

# NIEHS Trainers

Exchange

Las Vegas, Nevada

March 28-30, 2007

**Highs and Lows of Remote Training**

presented by

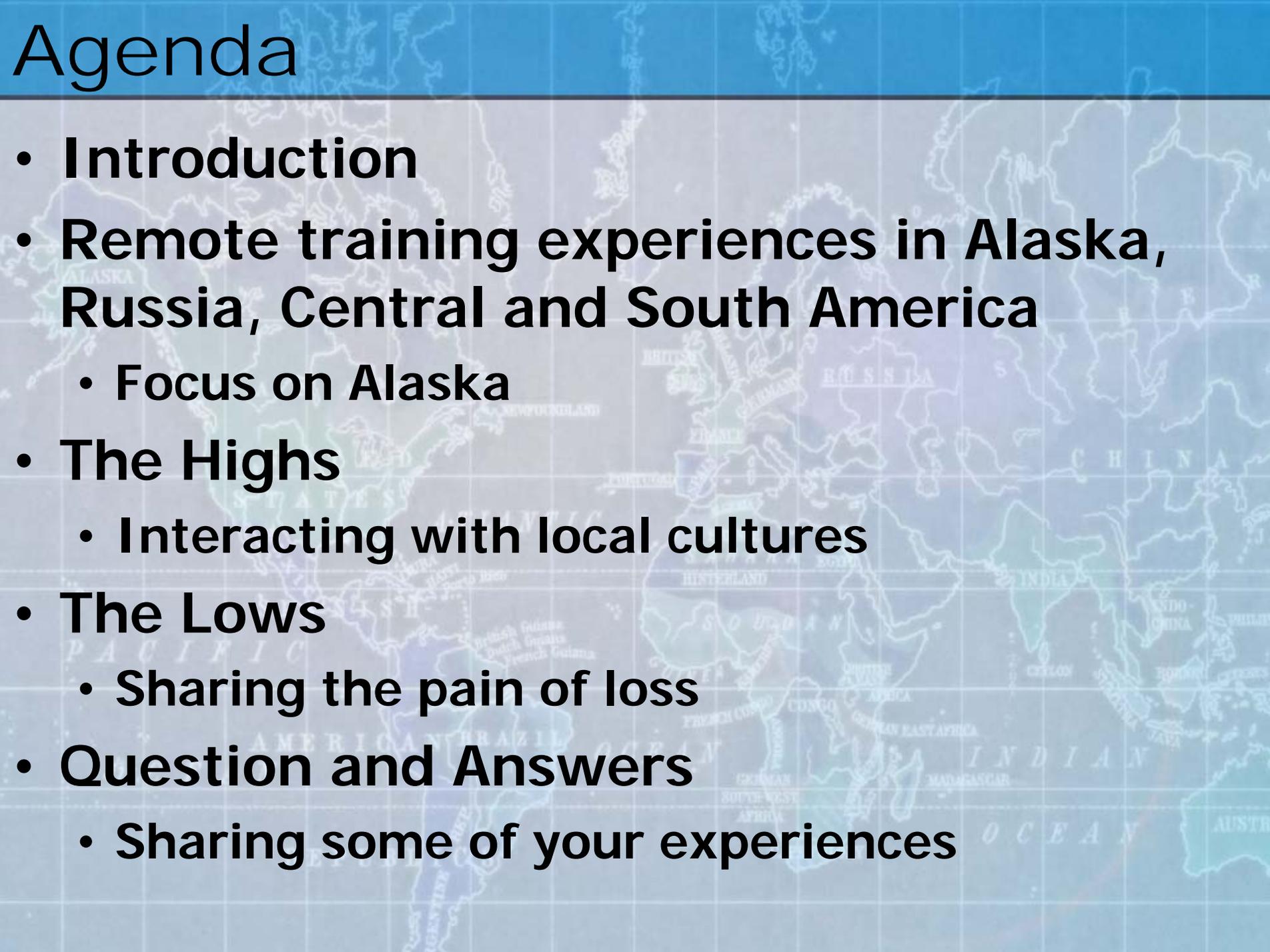
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# Agenda



- **Introduction**
- **Remote training experiences in Alaska, Russia, Central and South America**
  - **Focus on Alaska**
- **The Highs**
  - **Interacting with local cultures**
- **The Lows**
  - **Sharing the pain of loss**
- **Question and Answers**
  - **Sharing some of your experiences**

# Size Matters

**Alaska is 20% of the total  
land mass of the USA**

**Total population of less than  
750,000 people for the State**



# Highs of Remote Training

- **Engaging in a different culture....**
- **Sharing your culture with your students....**
- **Knowing you made a difference, no matter how large or small your contribution**
- **Create opportunities for change**
  - **Suggest by example, don't "tell them" how it's going to be**

You might ask, why do these people need training?



# The Reality of it all.....



Living quarters

Our classroom



What do you do with one student in a 40-hour HAZWOPER class?



# Highs of Remote Training

- **Engaging in a different culture....**

**Study the culture your going to  
be working with**

**Work within their values**

**Enjoy it, don't try to change it!**

A promise of a beautiful woman  
behind every tree!!!!



Contamination includes fuel spills totaling over 220,000 gallons, solvents, heavy metals, dioxins and furans, asbestos, and PCBs.



“I want to see this site cleaned up before it’s too late. It used to be good hunting and berry picking here”



# Highs of Remote Training

Sharing your culture with your students....

**Give examples of how you work & what goes right and what goes wrong**

**Ask questions and share how your standards look and work like theirs**

# Lows of Remote Training

Learning their culture is exciting  
and can be very sad....

**Most remote places are very close  
their culture and families and new  
friends they make.**

**When tragedy strikes, it can and does  
hits close to home....even for  
instructors!!**

# In Fond Remembrance of

- **Jason Nowpakahok, 38, Gambell Mayor**
- **Yolanda Nowpakahok, 11, Jason's daughter**
- **Leonard Nowpakahok, 11, Jason's nephew**
- **James Uglwook, 20, Whaling boat crewman**

**All four of these wonderful people died in the pursuit of their substance lifestyle whale hunting. The tragic accident took their lives in the early morning hours of April 27, 2005**

# Tragedy strikes St. Lawrence Island

Village whaling boat capsizes in fierce storm Wednesday morning, leaving one dead, three missing, including two children

## The missing:



Yolanda Nowpakahok, 11

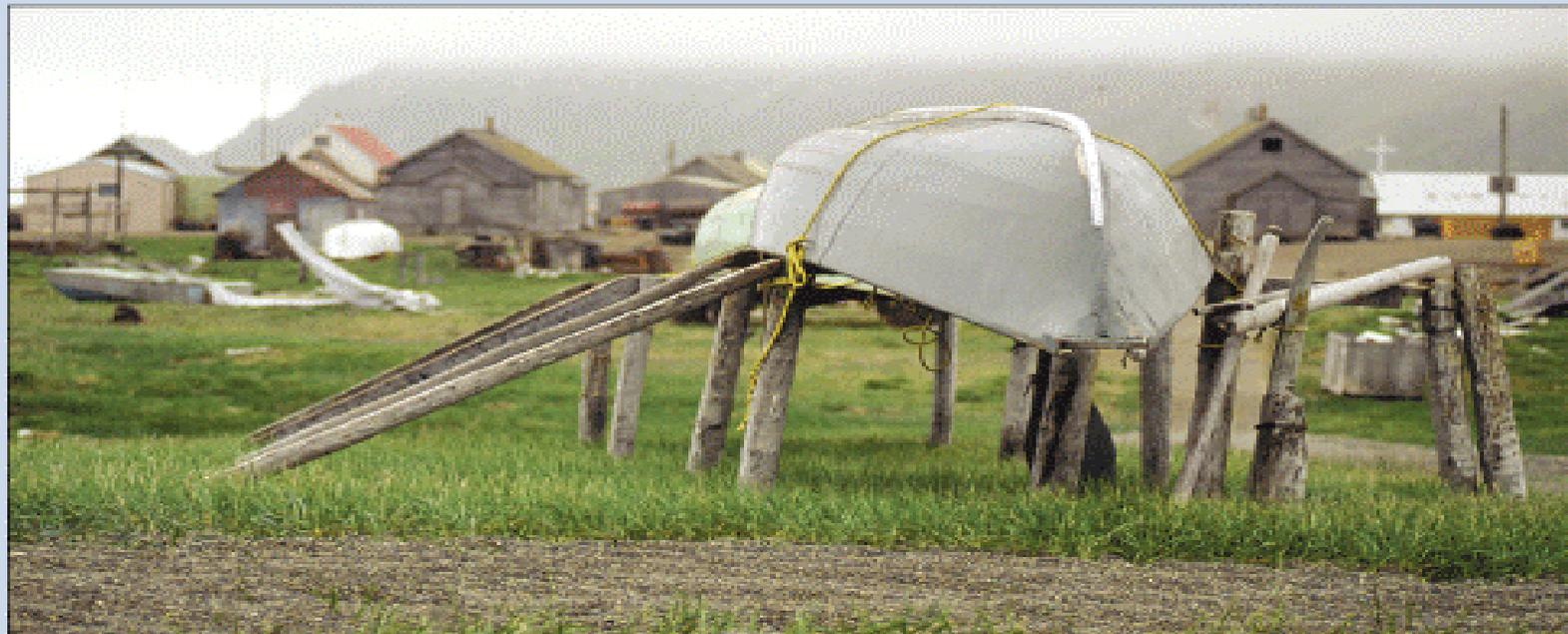


Leonard Nowpakahok, 11



Jason Nowpakahok, 38

**Not shown**  
James Uglowook, 20, was rescued but later died



BOB HALLINEN / Daily News archive 1997

Typical walrus skin boat, used by whalers, rests on supports in the village of Gambell on St. Lawrence Island

# Your Questions?

- **Thank you for your participation in this years NIEHS Trainers Exchange.**
- **I hope you take away something that will make your next remote or wilderness training experience a GREAT one for you and for those you serve in training.**
- **Be safe!!**



**Rail Workers**