



PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Military Youth Academy to graduate 165 cadets

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – The Alaska Military Youth Academy will celebrate more than 20 years of service to the state of Alaska during the graduation of 165 cadets of Class 2016-2 from its ChalleNGe program Friday, Aug. 26.

The 10 a.m. graduation ceremony will be held in the Tikahtnu Ballroom at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in downtown Anchorage. The ceremony will feature Alaska Governor Bill Walker as the keynote speaker and video messages from members of our Alaska congressional delegation.

During their 22-week residential phase at the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academic excellence, leadership and followership, physical fitness, life coping skills, responsible citizenship, vocational training and service to the community. The current class of 2016-2 provided more than 12,000 hours of community service; 88 cadets earned their high school credentials; others earned 7.0 transferrable credits each; and overall, this class increased their grade-level average by 1.5 years.

The 165 cadets will join 4,803 previous graduates who have attended AMYA since 1994.

A new pre-apprenticeship program will begin Aug. 29, providing 30 cadets with the opportunity to return to the academy for a four-week vocational training course. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, this Title I Youth Program grant is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and passed through the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Its main focus areas include carpentry, electrical, ironworking, welding and culinary arts. Cadets will have the opportunity to emerge from the pre-apprenticeship program with hands-on training, certifications and connections to potential entry-level jobs or apprenticeship programs.

All cadets participate in a yearlong post-residential phase when they return to their hometown communities. They put into practice the life skills and principles they received at AMYA while they work in a new job, continue their education in high school, college or vocational schools, or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase while serving as a productive member of society.

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Who: Alaska Military Youth Academy

What: Graduation ceremony for 165 cadets

Where: Tikahtnu Ballroom, Dena'ina Center in downtown Anchorage

When: Friday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m.

PHOTOS/VIDEO:

1. Flickr album for full resolution and additional photographs from a 2015 graduation ceremony:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaskanationalguard/albums/72157655597666794>

2. YouTube link includes a 2013 AMYA video, including graduation imagery:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VabWzkimYPY>