

**2/01/11  
BUDGET  
OVERVIEW:  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MILITARY AND  
VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>2-01-11 BUDGET OVERVIEW  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS  
AFFAIRS</SUBJECT><COMM>HFIN27</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature  
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda

1:30 PM

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Rep.

Budget Overviews:

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Presenters:

Major General Thomas H. Katkus, Adjutant General,  
Commissioner, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Susan Colligan, Director, Division of Administrative Services,  
Military and Veterans Affairs

\*The University of Alaska Subcommittee of the Whole Finance  
Committee will begin immediately after the House Finance  
meeting adjourns.

Review Employee Salary & Benefit Package

- Salary increases
- Health Insurance
- Tuition Waiver
- Tenure

~~no joint~~  
~~no statute~~

Bert  
Hall. valentine

Mike O'Hare, Deputy Director, Division of Homeland  
Security/Emergency Management, Department of Military and  
Veterans Affairs

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# **Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**



## **FY2012 Overview**

**February 1, 2011**

**Office of the Commissioner**

# Vision

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**‘Securing the State,  
Defending the Nation’**

# Mission

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To provide military forces to accomplish military missions in the state or around the world; provide homeland security and defense; emergency response; veterans services; and youth military style training and education.

# What We Do

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- Defend and Protect Alaska and the United States
- Disaster Preparedness, Response and Initial Recovery
- Youth Intervention
- Outreach to Veterans and Military Families

# Results

## Defend and Protect Alaska and the United States

- Approximately 190 Alaska National Guardsmen deployed to operations worldwide
- Approximately 2,400 Alaska National Guardsmen serving full-time around Alaska
- 237 Army Guard facilities maintained across Alaska



# Results

## Disaster Preparedness

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- Approximately \$10 Million in grants to local jurisdictions for emergency preparedness equipment, training, planning, and exercises
- 4,500 Participants in the 2010 Alaska Shield/ Arctic Edge emergency response exercise, one of 51 training events conducted
- 265 individual assistance grants for disaster repair of homes, personal belongings, and transportation totaling over \$171,000

# Results

## Youth Intervention

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- Ranked #1 in the nation, per capita, for contacting and recruiting high school dropouts into the ChalleNGe program
- 194 students in residential phase, October 2010
- 292 students in post-residential phase, October 2010
- Over 3,218 total graduates
- 96% of eligible cadets earned and received GED or high school diploma by graduation



# Results

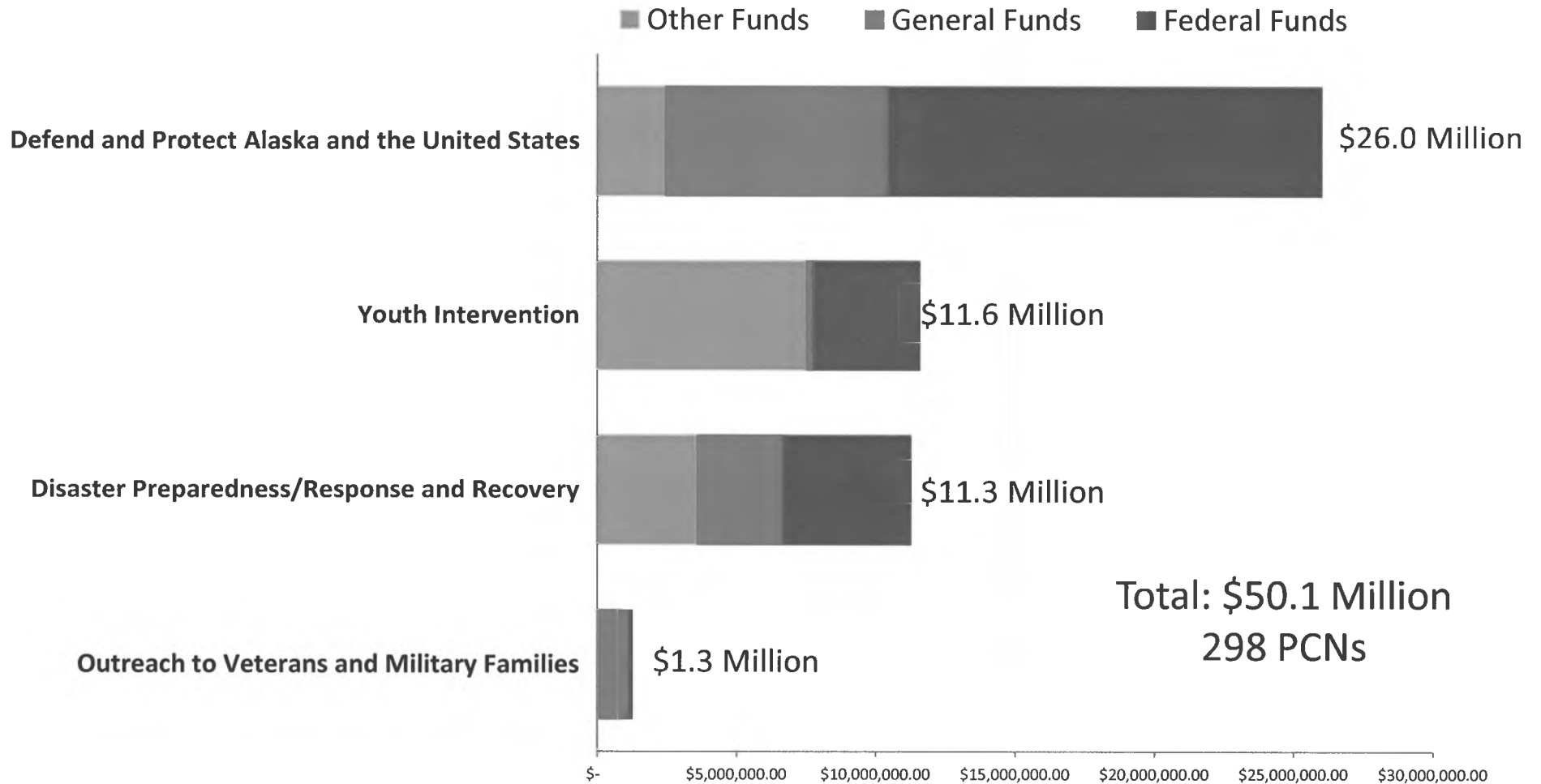
## Outreach to Veterans

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- \$35.6 Million in benefits received by veterans in 2010 (there are 77,000 veterans and approximately 150,000 veteran family members across Alaska)
- Certified over 800 programs of study in educational facilities statewide
- Yellow Ribbon Program provided outreach to 165 Alaskan communities and directly assisted 1,000 veterans and 400 families to attain federal benefits

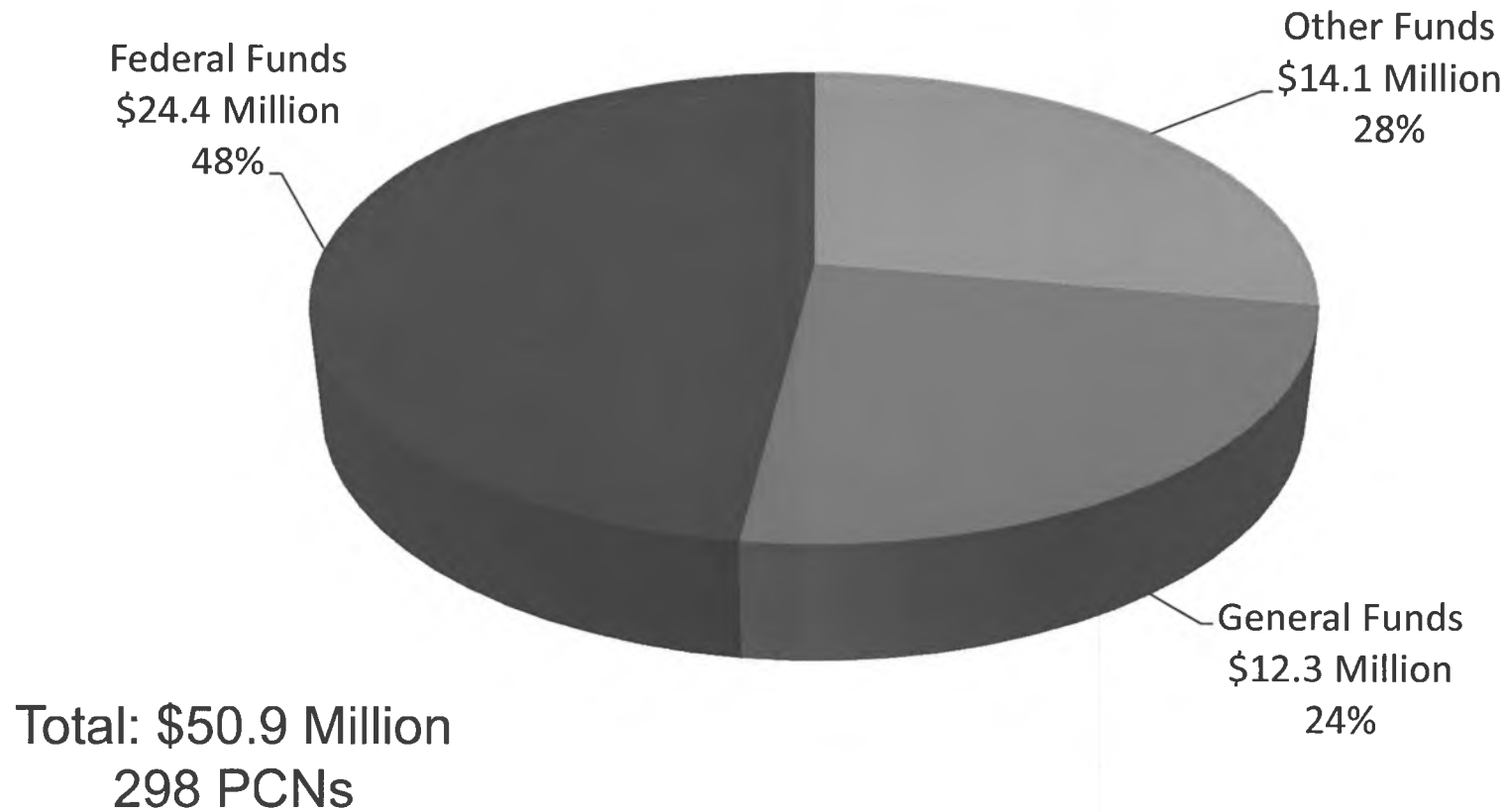


# Current Capacity (FY2011)



# FY2012 Budget

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# Priorities for FY2012

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- Increase recruitment and retention of Alaska National Guard members
- Alaska Aerospace Corporation
- Increase number of graduates from ChalleNGe program
- Meet demand for post 9-11 GI Bill and increased scope of education benefits

# Questions?

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR**

**P. O. BOX 5800**

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99505-0800**

**PHONE: (907) 428-6003**

February 1, 2011

## **Status of FY11 Increments for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

### **Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)**

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)- \$1,200,00 Federal Receipt Authority: Increment allowed DHS&EM to receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in its operating budget, passing through the federal dollars to local communities to employ local full- or part-time emergency managers. In FY2011, 18 jurisdictions have received pass-through funding. In addition, this funding supports DHS&EM personnel and community based activities through special projects in planning, exercise, training, and supporting the operational arena of the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC).

Homeland Security and Emergency Services Positions- \$935,000 Capital Improvement Receipt (CIP) Authority: Increment allowed DHS&EM to realign previously unbudgeted positions to budgeted positions. This provides the division with improved community based homeland security and emergency management disaster response and recovery services, staffing longevity, grants management, and community planning. Positions are funded primarily from various State Homeland Security Grant programs from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster programs. All positions are currently filled and providing homeland security and emergency management core services to communities and residents across the state.

### **Army Guard Facilities Maintenance**

Bethel Lease- \$88,900 General Funds: Increment allows division to make lease payments to the Department of Transportation for five acres of land for the Army Guard Readiness Center, at \$88,900 per year for 41 years. Lease payments are current in FY2011.

### **Air Guard Facilities Maintenance**

Lease for Recruiting Office- \$40,000 Federal Receipt Authority: Increment allows the division to receive federal funding for the annual lease of the storefront recruiting office in the Dimond Mall in Anchorage. Lease payments are current in FY2011.

Increase Matching General Funds- \$240,000 General Fund Match: Increment fulfills the federal match requirements in the financial plan for Air Guard Facilities Maintenance.

## **Veterans Services**

Retiring Staff Award of Alaska Flags- \$5,000 General Funds: Increment allowed for Veterans Services to award Alaska flags for retiring Guardsmen and State Employees according to the eligibility requirements of the state of Alaska Administrative Manual, AAM 100.090, Employee Recognition Awards. Division is using funds to purchase flags and fulfills all flag requests.



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs





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Major General Thomas H. Katkus  
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard  
& Commissioner of the DMVA



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The DMVA Annual Report is a special project of **Warriors Magazine**. It is published, as required by State statute, to explain the annual missions and activities of the employees and military members of the Department of Defense, Alaska National Guard, and State of Alaska that are assigned within the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

The DMVA Annual Report is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership with the State of Alaska, Alaska National Guard, Department of Defense, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 5800, Camp Denali, Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-0800, phone number (907) 428-6031, fax 428-6949; and, AQP Publishing, Inc., 8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507. All photos are credited to the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs unless otherwise identified.

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# DMVA 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Main photo: **Patrol Zone.** Specialist Jose Carrillo-Mojica, military police officer, scans his patrol zone on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely. The military police company of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, conducts the only 24/7 continuous site security mission of a strategic missile defense site in the Army National Guard. Photo: Staff Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



Top left: **Funeral Honors.** Members of the Alaska National Guard present the Alaska state flag during a memorial service in 2010.

Photo: Captain Amy B. Stinker, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Top right: **Fuel Testing.** Staff Sergeant Mark Gilleland, 176th Fuels Management Flight, Alaska Air National Guard, performs a solids test on a shipment of fuel. The filter is weighed, baked in a drying oven, then weighed again. This process is used to ensure that the solid found in the fuel falls within military specifications.

Photo: Master Sergeant Shannon Oleson, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Center: **Academy Amenities.** Cadet Taylor J. Elg stands at attention during the opening of the newly renovated Alaska Military Youth Academy Tracy L. Sheldon Dining Facility dedication. The Academy's main campus at Camp Carroll provides living facilities, food service, academic classes, vocational training, counseling, medical services and administrative support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Bottom: **Decontamination.** Members of the 103rd Civil Support Team - Weapons of Mass Destruction decontaminate each other after responding to a simulated chemical spill as part of the training scenario of exercise Vigilant Guard. Photo: Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs

## Reports:

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**Airborne.** Specialist Joe Pete, B Company, 1/143rd Infantry Airborne, Alaska Army National Guard, jumps from a UH-60 Black Hawk at 1,500 feet during a joint airborne operation in Bethel. Eleven Alaska Guardsmen from the unit were the first to jump into the Bethel Flats Rotary Wing Drop Zone from a UH-60 Black Hawk. "This was one of the milestones for building this company," said First Lieutenant Jason Caldwell, commander, B Company, 1/143rd Infantry Airborne. Photo: Specialist Michelle Nash, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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### HOW TO REACH US:

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Ready to Serve

This document was printed at no cost to the State of Alaska.



# For the People

**Governor Sean Parnell**  
Commander in Chief



## Thank You for Your Service

We are profoundly grateful for all who serve Alaska with dignity and honor, from the Guard members protecting our country both at home and abroad to the state employees who vigilantly monitor for natural disasters.

The impact of Alaska's National Guard members is expansive – spanning far beyond the borders of our state. Following the massive earthquake that devastated Haiti,

Alaska Air National Guardsmen flew cargo aircraft to deliver essential relief supplies and provide critical assistance. Humanitarian and relief missions such as those in Haiti highlight the role Alaska's National Guard plays around the world.

The Alaska Army National Guard 1/207th Aviation deployed again this year. Soldiers from B Company are now in Iraq supporting Operation New Dawn with

Black Hawk helicopter operations. I was honored to shake the hands of these fine Guard members before they deployed; and my wife, Sandy, and I continue to pray for their safe return.

In Afghanistan, pararescumen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron are performing search and rescue missions. Known as "Guardian Angels," they continue to save lives on the battlefield and epitomize their motto, "That others may live." Alaskans are blessed to have such heroes among us.

Alaska faced challenges in 2010, but many more tragedies were prevented because of the skill and dedication of Alaska's rescue squadrons. These brave men and women saved more than 50 lives locally. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is an integral partner in keeping Alaskans safe. When heavy rains washed out parts of the Taylor Highway during the summer, the Division worked tirelessly to help community members and businesses who were impacted by the road closures and water damage. The Division was also instrumental in hosting a successful Alaska Shield exercise. The exercise tested emergency response and capabilities in the event of a major disaster of several organizations essential to Alaskans' safety.

The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs plays a key role in establishing a strong military future in Alaska. The Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team, led by Major General Thomas H. Katkus, has proposed strategies to expand and acquire future missions and infrastructure that will strengthen national security and build Alaska's economy. They continue to work to ensure the viability and growth of Alaska's military.

To Alaska's service members who serve with bravery, integrity and honor – it is you who keep us safe and respond in our times of need. I am honored to be your commander in chief, and am proud of the work you are doing in the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. On behalf of all Alaskans, thank you for your service.



**Deployment Farewell.** During the deployment ceremony for B Company, 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard, Governor Sean Parnell shakes the hand of each Soldier leaving on the one-year deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. The Guardsmen have the mission to transport distinguished visitors, troops and equipment via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Photo: Courtesy Office of Governor Sean Parnell



# The Adjutant General



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

## Exceptional Effort Made 2010 a Success

Thanks to all the members of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs who contributed to the tremendous success reflected by the numbers contained in this year's annual report. An exceptional effort was put forth by every division. Every director and staff member made significant contributions to our success. This annual report is a reflection of all of your competency and professionalism.

2010 presented challenges to both the Alaska Air and Army National Guard as they continued to deploy uniformed members to meet their federal mission, while simultaneously meeting their exceedingly challenging state requirements.

An inordinate number of aircraft mishaps resulted in an extended level of rescue assets engaged across the state. Many of these rescues were high profile and drew considerable public attention. All the while, members of the 176th Wing continued to plan and execute their long anticipated move from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and the Army Guard finished off its transformation into a relevant and vibrant fighting force with its new structure and formations.

Emergency managers coordinated throughout the year after starting the spring with a robust training exercise that involved several thousand participants in a mock earthquake scenario. This exercise not only enhanced the state's already healthy response capability, but also cemented relationships that paid big dividends to many communities as they worked through several other emergencies throughout the year.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continued to graduate near record numbers of students as it improved facilities and provided a challenging environment for those youth in attendance. New dining, shower and laundry amenities were incorporated into the austere campus on Camp Carroll. This allowed better through-put of the students in their day-to-day activities and provided additional precious time to devote to studies.

Our Veterans Affairs office continued to engage with our veteran community. Coordinating at a national level, our Veterans Affairs director has had tremendous success in bringing focus to the many challenges our veterans here in Alaska face.

This annual report is a summary of the exceptional work conducted by the nearly 4,500 members of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. As a direct result of your effort, Alaska is a safer and more secure place.

There are many challenges ahead on the 2011 horizon. As we move forward, we will keep playing a strong role in the development of a strong sustainable economy and enhance the ability of our communities to get back on their feet after a disaster. We will continue to make Alaska one of the best places in our nation to settle and raise a family.

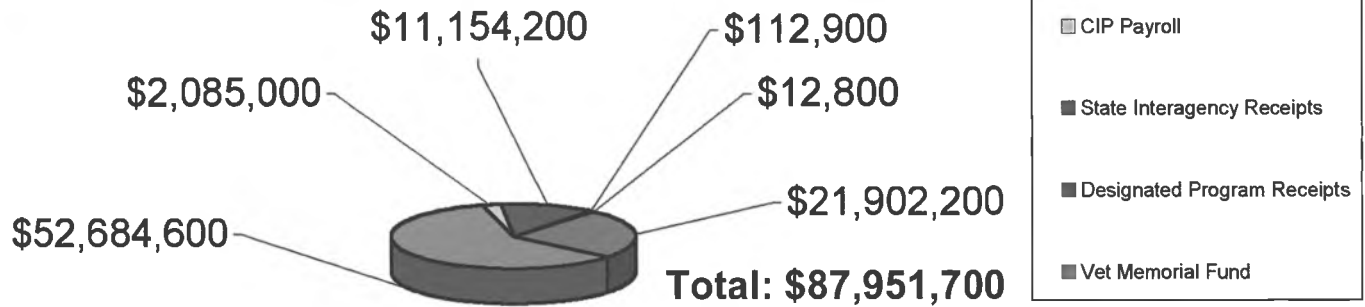


**Heritage Painting Presentation.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, presents a National Guard heritage painting depicting the 1968 Scout Battalions of the 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, to a group of foreign military defense attaches who visited Alaska in May 2010.

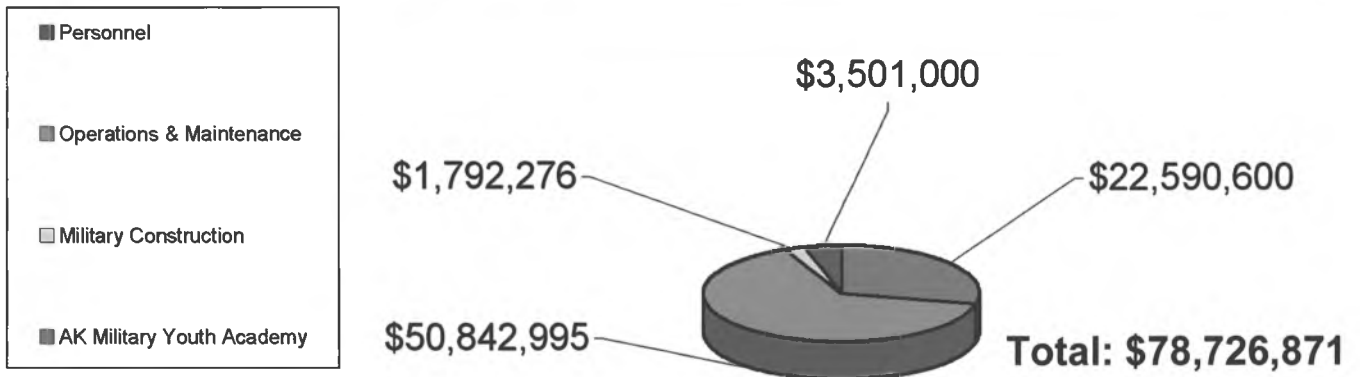
Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

# DMVA... By the Numbers

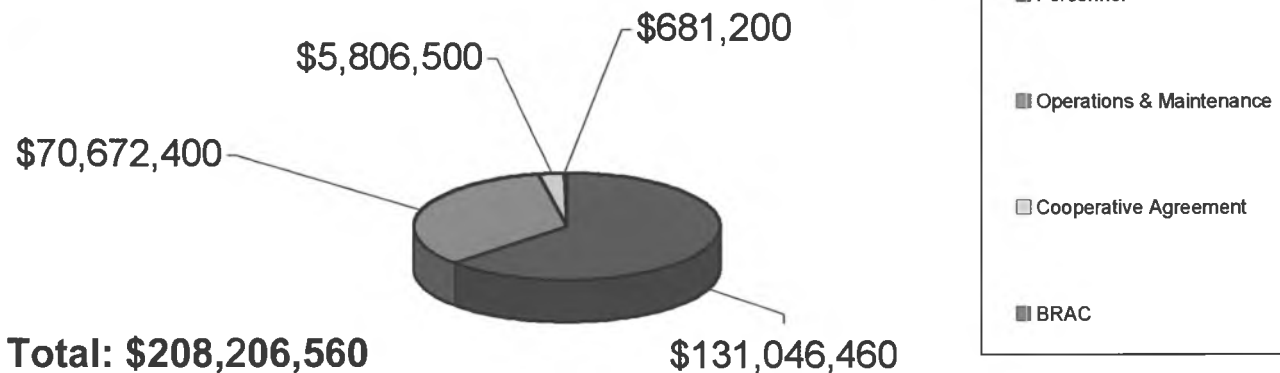
## DMVA SFY2010 State Operating & Capital Actual Expenditures



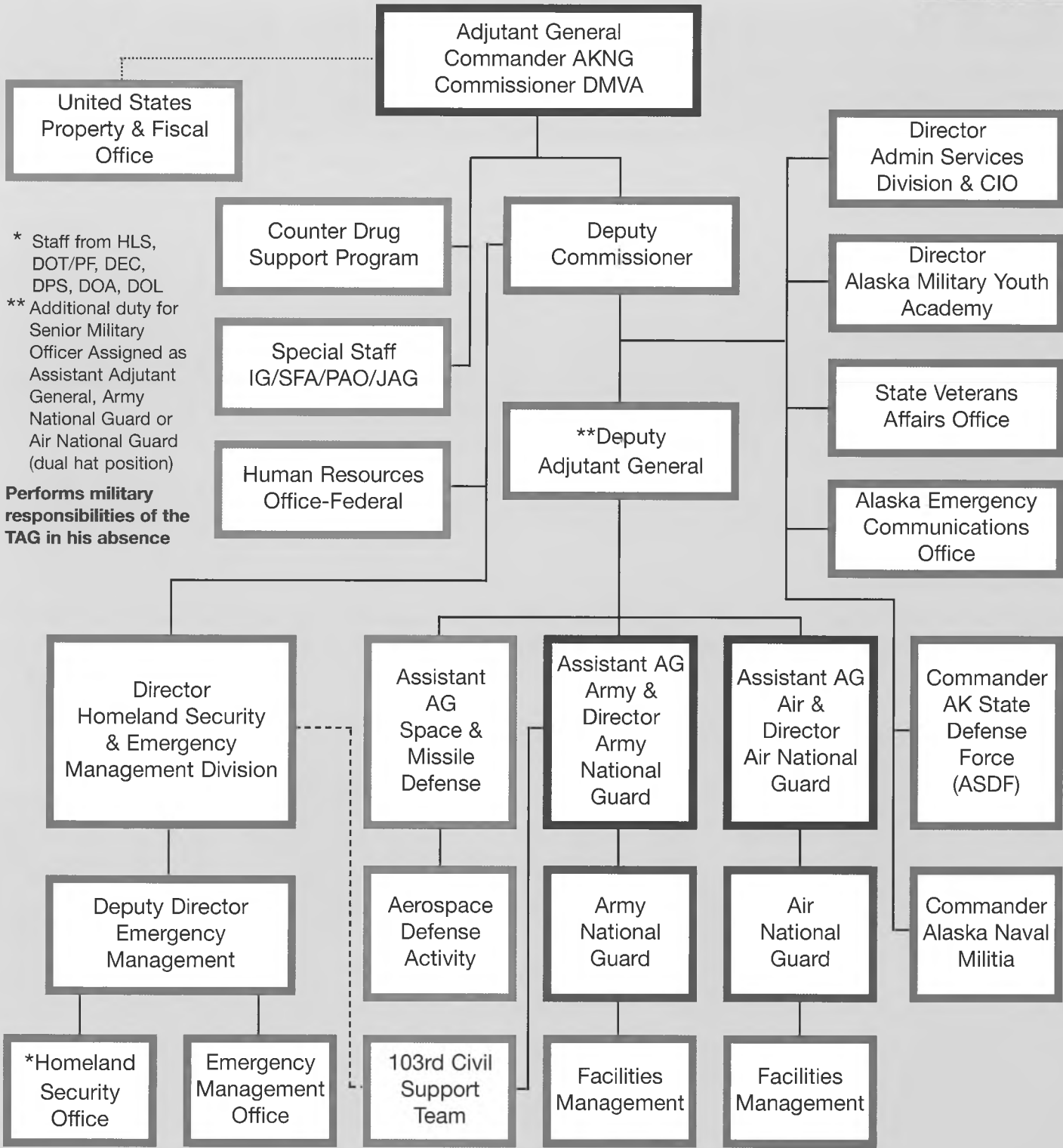
## Army Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY10



## Air Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY10



# Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



\* Staff from HLS, DOT/PF, DEC, DPS, DOA, DOL  
 \*\* Additional duty for Senior Military Officer Assigned as Assistant Adjutant General, Army National Guard or Air National Guard (dual hat position)  
**Performs military responsibilities of the TAG in his absence**

.....Coordination -----Supervisory Control (When Designated)

State
  Federal
  Combination State & Federal  
 Depending on status:  
 Normally State during M-F work week.  
 Paid Federally when in military status,  
 unless called to State Active Duty.
  Federally paid but may be called to State Active Duty



# Veterans



## Reaching Veterans Across the State

The Office of Veterans Affairs continued its efforts to award discharges to Alaska Territorial Guard veterans, enhanced its Veteran Service Officer Corps, hit challenges with the new Post-9/11 GI Bill head on and traveled all across Alaska helping veterans where they live. The Office of Veterans Affairs was able to meet and exceed all the 2010 goals while providing outstanding support to the state's 77,000 veterans and their families.

### *Alaska Territorial Guard*

The Alaska Territorial Guard Recognition Program remains the top priority of the Office of Veterans Affairs. It is hard to believe that we have more than 6,400 veterans in Alaska who did not receive honorable discharges when their units were disbanded in 1947, but this did happen, and now we're working to correct that. In order for us to find these veterans, we've done large amounts of research and traveled to numerous Alaska communities. We have also enlisted the assistance of every community in Alaska, and this has proved very successful. To date, we have issued 1,594 discharges from the U.S. Army.

One new item we accomplished this year was that our research team completed comprehensive research into the Alaska National Guard military service records. The team searched all records from 1948 forward. This was a huge task because these records are not automated and are stored on microfilm. The team viewed thousands of records, found four ATG members who were due a military retirement and had that benefit restored. We also found 32 spouses who were due survivor's benefits. These benefits are paid to widows of retired military after the veteran's death, and in these cases, each ATG member was deceased but still had a living widow. This was

a huge find and is a direct result of the efforts of Linda Flegle, our ATG research team chief. Along with these two federal benefits, we found six ATG members who were eligible for Alaska National Guard retirement. This is paid to ATG members who retired from the National Guard after 1968.

We still have 158 living ATG veterans in Alaska, and we just completed the last two applications for discharge for the living members. We are now concentrating our efforts on ensuring that each family receives the discharge for each ATG veteran's service.

This year, we added a new component to the National Guard Honors Program. When the Alaska National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team performs ceremonies for Alaska Territorial Guard veterans, we are now presenting the families with an Alaska state flag along with the U.S. flag. During the flag presentation ceremony, the honors team is also presenting the Alaska Territorial Guard Service Medal on behalf of the governor to the family. This is a wonderful way to honor our ATG veterans and builds a bridge between our children and the past.

### *Veteran Service Officer Grant Management*

In order to receive the best service for our veterans, we provide 14 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 currently have the following VSO organizations certified through the VA: Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, the



**Honoring Service.** Members of the Nome-Beltz Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps flank the Alaska Territorial Guard statue in Nome that was unveiled in front of a few Alaska Territorial Guard veterans on Alaska Day. The new statue honors the Alaska Territorial Guard and stands in front of the Old Federal Building on Front Street.

Photo: Lieutenant Colonel John Woyte, Alaska Army National Guard



**Funeral Honors.** During a funeral at Fort Richardson National Cemetery, members of the Alaska National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team prepare to fire rifle volleys. The funeral honors program is supported by Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers and conducts funeral honors for all branches of service including the Alaska Territorial Guard.

Photo: Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs

Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Disabled American Veterans. These organizations returned more than \$35.6 million in past payments owed to veterans, while filing more than 19,000 new claims. 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 \$150 million to veterans and their families in the state, while providing more than \$129 million in medical coverage.

In 2010, we visited 235 communities in the state by partnering with the Yellow Ribbon Program, and in turn, we processed more than 1,000 veterans and 400 family members for new benefits. Because of these positive results, we will continue our outreach efforts through our Veteran Service Officer program.

### *The Alaska State Approving Agency*

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 from 300 students per month to an overall average of 700. Throughout the past year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided more than \$9 million in education funds to Alaska education programs. Our troops are returning home and have the best chance at obtaining higher education with minimal out-of-pocket expense.

### *Veterans Summit*

In June 2010, we held our second annual Veterans Summit with more than 200 veterans in attendance. The event was held in Wasilla, and each year we plan to hold the Veterans Summit in a different city across the state. The 2010 summit was sponsored by the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the State of Alaska Veterans Caucus. The Alaska Veterans Advisory Council facilitated the break-out groups during the event, and feedback from those sessions will be presented to the Joint Armed Services Committee in February 2011.

As part of a joint outreach, the Office of Veterans Affairs partnered with the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council and held town hall meetings all around the state. We traveled to Ketchikan, Juneau, Bethel, Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla and Fairbanks. We assisted

veterans with VA medical care, education benefits, housing and home loans. With the success of these meetings, we plan to host similar town hall meetings throughout 2011.

### *New Satellite Office*

The Office of Veterans Affairs will open a new office located in the Alcantra Armory in Wasilla. This allows veterans and their families in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough easier access to our staff and resources. More than 11,000 veterans reside within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

### *Other Significant Accomplishments*

In June 2010, the governor signed into law the designation of Aug. 7 as Purple Heart Day. This day recognizes those veterans who were combat wounded, as well as remembering all who have served our country.

The Office of Veterans Affairs introduced a new coin that will be presented to veterans in Alaska during events across the state as a way to honor those who served and live here.

During Stand Down 2010, we met with more than 700 underprivileged veterans. Our veterans were provided medical treatment, job placement assistance and introduced to several social programs. At Stand Down, we are also able to fast-track veterans' requests for assistance and social security benefits.

The Blue Star Banner program remains popular, and we provided more than 300 Blue Star Banners to Alaskan families who have members serving our country in the military. We will continue to send these flags to families all across the state when they are requested.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ended the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program in July 2010 and hired an independent assessment firm to measure the results. We assisted this firm in collecting key data points for their report. This effort brought about testimonies on rural healthcare to the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington, D.C. After the testimony, the committee commissioned a new study on rural healthcare, which will help the Senate direct new healthcare to our veterans in Alaska bush communities. We look forward to working with the VA, Indian Health Services and the Senate on this issue in 2011.



**Veterans Day.** Two loadmasters with the 249th Airlift Squadron flank the Alaska Air National Guard memorial on Veterans Day. The names of the three 249th Airlift Squadron members – Major Michael Freyholtz, Major Aaron Malone and Senior Master Sergeant Thomas Cicardo – who died in a C-17 accident July 28 were added to the memorial.

Photo: Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs

# Alaska Army National Guard



**New Bethel Readiness Center Begins.** The official party digs up dirt as a sign of “breaking ground” for the start of construction of the new Bethel Readiness Center. So far, the contractor has poured the concrete, insulated side panels and put roof panels in place. The project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by December 2011. From left: Brigadier General J. Randy Banez, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Army National Guard; Representative Bob Herron, Alaska State Legislature; Jim Miller, project superintendent, Unit Construction; Lieutenant Governor Craig Campbell; First Lieutenant Jason Caldwell, commander, B Company, 1\143rd Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard; Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general, Alaska National Guard. Photo: Private First Class Karina Paraoan, DMVA Public Affairs.

## *New Equipment*

The Alaska Army National Guard completed the closeout and turn-in of the entire property record of the legacy 207th Infantry Group and began to receive large amounts of new, modern equipment for future forces and missions of the organization. This “equipment tidal wave” provides for a modernized, highly capable force much more able to respond to federal and state missions. Included are trucks of multiple configurations, generators, communications systems, night vision devices and weapons.

## *Facilities Maintenance*

The Alaska Army National Guard received more than \$4.3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for nine energy-saving projects to help conserve natural resources across the state. Projects ranged from Nome to Juneau and included numerous lighting upgrades, boiler replacements and other efficiency projects. The Army Guard hangar in Nome received a lighting upgrade that will result in an annual cost savings of \$26,000 and a pay back based upon current electrical rates in 3.6 years.

Our Environmental section has been diligently working on numerous Defense Environmental Restoration Program projects. Three sites were remediated in the summer of 2010 – Akiachak, Scammon Bay and Kwigillingok – for approximately \$2.5 million. Three additional sites are scheduled for 2011, and 21 sites have characterizations scheduled for the summer of 2011.

## *49th Missile Defense Battalion*

The 49th Missile Defense Battalion continued to strengthen and evolve its strategic mission of defending the nation from the threat of a rogue nation’s intercontinental ballistic missiles. The men and women of the 49th are Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers who volunteered from all across the nation for this 24/7 mission.



**Modernizing the Force.** The Alaska Army National Guard received millions of dollars in new equipment recently, like these up-armored Humvees, to keep the Guard modern, reliable and ready to support the homeland in domestic emergencies and overseas in the fight against terror. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

The majority of the Soldiers here are Military Police with the responsibility to secure and defend the 800-acre Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, just north of the Alaska Range.

With the national commitment to missile defense, the post at Fort Greely continues to grow. In 2010, the post has completely renovated the exterior of most buildings to improve energy efficiency and has also broken ground on a community activities center due to be completed in 2012. The visits of high-ranking leaders continued in 2010 with more than 100 separate visits to the Missile Defense Complex.

The Soldiers of the battalion have not stopped growing either, as missile defenders in the Fire Direction Center consistently excelled during their training scenarios and exercises with senior leadership. The military police company and headquarters battery participated in Global Thunder 10, which tested Soldiers on their tactical responses to various scenarios and the defense of our nation from the threat of an ICBM. These events and extracurricular

activities were held while the battalion continued to maintain 100 percent on weapons qualifications and Army warrior tasks and drills for each Soldier over the entire 12-month period.

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

The Alaska-Mongolia State Partnership Program continues to mature and has evolved into a seven-year relationship that continues to serve vital strategic interests in Pacific Command's Northeast Asia policy. Alaska-Mongolia relations and cooperation span military partnerships, disaster management, first-responder capabilities, recruiting and retention, and medical care exchanges to ensure the broadest level of engagement and cooperation.

Alaska and Mongolia's broad engagement continues to set the standard across the National Guard Bureau for depth and breadth and is consistently cited as one of the Bureau's most successful state-country partnerships. In 2010, staff from the House Armed Services Committee came to Alaska to learn more about the Guard's State Partnership Program. They also traveled to Mongolia to observe subject-matter-expert exchanges and the Khaan Quest exercise, a multinational training exercise and humanitarian support mission.

The Alaska Army National Guard served as executive agent for Khaan Quest 2010, consisting of three main components: a command post exercise, humanitarian construction project and a medical support assistance team.

Our commitment and success with Mongolia has involved sharing risks in contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan at the request of the Chief and Minister of Defense of Mongolia. The Alaska Army National Guard has deployed advisors with the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and supported Mongolia's largest troop deployment to Afghanistan.



**Manning Missile Defense.** Sitting at their consoles literally at the "tip of freedom's spear," members of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion operate the Ground-based Midcourse Defense portion of the Ballistic Missile Defense System at Fort Greely. The system has been manned 24/7 since achieving limited defensive capability in September 2004.

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

## ***Chaplain***

The Alaska Army National Guard Chaplain program has been busy supporting the spiritual needs of our Soldiers and their families, as well as the morale and welfare of the units. A major area of focus this year has been suicide prevention, coupled with contributing to the Army "Resiliency" program. The suicide prevention curriculum is effective but is only half the battle. Teaching resiliency provides Soldiers and their families with the skills to cope with losses and hard times.

Our Unit Ministry Teams have also provided continued Strong Bonds instruction. The program 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.

In 2010, we welcomed back two of our chaplains and one chaplain assistant from various deployments. Our chaplains are thankful for the opportunity to serve God through their service to the Alaska Army National Guard and look forward to a future of productive ministry with our Soldiers and families.

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

Members of the 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction provided assessment and assistance to first responders, industry members, and the military in response to potentially hazardous material releases, as well as the tragic crash of an Air Force C-17. The 103rd CST also provided information and assistance to the Anchorage Fire Department and FBI, while helping to protect residences of a South Anchorage apartment complex. Later, the 103rd CST assisted the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Emergency Services and FBI in response to an incident in family housing. The team was a vital participant in the Vigilant Guard exercise by providing chemical, biological, radiological and



**Cleanup.** Members of the 103rd Civil Support Team-Weapons of Mass Destruction decontaminate their equipment after responding to a simulated chemical spill as part of the training scenario of exercise Vigilant Guard 2010. Photo: First Sergeant Mike Cummings, U.S. Army



**Arctic Care.** Crews and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Alaska Army National Guard's A Company, 1/207th Aviation gather in Kotzebue during Operation Arctic Care 2010. This year's operation marked the 16th year military medical teams have deployed to remote areas of Alaska to treat patients and provide veterinary care. The Alaska Army National Guard provided airlift support to 11 remote villages during the event.

Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Army National Guard

nuclear explosive response teams, liaisons with civilian authorities, and command and control. The team also provided subject-matter experts to liaison and work with first responders of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, promoting cooperation and improved emergency response capabilities.

## Counterdrug Support Program

Continued congressional funding gave us an annual budget of almost \$4 million, allowing us to support our local law enforcement agencies, schools and community-based organizations with 47 full-time counterdrug members. The primary mission of the Counterdrug Support Program encompasses two critical areas: Drug Interdiction and Drug Demand Reduction.

Our Rural Education Program partnered with the Chugach School District and the Voyage to Excellence program, which gives students throughout Alaska opportunities to apply what they have learned in school to real-life situations and also make them eligible for college credit at no cost. The goal of this partnership is to provide our youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to make a successful transition from school to life after building a strong anti-substance abuse foundation.

In all, our drug educators presented drug education messages to 6,081 students and taught our nationally accredited 12-week drug education/positive-life-choices curriculum to 7,990 students in 26 schools. This is an incredible increase from last year, and we



**Vigilant Guard.** First Lieutenant Noah Wescarver, B Company, 1/143rd Infantry Airborne, briefs his Soldiers in a simulated riot training scenario during exercise Vigilant Guard 2010, an annual, disaster-based training scenario to test the coordination of National Guard units with local, state, regional and national disaster preparedness organizations.

Photo: Technical Sergeant Brian E. Christiansen, North Carolina National Guard

attribute this growth to having more trained counterdrug members assigned to our DDR section, educators networking within the teaching community and outreach into schools that were difficult to reach last year.

Through the use of our E3 high-ropes challenge course, we provided experiential education to 656 participants, representing 12 community-based organizations throughout the state. We nearly doubled our attendance from 2009. This no-cost summer camp offered a savings to these agencies of more than \$150,000.

In an effort to bolster our Drug Interdiction efforts, the Alaska Counterdrug Program increased its support to 20 law enforcement drug units throughout the state. Each of these agencies was supported by operational case support, criminal analysis support or both. Along with direct case support and assisting with drug-related seizures, the Counterdrug Program also facilitated and sponsored training to more than 100 law enforcement professionals.

Since the inception of the Alaska National Guard Counterdrug Support Program, Alaska Guardsmen have become a critical component in supporting our communities and law enforcement agencies in combating Alaska's drug offenders. This program has shown that joint operations with the Alaska National Guard, while making use of all of our combined resources, can make a significant impact on developing partnerships and relationships, providing necessary manpower and resources to law enforcement agencies, and assisting our teachers and local leaders in finding ways to reduce substance abuse within our communities.

## 1\207th Aviation

A Company, 1/207th Aviation, supported Arctic Care 2010, an annual Innovative Readiness Training event for a medical task force based out of Kotzebue. A Company flew the medical teams around 11 rural villages, logging in 240 hours through challenging weather conditions throughout a 21-day period. The unit also conducted air movements in support of Vigilant Guard 2010, an exercise focused on training units to execute joint multi-agency operations. The company flew 42 hours, moved 189 passengers and transferred 2,950 pounds of cargo.

B Company is currently deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn. The unit, consisting of 75 soldiers and 10 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, left Alaska in August 2010 and will return August 2011.

F Company returned in 2010 from its third Iraq deployment. Since the Guardsmen came home, they have supported Arctic Care 2010 and Vigilant Guard 2010, and conducted multiple para-drop missions for both the Alaska Army National Guard and the active-duty. In addition, F Company adopted a new mission involving gravel runway operations and has supported Alaskan Command radar sites around the state.

## Small Arms Readiness Training Section

After a long break, the Small Arms Readiness Training Section has been revitalized with the primary mission of marksmanship training. The new program will conduct periodic workshops throughout the year covering everything from the basic marksmanship to advanced long-range shooting techniques to include optics and range estimation. This will allow the participants to return to their units and disseminate that information in order to raise the standard marksmanship level within their respective units. In addition, Alaska was fortunate to receive an influx of simulation equipment aimed at increasing marksmanship. New and upgraded weapons systems are designed to increase Soldier performance during the winter months where conditions may not make it feasible to use actual equipment.



**Uniquely Alaskan.** Warrant Officer Rick Fleming, right, and Staff Sergeant Elaine Jackson line up at the start of the 2010 Alaska National Guard Iron Dog Race. The Alaska National Guard was the lead sponsor for the 2010 Iron Dog, becoming presenting partner in October 2009 in order to support a uniquely Alaskan event and bolster the Alaska National Guard throughout Alaska and the nation. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

## *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 and Officer Candidate School. Highlights from the past year include providing validation support for mobilizations and deployments, as well as supporting logistics improvements within new units and the state.

## *Military Support*

We were heavily involved in the Vigilant Guard 2010 exercise, which featured extensive local, state, regional, federal, and private sector participation from organizations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, North Carolina and Hawaii. Training audiences examined the challenges associated with a regional earthquake and local tsunami response. The lessons learned during Vigilant Guard 2010 prepare the Alaska National Guard to respond to such real-world events.

In other activities, emergency response operations were focused on aircraft mishaps and accidents in Alaska. We provided support to several civilian and military operations during these incidents.

We also received much needed equipment required to operate in arctic conditions, including SUSVs, snow machines, zodiac boats, and high-frequency communications antennas and radios. This equipment is distributed statewide to be utilized by Alaska National Guard units responding to local emergencies in support of Alaska's Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

## *Recruiting and Retention*

We brought 395 new Soldiers and officers into the Alaska Army National Guard this year and supported some of the state's largest public events, including the Iron Dog snow machine race. The Recruiting and Retention Battalion participated in the Guard's Environment Campaign by teaming up with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to clean up the Goose Bay Game Refuge. During the one-day event, more than 60 Guardsmen and 15 Fish and Game personnel removed more than 107 tons of waste from the refuge.

## *Medical Detachment*

In 2010, the Medical Detachment focused on maintaining and improving the medical readiness of the Alaska Army National Guard and ensured that deploying units were medically prepared. The primary focus during drill weekends was to conduct periodic health assessments and dental exams, along with physical exams for flight and military schools, all while simultaneously maintaining the training currency of our medics and providers.

The highlight of this year was our participation in Vigilant Guard 2010 when we trained alongside our Air National Guard counterparts with the Expeditionary Medical Hospital System that was deployed to the rubble pile in Anchorage. We sent teams to Cordova and Valdez to train with the local emergency medical services and hospitals in supporting mass casualty events.

Three members of the Medical Detachment participated in Khaan Quest 2010 in Mongolia, where a 60-member medical team of U.S. and Mongolian Armed Forces treated nearly 3,000 patients in the austere South Gobi region.

# Alaska Air National Guard



## *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, the Alaska Air Guard supports worldwide contingency operations, State of Alaska emergency operations, daily homeland security and defense missions, and provides rescue forces on continual alert to protect life and property for the citizens of Alaska.

In 2010, Alaska Air National Guardsmen serving throughout Alaska met that mission by executing an extremely high operational tempo and deployment pace for yet another year.

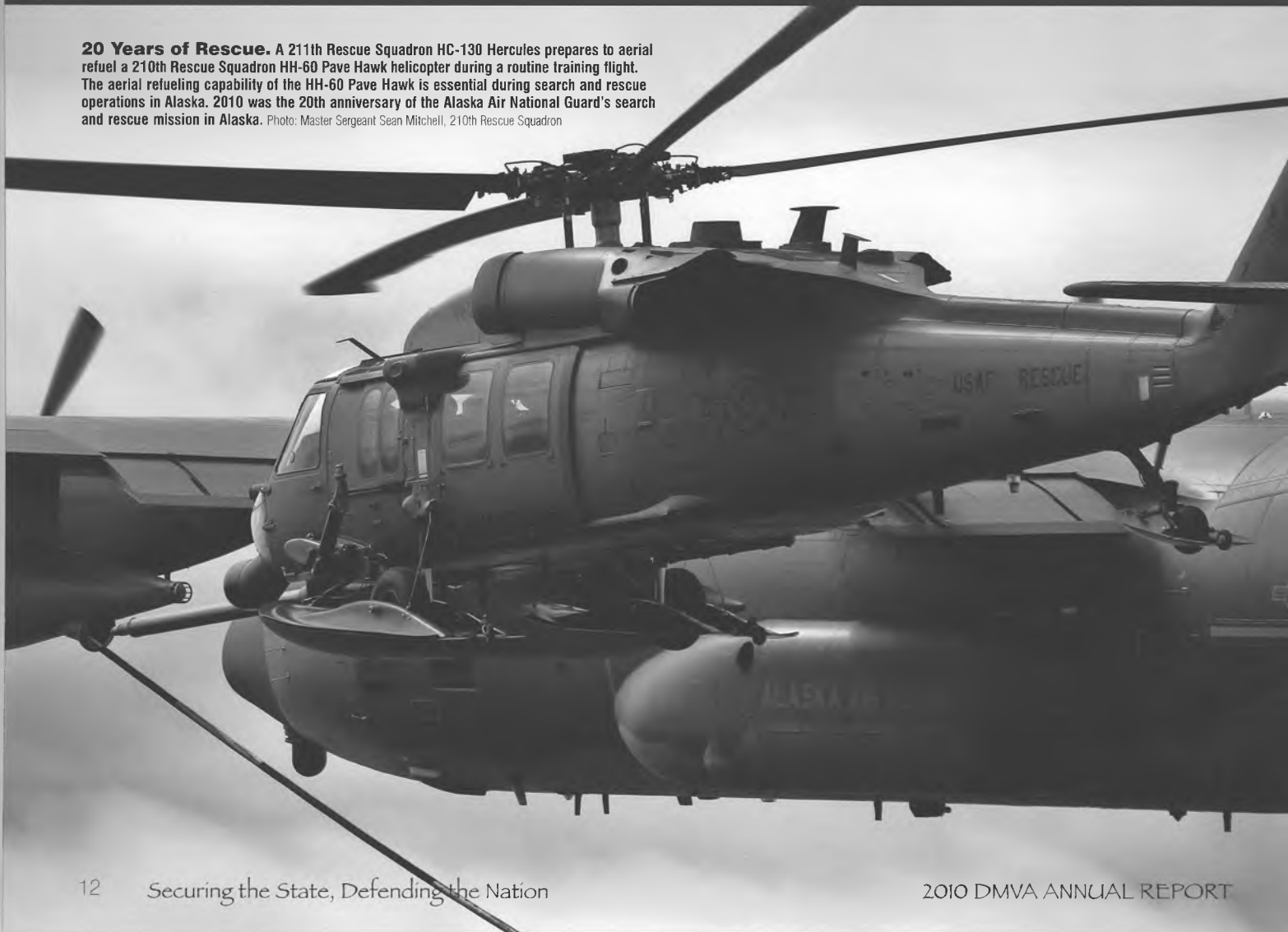
Nearly 100 full-time Guardsmen, assigned to the 213th Space Warning Squadron, performed daily missile warning and space surveillance at Clear Air Force Station, near Anderson, Alaska. The unit tracked more than 410,000 space objects and maintained a watchful eye on numerous ballistic missile events around the world. The unit also received the Air Force Vern Orr Award for effective use of human resources, the Air Force Lance Lord Award for greatest impact to mission accomplishment and the 2010 Governor's Award for excellence. The members of this unit truly understand the meaning of leading by example.

The 168th Air Refueling Wing, based in Interior Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base, flew 98 home-station missions, resulting in 547 flying hours in support of Alaska NORAD Region and other North Pacific real-world requirements. The Wing flew roughly 2,150 mishap-free hours.

The 168th Air Refueling Wing is home to the KC-135 Stratotanker. The Guard continues its close working relationship with the active duty – nearly all of its “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.

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 on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Originally 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; it also identifies and directs response to incursions of other unknown aircraft into Alaskan airspace.

**20 Years of Rescue.** A 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130 Hercules prepares to aerial refuel a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during a routine training flight. The aerial refueling capability of the HH-60 Pave Hawk is essential during search and rescue operations in Alaska. 2010 was the 20th anniversary of the Alaska Air National Guard's search and rescue mission in Alaska. Photo: Master Sergeant Sean Mitchell, 210th Rescue Squadron





**Load Up.** An Alaska Land Mobile Radio Transportable is loaded onto an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 at Eielson Air Force Base during Arctic Edge 2010. The ALMR equipment was later transferred to Valdez for part of the exercise and provided communication capability for the Department of Defense, National Guard, Alaska State Troopers and municipalities. Photo: Staff Sergeant Christopher Boltz, U.S. Air Force

In 2010, the Air Control Squadron was credited with 26 Russian Bear intercepts and 12 additional northern air sovereignty operations. The 176th Air Control Squadron maintains the highest NORAD mission readiness status and is continually recognized for its outstanding performance.

The highest profile of all Alaska Air National Guard missions remains search and rescue. The 176th Wing has three rescue squadrons. The 210th Rescue Squadron flies six HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, highly modified search-and-rescue variants of the well-known Black Hawk.



**Field Feeding Team.** Senior Airman Miles Wong, front, 168th Air Refueling Wing, prepares jambalaya with Master Sergeant Stephen Hoffman, 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, in the expeditionary kitchen set up in Merlarvik. The two were part of the field feeding team who prepared three meals a day for service members taking part in the Innovative Readiness Training Program that moved the village of Newtok to Merlarvik. Photo: Master Sergeant Jason DeHeus, 168th Air Refueling Wing



**Equipment Operators.** Staff Sergeant Summer Rehak, left, and Senior Airman Danielle Randall operate forklifts during the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Air Transportation annual training in Hawaii. The 176th trained for two weeks in Hawaii and even participated in the loading of food, supplies and vehicles onto aircraft bound for Haiti as part of earthquake relief efforts. Photo: Second Lieutenant Bernice Kale, 176th Wing Public Affairs



**Bound for Afghanistan.** Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron transfer their gear from vehicles to a C-17 Globemaster III before deploying to Afghanistan to support combat search and rescue missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



**Universal Medicine.** Alaska Air National Guard Senior Airman Amanda Crowson, aerospace medical technician, 168th Refueling Wing, takes care of a patient while deployed to Southwest Asia. She is part of the 386th Expeditionary Medical Group and provides emergency medical services, sick call assessments and immunizations. "I love being able to get our personnel back on their feet and back to work to keep the mission going," said Crowson on her first deployment experience. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

The 211th Rescue Squadron flies four HC-130s specially equipped for aerial refueling and search-and-rescue missions. The 212th Rescue Squadron comprises the famed pararescuemen or "PJs" – elite rescuers trained in combat medicine, marksmanship, special tactics, mountaineering, scuba diving and a wide variety of wilderness survival skills. The 20th anniversary of rescue in the Alaska Air National Guard was celebrated this year with a gala event that included rescue force alumni, rescue tales from saved Alaskans, members of the Alaska Air National Guard and the community.

Search and rescue missions are coordinated through the 11th Rescue Coordination Center, a high-tech Air Guard facility located on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Together, the Alaska Air National Guard rescue squadrons were credited with saving 50 lives from January to November 2010. Most notable was the rescue mission near Dillingham that involved the late former U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. The mission was reported on by national media outlets, and the crews involved were recognized for their expertise, professionalism and true heroism – four saves were awarded for this mission for the rescue of former NASA chief Sean O'Keefe, Kevin O'Keefe, Jim Morhard and William "Willy" Phillips Jr.

Members of the 144th Airlift Squadron, which flies the C-130 Hercules, and 249th Airlift Squadron, which flies the C-17 Globemaster, supported several missions throughout Alaska in support of Operation

Santa Claus, which has been a long-time tradition of the Alaska Air National Guard and helps remote rural Alaska communities experience a little holiday cheer.

Airmen from the 168th, 176th and 15th Force Support Flight participated in the Newtok village relocation effort to Mertarvik, Alaska, as part of Innovative Readiness Training. The Guard members set up a single-pallet expeditionary kitchen to feed approximately 50 joint-service members for 65 days in field conditions.

Only a few construction projects remain in progress from the \$138.5 million in federal funding designated by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law that directed action to close Kulis Air National Guard Base and move the 176th Wing to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Currently, the 212th Rescue Squadron, 176th Medical Group and 249th Airlift Squadron have completed the transition to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The remaining units of the 176th Wing should complete their move by the end of February 2011. Kulis Air National Guard Base is on schedule to meet the September 2011 closure deadline, at which time the 170-plus acres of real property will be returned to the State of Alaska.

Recruiting efforts throughout the past two years have resulted in an impressive overall end-strength growth to 93 percent from 80.2 percent. New recruiting campaigns have included the development of a joint initiative with the Alaska Army National Guard, a new office in Wasilla, an updated office in Fairbanks, a planned future office in Kenai, extensive emphasis on unit referrals and individual unit involvement, additional recruiters and new partnerships to increase rural Alaska recruiting opportunities.

## *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.

From June 2009 to July 2010, 92 members of the 176th Wing deployed to various locations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and 14 Wing members deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Missions took Alaska Air National Guardsmen to Bagram, Kandahar, Balad and Al Udeid, among other places in theater. Deployed Airmen typically served from 60 to 180 days in support of this contingency.



**Aerial Refuel.** A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 168th Air Refueling Wing readies to refuel an F-15 while deployed to Guam. The 168th Air Refueling Wing supported the continuous bomber presence and theater security package in the Pacific region as part of the 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. Photo: Airman Whitney Amstutz, U.S. Air Force

Guardsmen from the 176th Wing and 168th Air Refueling Wing assisted multiple Indonesian communities during Operation Pacific Angel 2010, a humanitarian assis-

tance mission sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command designed to support areas in need in the Pacific region. Operation Pacific Angel is conducted in locations through-

out 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.

The massive earthquake that struck Haiti prompted Alaska Air Guardsmen to spring into action. Members of the 144th Airlift Squadron and 249th Airlift Squadron completed multiple humanitarian missions in support of the Haiti earthquake relief effort. These missions included the transport of thousands of pounds of supplies into the devastated region along with hundreds of personnel evacuated to safety.

Elsewhere in the world, the 168th Air Refueling Wing provided airlift for the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron deployment for training to U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen, Puerto Rico. There, the Guard members completed 29 construction projects, reducing base operations and maintenance backlog.



**Helping Haiti Relief Efforts.** Staff Sergeant Thomas Berry, loadmaster with the 249th Airlift Squadron, performs flight preparations in the C-17 Globemaster III while the aircraft is in Mississippi before heading to Port au Prince, Haiti. This was one of four C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Alaska that supported Haiti earthquake relief efforts. Missions into Haiti brought humanitarian supplies and personnel. Photo: Master Sergeant Andy Miller, Mississippi Air National Guard

# Homeland Security & Emergency Management

## 2010 Top Ten Activities



**INVEST in Interoperable Communications** • Seven years, more than \$22 million in communications equipment enhance capabilities across the state • **In the future** • The 2nd Annual Youth Explorers Emergency Preparedness Conference trained future first responders • **In new strategies** • **Emergency Management Mentorship and Case Management** support successful completion of disaster-funded projects while streamlined online tools ease completion of **Emergency Operations Plans** • The **Mobile Emergency Operations Center** is already used in Alaska State Trooper and Search and Rescue functions.



**Teamwork.** The Cordova Fire Department cares for a volunteer disaster victim during the Alaska Shield 2010 full-scale exercise. Photo: Megan Peters, Department of Public Safety

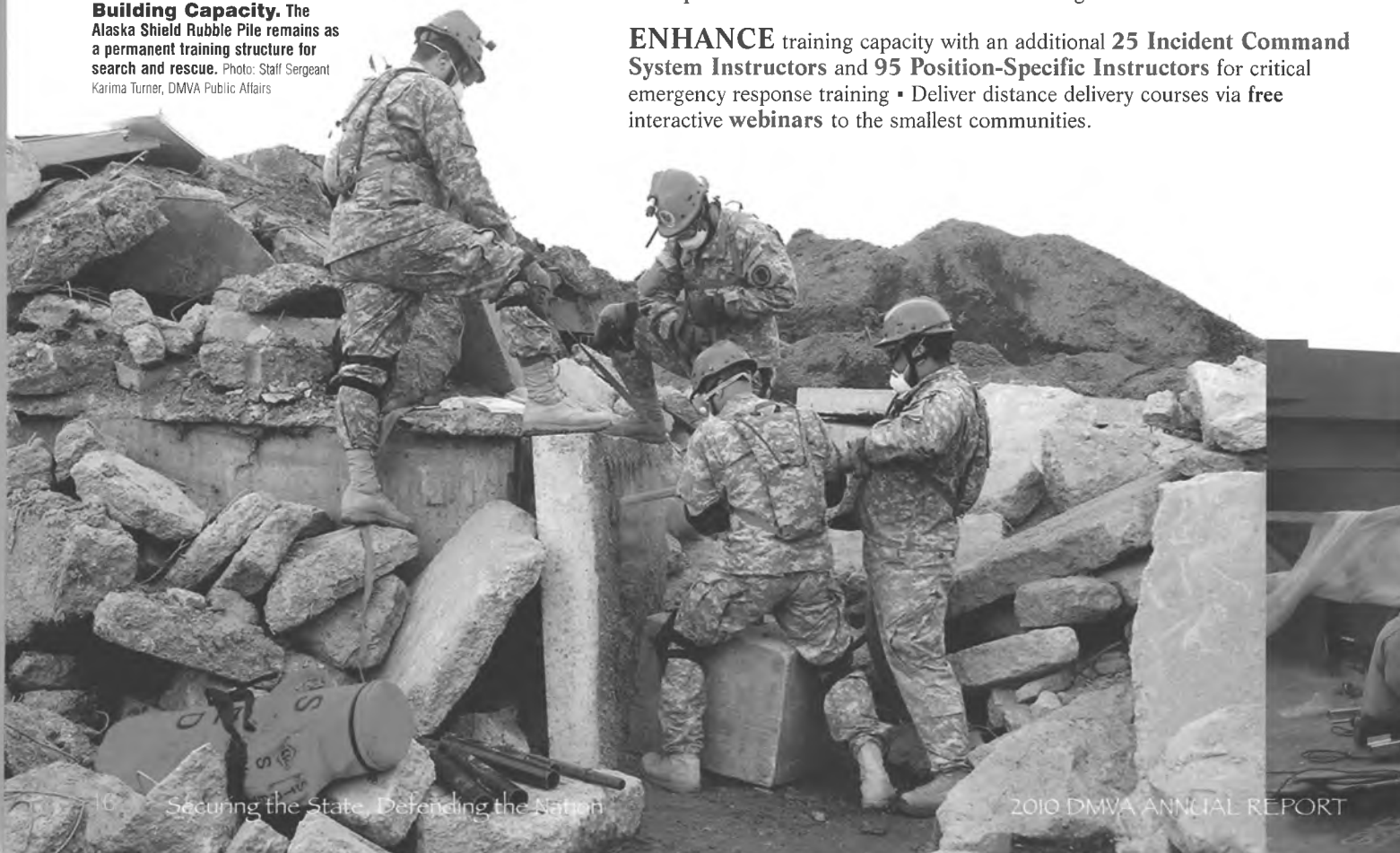
**Building Capacity.** The Alaska Shield Rubble Pile remains as a permanent training structure for search and rescue. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

**BUILD** structures to train and exercise • A **Rubble Pile** (collapse simulator) for Search and Rescue, used in the Alaska Shield 2010 full-scale exercise and the **upcoming** cross-border **2011 Cold Weather Exercise** • A temporary **Bailey Bridge** to transport equipment and personnel.

**EXPAND Medical Surge** capabilities • Transport and assembly of shelters in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska • Fairbanks **Oxygen Generator** ensures **critical** oxygen is available at hospitals during power outages • Test Anchorage's **Electronic Patient Tracking System**.

**COLLABORATE** **River Watch** teams of local elders, National Weather Service, and staff fly Alaska's river systems to assess and **warn** of the flood potential for the **30th** year • **Read Ready** provides preparedness materials to low-level adult readers statewide in Adult Basic Education • The State Emergency Coordination Center **serves** as a coordinating agency on **Unexploded Ordnances** and **Bioterrorism** agents.

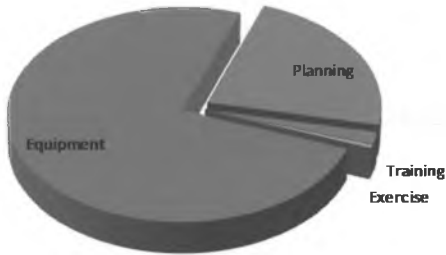
**ENHANCE** training capacity with an additional **25 Incident Command System Instructors** and **95 Position-Specific Instructors** for critical emergency response training • Deliver distance delivery courses via **free** interactive **webinars** to the smallest communities.





**Building Bridges and Partnerships.** State Department of Transportation workers and active-duty Army Soldiers construct a temporary bridge.  
 Photo: Meadow Bailey, Department of Transportation

**2010 Funds to Communities**  
**\$10,027,867**



**PROTECT** communities through six new **Security Vulnerability Assessments** annually identifying equipment to address critical **shortfalls** • Information Technology specialist **CyberSecurity** training • Equip **nine** communities with **10 Emergency Warning Sirens** and hold a **Tsunami Awareness Workshop** for **10** communities in Unalaska.

**LEVERAGE EXPERTISE** locally • **Local Experts** share best practices and lessons learned at semi-annual **Preparedness Conferences** • Assist staff at local and regional events • **Nationally** • Staff called on for **leadership** in grant management practices, hazard mitigation for small communities, disaster assistance, tsunami warning and planning and service on national committees.

**READY ALASKA** preparedness **Public Education** campaign • **Responder Ready**, helping responders ready for the call to disasters through **family preparedness** • **Preparedness Partners** expanding and recognizing groups **working** toward a disaster-**Ready Alaska**.

**INCREASE** resources available to **Volunteers** by • Staffing a **Volunteer Agency Liaison** • Funding **Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster Conference** • **Supporting** Community Emergency Response Team volunteer activities, including Kenai's joint exercise with the **Alaska Army National Guard**.

**PERSIST** working with FEMA for **15** years to ensure **Cold Weather Electrical Generators** for back-up power are **pre-positioned** in Alaska. The work **continues!**

**Seismic Retrofit.** The Ben Boeke Sports Arena seismic retrofit ensures an earthquake resistant shelter facility. Photo: Courtesy DHS&EM



**Joint Exercise.** The Kenai Community Emergency Response Team, Alaska Army National Guard's B Troop, 1/297th Reconnaissance and Surveillance and the Kenai Fire Department practice combined response. Photo: Courtesy DHS&EM

**Next Generation Preparing Today.** Youth Explorers practice HazMat decontamination during the Emergency Preparedness Youth Explorer Conference. Photo: Courtesy Fairbanks Volunteers in Policing



# Alaska Military Youth Academy



The Alaska Military Youth Academy is part of the National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program with a mission "to help reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce 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 proven model of military education and training followed by a yearlong 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.



**Parade Cadence.** Cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy's class 2010-2 call out cadence at the Chugiak-Eagle River Bear Paw Parade. This class graduated 156 cadets, the second largest graduating class in the 16-year history of the Academy. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy.

## Serving Alaskans and Changing Lives

Cumulatively, the Academy has produced more than 3,261 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 Joint Base Elmendorf-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 recover credits, complete a high school education or earn a GED, gain healthy life skills, and develop leadership and teamwork skills that will prepare them for lifelong success.

Alaska's ChalleNGe program is based on historically tried and proven U.S. military training methods and structure. The structure and discipline allow cadets to strengthen their social and academic skills while encouraging emotional growth during the physically

demanding 22-week residential phase. The Academy is not a military "boot camp." The mission of the ChalleNGe program is to help reclaim the lives of at-risk youth.

To graduate from the residential phase, cadets are required to pass eight core components – 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 yearlong 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 co-located with the Air and Army National Guard recruiting office 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 2010 reflect some of the best applicant-to-candidate show rates ever experienced by the Academy. The Academy was awarded the national USO ChalleNGe Award as the “Best Academic Program” in the nation.

During the spring and fall of 2010, 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 16-year existence of the Academy. In 2010, the Academy enhanced its Cooperative Work Experience program through an agreement with the University of Alaska Anchorage Career and Technical Education Program and awarded college credits for selected cadets participating in the Culinary Arts and Emergency Trauma Technician classes. The Academy’s largest group of graduates, 15, enrolled and began attending UAA classes in the fall of 2010.

The Academy works closely with a number of agencies to take advantage of the vast opportunities to provide services for the cadets. This includes a continuing education program with the U.S. Department of Education Educational Opportunity Center hosted by UAA that provides assistance with post-secondary institutions within the United States, as well as WorkKeys® Career Readiness Certificates through a joint partnership with the Departments of Education and Early Development and Labor and Workforce Development. The Academy was featured in “The Activity” August 2010 newsletter highlighting best practices of an educational institution achieving success with the WorkKeys® Career Readiness Courseware. Since implementing the pilot program in the summer of 2008, Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets have been awarded more than 400 Career Readiness Certificates, more than any other institution in the state.

Graduation metrics for the spring/summer class of 2010 – Class 2010-2 – show that the class graduated 156 cadets. This is the second largest graduating class in the 16-year history of the Academy. The fall/winter class – Class 2010-01 – graduated 136 cadets. These graduation statistics demonstrate that the Academy is producing 115 percent more than its target graduation population. The Academy ranks in the top two programs among all ChalleNGe programs in this area.

As of Oct. 1, 2010, the Academy had graduated more than 3,261 ChalleNGe cadets. The Academy is proud that 100 percent of the cadets graduating from the fall class of 2010-02 were placed for success after completion of the residential phase.



**Hands on Training.** Cadets practice emergency trauma technician skills, a job skills core component. To graduate from the residential phase, cadets are required to pass eight core components. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Military Youth Academy



**Drill and Ceremony.** Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets perform in the drill and ceremony competition for Class 2010-1. During the event, cadets combine rigid marching formations with creative drill routines choreographed to music.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

The Academy’s main campus located at Camp Carroll provides living facilities, food service, 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 Accreditation Commission. The Academy is also an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development GED testing site.

- Per capita, the Academy ranks #1 in the nation with regard to contacting and recruiting high school dropouts into the program.
- The Alaska Military Youth Academy is #2 nationally with regard to the number of cadets graduated above the published target graduation population.
- In June 2010, the Alaska Military Youth Academy received the national USO ChalleNGe Award for the “Best Academic Program” in the nation.
- Nationally, the Alaska Military Youth Academy is one of only seven ChalleNGe programs that has a nationally accredited educational component 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.
- Class 2010-02, which graduated 156 cadets in August 2010, was the second largest graduating class in the Academy’s 16-year history.
- Cadet graduates from both classes in 2010 earned a total of 261 multi-level National Career Readiness Certificates.

# STARBASE Alaska

Department of Defense STARBASE, sponsored locally by the Alaska Air National Guard, is a partnership between the military, local school systems and communities.

DoD STARBASE is a premier educational program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. STARBASE students make connections with the “real world” and participate in challenging “hands-on, mind-on” activities in aviation, science, technology, engineering and math. 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.

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

STARBASE core curriculum concepts are: 1. Physics: Newton’s Law of Motion, fluid mechanics and aerodynamics; 2. Chemistry:

building blocks of matter, atmospheric properties, and physical and chemical changes; 3. Technology: innovations, navigation and mapping; 4. Engineering: engineering design process and 3-D computer-aided design; 5. Mathematics: numbers and number relationships, measurement, geometry and data analysis; 6. STEM Careers: STEM careers on military facilities and personal investigations.

Each year STARBASE Alaska has grown in size and scope of its original mission. During the 2010 school year and summer sessions, STARBASE Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson reached



**Hands-on Learning.** A student from Rabbit Creek Elementary School demonstrates air pressure principles.

Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE Alaska

## Ethnicity of Student Population

Caucasian	1,083
Native American or Alaska Native	157
Asian/Pacific Islander	144
Hispanic	122
African American	102
Multiracial	88
Other	13

Number of Students Registering:  
1,709

Female 871  
Male 838



more than 1,700 students in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna areas. This diverse group of young people came from 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 Family Programs, as well as to partner with the Federal Aviation Administration to offer an Aviation Career Education Academy to students who have previously attended STARBASE. We continued to offer Teacher Kits, to reach more classrooms and support the Matanuska-Susitna School District.

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 – 1,400 chaperone hours and 1,325 teacher hours in 2010 – STARBASE Alaska is making a difference in the lives of its students.

## 2010 Highlights:

- Held weeklong ACE Academy focused on STEM careers in aviation
- Held two off-site STARBASE classes for schools that couldn’t raise transportation funds for onsite classes
- Partnered with the Anchorage School District’s 21st Century Schools (Northwood and Ptarmigan Elementary) to offer after-school classes twice a month
- Partnered with Operation Santa Claus to deliver STARBASE materials to nine rural villages
- ASD sponsored and created a STARBASE DVD to be shared with schools and potential partners



**Fun Experiment.** A student from Chugiak Elementary School demonstrates Bernoulli’s Principle – that air has lift.

Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE Alaska



**Ready for Action.** Students from Aquarian Charter School prepare to put Newton’s Laws of Motion into action.

Photo: Courtesy of STARBASE Alaska



**Space and Science.** Students from Aquarian Charter School and Ursa Major Elementary in Anchorage work on various STARBASE curriculum highlights from spectrum of light effects and space station concepts to navigation and mapping techniques. Photos: Courtesy of STARBASE Alaska

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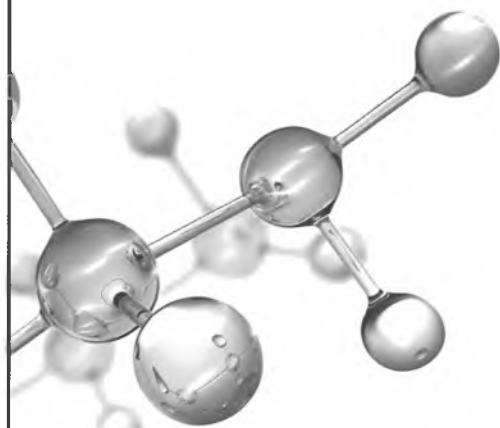


ExxonMobil has been a committed partner since Alaska's statehood. As such, our employees and their families are active participants in the community, volunteering for such events as the United Way Day of Caring, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement and the Citywide Cleanup. We hope our involvement in these programs will help improve the overall quality of life in the state of Alaska. Because after all, we live here, too.

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