



**TOP SECRET**

OPERATION Arctic Homefront

**EYES ONLY**

# Veteran Internship Program

## *Winning the Battle*

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION are significant problems in Alaska and around the nation. Often, military personnel are exiting the military without any established civilian employment and without a proper support network. Many within the veteran homeless population suffer from a Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or possibly both. These are significant life-changing challenges that only add to the difficulty of reintegration into civilian life and

starting a new career path. Furthermore, the changing diversity in our military is being echoed in homelessness as increased populations of both a younger demographic and more female veterans are found in homeless communities. We at AMHM recognize these circumstances to be unacceptable and have developed our live-in intern program to assist soldiers transitioning from active duty to civilian life, and thus prevent them from becoming one of these statistics.



School, work, meals and barracks are self-contained within the campus of the Alaska Military Heritage Museum as part of the 2-year, 2-stage Veteran Internship Program based at historic Kulis ANGB in Anchorage

ACCORDING TO THE 2017 US Department of Housing and Urban Development 'Point in Time' Counts, there were 124 homeless veterans in the state of Alaska, thus making up approximately 7% of the total homeless population within the state. In 2018, a report released by the US Department of Veterans Affairs states that, on average, 20 veterans commit suicide somewhere within the U.S. every day. These statistics represent an issue that is very visible in our own city of Anchorage, and signify a greater need for innovative approaches to solve this issue. Without action, we cannot expect the problem to fix itself. Many cities across the U.S. have successfully developed targeted programs that have drastically reduced or eliminated veteran homelessness.

The Alaska Military Heritage Museum has chosen to be an active part of the solution and step into the arena by developing this live-in Veteran's internship program to prevent exiting military personnel from becoming homeless statistics.★





## Veteran Intern Program

The AMHM believes this veteran intern program will support the successful transition from soldier to civilian life, aiding in the prevention of veteran instability and homelessness. This program is intended to gradually introduce our veterans to their new civilian life and employment through a 2-year transition period. Outlined below is the general curriculum for each year.

### Year 1

BASED ON THE INTERN'S MILITARY JOB TRAINING and personal ambitions, interns will work in 6 key areas at the museum including facilities maintenance, artifact restoration and maintenance, security and emergency management, business administration and development, education, and outfitting. As part of stage/year 1, interns will spend a majority of the work week working for their museum to accomplish museum goals, 3-4 days a week.



The second part of their work week will involve working for a company in Anchorage that matches their category.

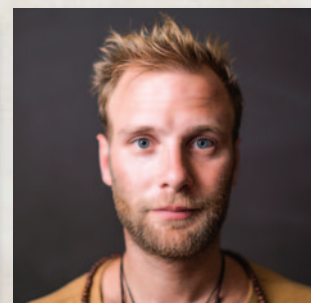
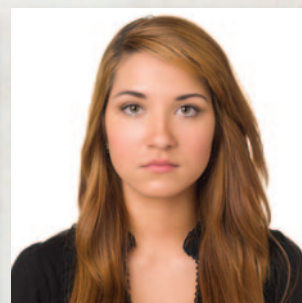
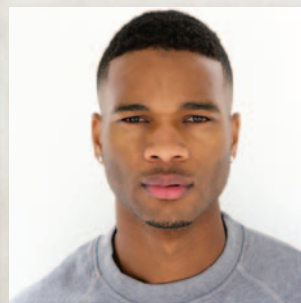
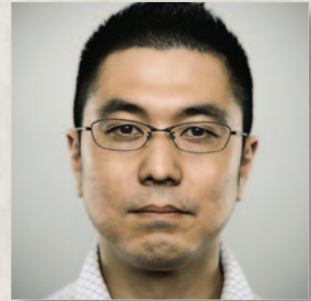
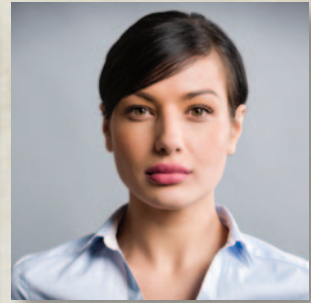
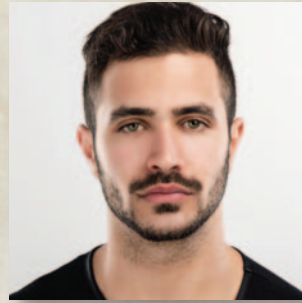
### Year 2

THE SECOND STAGE will invert this work week schedule to allow for more outside of museum work, while allowing for exiting interns to train incoming interns without a skills gap. Throughout the course of the intern year, the AMHM will work to develop a supportive environment with a team and individual success oriented atmosphere to further aid new veterans during their entry into civilian life. ★



# Operation Arctic Homefront

Honing Military Skills for Success Transitioning to Civilian Life



*Share Your Strengths & Enhance Your Future*

MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN HAVE A CERTAIN LOOK IN THEIR EYES conveying a deep confidence and resourcefulness that is hard to hide. There is strength in numbers when it comes to transitioning to civilian life after serving honorably. ★

Find out more:

[WWW.ALASKAMHM.ORG](http://WWW.ALASKAMHM.ORG)

*Honor, pride,  
courage  
& strength  
don't require  
a uniform.*



## The Next Mission:

*Leading the Way & Telling the Story*

### OBJECTIVES:

- ★ Provide housing & work to veterans;
- ★ Develop military skill sets into civilian career fields;
- ★ Provide a supportive, structured environment to ease the burden of transition.



### JOB SKILLS INCLUDE:

- Vintage Aircraft Restoration
- Engine Build + Repair
- Welding, Machine + Hydraulic
- Business Communications
- Management + Accounting
- Alaskan Military History
- Community Service
- Aircraft Weight + Balance
- Aerodynamics
- Principles of Flight
- Weather
- Navigation
- Ethics
- Finance
- Wilderness First Aid
- Search + Rescue
- Teambuilding + Adventure
- Fitness + Nutrition
- Communication & PR

# Transitioning to Civilian Life Using Your Military Training to Advance *Winning the Battle*

IF YOU GREW UP IN ALASKA carrying water and splitting wood on the Homestead and at fish camp, then life in the Military might seem familiar: Routine. Team work. Challenge. Reward. Discipline.

America has been shifting its military focus toward the Arctic, preparing for a potential great-power conflict, changing how it uses its weapons and where it operates. That means remaining ready to fight at the top of the world. Veterans discharge from service with skills that are valuable to the civilian workforce and while transitioning can be one of the most daunting challenges of all, staying focused on your peacetime goals key.

Imagine stepping into the life of a veteran for a moment: After navigating the ranks of the military, where you pushed beyond your self-imposed limits, the next challenge in life is honing your technical and personal skills to succeed in the civilian world. You have acquired specialized skills alongside your brothers and sisters in arms, but the rest of the world doesn't quite understand. A similar struggle was felt by the 7th Infantry Division in the Land of 70 MPH Fog



*"It is necessary to experience events which revealed the inner worth of a man...the edge of his temper, the fiber of his stuff, the quality of his resistance and the secret truth of his pretenses, not only to himself but to others."*

Joseph Conrad

## THE LAND OF 70 MPH FOG

In 1943, American troops were streaming into Alaska in preparation for one of the most grueling, yet little-known, battles of World War II. The Japanese had bombed Dutch Harbor, seized Attu Island, and captured the local Alaskan Natives as prisoners of war. It was the first time since the War of 1812 that American soil had been occupied.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 7th Infantry Division was assigned to protect the west coast from the real threat of foreign invasion. After spending their time stationed in the Mojave Desert, in preparation for deployment to the North African Theater, leadership determined that the 7th ID would not be needed in North Africa and instead would be deployed to the Aleutian Islands, a chain of dark, remote mountains rising out of the Bering Sea, closer to Japan and Siberia than to the US mainland. In thick, ominous fog and sudden storms with wild winds, the Front Line lay hidden to both sides of the conflict. After the unit received brief amphibious landing training, the high-desert rats of the 7th ID mobilized to the island of Attu, meeting some of the most extreme weather and harsh living conditions on the planet.

Although odds were stacked against them, these young warriors, many teenagers, prevailed and recaptured the Attu from the Japanese.

Like the soldiers heading from the desert to the Arctic, we will prevail against veteran homelessness and find victory for our soldiers.

Are you ready for the next mission? ★



# Kulis Air National Guard Base

## *Veteran Internship Program Campus*



The Historic Kulis Air National Guard Base (ANGB) was originally home to the 144th Fighter/Bomber Squadron during the winter of 1953, whose primary mission was 'Top Cover' national air defense.

Lt. Albert Kulis, the namesake of the base, still lays in rest 10-miles from this site in the cockpit of his F-86. There, he is entombed in dense volcanic ash and glacier silt mud near the location where his wingman reported seeing Lt. Kulis's aircraft bank right and vanish into the fog. The base was named 'Kulis', in honor of the lost pilot, and the lore of the place has grown ever since. Over the years the Base has served multiple roles for the nation and state, including serving as the operation headquarters for disaster relief following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake. Within minutes of the disastrous event, Guard members began streaming into Kulis, without being called, to

provide airlift, supplies and shelter for the affected communities. Kulis continued to play a key role in every natural disaster after 1964.

In 2011 after years of dedicated service, the 176th Alaska Air National Guard wing and the current occupants of Kulis ANGB, were relocated to Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson. The base ownership was transferred to the state of Alaska where it has been sporadically occupied by various companies. AMHM is working to preserve and repurpose these facilities for our Veteran Internship Program and museum.

The proud heritage of Kulis now continues as a new generation of ambitious men and women in the AMHM Veteran Internship Program utilize its historic halls. ★



### Core Values:

- ★ Excellence
- ★ Accessibility
- ★ Relevance
- ★ Collaboration
- ★ Accountability
- ★ Responsiveness
- ★ Growth



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#To Tell the Story



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