

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Armed Services Committee

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Biographies of General Officers March 23, 2017

Major General Laurel (“Laurie”) Hummel

The Adjutant General of Alaska National Guard

Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans’ Affairs

Daughter of a career Army Sergeant and a third generation Soldier, MG Hummel graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1982. Commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer, she began a 30-year Active Duty career with command and staff positions in the 24th Infantry Division and the 224th military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), serving 6 years in the 18th Airborne Corps.



In 1991, after completing her Master’s degree in Geography at Penn State, MG Hummel returned to West Point as an instructor in the Department of Geography & Environmental Engineering. In 1995 she served as Director of Operations for the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion, close to Korea’s Demilitarized Zone, and then as Chief of Operations Intelligence and Director of the Joint Intelligence Support Element for Alaskan Command at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

During her studies toward a doctorate degree from 2000-2002 at the University of Colorado, MG Hummel returned to Alaska to research the effects the huge military investment made through Alaska during the Cold War era. In 2002 she earned her Ph.D. in Geography and returned to West Point as a tenured professor in the department of geography and Environmental Engineering. After completing the US Army War College in Carlisle, she became director of West Point’s Geography Program. As a geographer with expertise in political demography and the geographical roots of terrorism, MG Hummel served as a policy consultant to government agencies and other organizations. She joined several missions in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom: first as an advisor for a program using social and environmental science to assist commanders in the field; then two tours as an Advisor to the Afghan National Army. MG Hummel retired from active duty as a Colonel on June 1, 2012 and was called back into service in the National Guard on February 5, 2015.

MG Hummel is married to Chad Parker. They have two children, Kayleigh and Michael, and an increasing number of grandchildren.

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister

Commander, 17th Coast Guard District U.S. Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister assumed the duties of Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District in June 2016. He is responsible for Coast Guard operations throughout Alaska, which include protecting life and property, enforcing federal laws and treaties, preserving living marine resources and promoting national security. The Coast Guard's forces in Alaska total more than 2,500 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary personnel, who employ 15 cutters, 52 boats, and 17 aircraft across an area of responsibility that includes the North Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea. Headquartered in Juneau, the District Commander provides operationally ready maritime forces to Coast Guard and Department of Defense Commanders for Coast Guard, joint, and interagency operations both domestically and internationally.

Previously Admiral Michael McAllister served as the Deputy Director of Operations for Headquarters U.S. Northern Command where he was responsible for homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities for North America, and theater security cooperation with Mexico and the Bahamas.

Admiral McAllister has served in a variety of operational assignments, both afloat and ashore. He served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC STEADFAST, St. Petersburg, Florida, and as Commanding Officer of USCGC POINT STEELE, Fort Myers Beach, Florida and USCGC KEY LARGO, Savannah, Georgia. From 2000 to 2003, Admiral McAllister served as Chief, Response Division at Coast Guard Activities New York where he led maritime response and security operations following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York City. He also served as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Charleston, South Carolina where he oversaw all Coast Guard missions in the states of South Carolina and Georgia and prototyped the Department of Homeland Security's successful Interagency Operations Center Program.

Admiral McAllister's staff assignments include duty as a Construction Project Manager at Facilities Design and Construction Center Pacific in Seattle, Washington and as Executive Officer of Civil Engineering Unit Miami, Florida. He served as a program reviewer in the Office of Programs and Budget at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, and the Officer Assignments Branch Chief at the Coast Guard Personnel Command, Arlington, Virginia. He was also the Executive Assistant to the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, the Executive Director for the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, and the Director of Coast Guard Enterprise Strategic Management and Doctrine.

Admiral McAllister attended the United States Coast Guard Academy, graduating in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. In 1991, he was awarded a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. In 2004, he received a Masters of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a member of the Sloan Fellows Program. His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), the DOT 9/11 Medal, as well as numerous other personal, unit and Service awards. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Washington.

Major General Bryan Owens

Commanding General of U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK)

Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens assumed command of U.S. Army Alaska on July 10, 2015, following his assignment at European Command as Director, J3. Prior to that, Major General Owens served as the DCOS OPS, HQ, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, the DCG OPS (South), 25 ID in Iraq, Commandant of the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and he has also served as the Chief of Staff for the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry through the ROTC Program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he graduated in 1983 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. His formal education is consistent with that of a career Infantry Officer and includes a Master of Science Degree from Central Michigan University in 1995 and a Master of Strategic Studies Degree from the United States Army War College in 2004.

Major General Owens has commanded Airborne Infantry units at the company, battalion, and brigade levels. His service as a staff officer includes tours as a battalion XO and a S3/G-3 at battalion, brigade, and division levels along with joint tours in USEUCOM, USPACOM and The Joint Staff in the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Tours in West Berlin, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia/Iraq, Hawaii, Kosovo, and numerous stateside posts have afforded Major General Owens unique professional experiences and opportunities. Duty in Operations JUST CAUSE, DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, JOINT GUARDIAN, AMERICAN ASSIST (New Orleans post hurricanes Katrina and Rita), and IRAQI FREEDOM three times have given Major General Owens experience in joint and combined operations and war-fighting.

Major General Owens has earned numerous awards and decorations, to include the Combat Infantryman Badge (2d award), Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Legion of Merit (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Joint Service Commendation Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster).

Lieutenant General Kenneth Wilsbach

*Commander, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command
Region, Northern American Aerospace Defense Command
Commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Northern Command
Commander, 11th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces*

General Wilsbach is the senior military officer in Alaska, responsible for the integration of all military activities in the Alaskan joint operations area, synchronizing the activities of more than 21,000 active-duty and reserve forces from all services. He is also responsible for the planning and execution of all Homeland Defense operations within the theater, including security and civil support actions. General Wilsbach also commands Eleventh Air Force, overseeing the training and readiness of five wings and Air Force



installations located in Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. As Commander of the Alaskan Region of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, General Wilsbach directs operations to ensure effective surveillance, monitoring and defense of the region's airspace.

General Wilsbach was commissioned in 1985 as a distinguished graduate of the University of Florida's ROTC program and earned his pilot wings in 1986 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. He is a command pilot with more than 3,800 hours in multiple aircraft, primarily in the F-15C, MC-12 and F-22A, and has flown 71 combat missions in operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

General Wilsbach's list of major awards and decorations include the following:

- Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 - Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters
 - Bronze Star Medal
 - Defense Meritorious Service Medal
 - Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
 - Air Medal with oak leaf cluster
 - Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
 - Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
 - Air Force Achievement Medal
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