

# Department of Public Safety Overview

Alaska Department of Public Safety  
Commissioner James Cockrell  
Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan

January 30, 2025



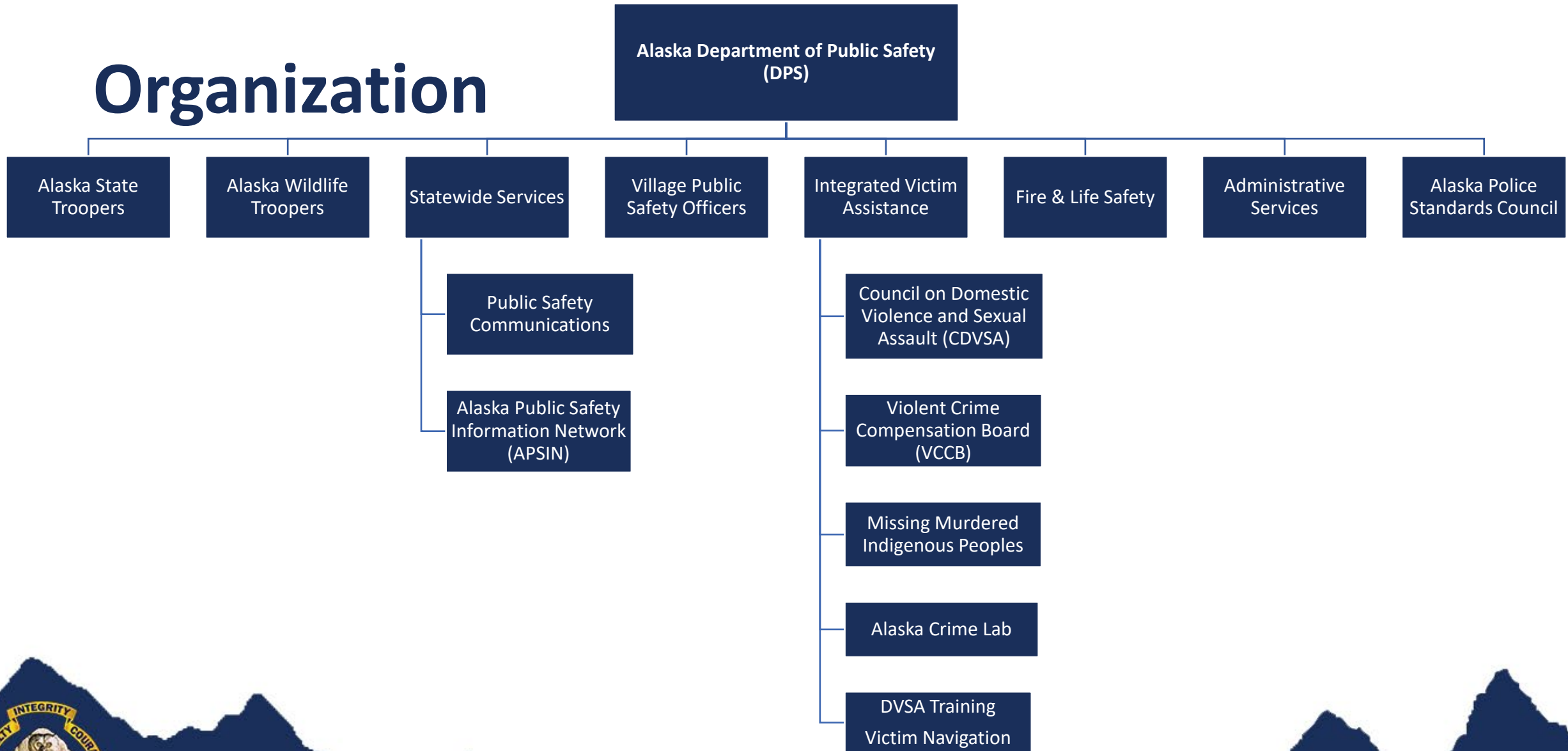
# Mission

To ensure public safety and to enforce fish and wildlife laws

Key Objectives	Statewide Impact
1. Recruitment, Retention & Wellness	• Strengthen workforce resilience
2. Rural Alaska Law Enforcement & Safety	• Expand safety in rural communities
3. Establish Parks Hwy North Trooper Post	• Improve Parks Highway patrol
4. Purchase Long Range Response Aircraft	• Enhance remote emergency response
5. Illicit Drug & Child Abuse Investigations	• Target drug trafficking and child abuse
6. Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection	• Protect Alaskans, our resources and ecosystems statewide



# Organization



# History of the Alaska State Troopers

- Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 1941 – Origin of the Troopers
- 1953 – Territorial Police
- 1959 – Statehood
- 1967 – Troopers



# Department Success

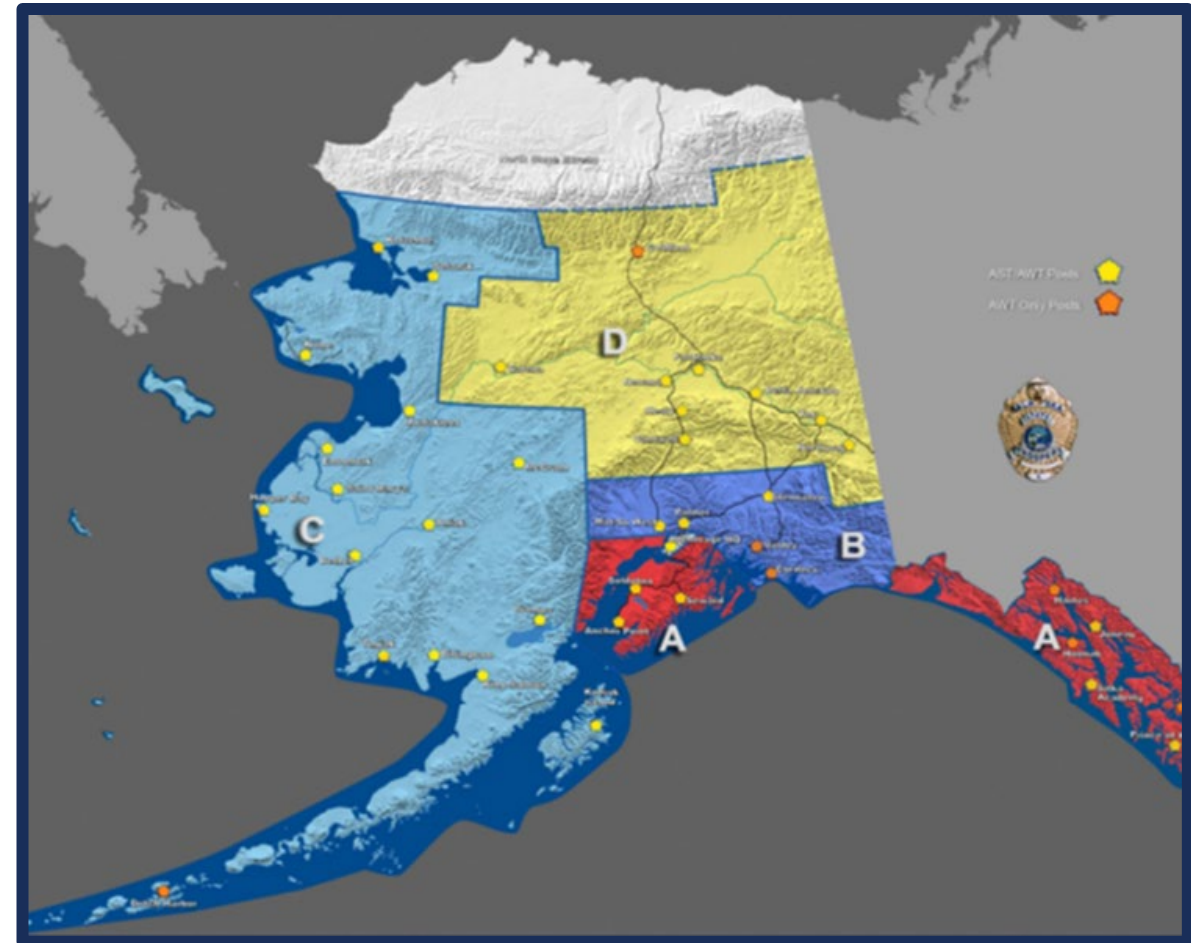
- Since 2018 overall **crime rate has decreased 37%** and **drug seizures have increased 733%**
- Number of felony sex offenses has **decreased 27%** statewide (2023 to 2024)
- No backlog of sexual assault examination kits awaiting testing at the Alaska Crime Lab
  - 2024: established online system for victims of sexual assault to track their sexual assault examination kit
- 2024: the Alaska State Troopers (AST) awarded as the US Postal Services National Exemplary partner after AST was identified as the **most productive law enforcement agency in the country working with USPS to interdict drugs**
- Troopers seized 1,262 pounds of illegal narcotics across the state including approximately 42 million potentially fatal doses of fentanyl in 2024





# Division of the Alaska State Troopers

- **Four Detachments (A, B, C, D)**
- **Alaska Bureau of Investigation**
  - Major Crimes Investigations
  - Technical/Financial Crime Investigations
- **Statewide Drug and Alcohol Enforcement**
- **Statewide Support**
  - Search and Rescue Coordination
  - Advanced Training Unit
  - Recruitment Unit
  - Prisoner Transport



# Division of Alaska State Troopers (AST)

## Accomplishments

76% Increase in total amount of illegal drugs and alcohol seized from 2023 to 2024

Addition of Trooper Recruiter doubled recruitment events attended

Advanced Training Unit (ATU) trained 482 commissioned positions

2,500 Peer Support Program contacts

## Challenges

Recruitment and retention

Technological changes in how crimes are committed

Importation of drugs and alcohol into rural Alaska

Rural housing



# Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

## Crime Rate

Number of Reported Offenses/Population

	Total Crime	Violent Crime	Property Crime
2018	4,215.2	886.9	3,328
2023	2,635.2	732.1	1,903
% Change	-37.48%	-17.45%	-42.82%

## Felony Sex Offense Data

	Incidents	Victims	Suspects
2018	1,762	1,850	1,789
2023	1,273	1,343	1,330
% Change	-28%	-27%	-26%





# Statewide Drug/Alcohol Enforcement Unit (SDEU)

**Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team (FANT)** focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Interior Region, Utqiagvik, and east to Canada

**Southcentral Areawide Narcotics Team (SCAN)** focuses on drug interdictions and investigations throughout the Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage, Kenia Peninsula, and Kodiak Island

**Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT)** focuses predominately on alcohol enforcement in Western Alaska as well as drug interdictions and investigations

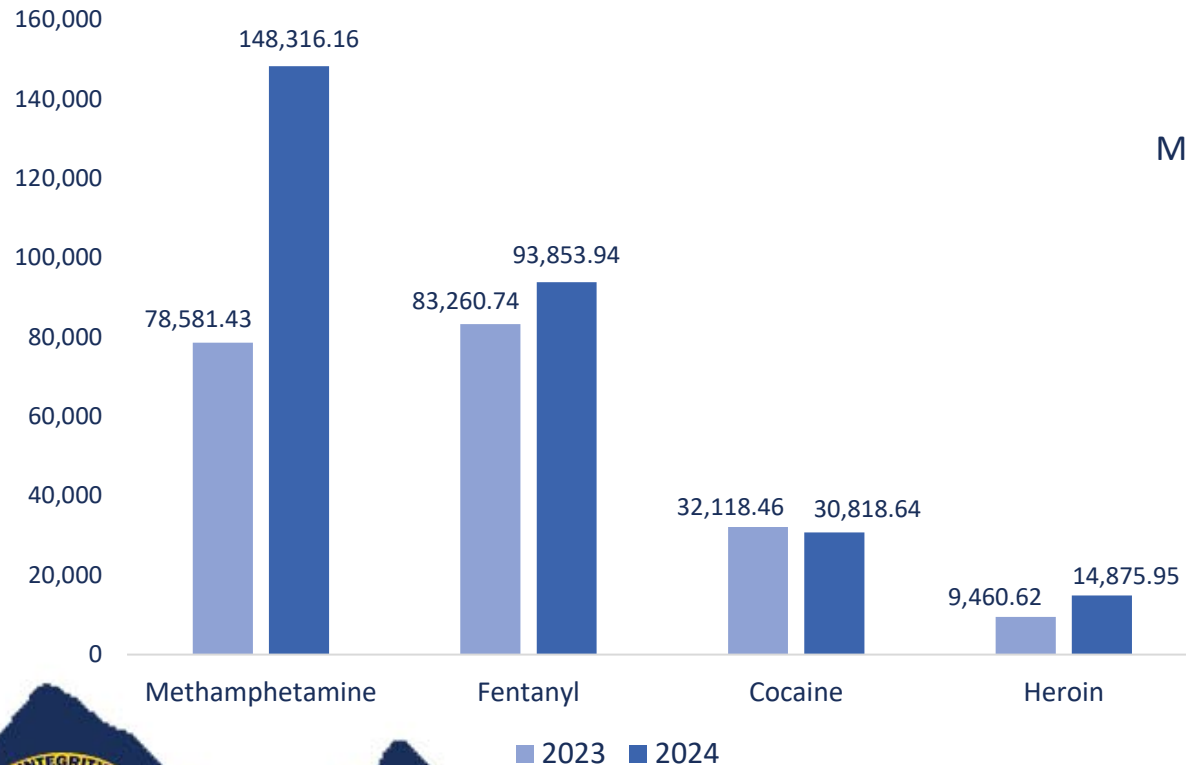
**Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD)** focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in Southeast Alaska



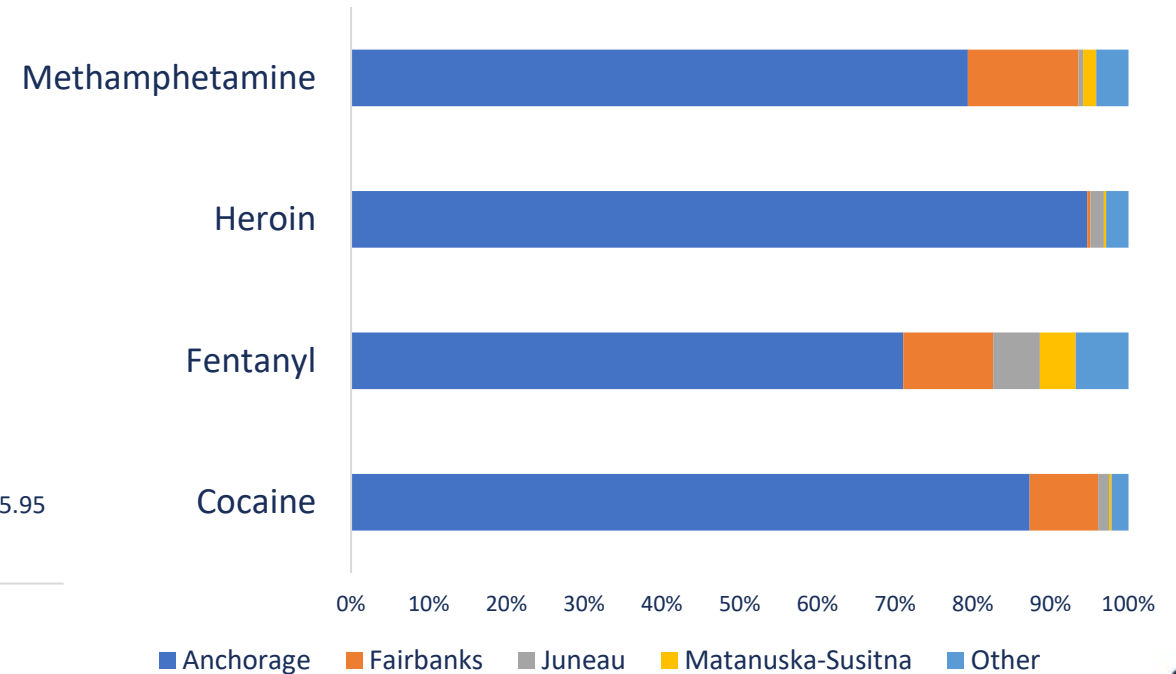
# Statewide Drug Enforcement

## The Numbers

### Drug Seizures in Grams for 2023 and 2024



### Percentage of Drug Seizures in Grams by Location (Borough) of Seizure



# K9 Unit

- Drug Interdiction
  - 3 K9
- Dual Purpose
  - 3 K9 - Drug Interdiction and Tracking
- Electronic Storage Detection (ESD)
  - 1 ESD K9
- Search and Rescue

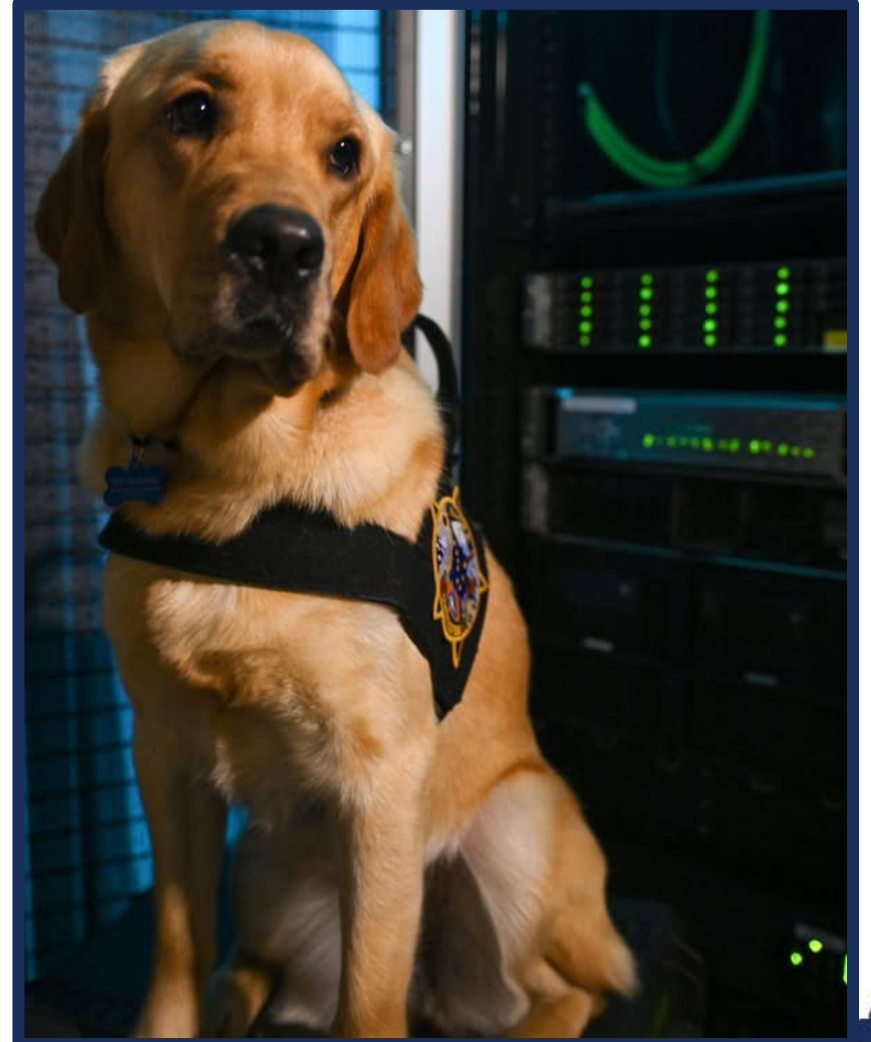


Photo: K9 Sunny, Alaska Bureau of Investigation



# Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI)

## Major Crimes Investigations

**Bethel, Nome, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Mat-Su Valley, Soldotna, Anchorage**

- Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU)
  - Mat-Su, Bethel, Nome (FY26)
- Homicide Investigations
- Sex Assault Investigations
- Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Investigations
- Technical/Financial Crimes
- Investigative Support to Communities for Officer-Involved Shootings

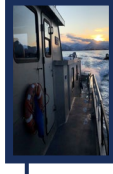




# Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT)



Alaska Wildlife Troopers



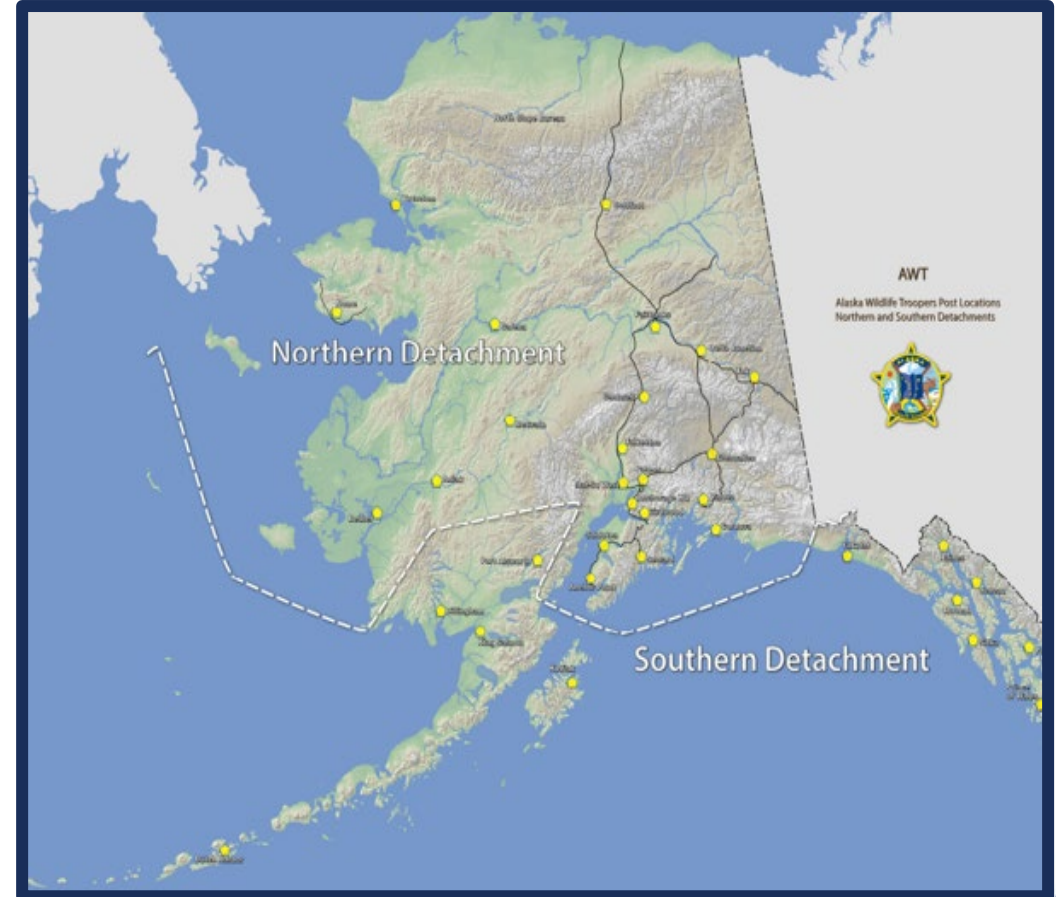
Alaska Wildlife Troopers Marine Enforcement

## Accomplishments

- 97% increase in education hours on Boating Safety Education
- 108% increase in Boating Safety Contacts
- 12% increase in Resource User Contacts

## Challenges

- 6,640 miles of coastline, significant hunts and fisheries
- Complicated regulatory structure and limited resources; 891,000 licenses sold and 90 Troopers





# Aircraft Section

- Law enforcement response/investigation
- Search and rescue
- Wildlife resource protection
- Prisoner transport
- Fleet
  - 49 fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft
  - Aircraft are based in 19 locations
  - 6,141 hours flown in 2024 (calendar year)



# Aircraft Rescue in Fairbanks





# Marine Section

- Marine fisheries enforcement
- Search and rescue
- Fleet management – 41 vessels
  - **New Large Class Vessel (funded FY25)**
  - Two 35' vessels and three patrol skiffs being built to replace older vessels
  - P/V Stimson, Kodiak (156' deployable statewide)
  - P/V Cama'i, Kodiak (69' catamaran)
  - 13 medium-sized vessels (27' to 35') in 12 different communities
  - Multiple other small skiffs and river boats



# Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Division

## Program Status

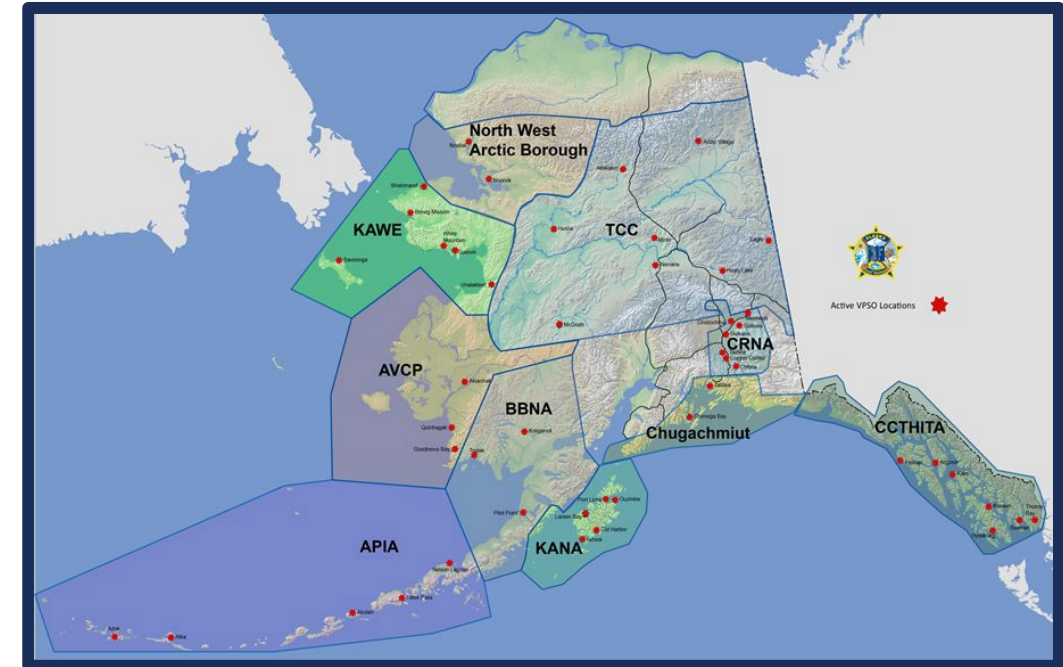
- \$22,337.5 awarded in FY25 (\$ in thousands)
- 10 grantees, agreements with 156 villages
- 85 VPSOs in 65 communities

## Accomplishments

- 50% growth FY2021 to FY2025
- Implementation of Regional Public Safety Officer (RSPO) program
- 80% VPSO graduation rate and retention rate

## Challenges

- Funding Limitations
- Strain on Division Staffing
- Infrastructure Challenges
- Recruitment and Retention



**(space reserved for embedded video)**





# Division of Fire and Life Safety

Rural Fire Protection

Fire Training Programs

Safety Inspections

Building Plan Review

Public Education

Alaska Fire Standards Council

## Mission

To prevent the loss of life and property  
from fire and explosion

## FY24 Accomplishments

- FY24: 988 building fire and life safety inspections
- FY24: 182% increase in buildings in compliance with legal standards according to inspections
- Calendar year 2022 to 2023: \$7 million decrease in property loss

## Challenges

- Rural fire department capacity
- Communication methods to reach high-risk groups and areas regarding fire safety and liability to



# Statewide Support

## Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)

- Maintain the State's criminal history repository used by law enforcement and for processing applicant background checks
- Maintain the State's sex offender registry, concealed handgun permits, and civilian process server and security guard licensing programs

## Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC)

- Certification and standards for statewide peace officers

## Alaska Public Safety Communications Services (APSCS)

- Provide public safety infrastructure, services, and support to first responders



# Statewide Support

## Alaska Public Safety Communications Services

### Accomplishments

- Supported first responders and other authorized users on the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system with over 17,656,971 radio calls that had a combined number of 28,962,175 push-to-talks in FY2024



# Statewide Support Information Services

## Accomplishments

- Developed and deployed an Online Criminal History Request portal to allow the public the option to obtain name-based background checks instead of in person requests
- Deployed and manage 35 Starlink devices to improve bandwidth projects at various Trooper locations, including on vessels
- Continued extensive work with the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Program and several vendors as part of a multi-year, multi-million-dollar project to modernize the State's criminal history repository, sex offender registry, concealed handgun permits, and "hot file" records (warrants, missing persons, protective orders, stolen property, etc.)



# Statewide Support Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Program

## Accomplishments

- Worked with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies on the changes to sex offender registration forms, requirements, and processes that resulted from HB 66 (passed by the Alaska Legislature in 2024) which enabled the State to further comply with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act
- Processed nearly 54,000 criminal history disposition records and nearly 2,100 concealed carry permits/renewals
- Processed over 20,000 fingerprint-based background checks with an average processing time of four days in calendar year 2024





# Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (Alaska Crime Lab)

**Mission:** provide scientific support to the criminal justice system to help create a safer Alaska.

- **Forensic Analysis**
  - Over 17,000 items of evidence was submitted to the lab for testing in 2024
  - Forensic Scientists testified over 90 times across Alaska
- **Breath Alcohol Testing Program**
- **Training and Education**
  - 500 hours of training provided to criminal justice system partners
- **Forensic Science Hit Outcome Program**
  - Allows investigators to track all DNA hits for their agency
  - Deployed statewide August 2024



# Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA)

## Mission

Prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault, providing safety for victims through a statewide system of crisis intervention and support and by supporting perpetrator accountability and rehabilitation.

## Accomplishments

- Provided funding to 35 community-based programs
  - Subgrantees implemented 57 primary prevention strategies and activities
- Provided funding for 277 individuals to participate in Perpetrators of Violence programs
- Increased media messaging
  - Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October
  - Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month – February
  - Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April

## Challenges

- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Federal funding will likely be reduced SFY2027, impacting subgrantees
- Increasing federal audits
- Recruitment and retention



# Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB)

## Accomplishments

- Over \$1,256,000 was distributed to victims from 80 communities across Alaska
- Over 25% more applications were processed compared to FY23
- The Board worked to update policies and procedures to ensure equitable and efficient allocation of available funds

## Challenges

- Federal funding is based on victim grant award amounts



# Stay Connected, Stay Safe

## Website

[dps.alaska.gov/Home](https://dps.alaska.gov/Home)

## Main Line

907-269-5511



**AlaskaStateTroopersOfficial**  
Facebook



**@ak\_trooper**  
Instagram



**@akstatetrooper**  
X (formerly Twitter)



**@AlaskaStateTrooperOfficial**  
YouTube



**Department of Public Safety**



# Thank You



**Commissioner James Cockrell**

*Alaska Department of Public Safety*

DPS.Commissioner.Office@Alaska.gov | o: 907-269-4542

**Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan**

*Alaska Department of Public Safety*

DPS.Commissioner.Office@Alaska.gov | o: 907-269-5078

**Laurel Shoop, Legislative Liaison**

*Alaska Department of Public Safety*

Laurel.Shoop@Alaska.gov | o: 907-269-5618



**Department of Public Safety**