

# Military and Veterans office gets new chief of staff

by Barbara Crane  
Tundra Times reporter

Col. Joseph P. Beans, presently the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry commander, will begin a new assignment June 1.

Beans has been appointed chief of staff for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, reporting to the DMVA's commissioner, Maj. Gen. John Schaeffer.

Beans' responsibilities will include coordinating activities of that department's three branches — the Alaska National Guard, the Alaska Division of Emergency Services and the Division of Veterans Affairs.

He will take over many of the duties of Charles Borg, who is now the DMVA's deputy commissioner. Borg is leaving that position June 1 to become director of the Division of Veterans Affairs.

"I have a lot of respect and high regard for my predecessor and hope to capitalize on his successes," Beans said. "I will rely on him to help me continue the work he has begun."

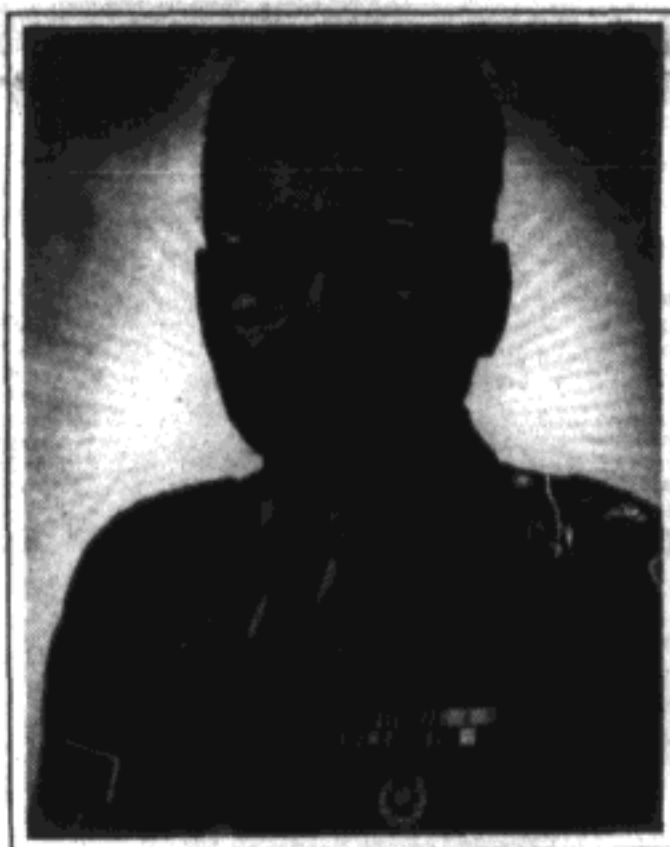
Beans says his goals for his new position include ensuring that state and federal resources are wisely utilized and increasing the public's awareness of the DMVA's missions and goals.

Beans will also assume command of the Alaska National Guard's new 297th Scout Group (Provisional) later this summer. That group will be headquartered in Nome, and he will spend a few days each month in Nome fulfilling his traditional weekend Guard duties.

Beans, 41, is a Calista Corp. shareholder. He was born in White Mountain and attended boarding school in St. Marys.

He is a third-generation Guard member. Both his father and grandfather were members of the old Alaska Territorial Guard.

Beans first attempted to join the Ar-



*Col. Joseph P. Beans*

photo courtesy AANG

my Guard when he was 16, but was rejected for being too young. He tried again when he was older, was accepted, enlisted as a private and has now completed 22 years of service.