



For Immediate Release
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Alaska Air National Guard Rescues Boater from Bering Strait

CAMP DENALI, Alaska – The Alaska Air National Guard successfully rescued a distressed boater in the Bering Strait Wednesday.

The Alaska State Troopers notified the 11th Rescue Coordination Center around 8:38 p.m. Tuesday that a man in a 15-foot rowboat was suffering from fatigue and in need of assistance in his journey from Wales to Little Diomed Island. The Rescue Coordination Center tasked the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, which responded with a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, an HC-130 Hercules aircraft and pararescuemen. The Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak also launched an HC-130 Hercules to assist with the rescue if needed.

Alaska Air National Guard assets arrived on scene shortly after 4 a.m. Wednesday. Tech. Sgt. Brandon Stuemke and Tech. Sgt. Matt Schrader, pararescuemen with the 212th Rescue Squadron, were onboard the Pave Hawk helicopter, and one of them was lowered to the rowboat to perform a hoist recovery of the man.

The boater was brought safely onboard the Pave Hawk then flown to Nome and released to Norton Sound emergency medical personnel who had an ambulance waiting.

The 210th Rescue Squadron with two 212th pararescuemen onboard the helicopter flew 8.9 hours for the mission, and the 211th Rescue Squadron with three pararescuemen onboard flew 11.2 hours in the HC-130.

The Rescue Coordination Center awarded one save to the 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons for this mission.