

Cold Bay to Play Major Role in Northern Edge 21 Next Month

The small City of Cold Bay is no stranger to hosting big jets and a large number of passengers. The community's 10,000-foot-long airport runway has served as an emergency landing location on numerous occasions over the years for commercial airlines as well as F-16 Fighting Falcons crossing the Pacific Ocean. Next month, Cold Bay is once again stepping up to take on a big role as Northern Edge 21 enters the stage during military training exercises.

The City will be one of several communities across Alaska partnering with the military to host this massive training event. The joint exercise is scheduled for May 3 - 14, 2021 at military installations, local airports and training areas across the state. Forces from each branch of the



An F/A-18F Super Hornet, assigned to the "Black Knights" of Striker Fighter Squadron (VFA) 154, launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) while participating in Northern Edge 19. Photo by Seaman Apprentice Olympia McCoy.

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A U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon assigned to the 18th Aggressor Squadron flies during Northern Edge in May 2019 at Eielson Air Force Base. Photo by Senior Airman Eric Fisher – Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs.

military will experience high-end, realistic training scenarios to enhance combat readiness. Northern Edge 21 will have three focus areas: war fighting training, joint air operability and enhancing combat readiness.

"We are looking at what modern warfare could be in the future," said Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Boyer, the lead planner for Northern Edge. "We want to make sure that our nation's interests in the Arctic are protected and preserved in an appropriate manner."

Up to 300 military personnel are expected to descend upon Cold Bay next month.

"We're excited to see this happen," said Cold Bay Mayor Harold ("Hap") Kremer. "It should keep us on our toes."

The City of Cold Bay will provide water to the military during their stay. Other than that, the forces will mostly take care of their own needs.

"They're pretty self-sufficient," said Cold Bay's Public Works Director Kurt Uttecht. "They're setting up their own stuff, doing their own thing, and taking it all down. It will definitely be interesting. That's for sure."

Lt. Col. Boyer said the plan for the exercises in the Cold Bay area is to use air cushion-type landing crafts from the Marine Corps.

"From the shallow water of the bay, we will deliver assets to the existing landing craft pad that has been used in the past for commercial operations," he said. "We will also fly in material to the air base and will set up a tent city in the southwest corner of the airfield, away from the population, for pandemic reasons, to the extent possible."

Fueling operations will also be conducted. In addition, the military will be subleasing the school building in Cold Bay from the Aleutians East Borough to house a command and control (C2) unit. The C2 unit is a team of service members who will command and control U.S. military forces as part of Northern Edge 21, testing the military's ability to operate from locations with varying levels of capacity and sur



A U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon assigned to the 53rd Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, receives fuel from a 909th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135R Stratotanker during Northern Edge in May 2019 over the Gulf of Alaska. Photo by Senior Airman Eric Fisher – Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs.

with varying levels of capacity and support. Exercising this capacity is vital to the successful accomplishment of future joint missions.

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The military will also communicate with the FAA to ensure military and civilian aircraft are not in the same airspace at the same time. This ensures the safety of military pilots as well as civilian pilots and their passengers.

Pulling off such a colossal training event has taken months of planning to ensure that all of the moving parts work in sync. The military collaborated with its environmental specialists and the Alaska Department of Transportation to make sure the right paperwork was in order months ahead of time for any infrastructure that will be used during Northern Edge 21.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) transits the Gulf of Alaska while participating in Northern Edge 2019. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony J. Rivera.

State DOT employees in Cold Bay, who train every year in aircraft rescue and firefighting, will be presented with a unique opportunity during the joint exercise.

"The Marines are bringing in firefighters, which will be great because they requested to work with us," said Kremer, who is also the Cold Bay Airport Manager for DOT. "It will be great to work with other people in the firefighting field."

In addition, the employees will get a sneak peak of the military's aircraft that will be used during Northern Edge 21, and they'll receive a briefing on access points to stay clear of.



A U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II, assigned with Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, lands at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during Northern Edge 2019. Photo by Airman 1st Class Caitlin Russell – Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs.

"It will be really cool to see the military aircraft that could always potentially land at our airport and have a little hands-on training with their firefighters," Kremer said. "My crew is really excited to be working with them."

This event will also be a chance to educate military personnel about what Alaska and Cold Bay, in particular, have to offer. During part of the planning phase, some military personnel made their first visit to Cold Bay last fall.

"We had people from all over the U.S. come here who had never seen tundra or experienced Alaska before, so it was just

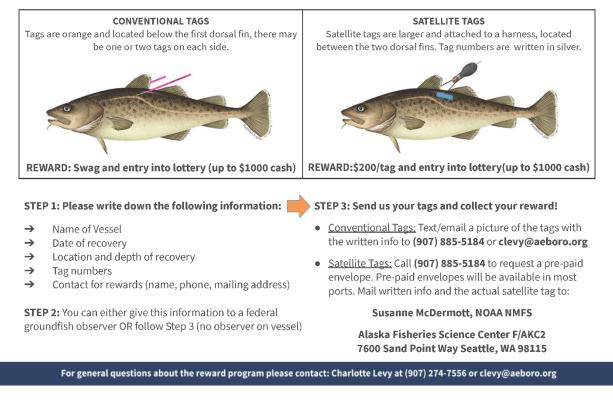
really interesting," Kremer said. "I'm sure it will be the same this time around, and we'll get to show them part of our community. We're excited."



REWARD FOR TAGGED PACIFIC COD



Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Aleutians East Borough tagged Pacific cod in March 2021 with satellite and conventional tags to study their distribution and migration. Those who return tags will receive rewards including swag, cash prizes and will be entered into an annual cash lottery (up to \$1,000)



Important Survey on Business Impacts from Pandemic:

Deadline is tomorrow – Friday, April 23rd

The Alaska Small Business Development Center (ASBDC) in Anchorage has been tasked with collecting relevant data regarding the impact of Federal, State and Local COVID relief funding on the Alaskan business community in 2020 and continuing on in 2021. Jon Bittner worked with several different Economic Development organizations including SWAMC to create a short, but important business survey so the Legislature and Administration can better plan how to disperse the Billion dollars of funding to the State of Alaska from the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act. The information collected will be aggregate only. NO PERSONAL BUSINESS

INFORMATON WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. This information needs to be collected the in a very short timeline since the Legislature will be designing their spending plan soon.

To participate, visit the link below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C19AKIndustryImpact

Restaurant Revitalization Fund to Provide Emergency Assistance

Help is on the way for eligible community restaurants, bars, caterers, food stands, bakeries and other entities with a significant percentage of eating/drinking sales. The Small Business Administration has released its program guidance along with a sample application for the new \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund included in the American Rescue Plan Act.

The formal announcement by the SBA for accepting applications will be soon. Businesses who want to apply may want to consider examining the requirements and collecting the necessary data so they are ready. Considerable interest in the program is expected, and funds will go quickly.

For more information, visit the link below:

https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/restaurant-revitalization-fund

APICDA Offers Regional Scholarship Opportunities

APICDA is offering ten NEW college undergraduate scholarship awards for the 2021-22 academic year. Eligibility requirements include being a full-time, permanent resident of an Aleutian region community or St. George Island. The college scholarship application is due by June 1. APICDA is also offering a regional vocational training scholarship with a rolling deadline. Flyers for both Haginaa Kidul (Helping to Grow) programs are below.

The APICDA board initiated the Haginaa Kidul scholarship in 2020 because of their strong belief in the social benefits that education provides and to broaden our educational offerings in recognition of the interconnectedness of communities within the region.

Haginaa Kidul (*Helping to Grow*) College Scholarship

TEN \$2,000 college undergraduate scholarship awards are available for the 2021-2022 academic year.

APICDA and its board recognize the interconnectedness of students, families and communities within the Aleutian/Pribilof region. We believe that expanding access to education and training offerings beyond CDQ member communities will help increase opportunities for networking, collaboration and information sharing, and in turn will help grow and strengthen our regional economy.







Is this scholarship program right for me?

- Are you a full-time, permanent resident of an APICDA CDQ member community; Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. George, or one of the following non-CDQ Aleutian/Pribilof region communities: Adak, Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, or Unalaska?
- **2.** Are you registered or planning to attend college full-time?
- **3.** Are you community-minded and highly motivated to earn a degree that will help support sustainability of your community or the Aleutian/Pribilof region?

If you answered yes to each of the above questions, apply for a scholarship by the annual deadline of June 1. Applications and more information are available on our website at www.apicda.com

Haginaa Kidul (*Helping to Grow*) Vocational Training Scholarship

A limited number of vocational training scholarships, up to \$2,000 each, are available for the remainder of 2021.

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- 2. In one or more months from now, are you planning to attend a certified vocational school or training program?
- **3.** After training, will you have potential employment opportunities and/or make contributions to your community or the Aleutian/Pribilof region?

If you answered yes to each of the above questions, apply for a scholarship. Applications and more information are available on our website at www.apicda.com

PUBLIC NOTICE NELSON LAGOON DOCK CLOSURE MAY 1 – JULY 15, 2021



The Aleutians East Borough will be conducting repairs on the Nelson Lagoon Dock. **The dock will be closed for use May 1 through July 15, 2021.**





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<u>Link to AEB's Facebook page</u> <u>Link to King Cove's Facebook page</u> Link to Cold Bay's Facebook page

