

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2005

1:03 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Gary Wilken, Co-Chair  
Senator Charlie Huggins  
Senator Fred Dyson  
Senator Gretchen Guess - via teleconference

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Chair  
Representative John Coghill  
Representative Bob Lynn  
Representative Jay Ramras  
Representative Eric Croft  
Senator Gary Stevens  
Representative John Harris  
Senator Gene Therriault

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

Alaska Military Youth Academy

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to record

**WITNESS REGISTER**

MR. TIMOTHY JONES, Director  
Alaska Military Youth Academy

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:04:31 PM](#)

**CHAIR GARY WILKEN** called the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

CHAIR WILKEN recognized Denny DeWitt representing the Governor's Office.

**Alaska Military Youth Academy**

MR. TIMOTHY JONES, Director, Alaska Military Youth Academy, introduced the staff. He said they have had tremendous success with the Academy including winning the Division I Academy Decathlon Championship for the State of Alaska.

SENATOR DYSON asked the reason for such stellar performance.

MR. JONES cited discipline and a regimented schedule as key success points.

SENATOR DYSON asked the ratio of staff to students.

MR. JONES informed there were 107 students with six academic teachers and 33 team leaders.

SENATOR DYSON asked the total cost per student.

MR. JONES responded they receive \$17,500 per student and the state pays 40 percent of that. They also receive funding from other grants.

MR. JONES introduced some of the students from the Academy.

SENATOR HUGGINS arrived at 1:20 PM.

MR. JONES said they are adding another platoon in the budget for next year due to the success of the program. Graduates are doing phenomenally well and the Academy has received awards from President Bush.

CHAIR WILKEN asked the process for tracking the success rate.

MR. JONES replied at the point of application all applicants are assigned mentors. By week 13 all cadets have met with their mentors. The relationships are tracked for one year and measured in the 13<sup>th</sup> month. A contractor for the Department of Defense does the measurements and the success rate is reported to the US Congress.

CHAIR WILKEN asked whether all the challenge programs have the same model.

MR. JONES replied they use the same model but have some significant differences.

CHAIR WILKEN asked what the Star Base Program is.

MR. JONES replied it is a youth program run through the National Guard. It is the same environment without the drill instructor. They take 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms for four days and teach them hands on training in math, science, technologies, and space exploration.

CHAIR WILKEN asked the number of programs per year.

MR. JONES replied they were booked year-round.

SENATOR DYSON asked about Galena.

MR. JONES replied the Galena City School Districts have the Interior Distance Education of Alaska Program (IDEA) and they partner with them.

SENATOR DYSON asked the sections of a student's day is conducted like a military academy.

MR. JONES replied the military atmosphere is 24-hours per day. He explained the cadet's maturity level grows quicker than of a student attending public school.

CHAIR WILKEN asked whether there was a wait list.

MR. JONES said they expect 380 applications without using a marketing campaign.

CHAIR WILKEN asked whether applicants have to be Alaska residents.

MR. JONES replied yes.

[1:47:42 PM](#)

CHAIR WILKEN adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.