



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 21, 2018

018-067

By David Bedard/176th Wing Public Affairs

Alaska Air Guardsmen rescue six rafters near Skwentna

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons rescued six individuals Aug. 21 after their raft flipped in the Talachulitna River about 15 miles southwest of Skwentna.

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, in response to a request for support from the Alaska State Troopers contacted the Alaska Air National Guard for assistance. An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron was launched from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson with pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron.

According to Capt. Duane Griffith of the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, the mission was conducted after the individuals contacted them using a satellite phone. Their raft had flipped in the river, washing away all of their gear.

The helicopter aircrew were able to land on a sandbar and pararescuemen helped the six survivors to the aircraft, which transported them to the Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage.

For this mission, the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons as well as the AKRCC were awarded six saves.

###

Office of Public Affairs

Alaska National Guard

POC for this release is 176th Wing PA, 907-552-3959