DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA 724 Postal Service Loop #5000 Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505-5000

REPLY TO ATTENTION O

Office of the Commanding General

Welcome to the U.S. Army Alaska team! Allow me to personally welcome to you and your Family to the Last Frontier. I guarantee this will be a unique and challenging assignment, where you will take part in many rewarding professional experiences and enjoy memorable personal adventures.

Everything we do in Alaska is directly tied to three enduring priorities: *Ready Units*, *Strong Families* and building *Arctic Tough Leaders*. Alaska has some of the most challenging training environs in the world, enabling U.S. Army Alaska to produce ready, capable and relevant forces to meet the needs of our nation at home and abroad - we take very seriously our responsibility to ensure every Soldier is ready for whatever the nation asks of us.

Our posts and communities foster strong Families. We provide a stable, healthy environment so deployed Soldiers are confident their Families are taken care of. As important as it is to prepare our Soldiers to deploy, we also make sure our Families are resilient and "ready to stay" when their loved one is deployed in harm's way. Our Families are provided top-notch care and support, including hundreds of new Army Family housing units, state-of-the-art child care, and superb medical facilities.

During your assignment you will hear the term "Arctic Tough." Alaska is a challenging place to live, work and train. Every Soldier in Alaska will be exposed to extremes in temperatures and terrain. We train hard in Alaska with three simple goals – deploy, fight and win anywhere around the world. Rigorous and realistic training is what we do and Alaska provides an outstanding place to get ready.

You are fortunate to be assigned to such a majestic location to live and work. During your tour here, I strongly encourage you to get out and experience Alaska and the communities that surround our installations. Soldiers and Families assigned here enjoy breathtaking scenery, abundant outdoor recreation opportunities, and the company of our friendly, independent civilian neighbors. You will find no more supportive communities anywhere in the world than here in Alaska.

One of the most important things you can do for yourself and for us is to contact us as soon as you have orders. We want to sponsor you properly, and make your transition as stress-free as possible. Alaska is a beautiful, amazing place, but it can be a challenging adjustment if you are not prepared. Help us help you!

Again, welcome and congratulations on your assignment to Alaska.

Arctic Warriors!

Raymond P. Palumbo Major General, US Army Commanding General