

# Alaska State Defense Force Integration with the Joint Operations Center

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The ASDF  
serves  
urban  
areas, such  
as  
Anchorage,  
Alaska

and rural areas  
consisting of native  
villages, small towns on  
the coast and in the  
arctic tundra.





In World War II, the Alaska Territorial Guard was established by the Army and Governor Gruening as the ATG.

In 1984, MG Edward Pagano and Governor William Sheffield established the ASDF. MG Pagano was the first ASDF Commander.





# Mission Statement

- The mission of the 49<sup>th</sup> Readiness Brigade (SEP), ASDF is to provide an adequately trained and organized State Military Reserve under the exclusive control of the Governor capable of accomplishing those State emergency responsibilities normally assigned to the National Guard, when that force is federalized or otherwise not available for the needs of the Governor.

# Governor Parnell's Vision for the ASDF

Governor Sean Parnell sees the value of the ASDF and wants to ensure that  
“...the State Defense Force is well-engaged in  
Emergency Response.”

January 25, 2012



Governor Sean Parnell  
Courtesy of the State of Alaska

# Joint Operations Center (JOC)

- **Definition:** A jointly manned facility of a joint force commander's headquarters established for planning, monitoring, and guiding the execution of the commander's decisions.
- **Also Known As:** JOC

# State Military Operations Planning

- State Military operations and exercises are initiated by the Joint Operations Center (JOC) of the Joint Forces Headquarters Task Force, DMVA.
- Disasters can prompt the DMVA State Emergency Operations Center (Emergency Services) to request military assistance in the form of personnel and equipment from the JOC. Such was the case in Operation Deep Dig in Cordova, Alaska in 2012.



# Joint Operations Center

- Along with the National Guard, the ASDF is a participant in planning and execution of DMVA military plans for disaster and military response for Alaska.
- The ASDF has a seat in the JOC to fully participate.
- Participation in the JOC also allows the ASDF to contribute to the plan for its role in major military exercises, such as Operation Vigilant Guard and humanitarian medical operations, such as Operation Arctic Care.
- Because military exercises are planned in anticipation of actual events which may impact Alaska, they are extremely useful to rehearse for major events.

# JOC Training for ASDF

- The National Guard and the DMVA have provided extensive JOC training for the ASDF.
- A number of ASDF officers are trained through Advanced JOC Training.

# The ASDF provides Liaison Officers to the JOC from the field.

- ASDF units are located throughout Alaska and have Alaska Land Mobile Radios at their locations.
- ASDF personnel recently reported to the JOC during Operation Deep Dig 2012 from Valdez.
- During September Severe Storms 2012, the ASDF called in situation reports from flooding and hurricane force winds from Seward and Wasilla.

# Upcoming Exercises

- **Operation Arctic Care April, 2013**
  - Multi-force provision of medical, dental and veterinarian services to villages in the Kodiak Island area.
  - In Arctic Care 2012, 10,000 medical and dental procedures were given in 15 Nome area villages to 6,000 residents. The ASDF was tasked with JSROI.



- **Operation Vigilant Guard, 2014**

- Reenactment of the 1964 earthquake

- ASDF will be tasked through the JOC to tasks, such as JSROI , communications, and assisting with deployment of field hospital within the walls of the University of Alaska .

- In VG 2010, the ASDF augmented the National Guard on the state of the art JISCC communications system.



# State of the Art Communications

- This mission includes augmenting the National Guard on the JISCC (Joint Incident Site Communications Capability). The JISCC greatly enhances communications to outside and throughout Alaska.
- ASDF Personnel also utilize and train on the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR), satellite phones, UHF/VHF and military HF radio systems.
- ASDF COM skills also apply to the Homeland Security Unified Communications Center Van

# Water Treatment for Villages

- 1. It is not unusual for Alaska to have up to 40 floods per year and forest fires, causing water pollution of drinking water.
- 2. ASDF battalions in Fairbanks and Delta Junction have light weight, highly portable, water purification capability using Camp Water Industries technology.
- 3. ASDF battalions in South Central Alaska augment the National Guard's 207<sup>th</sup> Water Treatment Section.







# Ground Search and Rescue

- The ASDF is now being trained by the Civil Air Patrol to assist them in ground search and rescue for lost aircraft.
- In July 2012, the ASDF spent 5 days on Mount Marathon near Seward, Alaska, searching for a lost runner. ASDF personnel are also trained as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).



# Governor Thanks ASDF for Search and Rescue Effort



# Medical Detachment and Medical Support Teams

- The medical Detachment consists of the Surgeon General and nurses.
- When deployed to the field, the Medical Detachment must be self sustained when necessary.
- Military Support Units are responsible for the housing, encampment, food and support of the Medical Detachment in the field.

# Military Support

- Military Support Teams support medical and communications teams in the field.
- Transportation, food, housing, warmth and first aid capability are necessary in the field.
- Military Support Teams must be able to communicate by radio or other means.
- Military Support Teams will find themselves at the point of need in Alaska and must be flexible and capable of responding to needs as they arise.

# Joint Staging and Reception (JSROI)

- When a major event affects Alaska, thousands of troops could come to Alaska to assist.
- These out of state troops are called EMAC troops.
- The ASDF would augment the National Guard by in-processing the troops, giving them an orientation to Alaska and getting them to the point of need.

# JSROI - Continued

- By utilizing a small number of ASDF troops for JSROI, the ASDF assists in providing a tremendous force multiplier to the disaster or emergency by assisting in the deployment of thousands of trained and equipped soldiers to the point of need.
- During Operation Vigilant Guard 2010, the ASDF assisted the AKANG to process approximately 4,000 troops.
- At the end of the event or exercise, the ASDF would also out process the EMAC troops back to their home states.

# The Alaska State Defense Force and the National Guard working together at the Joint Mobilization Center.





# Red Cross Shelter Management

- Most ASDF troops are trained in Red Cross Shelter Management.
- It is anticipated that the ASDF would be involved in long range recovery of areas affected by disasters.
- A rotational schedule would need to be developed for ASDF personnel.
- Examples of areas impacted for a sustained period of time are New Orleans (Katrina) and Haiti.

# Military Emergency Management Specialist Certification (MEMS)

- It is important for members of the ASDF to know the language of Incident Command.
- Excellent training is available through the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS).
- To be a player in a disaster, it is necessary to understand incident command.
- Members of the ASDF should be members of SGAUS in order to take MEMS training and to participate in the national organization.



# Training: Soldier Skills

- The first responsibility of a member of the Alaska State Defense Force is to be a soldier under military discipline.
- Training will be provided on a large variety of military core competencies.
- The ASDF graduated its first graduates in 2012 from its OCS and Senior NCO Academy.
- Development of the core values and competencies of the Alaska State Defense Force are essential.
- Part of that ethos is to be committed to military discipline in all respects, including the Chain of Command.

# Chaplaincy

- Chaplaincy is an important and essential mission of the ASDF.
- The importance of Chaplaincy is magnified in times of disaster or war.
- Chaplaincy provides support to members of the ASDF and their families.
- Our Chaplaincy is highly trained in Critical Stress Management and can also minister to victims and first responders in an extremely meaningful way.
- Our Chaplaincy has provided training and help in the important field of Suicide Prevention.
- Our Chaplains have presided over many military funerals.

# ASDF Special Projects

- Alaska Chapter- State Guard Association of the United State (SGAUS).
- OCS and Senior NCO Academy
- Recruitment Planning Committee
- MEMS Chapter (ICS-Military Emergency Management Specialist Training from SGAUS)
- Special Olympics
- Wounded Warrior Program
- Operation Stand Down for Homeless Veterans



# We Are on the Team!

- The DMVA Team is the Alaska Army National Guard, the Alaska Air National Guard, The Alaska State Defense Force, The Alaska Naval Militia, Missile Defense, The Department of Emergency Services, Veterans Affairs and the State of Alaska Homeland Security.
- The Alaska State Defense Force does not respond alone, but responds in strength with the entire DMVA Team.
- Through the JOC we have a coordinated response to military emergencies and natural disasters by:
  - Unity of Purpose
  - Unity of Training
  - Unity of Resources
  - Unity of Planning
  - Unity of Missions and Mission Accomplishment
  - Unity of our effectiveness to protect Alaskans and their families

