



By: Cadet Courtney Johnson, Alaska Military Youth Academy

June 18, 2009

[Alaska Military Youth Academy Celebrates 15 Successful Years](#) *Ten-day celebration recognizes the more than 2,790 ChalleNGe graduates*

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska -- It all started January 1994, when kids from all across Alaska came together to learn life-coping skills, to service their community and to complete their high school education at the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA). In celebration of 15 successful years and more than 2,790 graduates, AMYA has scheduled a state wide celebration of the National Guard ChalleNGe Program from June 18 -27.

The ten-day celebration will encompass all eight core components cadets learn during the residential phase of the program.

The first day of the celebration kicked off today on Elmendorf Air Force Base with the assistance of the family support staff there. During this “Day of Caring” event, cadets gathered health and hygiene items together to make care packages for families of deployed service members.

Each event will lead up to the final event, the “Day of Celebration,” where past and present cadets, AMYA cadre and staff, along with families, mentors and friends will gather at the Bryant Army Airfield to meet each other and enjoy live music and a barbeque.

Dignitaries scheduled to participate in the celebrations include Alaska’s Congressional delegation, elected officials, Alaska Legislature members, the commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and other prominent leaders.

Who: Alaska Military Youth Academy

What: 15-year Anniversary Celebration

When: June 18-27, 2009

June 19-20 “Days of Sharing” (Service to Community) As part of their service to community cadets and staff plan to be at the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club on June 19. On June 20, cadets have volunteered to assist with the Mayors Marathon in Anchorage.

June 20 “Day of Team Building” (Physical Fitness) To enhance their physical fitness and team building skills a relay team of cadets are scheduled to run in the 26.2-

mile Mayors Marathon beginning at 8 a.m. from Bartlett High School to West Anchorage High School. Two additional teams of cadets plan to participate in the half-marathon and the five-miler beginning at 9 a.m. at West Anchorage High School.

- June 23** **“Day of Honoring” (Leadership/Followership)** A special luncheon is scheduled for the pioneers of the Alaska ChalleNGe Program to honor their commitment to the youth of Alaska. This is an invitation only event.
- June 24** **“Day of Remembering” (Responsible Citizenship)** At 2 p.m., the Alaska Military Youth Academy has scheduled a wreath laying and remembrance ceremony at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery to recognize those cadets who have passed on.
- June 24** **“Day of Outreach” (Life-Coping Skills)** Former cadets and staff are scheduled to be available at the Fairbanks, Wasilla, Eagle River and Midtown Anchorage Wal-Marts to answer questions and assist with the application process.
- June 24-25** **“Days of Academics” (Academic Excellence)** During this event, AMYA plans to hold parent-teacher conferences and academic opportunities orientation.
- June 26** **“Day of Placement” (Job Skills and Placement preparation)** More than 30 presenters are scheduled to be at the National Guard Armory on Fort Richardson from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide career and educational opportunities to cadets and the public.
- June 27** **“Day of Celebration”** This all-day event includes a barbeque, live music, games, prizes and entertainment for the whole family and is scheduled to be held at the Bryant Army Airfield from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reporters and Editors: Media are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please call 428-6031 to arrange for an escort onto Fort Richardson if you are interested in attending any of the events held on base or for more information on events held throughout the state and city.