



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2016

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Alaska National Guard

Release: 16-044

Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support program shown the ropes

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska —A group of 16 Guard members and professionals from the Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Air National Guard and Anchorage-based community organizations completed a six-day training course to become certified facilitators for the Encourage, Encounter and Experience Challenge course on Camp Carroll, June 26 through July 1.

The purpose of the E3 Challenge Course is to support the community outreach mission of the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program by assisting law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local schools and youth programs.

The course focuses on the core measures of communication, planning, teamwork, problem solving, decision-making, individual sense-of-self, perception of harm and summary of learning. There are several high and low elements of the course that act as tools to increase these skills.

For example, the power pole portion of the high-ropes course requires participants to rely on their team to secure their safety ropes as they jump from the pole, three stories above ground.

"We are very excited about having this available to the community," explained Sgt. Austin Makowski, a team leader with C Company, Long Range Surveillance Squadron and the assistant course manager for the training. "It's a great resource to build cohesion among teams in community groups, and to help the Alaska National Guard become closer to the community we serve."

Brought in to instruct the course were Colin Koach and Kevin Trump of Team Synergo, an adventure education company based in Tigard, Oregon.

Koach was surprised to learn that the Counter-Drug Support Program facilitates the E3 course free-of-charge to the community.

"Not many organizations are able to participate in a program like this because normally it's very expensive to enlist in this kind of training," Koach said. "If you're hesitant about participating, it's a unique opportunity to see yourself and your team in ways you wouldn't otherwise be able to."

The E3 Challenge Course, which is funded by National Guard Bureau, is available to organizations in the community as a leadership training tool. Groups who previously participated include Family Programs with the Alaska National Guard, the Alaska Military Youth Academy and the Anchorage School District.

The E3 Challenge Course will begin booking two- and three-day customized camps for community organizations and groups starting July 5th. Interested parties should contact the assistant course manager, Sgt. Austin Makowski, at 428-6656.

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PHOTOS

1. **Attached pdf** includes story and a small selection of low-resolution photos for viewing on screen.
2. **Flickr link** includes an event album with the complete selection of full-resolution, free downloadable images. (Flickr is not generally accessible from .mil computers.)
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard/albums/72157670659801046>
3. **DVIDS link** includes story and selected full-resolution photos. (Primarily for media, DVIDS is accessible from .mil computers.)
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/203324/alaska-national-guards-counter-drug-support-program-shown-ropes>



160630-Z-ZZ999-201

Joel Heath, an instructor for the Alaska Military Youth Academy, and Staff Sgt. Joyce Dean with the Alaska Army National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program, high-five after traversing to the center of the catwalk portion of the Encourage, Encounter and Experience Challenge course at Camp Carroll, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, June 30, 2016. The purpose of the E3 Challenge Course is to support the community outreach mission of the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program by assisting law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local schools and youth programs. (U.S. Army National Guard photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Dayton Will)



160630-Z-ZZ999-202

Spc. Karissa Price, a healthcare specialist with the Alaska National Guard's medical detachment secures Sgt. Elijah Gutierrez, a team leader with C Company, 297th Long Range Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, to the giant swing element of the Encourage, Encounter and Experience Challenge course at Camp Carroll, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, June 30, 2016. The purpose of the E3 Challenge Course is to support the community outreach mission of the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program by assisting law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local schools and youth programs. (U.S. Army National Guard photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Davton Will)



160630-Z-ZZ999-203

1st Lt. Zack Huckstep, a platoon leader with the 297th Brigade Support Company, takes a leap of faith on the power pole element of the Encourage, Encounter and Experience Challenge Course at Camp Carroll, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, June 30, 2016. The purpose of the E3 Challenge Course is to support the community outreach mission of the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program by assisting law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local schools and youth programs. (U.S. Army National Guard photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Dayton Will)



160630-Z-ZZ999-204

Spc. Stephanie Rodriguez, a healthcare specialist with the Alaska National Guard's medical detachment, takes a leap of faith on the power pole element of the Encourage, Encounter and Experience Challenge Course at Camp Carroll, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, June 30, 2016. The purpose of the E3 Challenge Course is to support the community outreach mission of the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program by assisting law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local schools and youth programs. (U.S. Army National Guard photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Dayton Will)



160630-Z-ZZ999-205

Sgt. Elijah Gutierrez, a team leader with C Company, 297th Long Range Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, and Staff Sgt. Oliver Meza, a platoon sergeant with C Company, 297th Long Range Surveillance Squadron, Alaska Army National Guard, lean on one another for balance during the high-V portion of the Encourage, Encounter and Experience Challenge Course at Camp Carroll, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, June 30, 2016. The purpose of the E3 Challenge Course is to support the community outreach mission of the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program by assisting law enforcement agencies, community based organizations, local schools and youth programs. (U.S. Army National Guard photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Dayton Will)

