

# GREETING FROM ALASKA



Our own, Kate Noble, CDA, RDA sends “Greetings” from Alaska. Kate is a Hospitalman (HM) AKA, “*medical technician*” as well as a dental technician (HM1) with the United States Navy Reserve. The Navy merged the dental and medical corps together as of October 2006.

This exercise that Kate is presently on is called *Arctic Care*. It is a humanitarian effort. Working with US Public Health Service and Indian Health Services, the US Marines, US Air Force, US Army, US Navy, Alaskan Air National Guard and Army National Guard are performing specialty services (medical care, dental care, optometry and veterinary care (for the dogs) to Native Alaskans in remote villages in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The only mode of transportation to these villages from a central point is via

Blackhawk helicopter. The headquarters of this exercise is in Kotzebue Alaska, 33 miles north of the Arctic Circle. We also have an oral surgeon, endodontist, periodontist and an internist (colonoscopies due to the extreme high cases of colon cancer in Alaska) working at the Kotzebue Medical Center. We are all military personnel flown in for this. Your tax dollars are at work! The natives are very appreciative of our time and expertise.

For this particular exercise, I am working at Headquarters in an administration capacity. Name it, I’m doing it. I stay in contact with all the remote villages via fax machine and phone. Long days and great experiences. Headquarters is manned with a point to contact for each specialty: dental, medical, optometry, vet, operations officer, administration officer, logistics officer and support staff (i.e. me). Kate has twelve years experience of continuing education instructor, President of Monmouth Ocean Dental Assistant Society.