

01/28/16

Overview:

Rural

Engagement

Initiative

Utilizing the

Alaska State

Defense Force

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>01-28-16 Overview Rural
Engagement Initiative Utilizing the Alaska State Defense
Force</SUBJECT><COMM>HMLV29</COMM></TARGET>



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

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February 1, 2016

Representative Bob Herron, Chairman
Special Committee On Military and Veterans' Affairs
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Herron:

Thank you for extending to us the privilege of testifying to your committee on the DMVA's rural initiative to establish a scout battalion in the Alaska State Defense Force. We found the discussion valuable and hope you and your members did, too. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Several questions arose during the hearing which we were unprepared to answer on the spot. Those questions and our answers are below. Please feel free to share them with the members of your committee or any other interested persons.

How would you describe a typical ASDF member?

ASDF soldiers come from many backgrounds, have mastered a broad range of occupations, and possess an extraordinarily wide variety of skills, so it is difficult to identify a "typical" member. Engineers, doctors, lawyers, electronics specialists, airline pilots and law enforcement professionals, not to mention some of the most adept amateur radio operators in Alaska have all found meaningful service in the ASDF. They share some characteristics – they are all patriotic, intelligent, community oriented, and giving volunteers with hearts for service to their fellow Alaskans.

What is the age of the oldest and youngest serving ASDF members?

Our oldest ASDF soldier is approximately 83 years old; the youngest is approximately 20.

How many women serve in ASDF?

Presently, eight women serve in the ASDF.

How many are vets?

Of the 85 members of the ASDF, 20 (24%) are veterans. Note: only one is known to have served in a law enforcement position in the military.

How many are combat vets?

About 15 (18%) ASDF members are combat veterans. Note: they are counted as part of the 20 in response to the prior question.

How many are credentialed law enforcement officers?

The ASDF includes three credentialed and one retired or formerly credentialed law enforcement officers. Note: the retired law enforcement officer is also a veteran.

Can you share any other demographic information?

Two active ASDF members, part of the new signal detachment in Bethel, identify themselves as Alaska Natives. Applications from two Alaska Natives are presently under consideration, also for the Bethel signal detachment.

Do ASDF Members take an oath?

Yes. The text of that oath is as follows:

I _____, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the orders of the Governor of the State of Alaska; that I make this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. And that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties to which I am assigned in the Alaska State Defense Force upon which I am about to enter according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you or your members have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Robert A.K. Doehl

Deputy Commissioner

Rob Earl

From: Rob Earl
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 12:20 PM
To: Rep. Bob Herron; 'Bob Herron'
Subject: DMVA Response to MLV questions at 1.28.16 hearing
Attachments: DMVA Response to MLV 1.28.16 mtg questions.pdf

DRAFT Response
Cc: MLV committee and staff

Deputy Commissioner Bob Doehl,

Thank you very much for your written answers to questions raised during the 1.28.16 House Military & Veterans Affairs Committee hearing. (Attached.)

The committee appreciates your speedy and thorough response.

All the best,

Bob Herron

Rob E. Earl
Staff to Rep. Bob Herron
907.465.5141 office
907.952.1810 cell



Alaska State Defense Force Rural Initiative

**HOUSE MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

January 28, 2016

**By Deputy Commissioner Bob Doehl and Command
Sergeant Major Richard Hildreth**



Alaska State Defense Force and Title 26



- Sec. 26.05.100: Alaska State Defense Force established
- Sec. 26.05.010 & .030 Alaska State Defense Force recognized as part of organized militia
- Sec. 26.05.050 Statutory authority for Governor to specifically organize scout units in the organized militia in western, northwestern and Arctic regions



Alaska State Defense Force Background



- Always under state control
- Not subject to federal deployment/control
- 100% state funded
- Not paid to train
- State Active Duty for disaster response and exercises
- Minimally equipped



Mission Task List



- Route and Zone Reconnaissance
- Disaster Response Support
- Damage Assessment
- Movement and Replenishment
- Medical Station Support
- Community Disaster Pre-Mitigation Support
- Arctic Operations, Survival, and Movement Training



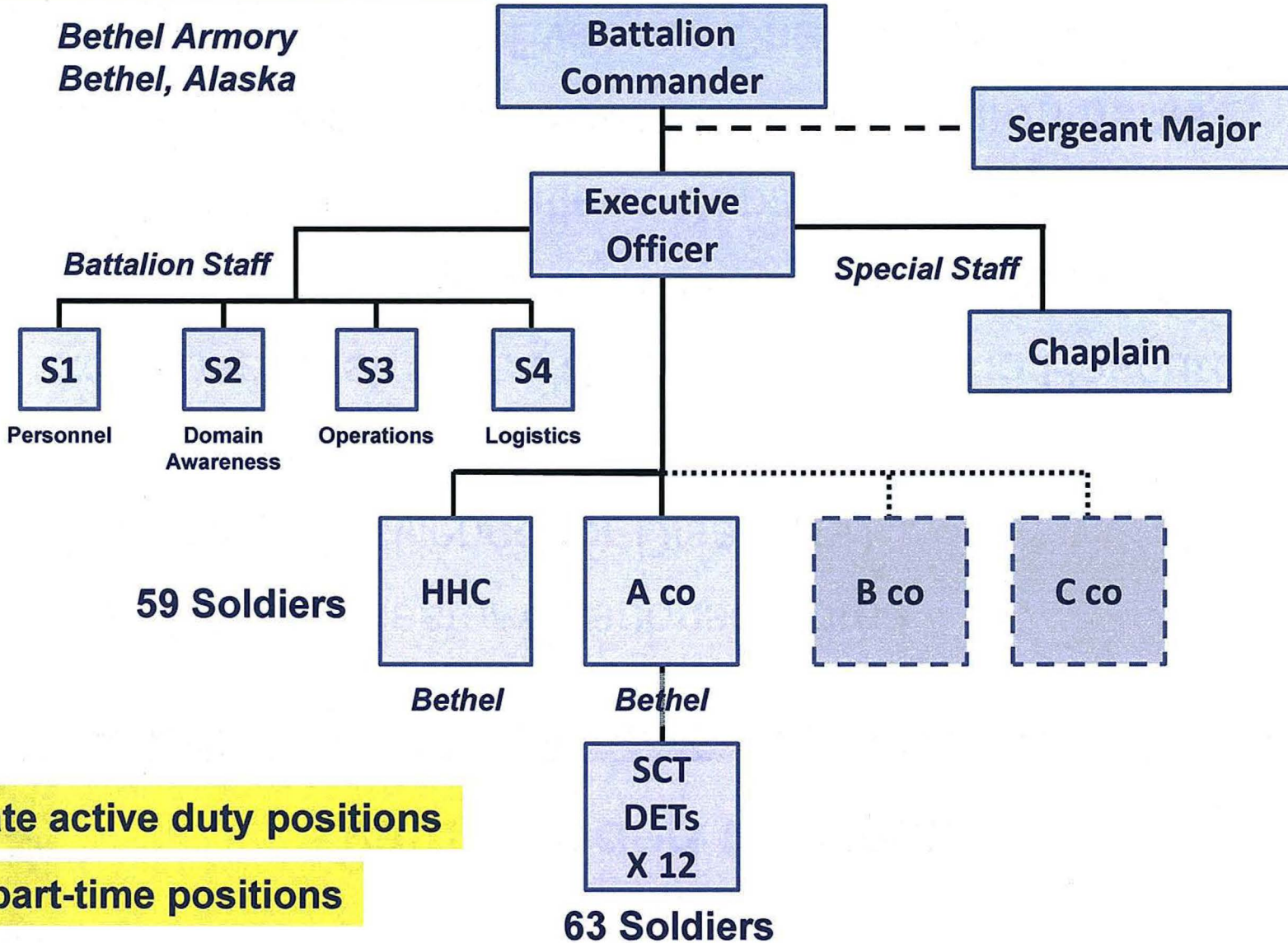
Value Added to Alaska



- Distributed Disaster Response Force
- Enhanced Resilience for Disasters
- Domain Awareness
- Additional Distributed Search and Rescue Resources
- Increased Incident Command Systems Capability
- Resilient Communications Capability
- Transportation Expertise in Austere Environments
- Enhanced Disaster Evacuee Shelter Support
- Increased Evacuee Transportation Capability

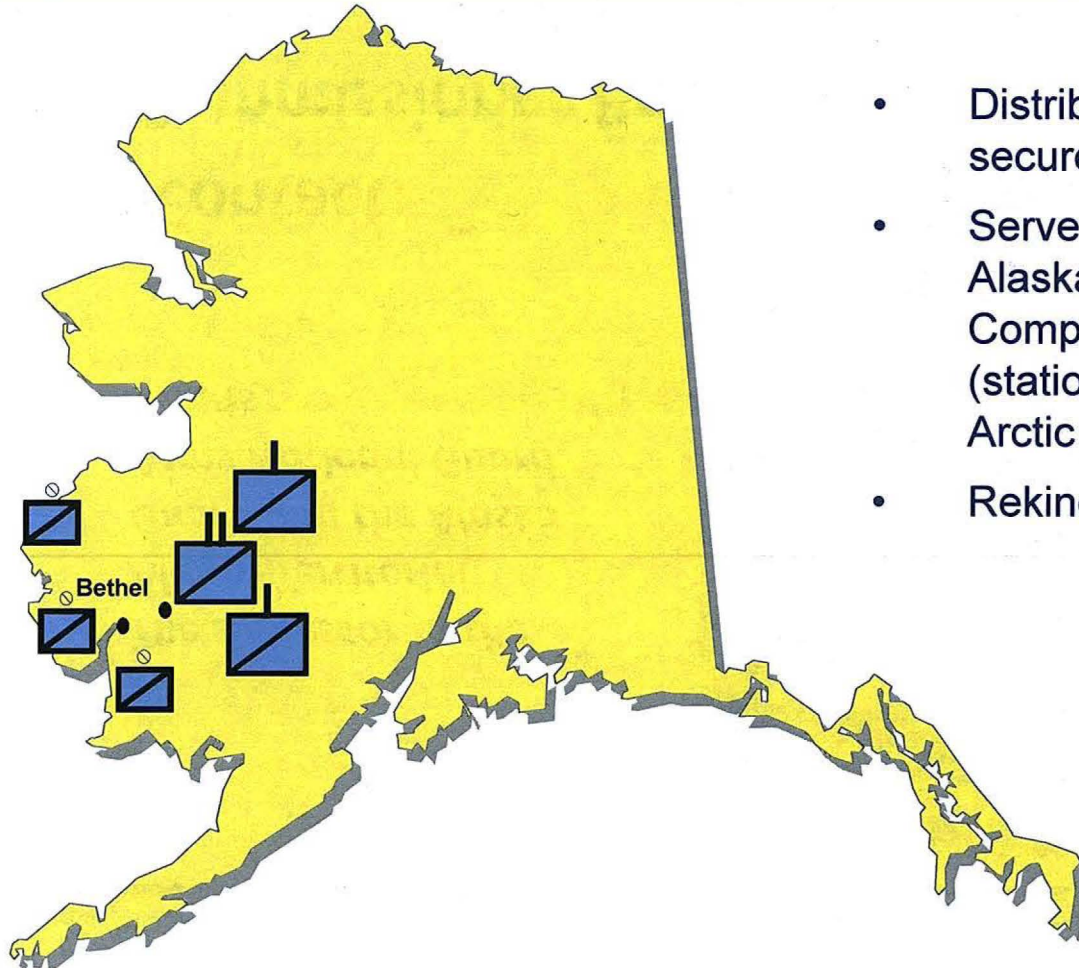


Task Organization ASDF, (Provisional Scout BN)





Alaska State Defense Force Proposed Initial Stationing



- Distributed force will create more secure and resilient communities
- Serve as trainers and liaisons to Alaska National Guard and Active Component service-members (stationed in and outside Alaska) for Arctic operations
- Rekindle a tradition of military service

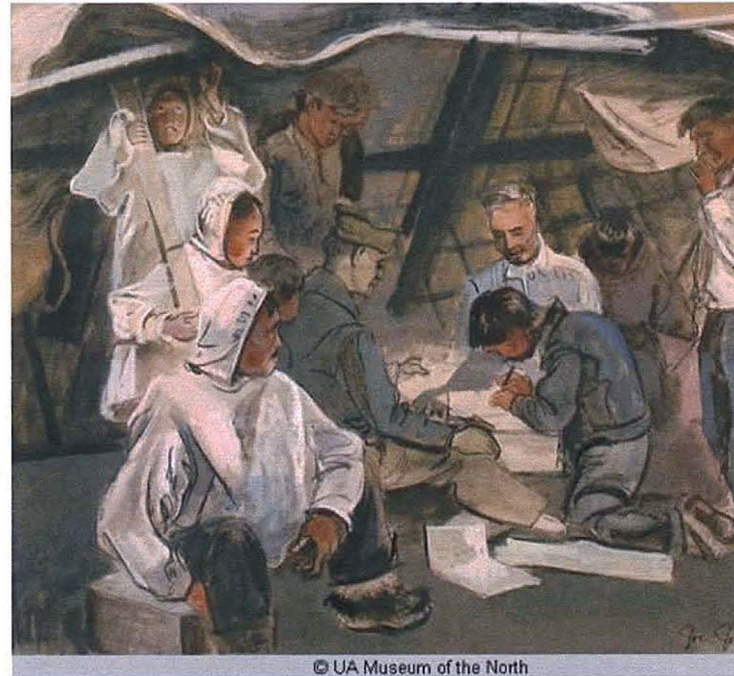
Battalion Headquarters and HHC in Bethel



Conclusion



*The successor to the
Alaska Territorial
Guard and the Alaska
Army National Guard
Scouts*



© UA Museum of the North
Alaska Natives enlist in the ATG

Point of Contact:

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