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COLONEL KENNETH M. TAYLOR JR
COMMANDER, ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Born in 1943 in Enid, Oklahoma, Colonel Taylor is the son of a career Air Force officer and spent his youth attending schools in England, Germany, and a variety of U. S. communities. In 1961, he graduated from Anchorage High School continuing his education at the College of Marin in Kentfield, California, than at the University of Oklahoma where he was granted a BA in Foreign Service in 1966.

Commissioned in the Air Force after completing the ROTC program at the University, he then entered USAF pilot training from which he graduated in 1967. His first duty assignment was a C-141 pilot at Travis AFB, California, followed in 1970 by a one year tour as an AC-119 gunship pilot in the Republic of Vietnam and then for a short time, as a C-123 pilot at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Leaving the active Air Force in 1971, he immediately joined the Alaska Air National Guard serving as the Chief of Aircrew Standardization, Command Post Chief, 144th Tactical Airlift Squadron Operations Officer and Chief of Safety until May 1984. At that time, he became Deputy Commander for Operations serving as second in command of the 176th Tactical Airlift Group. In 1985, Colonel Taylor became the Deputy Commander for Resources for the same unit. During the summer of 1986, he was promoted to Colonel and reassigned to the Headquarters of the Alaska Air National Guard. In April 1988, he assumed command of the 176th Composite Group which had grown by then to well over one thousand members operating four types of aircraft performing air refueling, tactical airlift, and rescue missions. In September 1990 he moved to his current position as Commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, commanding two flying groups with over sixteen hundred members. One group is based at Kulis Air National Guard Base on the Anchorage International Airport and the other group at Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks.

His awards and decorations include: The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Alaska Commendation Medal, and a variety of campaign and service medals. He and his wife, Donna, have two children: Eric and Gretchen.

BACKGROUND PAPER
PROMOTION OF THE COMMANDER
FOR THE ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The Headquarters, Alaska Air National Guard, has two general officer positions for its guard members: 1) Commander, Alaska Air National Guard; and 2) Assistant Adjutant General - Air. Colonel Kenneth M. Taylor, Jr., presently occupies the first position. Colonel Dan E. Dennis occupies the second position. The following information is provided to support the appointment of Colonel Taylor to the rank of Brigadier General in this position.

-- NOMINEE: COLONEL KENNETH M. TAYLOR JR.

-- MILITARY INFORMATION

- Twenty-five years total commissioned service, the last 20 of which have been spent in the Alaska Air National Guard.
- Served as a C-141 and C-123 pilot with the United States Air Force
- Overseas veteran with tour of duty at Phan Rang AB, Republic of Viet Nam
- Assignments in the Alaska Air National Guard have included squadron commander, operations officer, command post chief, flight safety officer, deputy commander for operations, resource management director and Air Commander and Commander of the Alaska Air National Guard
- Extended the awareness of the mission and capability of the Alaska Air National Guard to other Pacific Air Force commands within the Pacific Rim. Force behind the growth of the Alaska Air National Guard. Responsible for the smooth acquisition of two new flying units

— EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts Degree Foreign Service
- Air War College

— PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Date of Birth: 19 April 1943
- Alaska resident since 1958
- Civilian occupation: Colonel Taylor has been employed as an Air Technician in various positions since 1971.
- Member of Anchorage Rotary, Alaska National Guard Officer's Association, and the National Guard Association of the United States.

— GENERAL COMMENTS

- Superior leader and organizer
- Tactful, cooperative; seeks opportunities to excel
- Meets weight standards, excels in military bearing and appearance

— ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

- Appointment by the Governor to the State grade of Brigadier General
- Confirmation of the appointment by joint session of the Alaska State Legislature
- Federal appointment and recognition, including confirmation by the United States Senate.