

MAPTS is a Statewide Program - UA Workforce Development

Developing a local workforce for Alaska's and Canada's Mining Industry and Services

Mail to:

Mining and Petroleum Training Service
162 College Road
Soldotna, AK 99669

MINING AND PETROLEUM TRAINING SERVICE



MAPTS Mine Training Center



LET'S TRAIN SOME MINERS!

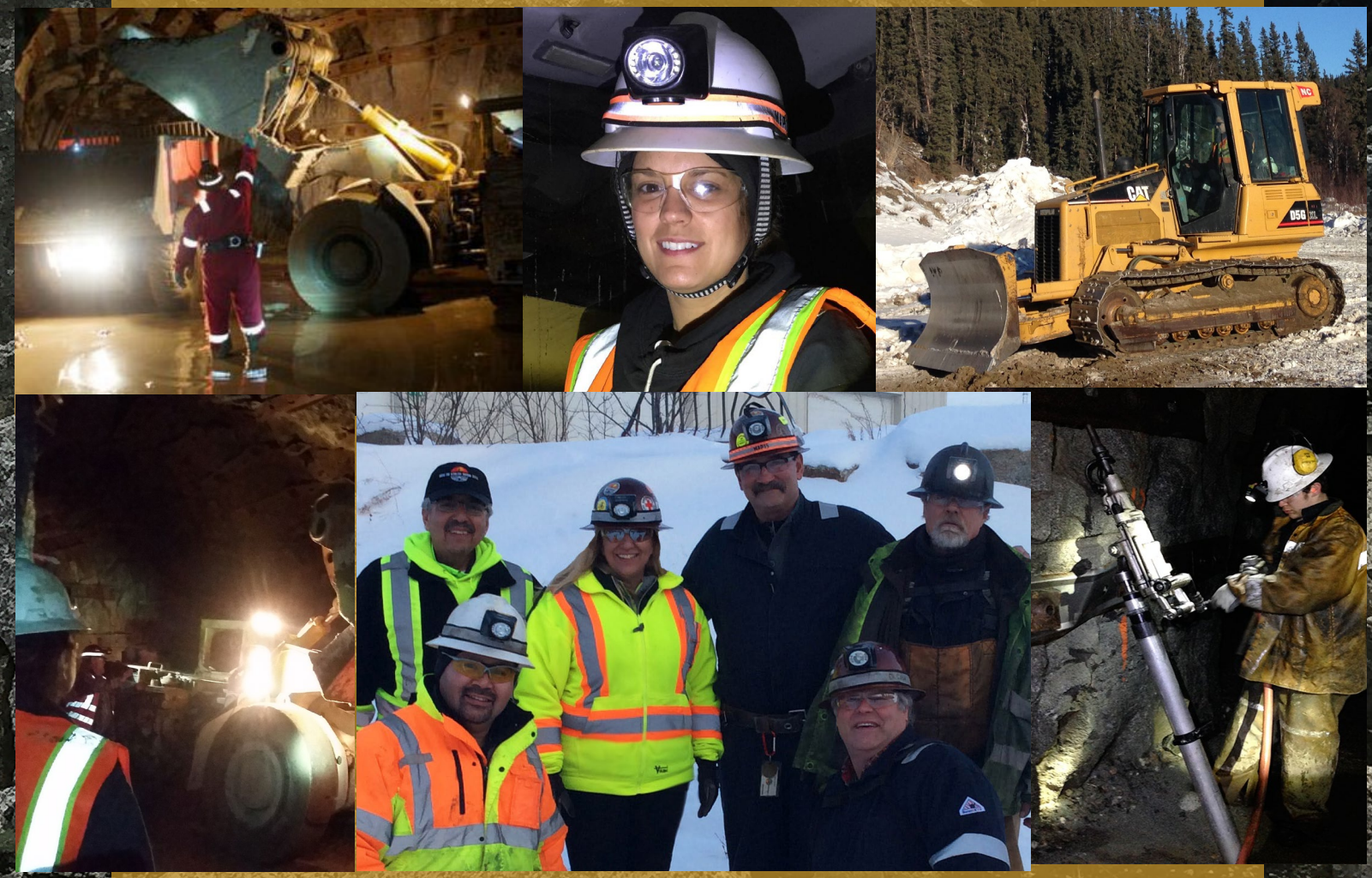
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MAPTS

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I believe success comes when preparation meets opportunity.

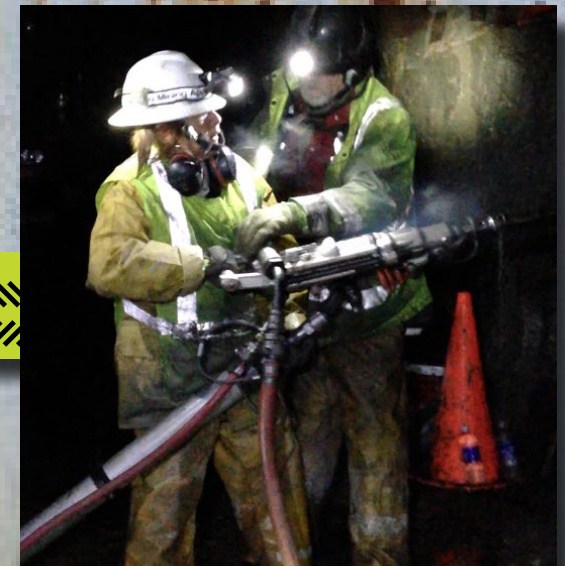
- Bill Bieber
MAPTS Executive Director

Established in 1979 by the University of Alaska, specifically to deliver training, development and consulting services to industries of Alaska, MAPTS has broadened its repertoire of offerings with employer-driven soft-skills and hands-on industrial training.

With the acquisition of the assets and facility formerly known as the Delta Mine Training Center in June 2015, the University of Alaska is positioned to be a global leader in surface and underground mine training. Named number one in the top 10 colleges in the United States by Mining Global, there is no other hands-on training facility like it in the world.

Working with Industry input, MAPTS set about defining current workforce needs from the employer's perspective. What we have managed to create is a realistic environment that models a remote camp experience that prepares the student for the rigors of working away from home while providing them with the skills they need to be a productive and safe employee.

The training center, located on a 50-acre site 30 miles East of Delta Junction, Alaska, is an international partnership with Canada's Yukon College Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining. It features state-of-the-art training simulators and heavy duty mine equipment, a surface and underground classroom, several shops and a warehouse, a 36-bed camp and kitchen/dining hall and almost 6,000 feet of mine drift complete with two underground classrooms and a three-story underground office complex and underground wifi.



We get people that have no job experience and we get people with some job experience, or bad job experience. We get a wide range of students excited to learn how to mine.

- Daren Case
MAPTS Underground Mine Instructor and Lead Compliance Instructor



Underground

When you show up for the Underground Mine Training Camp, BE PREPARED to give 100% of your effort every day and participate fully as part of a well-tuned team. Our training broadens your interpersonal skills and prepares you for a safe, rewarding career in the Mining Industry. You will achieve more than you ever imagined possible and it will change your attitude about your future prospects. This is a pass/fail course and successful completion of the program requires you to step-up and successfully complete tasks that are both mentally and physically challenging. Underground mining is a proud tradition and we team you up with the best instructors that mining has to offer.

The Underground Mine Training camp is 280 hours broken into two 14-day segments of 10-hour days. You will arrive for a two-week period, take a two-week recess, and then return to complete the training in a second two-week session.

The program begins with mandatory MSHA compliance training for Inexperienced Underground Miners and familiarization with mining terminology with an emphasis on mine specific standard operating procedures and completion of forms used at underground mines throughout Alaska and Canada.

Before we cut you loose in the heavy equipment (LHD/Scooptram/Mucker, Underground Haul Truck, Skidsteer, Man Transport, and Dozer) you will learn operational techniques using the Yukon College's onsite ThroughTech Cybermine Simulators. The simulators have a moving platform, with sound and visuals that put you into a realistic underground environment. You will learn muscle-memory for the levers and gauges, which is important in an extremely dark environment. Once you pass two proficiency examinations, you will complete equipment inspections and light daily maintenance duties and

Mine Camp



then on to learning to safely operate the actual heavy equipment around our outdoor surface driving arena. You will learn bucket control and signalling, underground haul truck and mucker loading and dumping techniques, and proper speed/RPM, as well as approved start-up and shut down procedures and much, much more.

The underground mine training consists of Utility Work, Jackleg Drilling, Introduction to Scaling/Ground Control, and Operation of the Heavy Equipment. Of course safe operating procedures, teamwork and communication, housekeeping and proper tool identification are all an important part of this portion of the training. You will also learn to work independently underground and you will rotate through various job functions in addition to your daily duties, such as Safety Person or Shifter. This develops an appreciation for the demands that those roles play during a workday at a mine site.

Final examinations and exit interviews are conducted one-on-one with each Instructor at the end of the training.



I believe some of the best people in the World are mining people, and if these young folks are showing up here for a month, away from their families, that tells me they WANT to be a miner. That's 50% of it right there.

- Jimmy "Smitty" Smith
MAPTS Lead Underground Mine Instructor





MAPTS does not train to train, we train to employ, giving our graduates the highest level of capability and confidence to succeed.

- Bill Bieber
MAPTS
Executive Director



Surface Mine Camp

Learning to operate giant equipment is exciting and just part of a very comprehensive Surface Mine Training Camp!

From the moment you step off the bus, you will know you are in for a fantastic opportunity. No previous experience operating equipment is required. Our fast-paced class is taught by Surface Mine instructors that have years of experience operating mining equipment and developing a successful and safe employee.

The Surface Mine Training Camp is 140 hours comprising 14 ten-hour work days. In addition to a compliance course for MSHA's Part 48 Inexperienced Newly-Employed Miner and Basic First Aid and CPR, you will learn mining terminology, communication techniques, signalling, equipment inspections and light maintenance duties that are all a part of a surface mine operator's job.

The same ThoroughTec simulators that are used in the underground training are utilized in the surface training, with the cabs switched out for the appropriate (or near approximation) of the actual equipment on site. The instructor guides you through a demanding set of criteria that has proven to develop a operator that is safe and alert with a high level of confidence that only MAPTS training provides. After completing the simulator training and passing the proficiency exams, you and your teammates will quickly move on to operating the heavy equipment.

Our driving track and arena is challenging and requires a high level of attention to situational awareness. You will learn how to use radios and signals to communicate effectively and safely with other operators, vendors and persons working and navigate around within the surface quarry and driving arena.



This employer-influenced curriculum not only teaches you critical technical skills required for an entry-level position, it provides you with the confidence and competent skills that are necessary to develop a lifelong career.

Part of the success of this program is making sure you have the understanding and tools necessary to maintain a well-balanced life at home, budget management and life/career planning, quality family time, and a greater level of community involvement and volunteerism. When you show up for work, the employer wants to get you trained in mining-related skills right away; they don't have time to develop the soft skills in you - the new employee - that will keep you motivated and advancing in your career and happy at home.

When a student completes MAPTS training, employers know they are getting an employee that has the tools to be successful and the ability to work at a busy, remote site with a demanding work schedule - who can safely perform their duties and be a good fit for their team and operation right from the start.



When the student walks in and sees all of this equipment, they know they are going to operate it, that it's not going to be a classroom environment.

- Mike Azzara
MAPTS Lead Surface
Mine Instructor

Peter "Boise" Alexie has mine exploration and development experience. He was raised in Russian Mission and understands the unique pressures students from remote areas face when considering participating in this training.





The Softskills training was initially developed for a pilot project for training for the Selkirk First Nation by Yukon College and MAPTS

Photo: Chief Kevin McGinty, Selkirk First Nation; Shelagh Rowles, Executive Director, Yukon College; and Bill Bieber, Executive Director, MAPTS



Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining

Softskills &

MAPTS instructors have all been “the employer” prior to coming to work for the University of Alaska. They know what a successful employee looks like and how to motivate them to develop the potential as high-performers and have refined the softskills module with that end result in mind. For many students, this module combined with the rest of the training, is a life-changing opportunity.

The softskill portion of the training was identified right away by the Yukon College and MAPTS as a key component to the overall success of the remote camp training.

By developing employability and job-readiness skills, a good work ethic, budget and life/career planning techniques and resources, by emphasizing the importance of spending quality time with family and increased community/volunteerism involvement; this training produces and readies an employee who is able to identify future opportunities. It motivates a typical employee who views his/her contribution at a day-to-day job as mundane and elevates them into an employee who can envision the prospects of advancement and helps prepare them to meet opportunities when they arise. Creating a forward-thinking, well-rounded employee decreases problems that have the potential lead to employee retention issues.

Using positive reinforcement and in-house developed techniques, MAPTS has been extremely successful in helping our students realize their potential.

Our training also addresses sensitive multi-cultural and gender issues that if left unchecked can derail a productive team and cause numerous problems for an employer. MAPTS students understand what makes a successful team and graduate from our training with the tools to be a good fit for an employer’s already highly-functioning team.

MAPTS is meeting the needs of the Alaska mining industry by developing a local, ready workforce.

Curriculum

When MAPTS met with mining employers during the development of our hands-on Mine Training Programs, it was clear that there was a need to develop training that produced the skills, work ethic and attitude required of a successful miner.

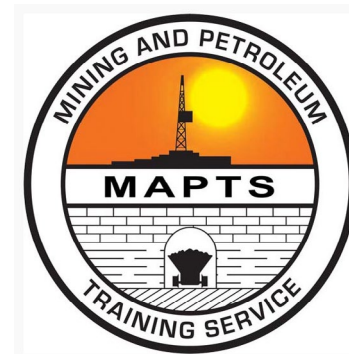
We understood that mining requires a skill-set that is specific for conditions that can be unforgiving. Students must not only know the procedures but also be able to conduct standard work activities safely and efficiently. The softskill module was a key component and after two years, we have a program that sets the stage for a employee that will be a good fit and prepared for company-specific training.

Our instructor-to-student ratio is geared to keep the student safe in a highly hazardous and constantly changing environment and allows MAPTS to break the students out into teams that replicate mine production activities. Students become disciplined in camp life and time management, and our expectations are high that they will perform at their highest potential from day one.

Our morning lineouts are guided by the instructors and our tailgate meetings are student driven once they possess the skills to lead their teams safely and effectively. Each day is concluded with a review and discussion led by the instructors and student team leaders.

The training modules are developed so that training may be adjusted to accommodate the instructional objectives while keeping students engaged and the equipment and the facility operating smoothly.

From the mining cycle, to camp life, to adjusting being away from home, this training provides the students with a thorough understanding of what it takes to be an entry level miner.



This program was conceived and developed with direct input from mine supervisory personnel. We took into consideration what the mine’s were looking for, as well as the Yukon College desires for their students and utilized Bill’s extensive experience working with Indigenous communities, that coupled with my Alaska Native heritage as an enrolled Kenaitze Tribal member, we have developed a program that addresses a multi-cultural workforce. Using this unique perspective as it relates to the mining industry, we have implemented a successful softskills component that really resonates with our students.

We are developing a student that understands the needs of the employer they are going to work for.

- René Azzara
MAPTS Program Specialist & Instructional Design



Camp Life

MAPTS underground mine training classes simulate a typical mine work schedule.

The 280 hour class is conducted over a six (6) week period. The students attend two weeks on, two weeks off, and return for a final two weeks. This allows the students and their families to fully understand the demands that working away from home for an extended period of time requires.

What can you expect?

We provide you with a list of supplies that will make your visit more comfortable and we offer limited wifi (no streaming) for off-hours communication with the outside world.

You will share a room with another student. Bedding is provided. Showers and a laundry facility are located within close proximity to the rooms and laundry soap is on-site.

We have an on-site cook and a kitchen/dining hall facility. Three meals a day are provided (two hot meals and a sack lunch). We ask that you notify us of serious allergies or medical conditions that may pose a serious health risk. We try to accommodate most diets, but come prepared if you have specific dietary needs that we might not be able to accommodate. If you require an epi-pen, please remember to bring one with you, as well as enough medications to last the entire class. Our facility is remote and delivery/ mail services are not an option.

We have satellite TV in three main areas. Bring DVDs, books, board or card games, or other acceptable entertainment for off-hours rest and relaxation.

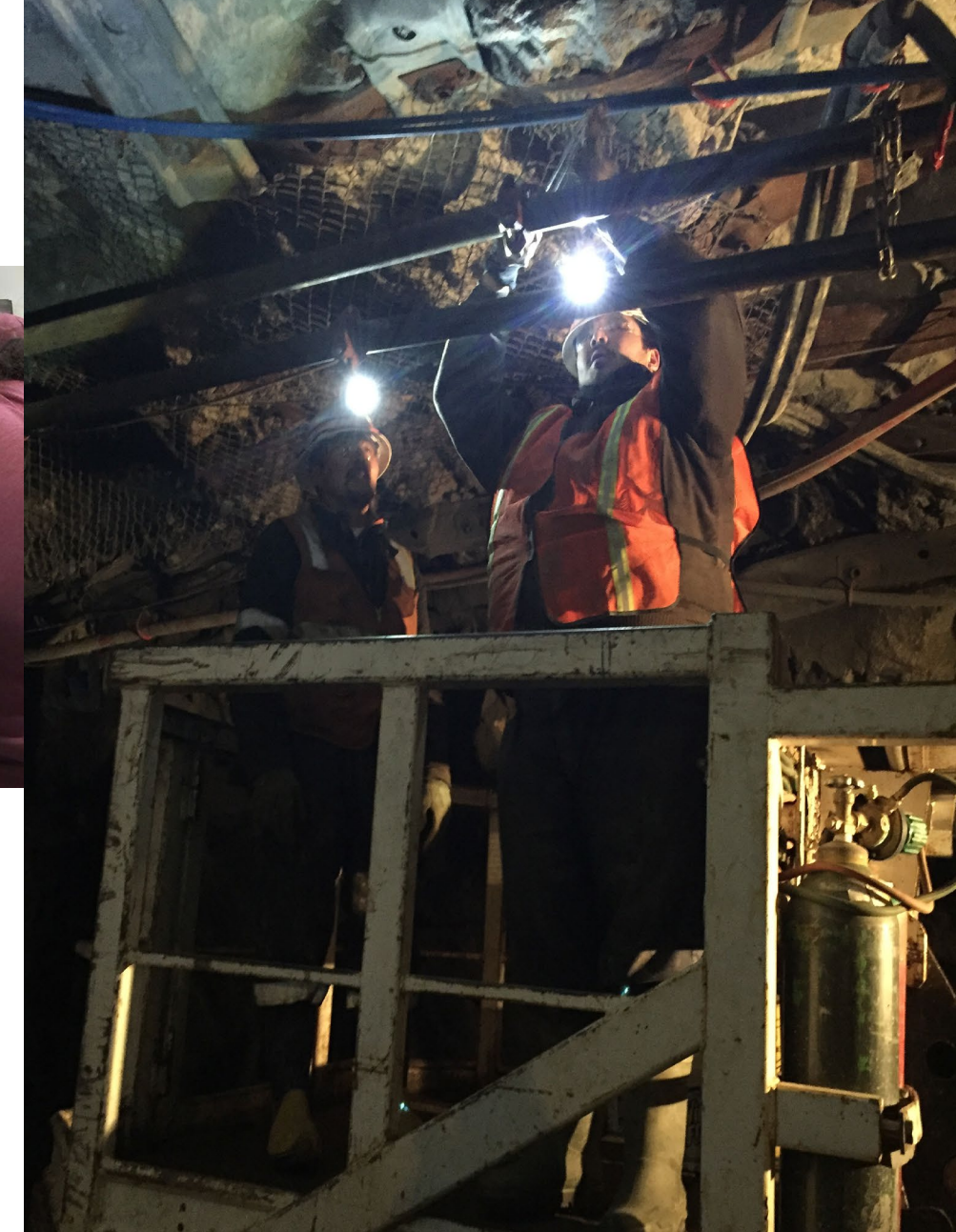
You are not allowed to drive yourself to/from camp, nor may you entertain any visitors at camp or leave during the course. Strict rules are adhered to and immediate expulsion (with no second chance) will take place for anyone that breaks a rule.

Our camp is dry (no alcohol) and substance-free (no drugs, illegal substances). We do not allow vape or e-cigarette devices. We have a strict ZERO-TOLERANCE policy. We will provide you with further information regarding this at registration.

Bring a good attitude, an excellent work ethic, and a willingness to learn.



PHOTOS: Far left top, MAPTS surface facility. Far left middle, dorms. Bottom left, surface classroom. Top right, MAPTS underground “ballroom” where graduation takes place. Right, the students daily underground “classroom”. Above, a student completes daily forms at the end of their shift.



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Support Staff &

MAPTS' administrative office is in Soldotna and the staff there is eager to help you with any questions about our mine training camps. Your process of applying to attend a mine training camp starts there. The staff will help students sign up for a regularly scheduled camp and works with students to obtain financial assistance.

We typically accept students two different ways:

One way is that a student is brought to us by a prospective employer as a candidate for full-time employment, contingent on successful completion of the MAPTS training program.

This student has already been vetted by the employer and is determined to be fit for duty. The employer typically sponsors the student's travel to and from Fairbanks, checks in on the student's progress with MAPTS instructors during camp, then attends MAPTS Mine Training Camp graduation in support of the student. If the student successfully completes the camp, then he or she is offered a letter of employment.

Another way we enroll students is through our open enrollment policy. We ask the student to apply with MAPTS, and include their contact information, past experience, and compliance with the alcohol and drug-free policy.

The student seeks funding to assist paying for the class and this can be accomplished in various ways. It can include applying with the State of Alaska Department of Labor for training funds, seeking training assistance through their own regional or tribal association, local workforce program, or industry itself. Going through this process involves commitment by the student to follow through with the documentation required to seek these funds. MAPTS staff is aware of the process and is standing by to assist in whatever way possible.



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Scheduling Training

We work with the various Department of Labor Job Centers around the state and they are aware of our training program and positive employment results. Because of our results, they are willing to work with our students and are reactive to their needs.

Additionally, MAPTS as a member of a larger University of Alaska consortium, receives assistance from the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration TAACCCT grant. This grant assists MAPTS with operating expenses for the camps, allowing us to accept students who have obtained partial funding for training.

Once training is complete, the MAPTS office staff tracks employment and performance of mine training camp graduates. We do this, both for the continued improvement of our own program, and for reporting requirements of industry and grant sources. Additionally, our staff and instructors remain in contact with students who need mentoring and encouragement through the application/interview/new hire process.

We build relationships with our students to help in their success.

If you are ready for a fulfilling career and to start that career well-trained and ready for duty, please call our office and speak to our helpful office staff. They can provide the schedule of camps, answer your questions, and get you started in seeking funding assistance if necessary.

MAPTS office:
(907) 262-2788

