

Armed Forces radio goes bi-lingual

The Department of Defense has approved the broadcasting of bilingual alcohol-related public service spot announcements over the Armed Forces Radio network, Sen. Ted Stevens said today.

The radio spots, many recorded in the Yupik and Inupiaq languages, were produced through the joint cooperation of the National Council on Alcoholism-Alaska Region and the Alaska National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. They are aimed at alerting Alaskans to the problems of alcoholism.

"While it is Defense policy to restrict broadcast of materials over AFRTS facilities to the English language, we have discussed the unusual circumstances outlined in your letter with the Alaskan Air Command and have approved an exception to policy for limited use of these radio spots," the DOD stated in a letter to Stevens who had written asking for approval of the broadcasting of the announcements.

In January the executive directors of both councils visited the senator in Washington to report on their joint effort. Earlier in the year, the radio spots were entered in competition for the prestigious Silver Anvil Award, a national award for exceptional media accomplishments.

"The NCA-AR and ANCADA announcements are designed specifically with Alaskan village audiences in mind. The broadcast by the AFRN will provide an effective means for reaching the target populations throughout Alaska," Stevens said.