



Promoting the Volunteer Spirit of the 'Voice of the Arctic' Alaska Military Youth Academy



The Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) has stood as a bastion of leadership development for youth across Alaska since its inception in 1994. AMYA is an accredited special purpose school that is designed to help Alaskan youth make positive life changes. Located on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, the Academy is a division of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

As part of the 59th Signal Battalion's "North to the Future" Campaign, the 59th has a partnership with the AMYA to promote the volunteer spirit within our Arctic Communicator Team and support Army community engagement and recruiting efforts. At the forefront of this effort are the dedicated Soldiers and Army Civilian Professionals of the "Voice of the Arctic" Team, the 59th Signal Battalion, 516th Signal Brigade, whose volunteer support to the Academy gives the Battalion a pivotal opportunity to develop Alaska's youth into the leaders of tomorrow.



Brigadier General Kile, Alaska National Guard, Mr. Arthur Munnlyn, AMYA Commandant, Mrs. Deborah Morton, AMYA RPM Supervisor, Lieutenant Colonel Glen Nettrour, 59th Battalion Commander, delivering the keynote speech and commencement support to Class 2023-02 at the Dena'ina Convention Center in Downtown Anchorage during the winter cycle graduation.

The AMYA's DoD Challenge Program is a 22-week residential program for youth ages 16 to 18 that focuses on eight core components: academic excellence, life coping skills, leadership and followership, physical fitness, responsible citizenship, vocational training, health and hygiene, and service to the community. Upon graduation, cadets participate in a year-long post-residential phase, where AMYA graduates return to their communities to continue their education, enter the workplace, or even choose to serve in the military. AMYA has graduated 6,678 cadets since 1994, with the 2023 winter class graduating 126 cadets. Although AMYA's mission is not military recruiting, 15-20% of the graduating class seeks enlistment in all DoD Service AMYA Components and positively represents the Military as an institution of choice for our youth.



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The 59th supports the AMYA's residential class cycles with volunteer cadet mentors, physical fitness instructions, life skills education, and general event support. The 59th also promotes this community engagement opportunity across JBER for the 11th Airborne Division, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and local AUSA chapter.



The Voice of the Arctic Team, pose with City of Anchorage Mayor (Mayor Dave Bronson) and AMYA Director (Mr. Dave McPhetres) at Class 2023-02 winter cycle graduation. The graduating class heard inspirational remarks from several prominent Alaska officials (Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Representative Mary Peltola).

As part of the 516th Signal Brigade's 'Mastering the Profession' strategy and 311th Signal Command's 'Better Together' Initiative, "North to the Future" applies a 100% leader-to-led connectedness tenet and applies it to Army leadership fundamentals and comprehensive workforce fitness. Integral to this strategy is a significant emphasis on personal volunteerism. 'North to the Future', borrows Alaska's State Motto for inspiration and is focused on the simple truth that people are the future, and their development is the key to warfighting, transformation, and delivering combat ready formations.



Major Salinas, MSG Higginbotham, Sergeant First Class Henley, Staff Sergeant Seabaugh, Sergeant's Stains and Plasencio supporting AMYA Instructor Cadre during the initial start cycle Class 202 4-01.

The latest volunteer efforts including serving on the judging panel for the AMYA's Iron Chef' competition, where cadets showcased their newly acquired Culinary Art skills. Currently, the Battalion is supporting the 2024-01 class across their academic cycle with daily physical fitness instruction support, military cadence and drill, and cadet mentors.



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MAJ Williams, SSG Rodriguez, LTC Nettrour judge AMYA Cadets Team Italian and Team Filipino Cuisine at AMYA Iron Chef Culinary Arts Competition.

Volunteers from the units offer their time and expertise, extending beyond conventional academic support to provide invaluable insights drawn from their military experiences. AMYA cadets face challenging military leadership training in Arctic conditions, in the dark and cold. This mentorship ethos instills discipline and resilience in the cadets, fostering personal growth and the capacity to commit. The Voice of the Arctic Team is honored to be part of this valuable DoD program and support the Brigade's commitment to forging the next generation of leaders!

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