



For Immediate Release
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Yellow Ribbon Program Headed to Northwest Alaska

Team will help veterans understand their benefits and guide them to available resources

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—The Alaska National Guard Yellow Ribbon Program will be traveling to Kotzebue and Point Hope May 6-7 to provide information and assistance to veterans regarding their benefits and entitlements earned while in service.

The goal of these events is to bring information to rural Alaska communities and educate service members on their benefits. Veterans of all military branches, including members of the Alaska Territorial Guard, are encouraged to attend, as well as military dependents and troops currently serving.

This Yellow Ribbon Program event will be held in Kotzebue May 6 at the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will visit Point Hope May 7 at the Qalgi Center from 1 to 3 p.m. Trips to other rural Alaska communities across the state are in the works and forecasted to run until September 2010.

On most trips, the traveling team will consist of a State Veterans Service officer, who deals directly with veterans regarding benefits and entitlements; the Transition Assistance Advisor, who provides assistance with transitional services; a Military Family Life Consultant to assist where needed; an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve specialist, who can assist with employer and employment concerns; a Family Assistance specialist, who will bring Family Programs support; and members of the Alaska National Guard command.

The team will be on hand to answer questions and assess the needs of veterans so that the right resources can be directed their way. For example, if veterans don't understand how to get their disability or how to get an appointment with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the team can help with those issues.

For more information and to find out when a traveling team is coming your way, contact the Family Programs office toll-free at 888-917-3608 or local to Anchorage at 907-428-6663.