

2/03/11

Overview:

Department of  
Military and  
Veterans  
Affairs

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**Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Department Overview  
February 3, 2011**

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December 20, 2010

Alaska State Defense Force  
P.O. Box 5800  
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5800

Dear Alaska State Defense Force Members,

Thank you for serving as members of the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF). I appreciate your continued dedication to serving Alaska, and your commitment to the safety and protection of this great state.

As an all volunteer strategic reserve unit, the ASDF is composed of those who give of their time and energy to be ready to serve Alaska and her people in case of a disaster. ASDF volunteers play a key role in the effectiveness of Alaska's response team by filling support roles as called upon, which in turn allows the Alaska National Guard to respond effectively to their required missions. As members of the ASDF, your dedication and efforts ensure a greater level of safety for our citizens.

The ASDF needs 150 to 225 members to be able to mobilize effectively. This cadre of volunteers is required to train regularly, develop responsible leadership tasks, and build a practical and functional knowledge base that supports long-term emergency response efforts in Alaska.

The ASDF carries the honor, tradition, and respect of a recognized military branch. With the commitment to volunteer as an ASDF member comes the obligation to uphold the honor and values of the State of Alaska, and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Each member is responsible to demonstrate the competence and quality of the ASDF through his or her individual actions in the community, and all members have the right to hold their heads high as respected and valued members of the Alaska defense community.

I appreciate your selfless service to the great state we call home. I take comfort in the knowledge that if and when there is a need, the ASDF is prepared to answer the call to serve and protect Alaska and her people.

Best regards,

Sean Parnell  
Governor

cc: Colonel Roger E. Holl, Commander, Alaska State Defense Force

# Alaska

## Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

### The Alaska State Defense Force

#### 49th Readiness Brigade



*Alaskans Helping Alaskans*

## Background:

The Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) was established in February 1984 by The Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) during a nationwide effort to bring several state defense organizations into the national total force concept. The National Guard Bureau is the federal executive agency assigned the coordinating and regulating functions. The Governor is the Commander-in-Chief and exercises that authority through the Adjutant General.



The primary objective of DoD regarding State Defense Forces is to serve as a cadre-size unit, representing 10-15% of an augmentation force that may be required during a domestic emergency. This cadre would be instrumental in receiving and processing National Guard forces from other states and citizen volunteers to assist the State's response.

In 2004, the ASDF was designated the 49th Military Police Brigade until 2008 when it became the 49th Readiness Brigade to reflect new missions more critical to Alaska's domestic emergency response.

## Mission:

The Alaska State Defense Force is an all-volunteer organization whose primary role is to augment and support the Alaska National Guard during domestic emergency response operations. The ASDF is equipped and trained for various readiness response missions to include communications, emergency management, medical, logistical support, chaplaincy, and shelter management.

## Do you want to join the ASDF & serve the State of Alaska?

Train to meet the mission: To serve the State of Alaska

We are currently accepting applications from individuals over the age of 17.



Whether you are prior military, right out of high school, or a full-time working professional, your experience, knowledge and participation are valuable assets. Members have the honor of wearing a military uniform, while on duty, with dignity, pride and dedicated patriotism.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Where will I serve?** You will serve in your own community. Units are located on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, in Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Wasilla, Anchorage, Juneau, Kenai and in Valdez.
- **Will I be paid?** The ASDF is a voluntary unpaid force during training and operational support. During state emergencies or state active duty, you will receive pay according to state law and as authorized by the Governor.
- **What is my expected commitment?** You are expected to attend every drill; however, depending upon training schedules, there is flexibility for participation.
- **How do I apply for membership?** If you are interested in having someone contact you please send an email to [asdf@alaska.gov](mailto:asdf@alaska.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.



- **Can I call and get information also?** Yes, you may contact us at 907-428-6850. We may not be available at all times so please leave a voice mail and we will contact you.

**Do you have a website?** <http://www.dmva.alaska.gov/asdf/default.htm>



## FACTS ABOUT ALASKA STATE DEFENSE FORCE

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- State militias have helped to defend the United States since the Revolutionary War. Today, 23 states and territories have organized militias, most commonly known as State Defense Forces (SDFs). SDFs provide governors with a cost-effective, vital force multiplier and resource, especially if state National Guard (NG) units are federalized/deployed.

- Each SDF is under the control of its respective governor through the state's military department. The Adjutant General (TAG), the state's senior military commander commands the SDF on behalf of the governor. It may be further delegated to the deputy TAG. The TAG is responsible for all training, equipment allocation, and decisions regarding the SDF's strength, activity, and mission. (AK Statute 26.05.170. and AK Administrative Order No. 203 dated 13 Jan 03)

- The primary objective of DoD is for State Defense Forces to be a cadre-size unit, representing 10 – 15% of the augmentation that may be required during a domestic emergency response. The Alaska SDF (ASDF) is now being trained in this primary mission. In Alaska Statute 26, there is reference to an Unorganized Militia, which could be conscripted. However, the most likely circumstance is to absorb NG units from other states as well as civilian volunteers in responding to a lengthy recovery event such as a Katrina. The ASDF is being trained in the Alaska National Guard's process, JRSOI (Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration.

- The ASDF originated as a Civil Support Brigade in 1984. After 9/11, it became the 49th Military Police Brigade. Today, as most State Defense Forces nationwide, the Alaska State Defense force has transitioned to military support roles, capitalizing on the diverse strengths of the ASDF volunteers in providing broadened services for the state during emergencies. It is now designated the 49<sup>th</sup> Readiness Brigade. ASDF members were vital participants in Vigilant Guard 2010, demonstrating their new capabilities. In addition to JRSOI, new mission sets include:

-- Communications: ASDF personnel are trained on the most modern equipment – the NG's Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, satellite phones, ALMRs, UHF/VHF and HF radios, and the Homeland Security Unified Communications Van. Many members are amateur radio certified, a.k.a. ham radio operators, to ensure that vital link with remote communities.

-- Medical: ASDF doctors and nurses are available to provide triage to victims or first responders. Other ASDF soldiers are commencing emergency trauma technician (ETT) training/certification to serve as a deployable medical support detachment.

-- Red Cross Shelter Management: This year, ASDF troops were trained in Red Cross Shelter Management to have the capability of assisting Alaskans in time of disaster.

-- National Incident Command System: Many ASDF soldiers have the nationally recognized Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) certification. A state chapter for the MEMS Academy is being created by the ASDF through the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS).

-- Chaplaincy: The ASDF has chaplains throughout much of the state. In addition to addressing the spiritual needs of ASDF personnel and their families, they are trained in Critical Stress Incident Management (CISM). CISM provides counseling to victims and first responders. ASDF Chaplains have assisted with suicide prevention training as well as military funerals.

- Annual training schedules and budget expenditures correlate directly to new missions.

-- Much training is conducted by credentialed instructors resulting in certifications. And, ASDF participates in Alaska National Guard training venues.

-- Budget: The budget of the ASDF is \$30,000 per year and is used to provide office supplies, computers, communications equipment, medical supplies, and travel associated with training.

- Membership: Active membership remains consistent at ~150.

- Organization: The ASDF is organized into a headquarters unit, three area commands (Northern, Southcentral, and Southern), and multiple battalions. Locations include Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Anchorage, Wasilla, Juneau, Kenai, and Valdez.

- Authorities: 32 USC 109, NGR 10-4, Alaska Statute 26.05

# MEMORANDUM STATE OF ALASKA

**To:** Joint Armed Services Committee (JASC)

**Date:** 1 Feb 2011

**From:** Verdie Bowen

**Phone:** 907-428-6016

**Subject:** Office of Veterans Affairs Report

## **Office of Veterans Affairs Goal:**

Serving Alaska One Veteran at a Time

## **Back ground Office of Veterans Affairs 2010:**

Veterans Affairs provides state and federal government interface for veterans, veteran families, and veterans' organizations. Our current state population is over 650,000 and our direct veteran's population is 77,025 with 89,000 dependents. Along with veterans supported this office also supports 28,936 active duty military and 37,742 dependents. The total state population supported by Veterans Affairs is 232,703. The veteran population is per VA statistics and the Military statistics are from the Alaska Military Economic Impact/Personnel Data file.

There are currently two State of Alaska staff members in the veteran's office and 14 Veterans Service Officers (VSO's) located in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Wasilla the VSO's are paid under a State of Alaska grant. The Administrator of Veterans Affairs manages the day to day operations of all 15 personnel and the total decision authority over all VA approved education programs located in the state.

## **Support provided to the Yellow Ribbon Reconnecting Veterans Mobile Outreach Team:**

This program was funded by a federal grant with the purpose of reconnecting our returning veterans. Sixteen months ago a team was developed using National Guard Family Programs healthcare professionals and Veterans Affairs Service Officers. During this period of service they traveled to 162 villages via transportation provided by several transportation providers; Civil Air Patrol, Commercial Airlines, Military Aircraft and vehicles, Private Charters, and GSA transport. This was a very aggressive schedule due to weather and other environmental constraints. The total communities in the State are 392 and the plan is to continue this outreach during FY 11.

This effort was huge for a state our size and the success's are measured through contacts. Over 1000 veterans of all branches of the service were helped and over 400 family members were assisted with needed benefits. The service officers are still receiving calls regarding future outreach efforts and we have increased travel to the remote areas of the state. This is one of our most positive efforts to date. Veterans Affairs has set a goal to reach 100 communities each SFY.

## **Alaska Veteran Town Hall Meetings:**

The Veterans Affairs in partnership with the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council, the Joint Alaska State Legislative Veterans Caucus, and Senators Begich and Murkowski hosted town hall meetings over the past 12 months. The meetings were held in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Bethel, Eagle River, Wasilla, Toke, Nome, and Ketchikan. The panels were established to provide a venue for veterans to address their concerns and provide information on items they believe would assist the veteran community as a whole. The members on the panel in each community provided information and guidance in the areas of healthcare, home loans, education, pension benefits, and disability compensation and addressed any specific personal issues veterans may be facing. These meetings were open to veterans, family members, and all the local communities. Items that could not be addressed at the meetings were delivered to the State Wide Veterans Summit, or back to the agency that could provide direct assistance to the veteran.

### **Veterans Summit:**

On June 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 we held the second annual state-wide Veteran's Summit in Wasilla, Alaska at the Curtis D. Menard Sports Complex. It was the culmination of all the town hall meetings held across the State of Alaska. This program was set up in a workshop-style format and was attended by key representative of the veteran's community, elected/appointed officials, and other state and federal employees.

This year's summit had just over 200 in attendance and the final summit report is due to the JASC in Juneau in February. The hosts of the 2010 Veteran Summit were the Joint Alaska State Legislative Veterans Caucus, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. A couple of the key items identified and supported by the summit are currently under review by the Governor. They are the relocation and expansion of the Veterans Services. This will provide for ease of access and provide more services to the Alaskan Veteran. The other items from the summit will be gathered from each work group team leader and will guide Alaska's military and veterans policies in 2011.

### **Veteran Results for 2010:**

To date we have 1201 Alaska Territorial Guardsmen with United States Army Honorable Discharges and this number includes the 123 living members. Over the past year we found four new ATG members who were eligible for a federal retirement. With adding the 5 years in the ATG with their 15+ years in the Alaska National Guard, they are all receiving their federal retirements. Along with this effort, we found 32 spouses of ATG veterans who were eligible for the survivor's benefits program and are currently receiving these funds as well. Last we found six ATG members who were eligible for State of Alaska Retirements for Guard and Militia and these benefits were paid to the family because the ATG member was deceased. This year we hit a major milestone. All living ATG members have been processed for discharge. We will continue to work ensuring all 6300 ATG members receive U.S. Army Honorable Discharges.

In SFY 2010, veterans received additional benefits worth more than \$35.6 million dollars. The total for SFY 09 was \$31 million. These funds are directly due to the work of our 14 VSO's and the Veterans

Affairs Staff. This number is reflective of the one time payments made to the veteran caused by either presumptive disability claims or back payments of their disability.

The number of veterans served by the Office of Veterans Affairs and the VSO's for SFY 2010 was 19,355. The total serviced SFY 2009 was 10,500. This increase is reflective of the increased outreach efforts by the Office of Veterans Affairs, the addition of a service officer to the Reconnecting Veterans Mobile Team, town hall meetings, and the normal monthly outreach provided to the communities by the State Service Officers. Also, reflective of this number is the growth in our state veteran's population of returning veterans to their home of record. This number of veterans served will continue to grow with more presumptive conditions added to past areas of operations and increased education efforts provided to all separating military members stationed in Alaska.

The introduction of the new Post 9-11 GI Bill has created an additional work load for the Office of Veterans Affairs. Prior to the Post 9-11 GI Bill we had on average 300 students in our total education programs located in the state of Alaska. This year alone we have seen an explosion in our veterans and their dependents attending the University of Alaska campuses. Our average of students in the system is now pushing 1280 a month and this number is growing. This includes all Universities located in Alaska and does not include active duty members. To date our state has received over \$9 million in tuition alone. The VA is still working off a non automated system and we will receive the adjusted amount at a later date.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January the President signed into law an enhancement to the Post 9-11 GI Bill. This will now allow this group of veterans to receive benefits in the trades programs as well and allow them to pursue graduate degrees and higher. This amendment will also pay the basic book allowance to spouses and active duty. The effective day for this change is 1 October 2011. This has the potential of increasing our student workload to over 3500 a month. This number was derived by using the VA formula for the last increase.

The Office of Veterans Affairs under directives provided by the Federal VA certifies over 800 education courses offered throughout the state. This certification is accomplished through site visits, education material audits, and education program audits. This task is performed by one education officer. This will continue to grow as we move into a new year and more education programs are covered by the GI Bill.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 a new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic was opened in Juneau. This is directly the result of SE Alaska Veterans working to reflect the needs of this community. This clinic will save time and funds for the 7400 veterans located in this area. This is also the last of the VA's construction projects planned for Alaska. Over the past year the VA has spent over \$45M in construction projects in Alaska.

VA approved home loans are also one of our areas we provide assistance. This year we provided assistance to veterans in attaining affordable housing. Our part is helping to attain the VA certification for a VA Guaranteed loans for our veterans and this year we were able to assist over 2800 members.

The total return to our veteran community in annual disability compensation is over \$150M a year. This is an increase of over \$10M from 2009. This number is paid to our 14,071 veterans who are disabled in the state and will continue to rise our veterans return home from war. We also have over 24,000 Vietnam Era veterans who have not applied for benefits that they are qualified for and we are working to reach each veteran of this conflict through our outreach efforts. We also have an additional annual compensation of over \$2.7M in disability pensions that veterans or their widows receive in the state. In order to receive a pension a veteran must have served in a conflict and either the veteran or the widow must meet a household income requirement.

**Limiting Factors for the Office of Veterans Affairs in serving Veterans in 2011:**

Over the past 12 months veteran services has lost 7 support staff that was funded through federal grants. These personnel supported our Veterans and Alaska Territorial Guard Outreach efforts. They traveled to 235 communities in the state and were augmented by the administrator and VSO's during their outreach efforts. The direct result of this outreach effort was an increase of VA claims and was directly reflected in the increase in annual compensation and pension claims. Even without the staff, this number will continue to grow as our veteran's age and need medical care and as our combat veterans return home. Our program does not have the ability to reduce services for veterans we will continue to work, but what will be affected is the burn out rate of our service offers and the department.

Along with the growth in the outreach efforts, the State Education Approving program has seen explosive growth. With the addition of the new Post 9-11 GI Bill, our monthly student case load has doubled. We are now assisting over 700 students per month in just the University of Alaska system and this does not include Alaska Pacific University, Wayland Baptist, and Charter College. In addition to the student load, the education program is experiencing the largest number of accreditation requests since the start of the program. The single state employee currently audits 800 programs in our education systems. Without the audits and accreditations, the VA will not allow the veteran to use their GI Bill benefits. This growth was not expected by the VA or by our education programs. We are meeting our VA obligations but are unable to meet the needs of each veteran who needs assistance.

With the reduction in federally funded positions above, we also lost a VA funded service officer in Juneau. This service officer assisted veterans in SE Alaska in filing compensation claims and receiving medical services. This position was deleted after the VA opened their new Community Based Outreach Clinic in Juneau. With this loss we will have a very difficult time in meeting the needs of our veterans located in SE Alaska.

Each day the office is located on Ft Richardson is another day Veterans of Alaska do not have access to all the services we provide. We have numerous veterans who either cannot access the base due to discharges or who do not access the facility due to PTSD. The limited access to Veterans Affairs will not be fully realized unless a move is accomplished. We will open a one day a week office in Wasilla, but this will be manned by the Director and will continue to stress the limited personnel.

We have a new challenge in the department and that is the new State Veterans Cemetery located in Fairbanks. We are currently in the design and development stage of the program. Starting January 2011 we will begin the land negotiations with the US Army. Once that is complete then a date will be set in

the fall of 2011 for a ground breaking event. This is a large project and needs a full time manager once the construction begins.



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs





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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. Slinker, 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:

For the People . . . . .	2	Alaska Army National Guard . . . . .	8
The Adjutant General . . . . .	3	Alaska Air National Guard . . . . .	12
DMVA ... By the Numbers . . . . .	4	Homeland Security . . . . .	16
DMVA Organizational Chart . . . . .	5	Alaska Military Youth Academy . . . . .	18
Veterans . . . . .	6	Starbase Alaska . . . . .	20



**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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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.

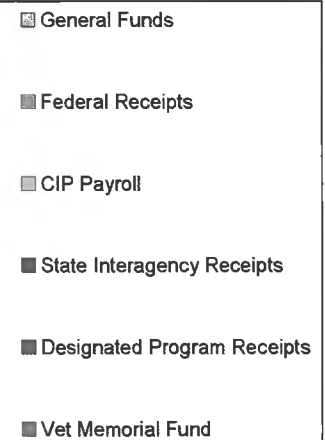
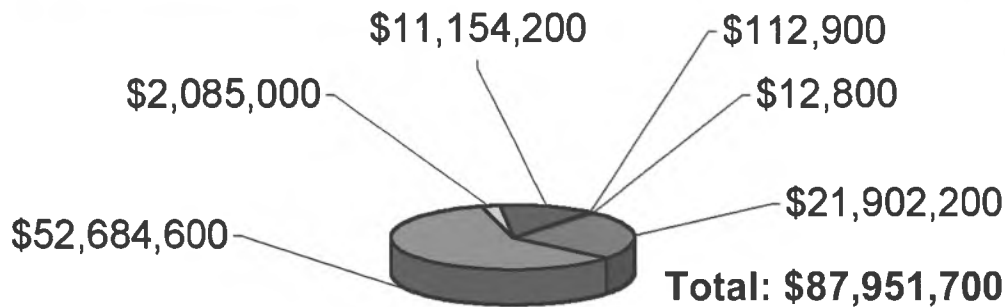


**Heritage Painting Presentation.** Major General Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, presents a National Guard heritage painting depicting the 1968 Scout Battalions of the 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, to a group of foreign military defense attaches who visited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

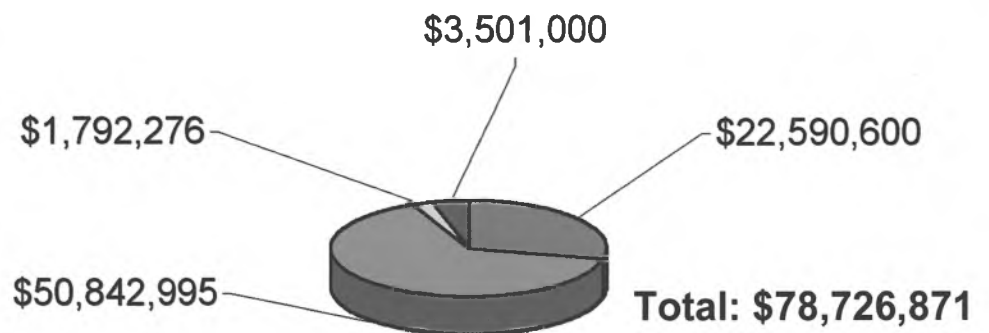
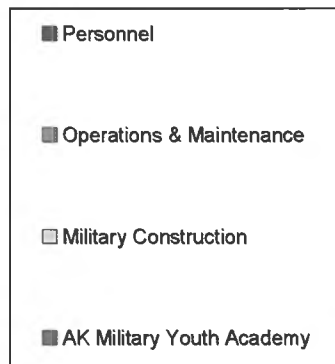
Photo: Major Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

# DMVA... By the Numbers

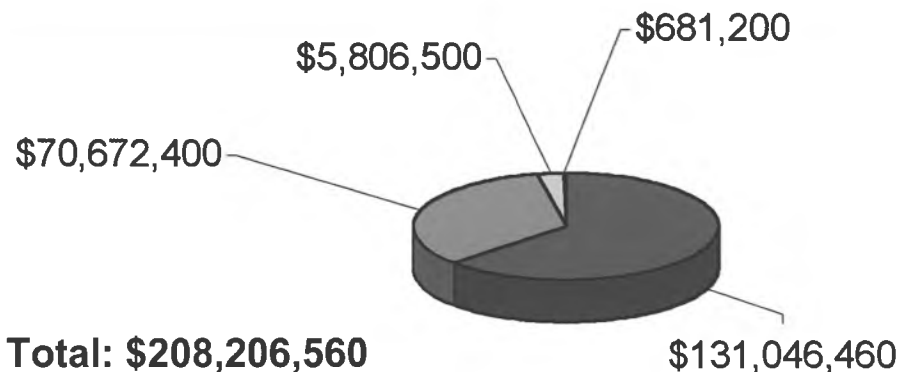
## DMVA SFY2010 State Operating & Capital Actual Expenditures



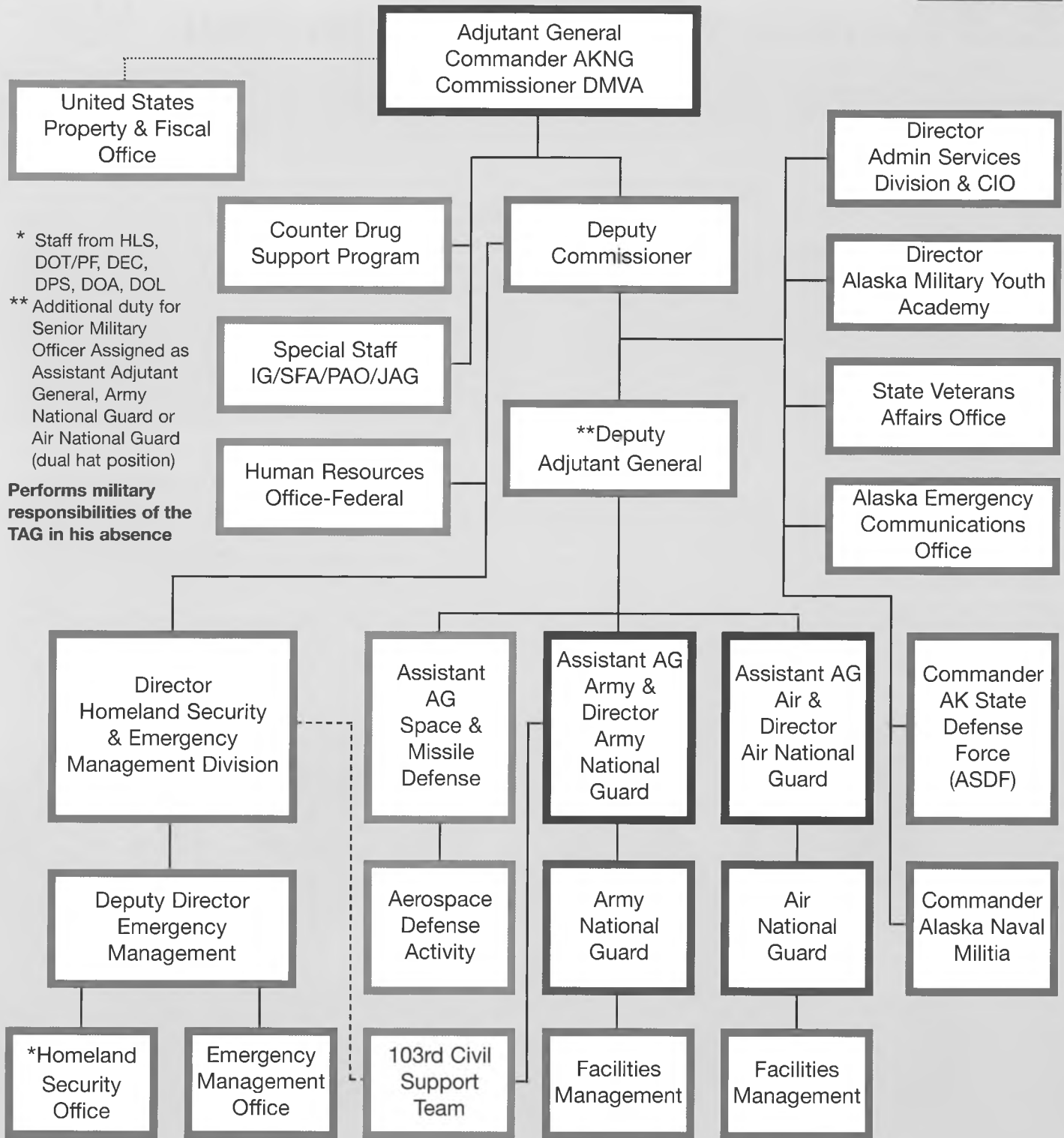
## Army Guard Funding in Alaska – FFY10



## 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.

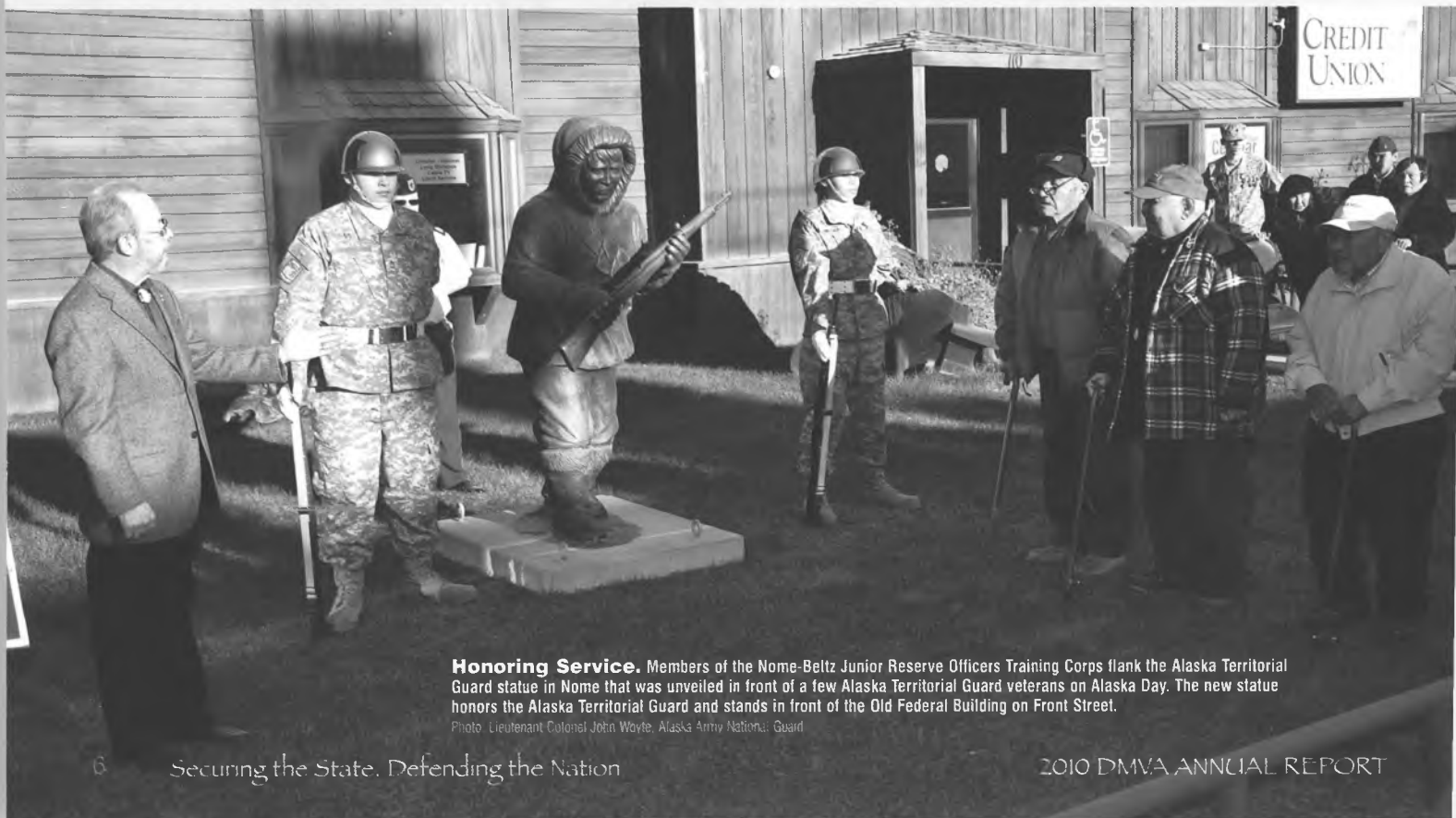
We still have 158 living ATG veterans in Alaska, and we just completed the last two applications for discharge for the living members. We are now concentrating our efforts on ensuring that each family receives the discharge for each ATG veteran's service.

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. Kalkus, adjutant general, Alaska National Guard. Photo: Private First Class Karina Paroan, 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.



**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



**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



**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 Khan 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.

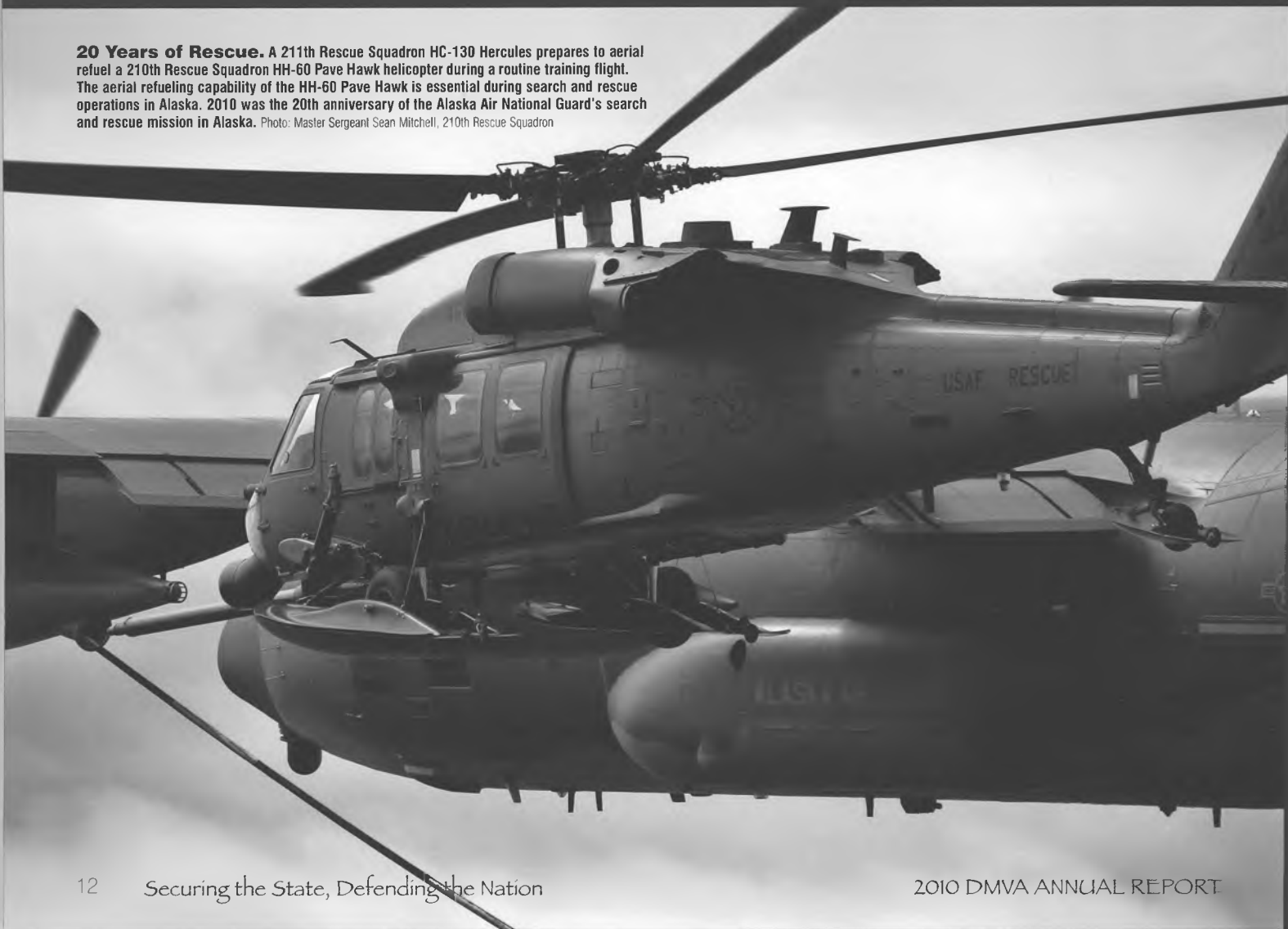
Nearly 100 full-time Guardsmen, assigned to the 213th Space Warning Squadron, performed daily missile warning and space surveillance at Clear Air Force Station, near Anderson, Alaska. The unit tracked more than 410,000 space objects and maintained a watchful eye on numerous ballistic missile events around 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 RadioTransportable 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 Boitz, 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 Mertarvik. 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 Mertarvik. 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 Bernie 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 \$158.5 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 95 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

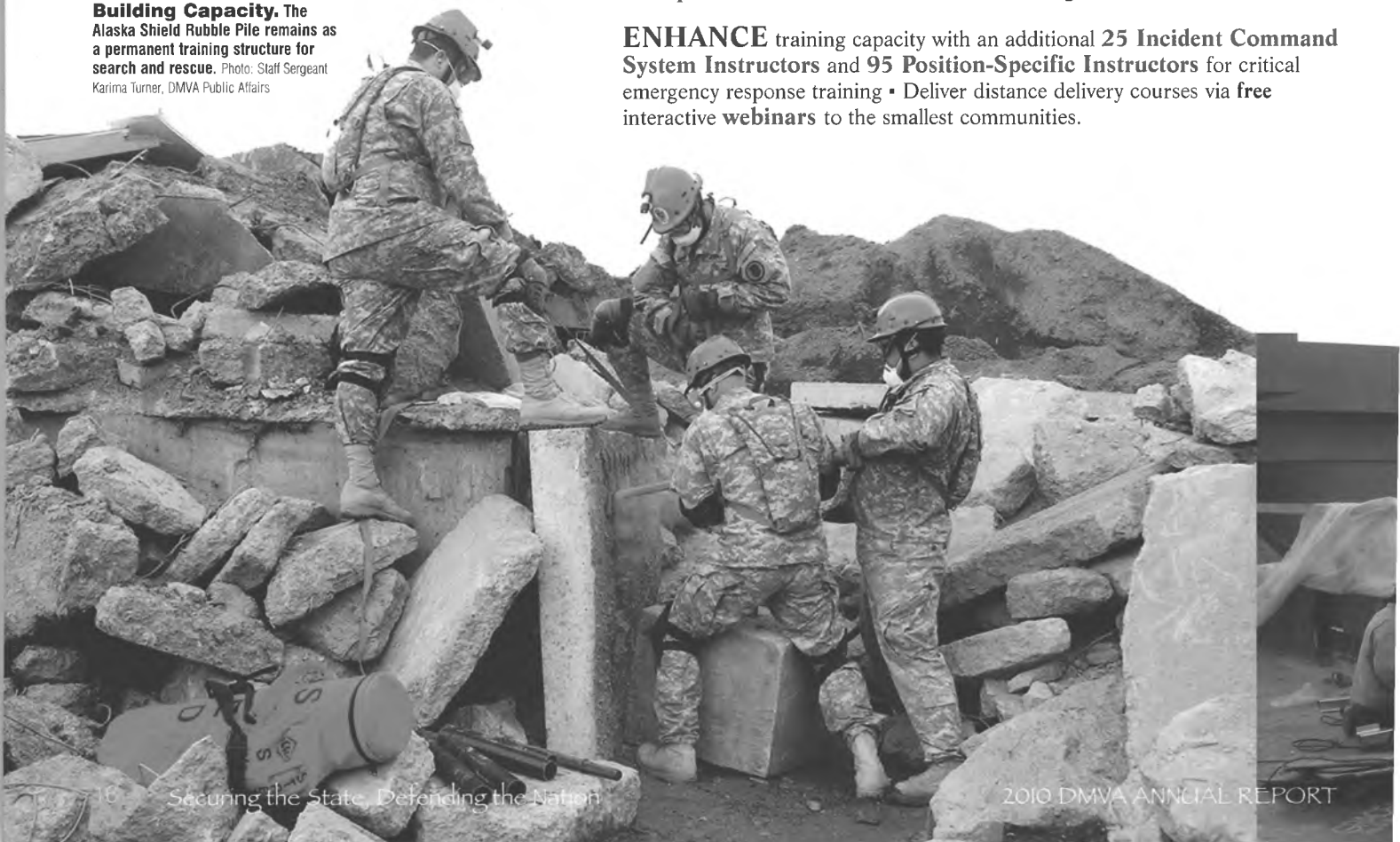
**Building Capacity.** The Alaska Shield Rubble Pile remains as a permanent training structure for search and rescue. Photo: Staff Sergeant Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

**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.

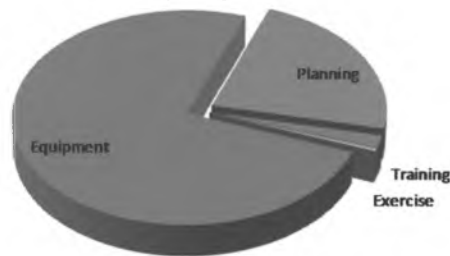




**Building Bridges and Partnerships.** State Department of Transportation workers and active-duty Army Soldiers construct a temporary bridge.  
Photo: Meadow Bailey, Department of Transportation

**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

**Ready Alaska**

Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed [www.ready.alaska.gov](http://www.ready.alaska.gov)



**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



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.



**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



**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

## 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



**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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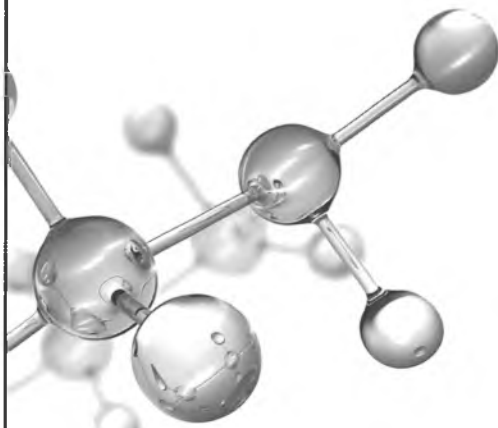


ExxonMobil has been a committed partner since Alaska's statehood. As such, our employees and their families are active participants in the community, volunteering for such events as the United Way Day of Caring, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement and the Citywide Cleanup. We hope our involvement 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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