



For Immediate Release  
By: Major Guy Hayes

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## **Guardsmen Rescue Downed Aircraft Survivors**

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** – The Alaska Air National Guard rescued two survivors of a plane crash in the Oshetna River area early Tuesday morning.

The Federal Aviation Administration notified the 11<sup>th</sup> Rescue Coordination Center at 7:10 p.m. Monday of an aircraft that was 30 minutes overdue. The FAA also contacted flight service stations on the projected flight path of the aircraft to see if it had landed. At 8:34 p.m., with the aircraft two hours overdue, the RCC tasked the Alaska Air National Guard's 210<sup>th</sup>, 211<sup>th</sup> and 212<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadrons out of Kulis Air National Guard Base to look for the overdue aircraft and passengers.

Responding in an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and HC-130 Hercules aircraft with pararescuemen onboard, the Air Guard followed the flight plan from Palmer, along the Matanuska River, Boulder Creek, Big Oshetna River, Black River with return to Palmer while scanning for an emergency locator transmitter.

At 11:54 p.m. pilots in the HC-130 picked up an ELT and contacted the HH-60 with pararescuemen Tech. Sgt. Brandon Stuemke and Tech. Sgt. Matt Schrader onboard to head to their location in the Oshetna River area.

Guardsmen discovered the downed aircraft at 12:18 a.m. and immediately found a safe location to land the Pave Hawk. Pararescuemen Stuemke and Schrader departed the HH-60 and located two survivors requiring medical assistance. They safely transported the two victims on a Stokes Litter to the Pave Hawk and headed to Providence Hospital in Anchorage for further treatment.

At 1:05 a.m. the Pave Hawk arrived at Providence Hospital and the current condition of the injured is unknown.

Two saves were awarded to the 210<sup>th</sup>, 211<sup>th</sup> and 212<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadrons for this mission.