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New Program Graduates Transitioning Soldiers and Vets to North Slope Jobs

JUNEAU, Alaska—Nineteen transitioning soldiers and veterans from across Alaska graduated from a new program that will help them go straight into civilian jobs.

The program, a partnership of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Southwest Alaska Vocational & Education Center and CH2M Hill, is a three-week intensive "boot camp," after which the graduates will begin work on Alaska's North Slope.

"The program leads to nationally and industry recognized work-based certifications," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "It helps us increase the Alaska hire rate, as the graduates are all offered jobs to work on the North Slope."

A graduation ceremony was held Friday at SAVEC in King Salmon. The class represented the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Alaska Air Guard and National Guard.

"This special program took us a year to develop," SAVEC Executive Director Eldon Davidson said. "It would not have been possible without the <u>State Training and Employment Program</u> administered by the Alaska Department of Labor, or the certified instructors provided by CH2M Hill."

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