice in life and no greater success.

In the Veterans Affairs lane, we fought a tough fight with the federal government and won for our Alaska Territorial Guard veterans. The governor took the lead and worked with our congressional delegation to make sure the Department of Defense recognized the retirement benefits the ATG earned through their active military service time. Through this legislative victory, 23 elders received their full military benefits and 19 spouses received their federal benefits from their husbands' full service in the U.S. military.

We continued the Operation Santa Claus mission, now in its 53rd year. The Alaska National Guard will sponsor the

2010 Iron Dog snow machine race as part of the National Guard Bureau's effort to raise awareness of our community participation. This provides our Soldiers the opportunity to hone their military skills and exercise their communications, logistics and transportation capabilities, along with their adaptation abilities in the isolated, frigid check points along the trail.

We will long remember 2009 as the culmination of the astonishing effort by an extraordinary group of great men and women that constitute Alaska's Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. I have never been more proud to be a member of such an exceptional organization as we continue to secure the state and defend the nation!

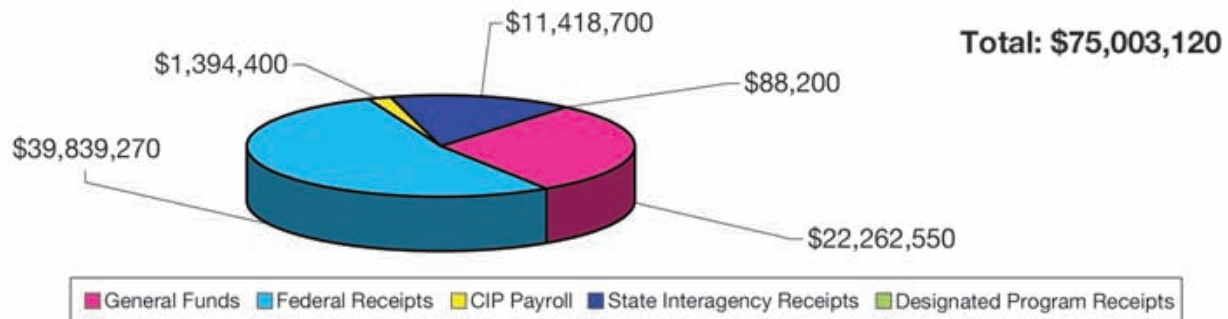


**Honoring Those Who Have Served.** Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, helps pin an Alaska Territorial Guard service pin on the jacket of Alaska Territorial Guard member Paul Beebe with the help of Beebe's wife, Pauline, during an ATG ceremony in Quinhagak. Sixty-seven Alaska Territorial Guard members from Quinhagak were honored during the ceremony. Photo: Jerry Walton, DMVA

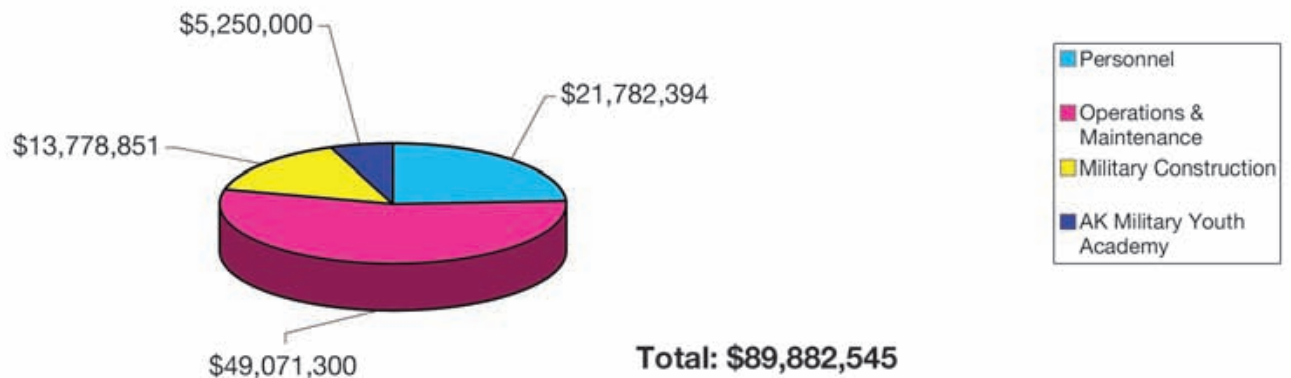


# DMVA... By the Numbers

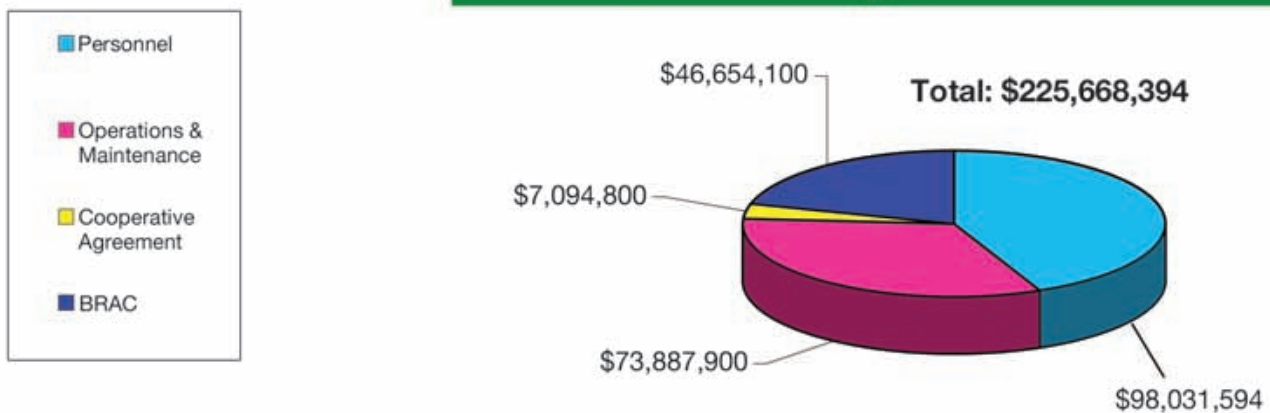
## DMVA SFY2009 State Operating & Capital Actual Expenditures



## Army Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY09

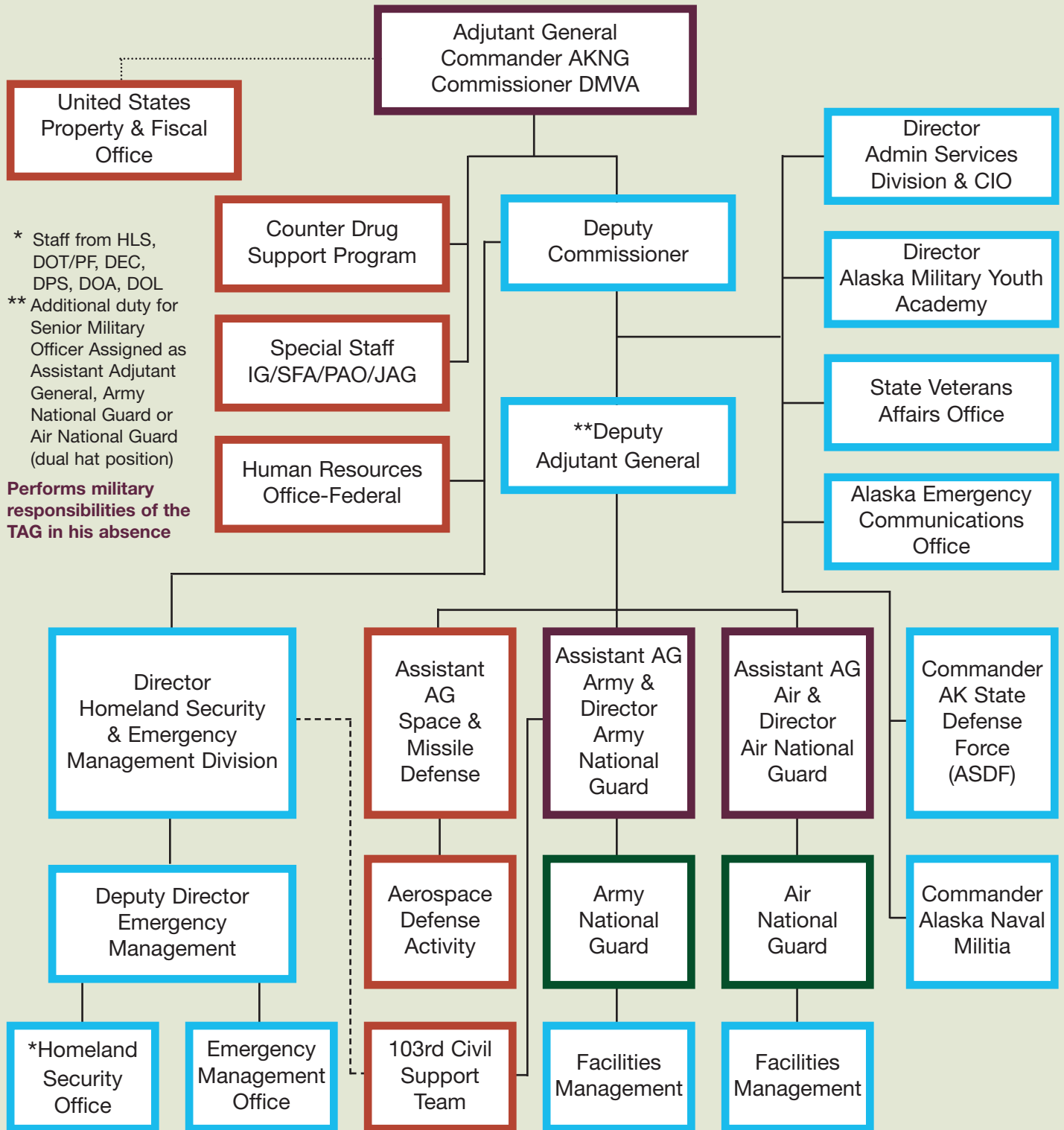


## Air Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY09





# Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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# Veterans

## Serving Those Who Have Served



This was an exciting year for the Office of Veterans Affairs. Along with our new Governor Sean Parnell and Adjutant General Brigadier General Thomas H. Katkus, a new administrator was selected: Verdie Bowen. He was able to help the department meet and exceed all the 2009 goals while providing stellar support to the state's 77,000 veterans and their families.



**Recognizing Service.** General Gene Renuart, left, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, congratulates Alaska Territorial Guard member Warren Matumeak in Barrow during an ATG recognition ceremony. Matumeak was given his official U.S. Army discharge certificate in recognition of his service in the ATG. Photo: Captain Uriah Orland, Alaskan Command Public Affairs

### Alaska Territorial Guard

The Alaska Territorial Guard Recognition Program is alive and well, and the top priority of the Office of Veterans Affairs. In order to find all 6,600 ATG members and provide them with the recognition they deserve, it takes a community effort.

Not long after World War II was over, these veterans were soon forgotten. But in 2000, Congress passed a law reflecting the true status of our ATG veterans and granted them full military active service for their time. This helped 26 of our retired National Guard members with ATG service to receive additional retirement funds. But like all good intentions, someone looked at the law, thought this was incorrect and froze the payments of these additional retirement funds. Then-Governor Sarah Palin and the state stepped in to fund the removed amounts until this could be corrected by Congress. Our two senators took this to action and corrected the oversight in the 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill.

We currently have two researchers assigned to the ATG project who spend most of their days researching records for information on our 6,600 ATG members. They have performed an outstanding job. To date, more than 900 U.S. Army discharges have been presented to members or their families, and we have 23 ATG members who receive additional entitlements.

The Office of Veterans Affairs has supported several ATG awards presentation programs and has covered numerous locations from Anchorage to Barrow. The record this year for the most ATG members presented with their U.S. Army honorable discharges

and who received the Alaska Territorial Guard Service Medal went to Barrow. The highlight of this presentation was the presenter: General Gene Renuart, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. Since the ATG recognition program started, Renuart is the highest ranking officer to present certificates to our ATG veterans.

We continue to make this program a top priority and have worked closely with several tribal communities and councils to find the remaining members.

### Veteran Service Officer Grant Management

This is another success story for the Office of Veterans Affairs. In order to receive the best service for our veterans, we have 12 veteran service officers located across the state. They provide free services to veterans, such as representation of veterans and their families while processing claims to the government for benefits earned while on active duty or in the Guard. They are well trained in these programs and certified through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

We received the best bang for our buck through this grant process, and this year alone, we were able to add a new agency: The Military Order of the Purple Heart. This brings our veterans service organizations to four certified agencies. The other VSOs are affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

These organizations were very successful this year in assisting our veterans. They returned more than \$31 million in past payments, while filing more than 10,000 claims for new earned entitlements. The continued success of this program is also measured through state veterans receiving annual compensation and pension payments. This year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent \$142 million to veterans and their families and provided more than \$109 million in medical coverage.

### The Alaska State Approving Agency

This year has been a challenging year for our sole Alaska State Approving Agency Officer, Mercedes Angerman. With the introduction of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, a slowdown in services and payments to our state veterans by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is at an all-time high. To date she has traveled to Oklahoma, met with all the universities located in Alaska and helped our congressional delegation understand the best way to construct a plan to ensure that all veterans were able to attain their educational goals.

This new GI Bill is the largest change to the veteran educational process since the first GI Bill was introduced after World War II. With this in mind, we are looking forward to all Post-9/11 GI Bill-eligible Alaskan veterans to be able to use their benefits under this new program. We currently have more than 800 approved programs of study at more than 60 education and training facilities across Alaska. The overall program has increased more than 5 percent, and we are projecting an increase of 12 percent before the end of FY 2010. Throughout the past year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided more than \$8 million in education funds to Alaska education programs. We know more growth is projected, and this is wonderful for Alaska and our veterans who live here.



## Other Significant Accomplishments

This year we added a new license plate to our veterans plate choices. We added the Gold Star Plate that allows the families of our fallen military members the opportunity to display their family's sacrifice.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart dedicated the new Purple Heart Trail in May. The highway trail runs from the Canadian border to Fairbanks and is marked with a distinctive Purple Heart Medal placard.

This year the Office of Veterans Affairs has introduced the Alaska Warrior Coin. This award is presented by the adjutant general to members of our armed forces who prove to be of warrior quality and are nominated by the Office of Veterans Affairs. We look forward to rewarding several deserving Alaskans this year.

Stand Down this year was outstanding. We were able to meet and speak to more than 700 underprivileged veterans located in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Our veterans were provided with medical and job placement assistance and were introduced to several social program entitlements. Also provided to the veterans were food and clothing.

We helped TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers the TRICARE program, understand Alaska's unique circumstances by facilitating a town hall meeting in the Mat-Su Borough. Changes were made to TRICARE allowing beneficiaries to keep their TRICARE prime status in the retiree insurance program regardless of drive time and distance.

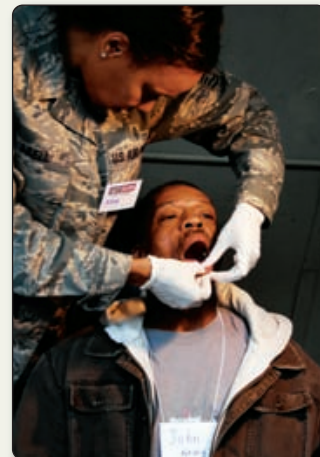
In July, the first statewide veterans summit was held. This was supported by the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council and the newly formed Veterans Caucus. The AVAC held a series of town hall meetings across Alaska, collecting information from veterans on issues they experience in the state. It was attended by more than 200 members of the community and several members of the state

Legislature. This summit was so well received that it will become an annual event.

The Blue Star Banner program was a big hit this year, and we provided more than 1,000 Blue Star Banners to families who have members in the military. Key events at which we provided Blue Star Banners were the governor's picnics, veterans summit and the Mat-Su Potato Bowl.

This year, we assisted the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in supporting the Rural Health Pilot Project. This program offers medical and mental health services through a contract with the rural Native Health Care through purchased care. This program will continue in the following areas: Bethel Census Area, Dillingham Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, City of Cordova, Bristol Bay Borough, Nome Census Area and Wade Hampton Census Area.

Lastly, the Office of Veterans Affairs assisted a team under a charter by the Alaska Legislature to study programs offered to families of our deployed military members stationed here in Alaska. We traveled to Fairbanks, Kodiak and Anchorage to understand all the programs. The programs under study were the Yellow Ribbon program, Family Services and the OneSource program. A report will be presented to the state Legislature in January with a recommendation to continue this study with town hall meetings next year.



**Stand Down.** U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Aisha Abell performs a dental examination on a veteran during Stand Down 2009. Stand Down is a veterans outreach program designed to give a helping hand to veterans in need. Photo: Courtesy of DMVA Public Affairs



**Rolling Thunder.** Motorcyclists with Rolling Thunder arrive at the Alaska Veterans Memorial at Byers Lake in Denali State Park for the 2009 Memorial Day event, which pays tribute to those military members who died in action. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



# Alaska Army National Guard



**Operation Iraqi Freedom.** Alaska Army National Guard members from F Company, 1/207th Aviation proudly display their unit guidon during a nine-month deployment to Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They provided logistics support transporting high-priority equipment, supplies and personnel using C-23 Sherpas across Iraq and Kuwait. Photo: Courtesy of F Company, 1/207th Aviation

## *F Company, 1/207th Aviation*

In April, F Company, 1/207th Aviation, mobilized and deployed to Iraq to provide fixed-wing air-movement support to the Multi-National Corps Iraq headquarters. The unit flew eight C-23 Sherpas throughout Iraq and Kuwait. This deployment marked the third time F Company had taken its flag into the combat theater to conduct the “last-tactical-mile” mission, the critical transportation of personnel and equipment on the battlefield. It was also the fourth deployment for several of the unit’s Soldiers, who also deployed on earlier Black Hawk missions.



**Operation Arctic Care.** Pilots with the Alaska Army National Guard’s 1/207th Aviation steady a load of supplies headed to one of 11 remote villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as a part of Operation Arctic Care 2009. To ensure the success of Operation Arctic Care 2009, pilots, crew chiefs and mechanics put in long hours flying health care professionals and supplies to villages and provided routine maintenance and repairs to the five Black Hawks stationed in Bethel for the exercise. Photo: Courtesy DMVA Public Affairs



**Overseas Visitor.** Captain Michele Edwards, commander, A Company, 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, is happy to meet Vice President Joe Biden in May 2009 after his address to the troops at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Edwards is from Bethel and deployed with the Alaska Army National Guard’s Black Hawk unit. Photo: Courtesy of 1/207th Aviation

## *Embedded Transition Team*

The Alaska Army National Guard sent 15 Soldiers on a year-long deployment to Afghanistan to mentor leaders from both the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. During this third deployment of an Alaska Embedded Transition Team, the team trained Afghan leaders on both military and governance skills that promoted both security and peace in the southern regions of Kandahar and Zabul. Furthermore, many humanitarian missions were executed with the assistance of the ETT and its Afghan counterpart that



promoted the government's presence. These Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers often risked their lives traveling in remote parts of Afghanistan to bring comfort and aid to Afghan nationals on the edge of survival.

### ***1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment***

The 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, left Alaska in November 2008 for a deployment to Kosovo as the aviation element of the Multi-National Task Force-East that worked to maintain peace in that region. This deployment, the first for the battalion headquarters, included 149 Aviation Soldiers who conducted a variety of missions in Kosovo to include air movement operations, aero-medical evacuation and reconnaissance flights. The unit was equipped with eight UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters and was augmented with three UH-60A Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopters from the Maryland Army National Guard. Together, the Aviation organizations provided "topcover" for the maneuver units working in the fledgling country.

### ***49th Missile Defense Battalion***

The 49th Missile Defense Battalion, manned by more than 220 full-time Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, remained ready, reliable and essential in 2009 in its mission to defend the United States and designated areas from the threat of a rogue nation's intercontinental ballistic missile attack. The Soldiers of the 49th operate the system and secure the Missile Defense Complex, located on Fort Greely, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Ballistic Missile Defense remains a topic of national and international interest. A number of media, senior U.S. government officials and military leaders visited the MDC in 2009. In June, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates met with Soldiers of the 49th and got a first-hand look at the Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense capability and facilities.

Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers from 41 states continue to make up a majority of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. Troops and their families from as far away as Puerto Rico and Guam live and work at Fort Greely, where the U.S. Army garrison continues to enhance the quality of life at this far north military installation.

### ***103rd Civil Support Team***

This year, members of the 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction provided assessment and advice to first responders and industry members in response to suspicious packages arriving at state government offices, potentially hazardous material releases and disaster relief in American Samoa. Information provided by the 103rd helped prevent costly delays in the function of Alaska's vital infrastructure and industry. Additionally, the team provided subject matter experts for liaison and work with the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia in training its first responders.

### ***State Support***

The Joint Director of Military Support/J3 Operations supported the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, in response to multiple emergencies this year. They responded to a request for Black Hawk helicopter water bucket drops to contain a dangerous wildfire at Shanta Creek on the Kenai Peninsula. During the Fairbanks-region wildfires, a security element of 100 percent traditional Guardsmen on state active duty orders was dispatched to conduct gate security and provide traffic control at the Division



**Missile Defense Up Close.** Secretary of Defense Robert Gates peers out of a Silo Interface Vault to view an operational ground-based interceptor during a visit to the Missile Defense Complex on Fort Greely in June 2009. Gates saw the nation's operational arm of its strategic missile defense capability and the Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion who are charged with defending the nation.

Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

of Forestry's Incident Command Post. During Operation Flood Watch, potable drinking water was provided to the citizens of Eagle when massive ice-jams caused floods along the Yukon River. All the while, the effects of Mount Redoubt's occasional volcanic eruptions had to be monitored.

### ***Counterdrug Support Program***

Throughout FY09, the Counterdrug Support Program's Drug Demand Reduction program continued to provide high-quality drug, alcohol and tobacco awareness presentations and "Stay on Track" academic programs to more than 18,000 participants.

During the summer of 2009, DDR continued to provide experiential education with the use of their high-ropes course that served more than 350 participants, representing 10 community-based organizations. This no-cost summer camp offered a savings of more than \$80,000.





**Alaskans Finish Strong.** Private First Class Justin Sekerak, 1/297th Cavalry Scouts, negotiates the obstacle course during the 2009 Northwest Regional Soldier of the Year competition held in May at Camp Murray and Fort Lewis, Wash. Sekerak and fellow Alaska Army National Guardsman Staff Sergeant Duane Ostrowski, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, who competed in the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year category, made a strong showing in the competition, finishing in second place.

Photo: Sergeant First Class Randall Wong, U.S. Army

In 2009, the DDR Rural Education Program continued to provide drug education programs to students in the village of Metlakatla, as well as all schools in Petersburg. The Mentor on the Trail was expanded with one DDR member escorting the Teacher on the Trail to several communities along the Iditarod Trail during the Iditarod sled-dog race.

During FY09, CDSP continued exceptional support to law enforcement in Alaska. They assisted with the training of more than 300 law enforcement officers with use of military ranges and several training classes. CDSP assisted law enforcement with more than 200 operations across the state resulting in the seizure of drugs, drug proceeds, vehicles and property valued in excess of \$9 million.

### ***297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade***

The 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade is preparing for mobilization in the summer of 2012. In 2009, these outstanding Soldiers worked both job-skill training and equipment fielding with active-duty Army units. The unit will be working with the 67th BFSB from Nebraska as it conducts its final pre-mobilization exercises, honing its troop-leading skills and equipment lay down procedures at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. The 297th BFSB will also be involved in a state training mission to support civilian authorities in Exercise Vigilant Guard 2010.

### ***38th Troop Command (Provisional)***

The 38th Troop Command provides command and control for 14 separate units spanning all areas of Alaska. Units encompass aviation, missile defense, contracting support, administration,

training, military police, public affairs, airborne infantry, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive events response. They continue to provide a trained and ready force for the state and nation. In the past year, the unit deployed elements to Mongolia in support of Khaan Quest and aviation assets for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

### ***Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program***

The Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program continues to grow and is recognized as a vital component in U.S. Pacific Command's policy in Northeast Asia. With a focus toward improving Mongolia's disaster-response ability, the State of Alaska and Alaska National Guard provided expert advice in the annual Gobi Wolf Exercise, a hazardous-material, first-responder exchange, medical exercise and health-care-systems model review. The Alaska Army National Guard broadened its international experience during Khaan Quest 2009 and a Soldier-family deployment seminar. Alaska continues to assist with Mongolia's efforts to bring stability to the world, by partnering with their army in Afghanistan. This deployment is the sixth iteration of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers deploying with Mongolian forces.

### ***Exercise Khaan Quest 2009***

The 761st Military Police Battalion participated in Exercise Khaan Quest 2009, a multi-national, peace-supporting operations exercise, at the Five Hills Training Center, Mongolia. It included several days of professional military education and culminated in a three-day exercise designed to train the Mongolian Armed Forces in U.S. military procedures. The Alaska Medical Detachment provided a team of doctors, nurses and medical support personnel who joined medical professionals from the Mongolian Armed Forces to provide care to more than 4,000 underserved medical and dental patients and conducted more than 5,000 animal examinations.

### ***207th Regional Training Institute***

The 207th Regional Training Institute instructed and graduated more than 300 active-duty, Army Reserve and National Guard students from various noncommissioned officer education system courses. Highlights from the past year include hosting visiting Mongolian officers and introducing them to U.S. military training, providing validation support for mobilization and deployment, as well as supporting the reorganization of the Alaska Army National Guard's brigades.

### ***Alaska Army National Guard Aviation***

Aviation operational tempo continued at a swift pace for the stay-behind forces as aviators conducted a variety of missions in Alaska. The helicopter crews participated in three innovative readiness training exercises: Arctic Care-Bethel, Chignik Road Survey and Newtok Village Relocation. They also conducted 27 rescue missions, had 26 saves and eight assists and responded to fires on the Kenai Peninsula.

### ***Personnel***

The Personnel Office supported the transformation of Alaska Army National Guard units, executing more than 1,900 Soldier moves and loading 11 new unit formations into personnel databases. They ensured that Alaska Guard Soldiers received their pay in their new positions without delay or issue. The promotion of Sergeant Major Lillian Aukongak as the G-1 sergeant major marked the first time that a female Alaska Native has reached the highest noncommissioned officer rank in the Alaska Army National Guard.



The Recruiting & Retention Command brought more than 320 new Soldiers into the Alaska Army National Guard. This success was supported by the new Wasilla recruiting office. Recruiting efforts were boosted by Staff Sergeant Harry Alexie's outstanding 2009 dog sled racing season which culminated in his completion of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Medically, more than 900 physicals and health assessments were conducted for Alaska Guard Soldiers. More than 200 Soldiers were screened for world-wide exercises and deployments.

Finally, \$384,000 in state-issued educational benefits were disbursed to the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard. Process improvements now provide online tuition reimbursement application, thereby reducing request and payment times and making it easier for Guard members to continue their higher education.

## Chaplain

The Alaska Army National Guard's chaplains had a productive year serving deployed Soldiers, as well as reaching out to service members and families here at home. Strong Bonds is an Army-wide chaplain-led program that focuses on relationship and life skills with the goal of enriching marriages and relationships by providing weekend retreats for couples, families and singles. This past year they increased their offerings having provided Strong Bonds activities for nearly 200 couples and approximately 40 families and 30 singles.

## Facilities

A design and construction contract for a new Readiness Center in Bethel was awarded for approximately \$20 million, with the intent to begin construction in spring 2010 in order to support the Alaska Army National Guard's airborne infantry, aviation and military police units assigned to the area. In addition, \$3.2 million



**Honor Pole.** Members of the Alaska Army National Guard raise the Honor Pole outside Alaska National Guard headquarters at Camp Denali. The Honor Pole was designed by George Bennett Sr. of Sitka and carved by his son James Bennett. The Honor Pole honors the Alaska National Guard's past and present military members for their service to the country and state. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is being applied to nine energy-saving projects to help conserve natural resources.

Other major accomplishments by the Construction and Facilities Office are \$1.5 million water/sewer line to the Nome Army Aviation Operations Facility, numerous Bryant Army Airfield life-safety projects completed, and additions completed at both the Kodiak and Kenai Readiness Centers increasing indoor training space.

Our Environmental section received first place nationwide for its Environmental Restoration Program, closed 11 contaminated sites in rural Alaska, acquired Defense Environmental Restoration Program funding for an additional five sites in 2009 and secured a place-holder with Army Environmental Command for 20 remaining sites that are scheduled to be remediated for closure between 2010-2014.



**Khaan Quest.** Alaska Army National Guard Master Sergeant Eric Schlemme, left, and Major Wayne Don, center, join Mongolian Armed Forces Senior Sergeant Battulga Baatar to observe the tactics and techniques used by the Mongolian Expeditionary Force at Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during Khaan Quest 2009. Schlemme and Don deployed in September as embedded U.S. liaisons with the Mongolian Expeditionary Force to Afghanistan. Photo: Captain Amy Slinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



# Alaska Air National Guard



**Security Forces.** Providing base security, Staff Sergeant Daniel Brion, 213th Space Warning Squadron, stands guard at Clear Air Force Station.

Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Trubia, Air National Guard Creative Team

## *Supporting Alaska on the Home Front*

The mission of the Alaska Air National Guard is to recruit, train, equip and maintain America's finest Airmen. Tasked with this vital mission, we support worldwide contingency operations, State of Alaska emergency operations, and daily homeland security and defense missions. We also provide rescue forces on continual alert to protect life and property for the citizens of Alaska.

In 2009, Alaska Air National Guardsmen serving throughout Alaska met that mission by executing an extremely high operational tempo and deployment pace for yet another year.

Nearly 100 full-time Guardsmen assigned to the 213th Space Warning Squadron performed daily missile warning and space surveillance at Clear Air Force Station, ensuring the safety of our state and nation. The unit tracked more than 1.5 million space objects and maintained a watchful eye over numerous ballistic missile events around the world.

Located on Elmendorf Air Force Base, approximately 150 Alaska Air National

Guardsmen assigned to the 176th Air Control Squadron performed a daily air sovereignty mission in support of the Alaskan Regional Air Operations Center. Created to defend against potential bomber attacks from now-former Cold War foes, the Air Control Squadron today keeps tabs not only on continued probing by the Russians, but it also identifies and directs response to incursions of other unknown aircraft into Alaska airspace. In 2009, the Air Control Squadron was credited with 20 Russian Bear intercepts and during a NORAD alert force evaluation, they were given the highest rating achievable: "NORAD Mission Ready."

The highest profile of all Alaska Air National Guard missions remains search-and-rescue. The 176th Wing's rescue components consist of three squadrons. The 210th Rescue Squadron flies six HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, highly modified search-and-rescue variants of the well-known Black Hawk. The 211th Rescue Squadron flies four HC-130s, a version of the C-130 "Hercules" specially equipped for aerial refueling and search-and-rescue missions. The 212th Rescue Squadron comprises the famed



**Search and Rescue.** Members of the 210th Rescue Squadron fly an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter near Spencer Glacier during a taping of the Discovery Channel show *Man vs. Wild*. The Alaska Air National Guard partnered with the show to highlight the Guard's search and rescue mission.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



pararescuemen or “PJs” – elite rescuers trained in combat medicine, marksmanship, SCUBA diving and wilderness survival.

The search-and-rescue missions are coordinated through the 11th Rescue Coordination Center, a high-tech Air Guard facility located on Elmendorf Air Force Base. Together, the rescue package was credited with saving 34 lives from January to November 2009, with another 10 people assisted to safety.

The Alaska Air National Guard also partnered with the Discovery Channel’s number one show in the United States – *Man vs. Wild* with Bear Grylls. The show, which promotes survival and search-and-rescue, filmed the opening sequence of its Alaska episode near Spencer Glacier in June with the help of the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons.

National and worldwide coverage through shows like *Man vs. Wild* provides the Alaska Air National Guard exceptional coverage and bolsters recruiting efforts. In fact, recruiting efforts throughout the last 18 months have resulted in an overall end-strength growth from 80.2 percent to 91.5 percent. New recruiting campaigns have included the opening of an office in Wasilla, extensive emphasis on unit referrals and individual involvement, additional recruiters, and new partnerships with public and non-public entities to increase rural Alaska recruiting opportunities.

The implementation of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law, which dictated the Kulis Air National Guard Base closure and the relocation of the 176th Wing to Elmendorf Air Force Base no later than September 2011, is progressing smoothly. The Air Guard has received and obligated 100 percent of the \$135.05 million in federal funding for the BRAC directed facilities projects and will be in the process of moving its units, equipment and aircraft across town to Elmendorf Air Force Base by January 2011. In addition, the Air National Guard’s Jewel Lake Armory will be transferred back to the state by March 2010.

In the interior region of the state, the 168th Air Refueling Wing was once again at the tip of the spear in providing support to homeland defense. In 2009, Guardsmen at Eielson Air Force Base performed 49 NORAD Homeland Defense-Air Sovereignty missions and transferred 3.3 million pounds of fuel. They continue their close working relationship with the active duty – nearly all of their “customers” are active-duty aircraft, many of which are on operational missions, and the wing’s eight KC-135 Stratotankers transfer more fuel than those of any other Air National Guard tanker wing.



**Commando Warrior.** Senior Airman Wyatt Derner, 176th Security Forces, takes a knee as members of his team check a house for potential “enemies” during Commando Warrior Urban Operations exercise 2009 at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. Photo: Airman First Class Courtney Witt, U.S. Air Force



**Four-Wheeler Focus.** Technical Sergeant John Stolz, front, and Staff Sergeant Shane Potwin, both security forces members from the 213th Space Warning Squadron, patrol wooded areas at Clear Air Force Station on all-terrain vehicles. Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Trubia, Air National Guard Creative Team



## Defending America and Strengthening Relations

Alaska Air National Guardsmen answered the call to defend not only Alaska but the United States in the Global War on Terrorism, while supporting humanitarian and good-will missions around the world.

In 2009, approximately 180 members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron and 176th Maintenance Group deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Aircrews flew air-land and air-drop missions in support of coalition ground forces across the entire nation of Afghanistan. The Airmen rotated through Bagram Air Base serving approximately 45- to 120-day tours.

Approximately 200 members of the 168th Air Refueling Wing and 176th Wing fulfilled the Air National Guard Air Expeditionary Force commitment to Middle Eastern countries to provide various support in KC-135 air refueling operations, aircraft maintenance, base security, medical care, personnel, and chaplain services to the coalition forces in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

About 130 members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed to Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, to support military operations throughout Europe. Aircrews flew passengers and cargo on missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Africa Command.

Members from the 176th Wing took part in Khaan Quest, a multinational peacekeeping operations training exercise held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, each year and driven by the National



**Afghanistan Air Drop.** Senior Master Sergeant Glen Tillman, center, and Senior Airman Nathan Grilliot perform a combat airdrop mission in Afghanistan with the 176th Wing's 144th Airlift Squadron while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo: Retired Colonel Tim Grams, 176th Wing



**Strategic Airlift.** A C-17 Globemaster III from the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron sits on the flight line at Elmendorf Air Force Base. The 249th is a classic associate unit with the active duty Air Force's 3rd Wing. Both the Guard and active duty have resources assigned to maintain and fly the aircraft.

Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Trubia, Air National Guard Creative Team



Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, which pairs the Alaska Guard with Mongolian forces. The 176th Wing deployed medical providers, technicians, and equipment representing optometry, dental, orthopedics, veterinary medicine and nursing services as part of joint/multinational medical teams. The team provided medical care to several underserved villages in central Mongolia, and many residents saw a doctor for the first time in their lives.

Guardsmen from the 176th Wing and 168th Air Refueling Wing assisted multiple Indonesian communities during Operation Pacific Angel 2009. Pacific Angel, a humanitarian assistance mission sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, is designed to support areas in need in the Pacific region. It is conducted in locations throughout the Pacific theater to support the U.S. military charter of capacity building in partner nations.

Alaska Air National Guardsmen provided air refueling, transportation, engineering and medical support to those in need, while building important civil-military relationships and regional awareness of the personnel involved.



**Tanker Maintenance.** Senior Airman Cody Smith, an aircraft mechanic, is one of the proud members of the 168th Maintenance Squadron from the 168th Air Refueling Wing, which specializes in KC-135 refueling tanker missions, based at Eielson Air Force Base. More than 600 members of the Alaska Air National Guard call the 168th Air Refueling Wing home.

Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Trubia, Air National Guard Creative Team



**Training Mission.** 144th Airlift Squadron members Captain Robert Stratton, right, pilot, and Staff Sergeant Darryl Wilson, flight engineer, fly an airdrop training mission in a C-130 Hercules. Photo: Master Sergeant Rob Trubia, Air National Guard Creative Team



# Homeland Security & Emergency Management



## River Watch

Each spring the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management partners with the National Weather Service River Forecast Center to conduct aerial observations of ice-jam, flood-prone river systems across Alaska. The River Watch teams consist of a DHS&EM emergency manager and a National Weather Service hydrologist. The River Watch teams are able to fly over the rivers, observe river conditions, compare the information to River Forecast Center data and then issue flood warnings to the communities or assist with flood response efforts.

The River Forecast Center had predicted an above-average flood potential for the 2009 spring breakup. In the weeks before spring breakup, DHS&EM emergency managers coordinated with other state and federal agencies to raise situational awareness and open lines of communication. The updated Spring Flood Guide was distributed to Alaska riverside communities, and vulnerable communities were contacted to see if they needed assistance.



**Massive Flooding.** During the 2009 spring flood season, many communities along the Yukon, Kuskokwim and other river systems were affected by ice-jam flooding. Eagle was the hardest hit when ice jumped the banks and crushed homes, businesses, vehicles and anything else within its reach. Photo: Courtesy of Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

## Spring Flooding Response & Recovery

This spring, ice-jam flooding of historic levels affected communities along many Alaska rivers with communities on the Yukon and Kuskokwim most affected. Emergency response activities included providing housing for disaster victims; providing for emergency needs such as food, water, health care, and power needs identified by communities; and supporting local evacuation efforts.

After a complete damage assessment, the most significantly affected areas of the state were declared eligible for federal individual and public assistance. Individual assistance provides grants to individuals and households who sustained damages to their real property, personal property or transportation. Public assistance programs are available for local and tribal governments

and certain nonprofit entities with damages to critical public infrastructure. DHS&EM worked as an advocate for individuals, household and local/tribal governments to ensure that federal assistance programs were fully utilized.

The flood recovery effort was complicated by the wide geographic distance between affected communities, the short summer season and FEMA staff not familiar with Alaska's unique operational challenges. More than 760 Alaska households and renters applied for and were granted more than \$6.8 million in disaster-related individual assistance. More than 250 public assistance scope-of-work project worksheets were written with the majority obligated for funding. The State of Alaska activated Public Assistance and Individual Family Grant programs for affected areas not designated for assistance in the federal declaration allowing those communities to receive assistance from the state only.

## Disaster Housing Task Force

Shortly after the 2009 spring flood response effort was finished, DHS&EM held the first Alaska Disaster Housing Task Force meeting. The task force brought together state, federal, local, nonprofit and tribal organizations with a role in housing in Alaska. Each member organization identified programs that could be used by flood-affected communities. The DHTF provided communities with an interactive forum to articulate their needs to potential sources of assistance.

Skilled volunteer labor was one of the greatest needs identified by the communities. FEMA and Alaska Disaster Housing Task Force member Alaska Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters filled that need by calling upon voluntary organizations such as Samaritan's Purse, Mennonite Disaster Services and Christian Reform World Relief Committee to meet the communities' requests. The Alaska Disaster Housing Task Force supported the transportation, lodging and feeding of the volunteers working in remote communities.



**Rebuilding Mission.** Mennonite volunteers finish the final cabin in Eagle 106 days after the housing mission began. The Disaster Housing Task Force played a major role in organizing and supporting more than 500 volunteers who contributed to the rebuilding effort. Photo: Courtesy of Roy Williams



In all, more than 500 volunteers donated more than 17,000 hours of labor with an approximate value of \$2 million. The DHTF organized the procurement and delivery of cabin kits and building materials in Eagle, Stevens Village, Tanana and Akiak.

## Preparedness

The Biannual Preparedness Conferences brought emergency managers and other responders together to train and discuss current threats. Evacuation workshops were held to help communities prepare for evacuations in their regions. DHS&EM and the National Weather Service certified Yakutat as Alaska's sixth Tsunami-Ready Community. Tsunami sirens were installed in Sand Point, Yakutat, Cordova, Sitka, Valdez, Whittier and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. On March 25, DHS&EM and other partners conducted a successful statewide test of the Tsunami Alert System.

## Training

In 2009, Incident Command courses 100, 200, 300, 400, 700 and 800 were given by DHS&EM training staff or a community training partner. During the 2009 spring flooding response, several flooded communities that had just undergone incident command system training utilized that training during the response. This year DHS&EM sponsored the first Alaskan All-Hazards Type III Communications class and offered a Basic Public Information Officer course to statewide participants. DHS&EM also sponsored the first statewide Public Safety Explorer Youth Summit held in Fairbanks, where 40 students and mentors participated.

## Planning

The DHS&EM Planning Section completed the Division's Continuity of Operations plan, which identifies techniques that the state and community emergency response partners can use to deliver critical goods and services during and after a disaster. In addition, DHS&EM updated the State Emergency Operations Plan and is in the process of updating the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## Mount Redoubt

Beginning in March, Mount Redoubt, located on the west side of Cook Inlet, began a series of eruptions that lasted until early May. Ash fall was reported in Kodiak, Valdez, the Mat-Su Borough and other areas of southcentral Alaska. The State Emergency Coordination Center held daily meetings during the most active time period and other meetings as needed with the Alaska Volcano Observatory, National Weather Service, state agencies and local jurisdictions. The ash fall affected air, ground, and sea transportation options, which threatened the supply of goods and services across the state. DHS&EM coordinated with private sector organizations through the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection to ensure that critical services like food, water, power and transportation would not be interrupted. A public information campaign was launched to give people volcanic ash safety tips.

## H1N1 Influenza Pandemic

In May, DHS&EM established a unified command with the Department of Health and Social Services to monitor the emerging H1N1 emergency and to distribute anti-viral medications and personal protection equipment. The flu fighting supplies were distributed to 39 hub locations as an influenza outbreak precautionary measure. In October, the first H1N1 vaccine doses became available, and DHS&EM supported DHSS distribution of the vaccine and related influenza prevention information.



**Communications on Wheels.** The Alaska Mobile Emergency Operation Center can be set up and ready for operation in a matter of minutes. The MEOC is equipped with a full range of communication technologies and can be deployed anywhere along Alaska's road system. Photo: Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

## Mobile Emergency Operations Center

In September, DHS&EM took delivery of the Mobile Emergency Operations Center. The MEOC is a 45-foot motor coach equipped with Alaska Land Mobile Radio, disaster response work stations, satellite television, wireless internet, radio dispatch consoles, and satellite enabled phone and internet communication equipment. The MEOC brings robust phone, satellite and radio communication capabilities and can be deployed anywhere along Alaska's main road system. Phone and internet communication lines can be deployed from the vehicle to provide or supplement communication capabilities to any permanent or temporary emergency structure. The MEOC was purchased by the state with funding from the Buffer Zone Protection Grant.

## Pelican

In a 48-hour period in August, the city of Pelican received approximately 10 inches of rainfall that destroyed a large section of flume that fed the community's water supply and hydroelectric plant. In response to a city of Pelican request for a disaster declaration, DHS&EM worked with the city, the Department of Environmental Conservation and other organizations to address the situation. Temporary repairs to the flume restored the water supply. DEC and the Alaska Energy Authority are working with a contractor in the city of Pelican to upgrade the water delivery infrastructure and provide a permanent solution to the water supply issue. In September, Governor Sean Parnell issued Administrative Order 251 authorizing up to \$100,000 to be dispersed from the State Disaster Relief Fund to pay for the city of Pelican's emergency response cost.

## Grants

In 2009, the Homeland Security Grant Program brought \$7.3 million to the state under the State Homeland Security Program, Citizen Corps Program and Metropolitan Medical Response System. The HSGP enables the state and local communities to prepare for and mitigate against natural and man-made disasters. An Emergency Management Performance Grant fund of \$2.7 million will go to enhance state and local emergency management capabilities for all hazards mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. An additional \$885,162 in grant program awards were received for Buffer Zone Protection Program, Earthquake Hazards Reduction State Program, Emergency Management Performance Grant and Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant. DHS&EM submits grants for federal funding on behalf of Alaska communities and ensures that grant requirements are met.



# Alaska Military Youth Academy



The Alaska Military Youth Academy is part of the National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program, which helps high school dropout, at-risk youth focus and get back on track with their lives, and produces program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. The Youth ChalleNGe Program is a 17.5-month program that consists of a 22-week residential phase based on the traditional military training model followed by a year-long post-residential phase. The Alaska Military Youth Academy serves the needs of 16- to 18-year-old Alaskans and is located at Camp Carroll on Fort Richardson.

## Serving Alaskans and Changing Lives

This year has been another progressive year of change, yielding outstanding results within the Alaska Military Youth Academy.

Cumulatively, the Academy exceeded 2,926 graduates who are demonstrating exceptional success in their lives and futures. Without exception, the Academy has a proven track record of success and demonstrates unlimited potential to serve Alaska and Alaska's high school at-risk youth in the future.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's tuition-free ChalleNGe program, located on Fort Richardson within the Camp Carroll training site, is designed to provide at-risk 16-year-old through 18-year-old Alaskan youth who have dropped out of high school with an opportunity to complete a high school education or earn a GED, gain healthy life skills, and develop leadership and teamwork skills that will prepare them for life-long success.

Alaska's ChalleNGe program is based on historically tried and



**Job Skills.** During an industrial arts woodshop training session, a cadet uses a table saw to start a construction project. Cadets receive hands-on training in many different areas as part of the ChalleNGe Program before graduation.

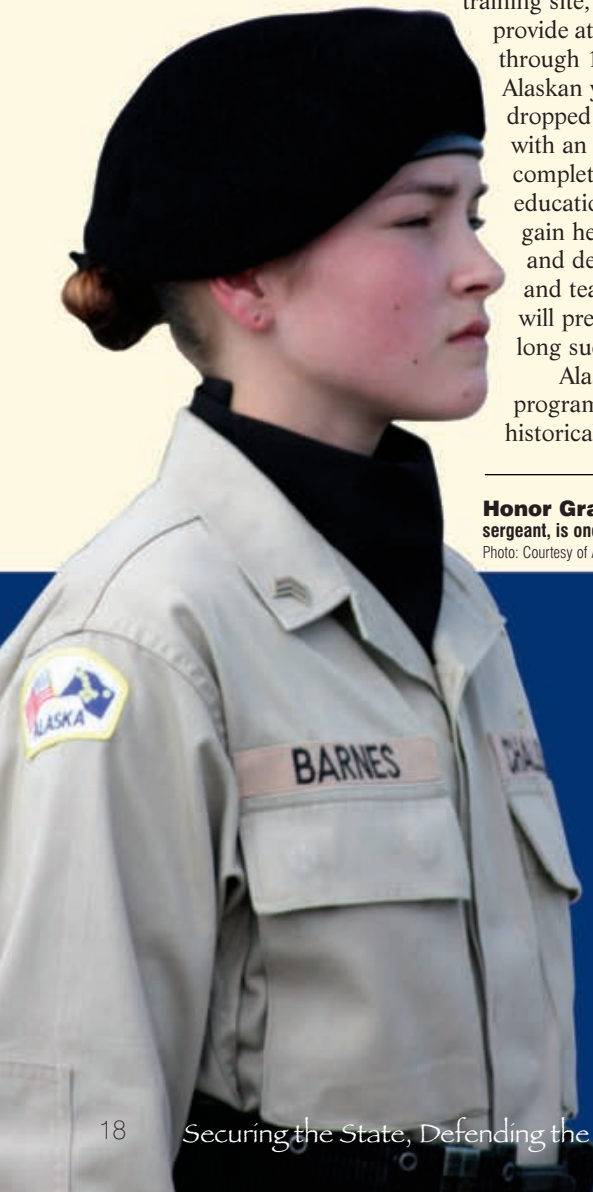
Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

proven U.S. military training methods and structure. The structure and discipline allow cadets to focus on goals and to fully participate and perform during the mentally and physically demanding 22-week residential phase. The Academy is not a military "boot camp." The mission of the ChalleNGe program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth.

**Honor Graduate.** Alaska Military Youth Academy cadet Nichole Barnes, honor graduate for graduating class 2009-2 and corps first sergeant, is one of the Alaska Military Youth Academy's more than 2,926 graduates in its 15-year history.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

- The Academy ranks #1 in the nation per capita with regard to contacting and recruiting high school dropouts into the program.
- The Academy ranks in the top three academies nationally with regard to the number of cadets graduated above the published target graduation population.
- In January 2009, the Alaska Military Youth Academy received the national USO ChalleNGe Award for the "Most Progressive Program" in the nation.
- Nationally, the Alaska Military Youth Academy is one of only five ChalleNGe programs nationally accredited to issue high school diplomas.
- The Academy is producing 118 percent more than its target graduation population per year. The Academy ranks in the top three ChalleNGe programs nationally in this area.
- In 2009, the Academy celebrated 15 successful years of producing graduates who are leading productive lives.
- Class 2009-01, which graduated 161 cadets in February 2009, was the largest graduating class in the Academy's 15-year history.





To graduate from the residential phase, cadets are required to pass eight core components, which include academic excellence, physical fitness, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene, responsible citizenship, leadership/followership and life coping skills. The residential phase further prepares cadets to successfully continue in the program's year-long post-residential phase where students pursue their documented future plans.

To provide Alaskan youth and families easier access to Academy information and facilitate the application process, the school maintains two satellite offices – one in the Dimond Center in South Anchorage and another in the National Guard Armory in Fairbanks. Since the opening of the admissions office in Fairbanks, applications from interior and rural Alaska have increased and continue to remain high. The classes that were conducted in 2009 reflect some of the best applicant-to-candidate show rates ever experienced by the Academy.

During the spring and fall of 2009, the Academy achieved maximum use of the Academy's capabilities by seeking the maximum number of applicants per class and ensuring that all candidates capable of participating in each class were invited to attend. The last four classes represent the highest average number of applicants and graduates in the 15-year existence of the Academy. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is ranked #1 in the nation with regard to contacting and recruiting high school dropouts. In 2009, the Academy celebrated its 15th year and was awarded the national USO ChalleNGe Award as the "Most Progressive Program" in the nation.

Graduation metrics for the spring class of 2009, Class 2009-01, show that the class graduated 161 cadets. This is the largest graduating class in the 15-year history of the Academy. The fall class, Class 2009-02, graduated 136 cadets. These graduation statistics demonstrate that the Academy is producing 118 percent more than its target graduation population. In this area, the Academy ranks in the top three programs among all ChalleNGe programs.

As of Oct. 1, 2009, the Academy has graduated more than 9,296 ChalleNGe cadets. The Academy is proud that 100 percent



**Confidence Builder.** Cadet Breanne Tiedeman, Alaska Military Youth Academy class 2010-1, rappels during a confidence training exercise held at Camp Carroll, Fort Richardson. The goal of the training is to instill cadets with confidence and team-building skills to succeed in future events. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy

of the cadets graduating from the spring class of 2009-01 were placed for success after completion of the residential phase.

The Academy's main campus located at Camp Carroll provides living facilities, food services, academic classes, vocational training, counseling, medical services and administrative support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for ChalleNGe cadets. The Alaska Military Youth Academy is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. The Academy is also an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development GED testing site.



**Community Participation.** Cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy's class 2009-2 participate in the Chugiak-Eagle River Bear Paw Parade. This graduating class stood out in the area of community service and learned early on about giving back and self-sacrifice. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy



# DoD STARBASE Alaska



## Nurturing the Next Generation in Math and Science

Department of Defense STARBASE is a partnership between the military, local school systems and communities.

STARBASE is a premier educational program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. At STARBASE, students participate in challenging “hands-on, mind-on” activities in aviation, science, technology, engineering, math and space exploration. They interact with military personnel to explore careers and make connections with the “real world.” Students also learn teamwork, goal setting and the importance of staying off drugs.

STARBASE Alaska’s goal is to motivate students to explore science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, as they continue their education. The program serves students who are historically underrepresented in STEM.

STARBASE is a world leader in introducing the latest STEM curriculum to elementary students. The inquiry-based curriculum, developed on 13 core concepts, engages students in exciting experiments and technology activities. The program is rigorous, relevant and has a “wow” factor to achieve maximum learning.

STARBASE core curriculum concepts are Newton’s Laws of Motion, four forces of flight, Bernoulli’s Principle, model rocketry, properties of air, development and use of technology, properties and states of matter, flight simulation, space exploration, goal setting, teamwork and substance abuse avoidance.

Each year STARBASE Alaska has grown in size and scope of its original mission. During the 2009 school year and summer sessions, STARBASE Alaska at Fort Richardson reached more than 1,500 students in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna areas. This diverse group of young people came from more than 20 different schools.

In the summer months, we were able to reach out to special groups such as the families of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and students from Education Talent Search – UAA. In addition, we offered Level II summer classes in the areas of aviation, technology and space exploration to students who attended STARBASE during the school year.

We also continued Teacher Kits to reach more classrooms and support the Matanuska-Susitna School District. STARBASE Alaska continues to expand its reach into the community through participation in local school science nights, Girl Scouts Technology Day and Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Annual Picnic.

By becoming “Partners in Education” with local school districts, STARBASE Alaska continues the mission of educating and developing responsible, productive, life-long learners and critical thinkers capable of assisting and leading America successfully in the 21st century. Together with the help of parents and teachers – 1,570 chaperone hours and 1,035 teacher hours in 2009 – STARBASE Alaska is making a difference in the lives of its students.

### 2009 Highlights:

- Held three week-long summer camps with an emphasis on aviation, technology and space exploration
- Hosted an event for 26 Foreign Defense Attaches in October
- Held three off-site STARBASE classes for schools that couldn’t raise the transportation funds to get to the STARBASE campus



**Reaction Experiment.** Sixth graders from Orion Elementary School experiment with mixing baking soda with cola, water, lemon juice and vinegar to determine which ingredients would be best to launch a rocket based on the reaction. Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE



**Robot Demonstration.** During STARBASE’s Technology Summer Camp, Officer Jeff Morton, Anchorage Police Department, gives students a demonstration of the robots the department currently uses. Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE



**Molecule Toss.** Sixth graders from Orion Elementary School demonstrate the different states of matter: solid – little movement; liquid – more movement; gas – lots of movement, using balls to represent molecules. Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE

### Ethnicity of Student Population

Multiracial .....	78
Hispanic .....	78
American or Alaska Native .....	154
African American .....	104
Asian/Pacific Islander .....	130
Caucasian .....	1,066
Other .....	21

Number of Students Registering:  
1,631

Male ..... 847  
Female ..... 784



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#### **FLASH45**

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COBALT BLUE  
AND INFRARED

PHANTOM WHITE ADJUSTS FROM LOW LEVEL WHITE TO SUPER BRIGHT WHITE, SWITCHES TO DIMMABLE BLUE AND INFRARED. INCLUDES FLASH AND STROBE MODE. THUMB SWITCH, LANYARD/FRICTION CLIP AND STAINLESS STEEL MATTE BLACK POCKET CLIP INCLUDED.

#### **FLASH41**

PHANTOM WHITE,  
RED  
AND INFRARED

PHANTOM WHITE ADJUSTS FROM LOW LEVEL WHITE TO SUPER BRIGHT WHITE, SWITCHES TO DIMMABLE RED AND INFRARED. INCLUDES FLASH AND STROBE MODE. THUMB SWITCH, LANYARD/FRICTION CLIP AND STAINLESS STEEL MATTE BLACK POCKET CLIP INCLUDED.

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