

Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe

Commissioner & Adjutant General

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Alaska National Guard

*Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs*

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Alaska Military Youth Academy to graduate 10 cadets via live Zoom event

The Alaska Military Youth Academy will celebrate the graduation of 10 cadets from the class of 2020, this Friday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m. on a live meeting using the Zoom cloud software.

The cadets will be featured in their dress uniforms with live interactions, including a guest speaker from the class of 2007 and a speech from the honor graduate. The event will include a prerecorded singing of the national anthem by cadets and a Color Guard flag presentation.

163 candidates began this cycle and 145 were still participating and had to be sent home due to the closure of residential schools throughout the state in March. Distant delivery and the distractions of life off of the campus proved challenging for a lot of students. Cadets were given the option to remain in the program through graduation if they were on track, re-enroll in the next class, or withdraw completely. The 10 cadets who will graduate this week met the criteria, and a large number of their peers will return to the next class.

Four of the cadets will receive General Educational Development (GED) certificates and six of the cadets will receive both a GED and high school diploma. The special award portion of the ceremony will recognize the students who excelled in specific academic criteria.

Availability in the online Zoom event is limited to 500 viewers. Please email david.mcphetres@alaska.gov to request access to view the ceremony. Early access to the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

This will be the first virtual graduation ceremony in AMYA's history, and these 10 are the admirable few who met the challenge of accomplishing the residential program through distant delivery. The next class, 2020-3, is scheduled to begin on July 28. 90 cadets from class 2020-2 will return and 60 new candidates will begin the 22-week residential phase under new COVID-19 protective measures.

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Who: Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets

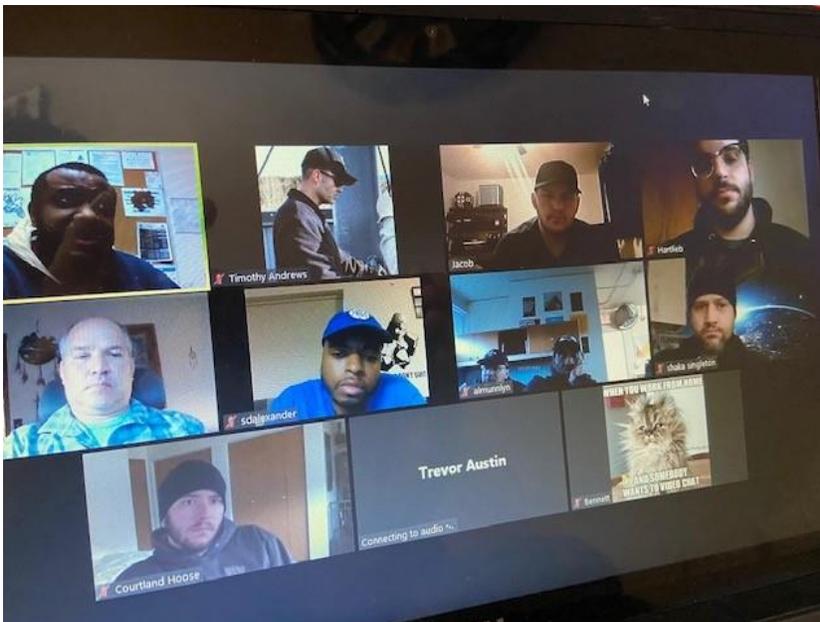
What: Virtual Graduation Ceremony

Where: Via Zoom. Please contact the Director of AMYA, David McPhetres at 907-428-7301

When: July 10, 2020 at 10 a.m.



Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets from the class of 2020-2 stand in a file formation on a sunny, summer day at Camp Carroll on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. (Courtesy photo by David McPhetres)



Alaska Military Youth Academy staff meet via video conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. 67 AMYA staff-members have been working to get the cadets through since they went home in March. Since the cadets made their elections in early June, the academic staff has been busy teaching, testing, grading, and helping cadets with core values. The dining facility staff has been providing meals to cadets in the community. In June, staff began preparing for the next class and working on resetting the campus. (Courtesy photo by David McPhetres)