



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alaska Military Youth Academy to graduate 146 cadets

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – The Alaska Military Youth Academy will celebrate more than 24 years of service to the State of Alaska and a milestone of almost 5,500 graduates during the graduation of 146 cadets of Class 2018-1 from its ChalleNGe program Friday, February 23rd.

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 Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott and Maria Downey, Senior Executive Producer and Chief Anchor at Channel 2 News as the keynote speaker. There will be congratulatory and video messages from Alaska Governor Bill Walker and 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 2018-1 provided more than 7,463 hours of community service; 80 cadets earned their high school credentials; others earned 7.5 transferrable credits each; and overall, this class's grade-level average increased by 1.7 years. All of the cadets completed Everfi Radius Financial Literacy and 60 Students completed the EverFi Radius Endeavor S.T.E.M. curriculum through a grant with the AT & T Foundation.

The 146 cadets set to graduate from the Alaska Military Youth Academy will join the 5,307 previous graduates since 1994.

The pre-apprenticeship program engaged 72 cadets in multi-faceted vocational training courses. 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. The main focus areas were - construction (including carpentry, electrical, labor, and ironworking and welding), culinary arts and health care services. Separately, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management within DMVA provided Community Emergency Responder Training (CERT) to 87 cadets who will be a resource to their local Emergency Response Teams should the need arise. 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.

In addition, all cadets take part in the yearlong Post-Residential phase where graduates return to their communities to put into practice the life skills principles they received and continue their education (high school, college or vocational schools), enter the workplace, 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.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to fulfill its mission: "To help intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults."

Who: Alaska Military Youth Academy
What: Graduation ceremony for 146 cadets
Where: Tikahtnu Ballroom, Dena'ina Center in downtown Anchorage
When: Friday, Feb. 23rd, 10 a.m.

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