



Press Release

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Alaska Shield, Vigilant Guard, Arctic Edge Prepares Alaska For Disaster

CAMP DENALI, ALASKA –Lt. Gov. Craig Campbell was joined by Alaska National Guard Adjutant Gen. Brig. General Thomas H. Katkus, Alaska Command Commander Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, Anchorage City Manager George Vakalis and Federal Emergency Management Agency representative Doug Mayne yesterday to announce a state-wide exercise to be held April 26 - May 1, 2010. The state-wide exercise combines the State of Alaska's Alaska Shield exercise, National Guard's Vigilant Guard exercise and Joint Task Force Alaska's Arctic Edge exercise.

"Governor Parnell and I place great importance on this exercise. Alaska is a place that is regularly affected by volcanoes, earthquakes, windstorms, floods, fires and other natural disasters. We want to make sure our communities are prepared," Campbell said. "During this exercise we will be testing state and local government emergency response capabilities while we test the federal government's ability to meet the state's emergency requests in a timely manner."

The exercise simulates a response to a large earthquake. During a significant earthquake, people, infrastructure and supply chains will be affected. This exercise will validate Alaska's ability to respond to those challenges.

"This exercise will show that Alaska stands ready to bring to bear our resources and efforts in a synchronized manner to protect our citizens. We will establish a standard of how we do it here in Alaska and present an example that can be followed by the rest of the nation," Gen. Katkus said.

Planning for Alaska Shield 2010 began immediately following Alaska Shield 2007. More than 4,000 participants from 51 organizations will take part in this joint exercise.

"This exercise allows FEMA, Department of Defense, the National Guard, state agencies, and local governments to be integrated and work together when they respond to a disaster. It will be an orchestrated response, integrated with one another and complementary to each other's abilities," Campbell said. "Alaska stands ready for this significant exercise, we appreciate the work of our partners, and I ask that as the exercise is taking place, each individual Alaskan take steps to increase his or her level of preparedness before a disaster strikes."

The State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) will be releasing a list of exercise venues the week of April 12, 2010. For more information contact DHS&EM Public Information Officer Jeremy Zidek at (907) 428-7077.

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