



For Immediate Release
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Alaska Air National Guard Rescues Hunter from Gorge *210th, 212th Rescue Squadrons retrieve sheep hunter*

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—The Alaska Air National Guard successfully rescued a sheep hunter near the Knik Glacier over the weekend.

The 11th Rescue Coordination Center received a request for assistance from the Alaska State Troopers to assist with locating and rescuing a distressed person Sept. 20.

The call came in at 12:50 p.m. and the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were promptly tasked to locate and rescue the hunter from a gorge in the Knik Glacier area. The 210th Rescue Squadron responded with an HH-60 Pave Hawk carrying pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron.

“The hunter’s sheep had fallen into the gorge, and he’d gone to recover it,” said Capt. Brian Kile, 11th RCC senior controller. “Once he got down to his sheep, he realized that he couldn’t get back out and that he needed help. The quickest and safest way to rescue him at that point was to use the hoist recovery system.”

Hoist recovery is a method of rescue where pararescueman are hoisted from the aircraft to the ground to assess the distressed party for injuries; depending on the injuries the person can either be hoisted back up in a stokes litter, or if there are minor or no injuries, as in this case, in the same manner as the pararescuemen.

“The aircrew and pararescuemen of the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons are highly trained and capable of handling rescue situations across the vast expanse and varied terrain that is Alaska,” said Lt. Col. Paul VanderWeide, 11th Rescue Coordination Center director. “This is what they train for everyday and that training is validated every time they save a life and return a loved one.”

The 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were awarded one save for this mission.