

**"Never in my wildest dreams ... This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."**

**JEFF STRICKLAND**  
CO-OWNER, STRICKLAND BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION

North Middleton Township

# Contractor hired for government job in Greenland

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It's not uncommon for a contractor to travel across the county or even into another state for a job.

However, it's not every day that one is awarded contracts to leave the country for work.

But that's exactly what happened to Strickland Brothers Construction.

The North Middleton Township company, which specializes in new home construction and roofing, was on a residential job site in the Carlisle area last summer when its owners were approached about a roofing job more than 2,500 miles away.

"Never in my wildest dreams," Jeff Strickland, co-owner of the business, said when asked if he ever expected he would leave the United States — let alone for Greenland — for work.

After exchanging correspondence with U.S. military officials over feasibility, scope of the work and price, Strickland Brothers was awarded the job, which will include replacing a roof on a radar station at Thule Air Base in northern Greenland.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Strickland, who will travel to Greenland this summer with his co-owner and brother, Matt Strickland, and two other employees.

The materials and tools to do the \$86,000 job, which is expected to be completed over a seven-day period in June, have already been sent over to Greenland, Jeff Strickland explained.

"It's definitely scary," he said, noting that winds on the base, which is the U.S. Armed Forces' northernmost installation, located 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle, gust between 40 and 100 mph at times. "It's definitely going to be a challenge."

The crew will have no communications with home while they are in Greenland, Strickland said. They will also have military escorts while on the base.

"If we don't do it, someone else will," he said, adding that the opportunity to work for the military was attractive.

Fred Laluz, a project manager with the Navy Depot in Hampden Township, who contacted Strickland, said the roof on that particular building on the installation has gone bad.

Strickland Brothers came highly recommended, he said, noting that they do quality work and they get jobs done on time.