

# ALASKA ORGANIZED MILITIA

ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE



# COMMITMENT

## More Than Words

“Always Ready, Always There,” is more than a motto; it’s a commitment. It’s a promise every member of the Alaska Organized Militia (AKOM) makes when they raise their right hand and join the Alaska Army or Air National Guard, the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF), or the Alaska Naval Militia (ANM). It means all of us stand ready to help our fellow Alaskans under the most trying of circumstances, whether it’s a 7.1-magnitude earthquake or a tropical storm that made its way to the Arctic.

Following the Nov. 30, 2018, earthquake, we had a 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130J in the air within minutes to survey the damage across Southcentral Alaska. What they found were shattered bridges and stricken roads. Though no one was hurt in the immediate aftermath, we still have to be ready if something in the order of another Good Friday Earthquake happens again.

In late summer 2022, the extratropical Typhoon Merbok made landfall in Western Alaska and the Seward Peninsula, devastating communities with gale-force winds and flooding storm surges. More than 130 AKOM members, including ASDF and ANM, deployed to the most affected communities, often staying for weeks to see the mission of helping Alaskans through.

Spring 2023 saw some of the greatest river flooding we have experienced in years following a late winter breakup that had ice jams overflowing the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Again, AKOM members were there to follow the great work done by state and volunteer agencies.

Beyond Alaska’s borders, Alaska National Guardsmen have deployed worldwide in support of overseas contingency operations. From the high-steppe deserts of Iraq, to the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, to the lush savanna of the Horn of Africa, our Soldiers and Airmen have answered our Nation’s call and ventured into harm’s way when they were asked to do so.

For the past 20 years, we have partnered with the Soldiers and Airmen of the Mongolian Armed Forces. Recent events in Europe have demonstrated the value of the State Partnership Program, and we have learned as much – if not more – from our MAF partners than they have from us. We look forward to our partnership growing over the next 20 years.

I am proud to be an Alaskan, and I am proud to be a member of this organization – this family – that is dedicated to serving Alaska and America. Our commitment is we will continue to stand ready to be there when we are needed most in the state and around the world.



Major General Torrence Saxe  
Adjutant General  
Alaska National Guard

# PEOPLE

## Purpose, Identity, Mission

I am grateful to represent the Alaska National Guard as your Command Senior Enlisted Leader. My belief is that presence is one of the most important qualities in a leader. Getting out to where our troops are and being a part of what they do and allowing them to showcase their skills and abilities help to build real relationships within our force. I would not be able to execute my duties in my role any other way.

My role is to advise The Adjutant General, Major General Saxe, on all matters pertaining to the enlisted force. I am committed to providing leadership and guidance to the enlisted force and ensuring that the readiness, training, and professional development of the enlisted force is being conducted. I work to highlight the enlisted force to the commanders and senior enlisted leaders, other military leaders, and civilian authorities and advocate for the welfare and well-being of the enlisted members and their families.

In terms of People, enlisted are the core support of our organization. Our Airmen and Soldiers are the largest group of service members in the Alaska National Guard and are responsible for carrying out most day-to-day tasks and operations. Enlisted members come from a variety of backgrounds and play a critical role in fostering a diverse and inclusive military culture. By investing in the training, development, and their well-being, we ensure they are prepared to carry out their duties and responsibilities.

This is why I believe our communities welcome our troops with open arms when called upon for support.

The Alaska National Guard has both Army and Air components and serves a variety of roles, including responding to natural disasters, assisting with search and rescue missions, providing security for critical infrastructure, and supporting military operations overseas. Enlisted personnel are vital in carrying out these missions performing tasks such as operating and maintaining equipment, providing logistical support, conducting security operations, aircraft maintenance, avionics, and munitions. They also develop specialized skills in areas such as air traffic control, cyber operations, and intelligence. Enlisted personnel receive training in a wide range of skills, including marksmanship, first aid, and communication to prepare them for these tasks.

Overall, the Alaska National Guard and its enlisted personnel play a vital role in supporting the safety and security of Alaskans and the United States.



Command Sergeant Major Julie Small  
Command Senior Enlisted Leader  
Alaska National Guard

# VISION

A ready, relevant team of tested and integrated professionals who are resourced and trained to meet the needs of the state and nation.



# MISSION

The Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides highly motivated, effective professionals to execute global, theater, and state operations. We are always prepared to respond to and assist in the recovery from domestic disasters and



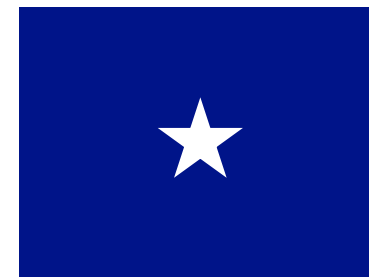
Alaska Organized Militia

emergencies; we serve and support Alaska's veterans; educate Alaska teens in disciplined, structured environments; and cultivate ethically driven members into strong, capable, and innovative leaders.

# DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

Your Alaska Organized Militia Joint Staff is prepared to respond, saving Alaskans on their worst day. We do this by planning for and coordinating response to domestic operations with joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational partners to support Alaskan communities.

Whether it's removing debris after a storm, shoveling excessive snowfall, fighting wildfires, conducting search and rescue operations, or exercising for a catastrophic earthquake we support the Alaska State Emergency Operations Center with unique military capabilities. The Joint Staff is dedicated to working with our state and federal partners to ensure Alaskans are able to recover quickly from any disaster.



The Joint Staff also organizes multiple standing operations to rural Alaska. Operation Santa Claus delivers donated Christmas gifts every year to remote Alaska villages. Additionally, we support the Defense Commissary Agency in delivering commissary goods to those Alaskan veterans who have earned that benefit but are off the road system and unable to reach a major military installation.

The Alaska Organized Militia Joint Staff stands ready, saving Alaskans when disaster strikes!



Brigadier General Ken Radford  
Director of the Joint Staff  
Alaska Army National Guard

## Recent AKOM Operations

- Typhoon Merbok response in September 2022 was the third largest AKOM operation in history; activated JTF-AK in coordination with the State EOC to manage response efforts over 6 weeks and activated over 160 personnel in support of the State
- Evacuated 107 Alaskans during summer wildland fires
- Manned Bethel Armory and Gladys Jung ES shelter for 53 evacuees during June 2022 St. Mary's fire
- Winter storm response in January deployed 70+ personnel to Fairbanks, Mat-Su, and Yakutat
- ~5,000 gifts delivered to three Alaskan villages for Operation Santa
- 44 AKNG members traveled to Mongolia in support of State Partnership Program events
- Counterdrug Support Program partnered with the DEA to provide Fentanyl drug threat education to more than 75 school principals, administrators, and nurses, further facilitating the building of more than 100 Naloxone overdose kits for faculty.



Alaska Organized Militia

# ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



## Did you know?

The National Guard is older than the Army. Militias were used as early as 1636 to protect the colonies. The U.S. Army stood up to fight the British in 1775.

## About 1,700 Soldiers across three major units:

### Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ)

AK Medical Detachment  
AK Recruiting and Retention Battalion  
Headquarters Detachment – Army

### 38th Troop Command (TC)

49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)  
103rd Civil Support Team (WMD)  
207th Aviation Troop Command  
- UH-60, HH-60, CH-47, C-12, LUH-72

### 297th Regional Support Group (RSG)

49th Personnel Detachment (Theater Gateway)  
134th Public Affairs Detachment  
207th Multi-Functional Training Regiment  
208th Construction Management Team  
297th Law Enforcement Detachment  
297th Quartermaster Team  
1-297th Infantry Battalion (-)  
910th Engineer Support Company

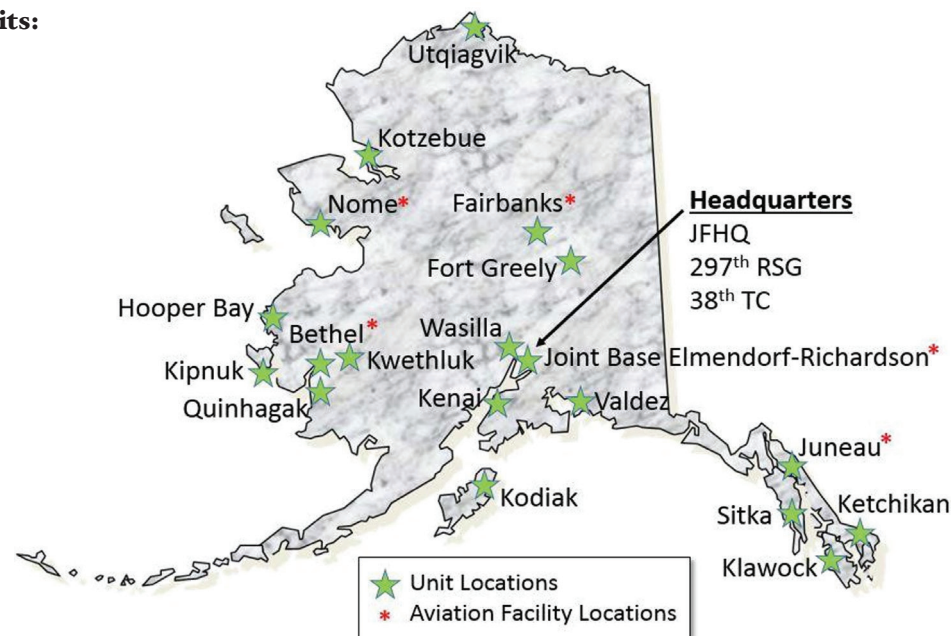
The Alaska Army National Guard (AKARNG) is an essential defender of Alaska's vast expanse and a key part of the United States' national security strategy. Anchored by a vision of diversity, trust, and capability, the AKARNG stands ready to tackle any challenge with resilience and precision, thanks to its dedicated Soldiers and leaders.

Comprised of Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ), 297th Regional Support Group (RSG), and 38th Troop Command (TC), the AKARNG is a formidable presence in Alaska. With 19 unit locations throughout the state, the AKARNG

is always ready to meet Alaska's needs.

Operations encompass a broad spectrum of critical missions, responding to domestic emergencies, counterdrug efforts, and reconstruction missions. Capabilities in command and control, logistics, transportation, maintenance, aviation, security, engineering, medical services, counter-drug operations, and chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear response further strengthen our ability to fulfill the mission effectively.

The AKARNG's commitment extends beyond Alaska, with deployments to Afghanistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Poland, and CENTCOM areas. Whether protecting Alaskans or contributing to global missions, the AKARNG is committed to national security and global stability. Guided by a force of diverse and capable Soldiers and leaders, the AKARNG upholds its vision and mission. Our dedication ensures Alaska's security and contributes to the broader national security strategy. The AKARNG stands ready to protect Alaska and serve the nation.



# ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



The Alaska Air National Guard (AKANG) was founded in 1952 to defend the territory of Alaska and the United States. The new air service stemmed from the imagination and force of will of World War II veteran Colonel Lars Johnson and originally included a small group of 16 Alaskans equipped with a sole training aircraft.

Fast forward more than 70 years, and today's AKANG comprises the 168th Wing at Eielson Air Force Base and the 176th Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Both wings are among the busiest Air Force units in the nation, Reserve or Active component, and they stand ready to deploy anywhere in the world as an Agile Combat Employment force providing airpower for full-spectrum operations.

AKANG Guardsmen have supported contingency operations in the Middle East and Africa while providing presence in the Pacific and supporting disaster relief in Alaska and across America during crises like 2018's Hurricane Florence.

AKANG missions include:

## Airlift

Composing the nucleus of 176th Wing and the Alaska Air National Guard and activated in 1952, the 144th Airlift Squadron operates the C-17 Globemaster III at JBER, providing tactical and strategic airlift to Air Mobility Command and combatant commanders worldwide.

## Air Refueling

Activated in 1986, the 168th Air Refueling Squadron operates the KC-135R Stratotanker from Eielson AFB, providing combatant commanders with global reach.

The KC-135 aerial refueling tanker extends the range of Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, and allied aircraft while also providing cargo airlift support.

## Air Defense

Activated as a National Guard unit in 2001 following decades of Regular Air Force service, the 176th Air Defense Squadron operates the Region Air Operations Center at JBER, standing 24/7/365 watch to detect and intercept any intrusion into U.S. and Canadian airspace.

## Combat Search and Rescue

The 210th Rescue Squadron activated in 1990 following decades of Regular Air Force service at JBER before splitting the Rescue Triad further into the 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons in 2004. The triad provides combatant commanders with combat search and rescue and personnel recovery operations. The 210th RQS operates the HH-60G Pave Hawk CSAR helicopter. The 211th RQS operates the HC-130J Combat King II CSAR fixed-wing aircraft. The two aviation platforms work with 212th RQS Guardian Angel teams comprising combat rescue officers, Pararescuemen, and survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialists.



## Quick Fact

The Alaska Air National Guard started with just 16 Airmen: 11 enlisted and five officers. They started out of office space above the Anchorage bus depot on 4th Avenue.

## Missile Warning and Space Surveillance

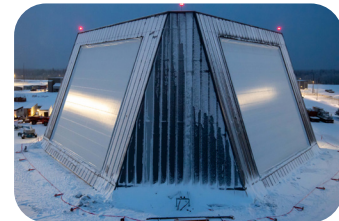
The 213th Space Warning Squadron activated in 2004 at Clear Space Force Station and works with Space Force partners 13th Space Warning Squadron to detect incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles for NORAD and provides space surveillance for the U.S. Space Force.

# ALASKA ORGANIZED MILITIA



## JBER/Anchorage

Division of Military and Veterans Affairs  
 Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
 Joint Forces Headquarters  
 Headquarters, Alaska Army National Guard  
 - 38th Troop Command  
 - 297th Regional Support Group  
 Headquarters, Alaska Air National Guard  
 - 176th Wing  
 Alaska State Defense Force  
 Alaska Naval Militia



## Clear Space Force Station

213th Space Warning Squadron



## Fort Wainwright/Fairbanks

Detachments of  
 1-207th Aviation  
 1-297th Infantry  
 297th FSC  
 297th MP Company  
 910th ESC



## Eielson Air Force Base

168th Wing



## Fort Greely

49th Missile Defense Battalion



## Alcantra Armory

Alaska State Defense Forces HQ  
 Detachments of  
 1-297th Infantry  
 297th MP Company



## Juneau

Detachments of  
 1-207th Aviation  
 1-297th Infantry  
 297th MP Company  
 AKARNG Med Det



## The 'Tyranny of Distance'

At 665,400 square miles, Alaska is the largest state and has more coastline than the other 49 states combined. North to south, the distance between Utiagvik to Ketchikan is more than the distance between Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Jacksonville, Florida. West to east, the distance between Attu at the end of the Aleutian islands and Ketchikan is greater than the distance between Jacksonville and San Diego, California. With presence as well as bases, armories, and stations spread across the state, the AKOM stands ready to respond.



# HOMETOWN DEFENDERS

Alaska State Defense Force & Alaska Naval Militia



## ASDF

The Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF) mission – Prepare, Plan and Respond in the 21st century, the ASDF mission has been modelled after the World War II scouting operations to be an effective component in the Alaska Organized Militia. The ASDF now characterizes its mission as an organized state military reserve force training “to prepare, plan, respond, mitigate and recover from natural and man-made disasters.”

The men and women of the ASDF wear the Army Combat Uniform, a few in the older digital camouflage, but each one with a patch on their right shoulder – the Big Dipper on a dark blue field – indicating the state they call home.

### Quick Fact

Alaska employers are required by law to grant an unpaid leave of absence to any employee who is a member of the Alaska Organized Militia, and who is activated to perform active state service.

ASDF training can include multiagency exercises with the Alaska National Guard. Most recently, members of the ASDF participated in Arctic Eagle-Patriot 2022, a cold weather training scenario involving National Guard units from 15 other states and emergency response and civilian emergency response agencies.

ASDF members have activated numerous times in response to natural disasters, most recently during Typhoon Merbok, which devastated much of Western Alaska.

## ANM

Alaska is the only Arctic state in the union. Alaska boasts 34,000 miles of coastline, more than the rest of the United States combined, and more than 800,000 miles of navigable rivers. Alaska’s unique strategic



location highlights the need for state and federal mission assurance and a robust Alaska Organized Militia. ANM members live in Alaska and represent Reserve commands all over the globe. They are administratively supported by the Alaska Naval Reserve Center or the Marine Corp Reserve Training Facility.

Local support units include the Volunteer Training Unit, the Reserve Support Unit, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion Delta Company, Alaskan Command, and the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, Camp Pendleton. ANM members provide operational support to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps through Annual Training (AT), providing support to their gaining command), and Individual Duty Training Travel (IDTT), providing operational support to the Fleet.



Drawn from the local community, the Alaska Naval Militia knows the coastline, the waterways, and the people who live and work in the area. This allows them to respond quickly and effectively to any situation that may arise. The ANM has participated in every event where the AKOM was called upon to assist the people of Alaska. The Alaska Naval Militia reaffirms the Alaskan tradition of volunteer service to community, state, and nation.

# STATE EOC/DHS&EM

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) is responsible for helping Alaskan communities before, during, and after a disaster event.

Alaska is a challenging emergency management environment with a wide range of disaster events, vast distances between communities, limited infrastructure, and inclement weather that can go from bad to worse at a moment’s notice. In addition to floods, wildfires, storms, landslides, and extreme cold, Alaska is one of the most seismic active regions in the world. Alaska has experienced the second largest earthquake ever recorded (1964 Good Friday Earthquake) has more earthquakes than the contiguous US each year, and more than 70 active volcanoes. Earthquakes are the primary cause of tsunamis, and many Alaskan coastal communities prepare for inundating waves they know will inevitably arrive.

To address Alaska’s emergency management needs, the 60 dedicated DHS&EM personnel are organized into six sections: Operations, Plans, Disaster Assistance, Grants, Admin, and Preparedness.

DHS&EM’s Operations Section manages the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC), where state, active duty, Alaska Organized Militia, federal, and non-government emergency response agencies come together to address disaster-related needs in Alaska. The SEOC works with disaster impacted communities to identify critical needs that cannot be met at the local level, and works with our partners to meet these needs. On a day-to-day basis, the Ops staff addresses many issues that do not arise to the level of a disaster.

The Planning Section works with communities and the private sector to ensure local and state emergency plans work with federal disaster response plans. In addition,



the Planning Section manages the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program which seeks to make critical infrastructure more resilient to disaster events.

Disaster Assistance manages the state’s Public and Individual Assistance programs which provide disaster recovery grants to individual households and communities.

When a federal disaster declaration is issued, Disaster Assistance works with FEMA to implement the federal programs in Alaska’s unique environment.

The Grants section administers the Emergency Management Performance Grant, State Homeland Security Program, and other federal grant programs, which pass through funds to local governments. In addition, the Grants section process grant funding for the state’s disaster recovery program.

The Admin section supports all of the other DHS&EM sections, processing travel, expenses, logistics, and other essential administrative functions.

The Preparedness Section provides training, organizes state emergency management exercises, and promotes emergency preparedness.

### Did you know?

As a FEMA grantee, DHS&EM provides subgrants for hazard mitigation to prevent excessive damage, individual assistance for those affected by disaster, and public assistance.

# AKNG & THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

The Alaska National Guard is an important part of the total force, with our strategic location and unique capabilities. In alignment with the 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS), the Alaska National Guard plays a pivotal role in addressing emerging global challenges and ensuring the nation's security is in line with the NDS priorities of defending the homeland, deterring strategic attacks, deterring aggression, and building a resilient Joint Force.



Airlift capability within the 176th wing ensures no area in Alaska remains beyond the reach of military forces defending the homeland or supporting local communities.



Alaska Air Guard maintains the only refueling capability in the Alaska area of operations, supporting active duty aircraft preventing aggression in the Alaska theater.



Our rotary wing aviation experience is unmatched in defending the Arctic homeland and supporting domestic operations in the state and across the U.S.



Soldiers of 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) defend the nation against strategic land-based and submarine launched missiles.



For nearly 70 years, the Alaska National Guard has partnered with Alaska communities to make Operation Santa Claus a multi-generational statewide success.



Maintaining a robust disaster response capability, Alaska National Guard members have helped fellow Alaskans and deployed to the Lower 48 to help fellow Americans.



Alaska National Guard members routinely partner with regular U.S. military partners, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Mongolian Armed Forces, and other allied nations.

The Alaska National Guard's role in implementing the 2022 National Defense Strategy is indispensable, given its unique geographic location, diverse capabilities, and strong joint partnerships. From Arctic operations to space capabilities, disaster response, and collaboration with indigenous communities, the Guard's contributions are vital to achieving the NDS's goals. As emerging global challenges continue to evolve, the Alaska National Guard stands ready to safeguard the nation's security interests and ensure a safer future.

# AKOM IN THE ARCTIC

## Important Changes

Climate change is melting northern sea ice, giving our adversaries both greater access and presence in the region, making the theater one of great power competition.

## Threats to US Security

Newly opened sea lanes throughout the Arctic region yield previously unattainable freedom of maneuver to our adversaries as it opens new areas for exploration, industry and settlement, and exploitation of natural gas/oil fields and rare-earth deposits.

## Recent/Relevant Example From China:

### Access

- People's Republic of China develops several islands in the East and South China Seas to increase territorial claims
- China builds nuclear-powered icebreaker
- PRC builds satellite observation and ground-sensing station in Sweden
- China sends balloons over the Arctic
- Chinese citizens posing as "tourists" visit U.S. military bases



### Presence

- Chinese tourist sends drone over Fort Wainwright
- China increases Arctic Ocean Navigation to develop what they term the "Polar Silk Road"
- PRC invested more than \$90 billion north of the Arctic Circle in infrastructure and assets

## What We are Doing About it

The Alaska Organized Militia is uniquely postured to nest into the 2022 National Strategy for the Arctic Region.

## Increasing Arctic security in Alaska

- ASDF provides real time intelligence in Western Alaska
- Rewriting defense plans for Alaska based on these threats
- Partnering with international partners for Arctic training

## Arctic Operational Challenges

- Extreme cold leaves personnel and equipment vulnerable
- Long periods of extended darkness and light
- Vast expanses of land with no road system limiting maneuver
- Limited communications infrastructure that impedes effective communication



## Why AKOM is Uniquely Postured

The Alaska National Guard has both Army and Air National Guard units that span the entire state of Alaska with a critical presence in the Arctic and subarctic. The Alaska State Defense Force is an all-volunteer organization who grant further presence and can provide a statewide communications network. The ANM is a group of skilled Naval and Marine Corps warriors who fully integrate into the DMVA and provide maritime expertise to holistically defend Alaska. AKOM members are trained and experienced in cold weather operations and can leverage vast networks in Alaska's local communities. The AKOM is equipped and effective in navigating in the harsh Arctic environment with interoperability with the Total Force.

# SPP - MONGOLIA

The Department of Defense State Partnership Program (SPP) is the National Guard's flagship international affairs and security cooperation initiative.

Established nearly 30 years ago, the SPP advances U.S. national security by developing enduring relationships with partner countries. The SPP carries out activities to build partner capacity, improve interoperability, and increase readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging global challenges. This cost-effective program is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the state adjutants general in support of combatant commander and U.S. Chief of Mission security cooperation objectives and Department of Defense policy goals.

Through SPP, the Alaska National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-government relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency engagements spanning military, government, economic, and



social spheres.

2023 marks the 20th Anniversary of the State Partnership Program between the Alaska National Guard and the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF). Established in 2003, Alaska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have served along side their Mongolian counterparts during deployments to Iraq from 2003 to 2008, and to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2021.

Today, the Alaska National Guard continues its proud and storied partnership with the Mongolian Armed Forces. Focusing on a whole of government approach, the Alaska National Guard and Mongolia continue to participate in military exercises such as Khaan Quest, Gobi Wolf and Arctic Eagle. These exercises continue to build the partnership and readiness of both U.S. and Mongolian forces in peacekeeping operations, disaster response, border security, and public health and education.



Alaska Organized Militia



## Quick Fact

AKOM members can earn the Alaska, Mongolia State SPP Medal for more than seven days of service in Mongolia during events like Khaan Quest and Gobi Wolf.

# AKOM HISTORY

## 1800s

**Oct. 18, 1867:** To realize the Alaska Purchase wherein the U.S. bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million, 250 U.S. Soldiers marched to the governor's house in Sitka where they raised the U.S. flag in place of the Russian flag lowered by their delegation.



\$7.2 million check for the purchase of Alaska

## World War I Era

**May 1917:** The War Department authorized Home Guard militias for Alaska. The Home Guard focused on protecting cities, mines, communities, and banking institutions, and they were the origin of the National Guard in Alaska.

## World War II Era

**Oct. 21 1939:** The U.S. authorizes the territory of Alaska to establish the Alaska Army National Guard (AKARNG). On Sept. 15, 1941, the 297th Infantry Battalion (Separate) was federalized and activated under the War Department during World War II. They were awarded a streamer without inscription for Campaign Participation credit for action in the Asia-Pacific Theater.



ATG member Sam Jackson

**June 1942:** The Alaska Territorial Guard was formed in 1942 in direct response to the activation of the 297th Infantry. Gov. Ernest Gruening asked the War Department to allow a territory militia to protect Alaskans due to the loss of the National Guard and the invasion of the Japanese in the Aleutians. They were made up of diverse indigenous people.

**May 11, 1949:** The First Scout Battalion was federally recognized. The six scout battalions were formed from war veterans and ATG members. They provided intelligence during the Cold War on Russian movements in the Bering Sea.

## 1950s-1980s

**Sept. 15, 1952:** The Alaska Air National Guard organized as the 8144th Air Base Squadron.



144th Fighter Bomber Sq

**Jan. 3, 1959:** Alaska becomes a state after approval by Congress July 7, 1958.

**1968-1987:** The state established the Alaska State Guard in 1984 as the state defense force, later renamed the Alaska State Defense Force in 1987. The Alaska Naval Militia reestablished following the organization's retraction in 1974 after its 1968 founding. In 1987, the state defense force was renamed the Alaska State Defense Force.

## 1990s-Present

**Aug. 11, 1990:** The Alaska Air National Guard activated the 210th Air Rescue Squadron at Kulis Air National Guard Base. Air Force Special Operations Command reorganized rescue squadron Oct. 8, 2004, breaking the unit into 210th, 211, and 212th Rescue Squadron.



168th Wing KC-135 refuels B-2 bomber

**Oct. 1, 1995:** The 176th Group redesignated as the 176th Wing after designations as the 8144th Air Base Squadron, several versions of the 144th Airlift Squadron, and the 176th Composite Group. The 176th Air Defense Squadron activated in 2001.

**Oct. 23, 1990:** The Alaska Air National Guard activates the 168th Air Refueling Group from the 168th Air Refueling Squadron. The group redesignated as the 168th Air Refueling Wing June 1, 1992, and as 168th Wing Feb. 3, 2016.

**2004-2007:** The AKARNG's 297th Regional Support Group and 38th Troop Command deployed more than 700 Soldiers in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The AKARNG and AKANG deployed hundreds of Guard members as the Global War on Terrorism continued.



AKARN Infantryman in Iraq



Military Police patrol at Fort Greely

**Jan. 22, 2004:** The 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD) activated at Fort Greely. Part of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, the battalion's Soldiers operate and secure the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system.

**May 21, 2004:** The 213th Space Warning Squadron activated at Clear Air Force Station (now Clear Space Force Station) with the mission of providing early warning of Intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles to NORAD's Missile Warning Center.

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# AKOM Exercises

**Arctic Eagle** is a joint exercise with interagency and international partners for the homeland security and emergency response mission in the Arctic.

**Vigilant Guard** is a joint exercise between state, federal, and AKOM organizations to practice large-scale natural disaster response.

**Khaan Quest** is a multinational exercise co-sponsored by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and hosted annually by the Mongolian Armed Forces.

**Gobi Wolf** is a bilateral exercise conducted in Mongolia as a disaster relief engagement.