

## Cole Reaches Denali Summit

### The Seven Summits

						
<b>Antarctica</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>North America</b>	<b>South America</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Oceania (Australia)</b>
Vinson 16,050 feet	Elbrus 18,510 feet	Kilimanjaro 19,340 feet	Denali 20,335 feet	Aconcagua 22,841 feet	Everest 29,029 feet	Puncak Jaya 16,024 feet



*David Cole celebrates reaching the summit of Mount McKinley.*

David Cole endured blistering winds, stifling cold, dense fog and avalanches during his trek to the top of Mount McKinley, but it was a clear day bathed in brilliant sunshine when he reached the top of the Alaskan mountain on July 6.

“Summit day was a 12-hour round trip from High Camp,” said Cole, formerly director, Purchasing, Asia Pacific for Meritor, on his blog. “We faced brutal winds getting up and around Denali Pass at 18,200 feet. However, after the pass the winds abated to a manageable 15 mph as we climbed higher to the summit with clear skies over the Alaskan range,”

Cole’s three-week ascent of Mount McKinley, also known as Denali, started with the team meeting in Anchorage, Alaska on June 6 to organize 800 pounds of food and equipment for the journey, then a three-hour plane ride to the base of Denali.

After that, the climb is done in stages that require the climbers to carry supplies to a series of four “base” camps at varying heights on the mountain. Camp One, “Ski Hill,” is at an altitude of about 7,800 feet. Camp Two, known as “Motorcycle Hill” is at 10,990 feet. Camp Three is “Basin Camp” at an altitude of 14,200 feet. Camp Four is called “High Camp” and is the last camp before launching the summit bid. The camp is at an altitude of 17,200 feet. Once the team leaves High Camp it typically takes between eight and 16 hours to climb the remaining 2,135 feet. The summit of Denali is 20,335 feet high.

The ascent of Denali is part of a larger plan for Cole, who wants to climb the highest peak on each continent on Earth. He has tackled three already, including Mount Everest in 2008. Cole plans to tackle Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa now that he’s conquered Denali.