

Department of Public Safety Overview

House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

James Cockrell, Commissioner

February 6, 2024



Department of Public Safety

Mission: To ensure public safety and to enforce fish and wildlife laws

Key Objectives:

- Recruitment, Retention, and Wellness
- Rural Alaska Law Enforcement and Safety
- Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection
- Narcotics, Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons, and Major Crime Investigations
- Improve 911 Service Across Alaska
- Enhance Safety within Public Schools



Budget Organizational Chart

Fire and Life Safety Division	Village Public Safety Officer Division	Alaska State Troopers	Victim Services Division	Statewide Support	Alaska Police Standards Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life Safety Inspection Bureau• Plan Review Bureau• Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards, and Training• Alaska Fire Standards Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten regional grantees serving 140 communities• Rural Alaska public safety support: emergency medical response, search and rescue operations, fire prevention and suppression, disaster preparedness, public safety education and community policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four detachments• Drug/alcohol enforcement• Dispatch services• Search and rescue• Alaska Bureau of Investigation• Alaska Wildlife Troopers<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marine enforcement• Aircraft section• Prisoner transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault• Violent Crimes Compensation Board• Victim Navigator Unit• Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training Unit• Missing Persons Clearinghouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner's Office• Training Academy• Division of Administrative Services• Division of Statewide Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification and de-certification of police officers• Misconduct and disqualification investigations• Develop and maintain police officer training and training requirements

Statewide Impact

Law enforcement
patrol and
investigations

Resource
protection

Domestic violence,
sexual assault, and
victim services
programs

Search and rescue

Alaska Scientific
Crime Detection
Laboratory

Special patrol
activities

Alaska Public
Safety Information
Network



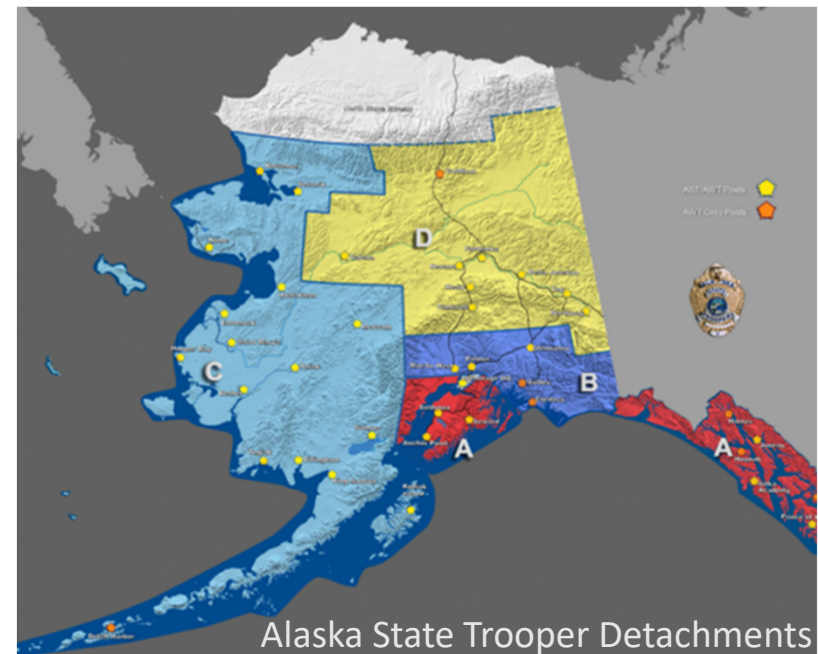
Department Success in 2023

- Ongoing Trooper recruitment; 20 new Troopers graduated the academy in 2023
- Quarterly Missing Indigenous Persons Report created; 97% of all missing person reports entered into NamUs (not just Trooper cases)
- Body worn cameras deployed to all Troopers, Court Services Officers, and Deputy Fire Marshals (approximately 430); working with Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) coordinators to deploy to the 70 VPSOs
- Bristol Bay and Area M fishery enforcement: 400 commercial vessels boarded, 150 citations issued, and thousands of pounds of salmon seized
- Deployed the Sexual Assault Examination Kit Tracking System



Division of Alaska State Troopers

- Four Detachments
- Alaska Bureau of Investigation
 - Major Crime Investigations
 - Technical/Financial Crime Investigations
- Statewide Drug and Alcohol Enforcement
- Dispatch Services
- Statewide Support
 - Search and Rescue Coordination
 - Advanced Training Unit
 - Recruitment Unit
 - Prisoner Transport



Division of Alaska State Troopers



Accomplishments

- Significant drug investigations and seizures
- Solved cold cases; established the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person unit
- Equipment and training upgrades for better service
- 24/7 high-quality public safety service



Challenges

- Recruitment and retention
- Rural housing
- Illicit drugs and alcohol importation

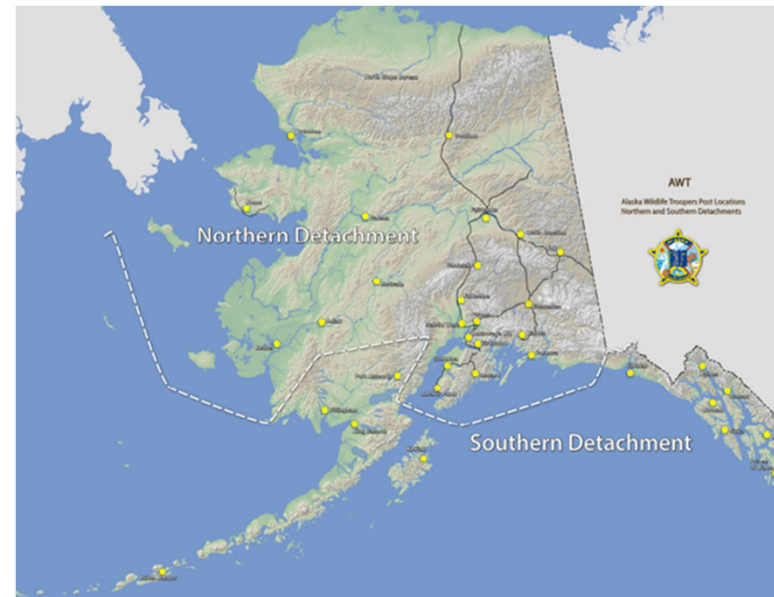


Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers



Alaska Wildlife
Troopers

Fish and Wildlife
and Resource
Protection



Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Accomplishments

Significant presence for commercial fisheries statewide with a focus in Bristol Bay and Area M fisheries resulting in successful prosecutions of violators

Boating safety education and enforcement to reduce boating fatalities statewide

Identification of commercial resource crime across the state and prevention of unlawful commercialization of Alaska's resources

Challenges

6,640 miles of coastline, significant hunts and fisheries

Complicated regulatory structure and limited resources; 891,000 licenses sold and 90 Troopers

Increasing demand for Wildlife Troopers across the state with limited staff



Department Vacancies as of 1/1/2024

Division	Budgeted Village Public Safety Officers	Filled Village Public Safety Officers	Vacant Village Public Safety Officers
Total	75	70	5
Division	Budgeted Commissioned Positions	Filled Commissioned Positions	Vacant Commissioned Positions
AST	312	259	53
AWT	90	81	9
Aircraft	2	2	0
Academy	7	7	0
Total	411	349	62

- **Budgeted:** Total number of permanent, full-time positions budgeted in the current fiscal year
- **Actual:** Total number of filled positions at the time of this report
- **Vacant:** Total number of vacant positions at the time of this report
- **Positions**
 - Troopers include the rank of Recruit through Major and include State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 - Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs)



Aircraft and Marine



Aircraft Section

- Law enforcement response/investigation
- Search and rescue
- Wildlife resource protection
- Prisoner transport
- Major fleet refreshment nearly complete
 - 49 fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft
 - 19 aircraft bed-down bases
 - 6,337 hours flown in 2023 (calendar year), an almost 12% increase from 2022

Marine Section

- Marine fisheries enforcement
- Search and rescue
- Fleet management
 - Two 35' vessels and two patrol skiffs being built to replace older vessels
 - P/V Stimson, Kodiak (156' deployable statewide)
 - P/V Cama'i, Kodiak (69' catamaran)
 - 12 medium-sized vessels (27' to 35') in 12 different communities
 - Multiple other small skiffs and river boats



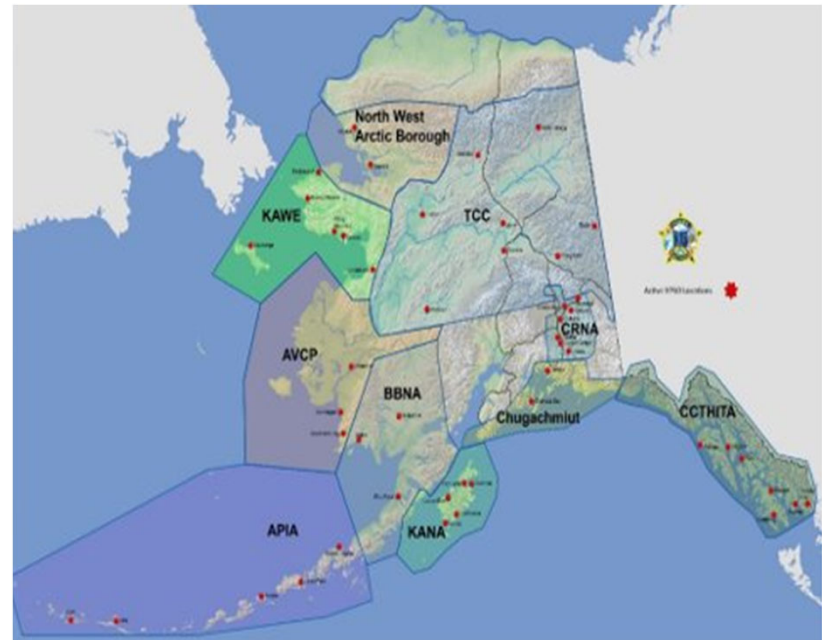
Village Public Safety Officer Division

Accomplishments

- Regulations project completed
- New Division Director
- 10 Grantees awarded \$18,531,700 in FY24; positions located in 57 communities
- Regional Public Safety Officer positions
- Tribal Liaison (one of two in the department)

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention
- Insufficient rural public safety infrastructure, lack of housing



Division of Fire and Life Safety



Fire Safety Improved By

- Education
- Engineering
- Enforcement



Accomplishments

- 426 building fire and life safety inspections
- 892 fire and building plan reviews completed
- 38 significant fire investigations
- 1,290 accredited fire certifications issued



Challenges

- Rural fire departments have limited fire response capabilities and fire education resources
- Deputy Fire Marshal recruitment

Statewide Support Component

Commissioner's Office

Public Information Office

Village Public Safety Office

Boards and Councils

Aircraft Section

Wellness Section

Advanced Training Unit

Training Academy

Division of Administrative Services

Centralized Administrative Support

Grants

Finance

Budget

Procurement

Facilities Management

Division of Statewide Services

Information Systems

Alaska Public Safety Communication
Services

Criminal Justice Information
Systems Programs

Alaska Scientific Crime Detection
Laboratory



Victim Services Division

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

Victim Navigator Unit

Domestic Violence Training Unit

Missing Persons Clearinghouse



Victim Services Division Components

Missing Persons Clearinghouse

- Two full time positions
- 1,333 missing person records entered into state and federal law enforcement databases; 97% entered into NamUs
- Participation on several state and federal missing and murdered indigenous person workgroups and committees

Violent Crimes Compensation Board

- Five full time staff members
- Annual report published online for FY2023
- State funding from an appropriation from the Permanent Fund Dividend Restorative Justice Account
- Federal funding from Victims of Crime Act
- Nearly 600 claims reviewed, 86% of which were found eligible
- Nearly \$1 million distributed

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

- 11 full time positions
- Fund 34 community based agencies; managing 109 sub-grant awards
- Implementing statewide data application to streamline reporting
- Developing coordinated community response to improve outcomes for perpetrator rehabilitation
- Annual report published online for FY2022
- New Executive Director

Domestic Violence Training Unit

- Two full time positions
- 46 statewide training events; 1,244 persons trained
- Partnership with Rural Cap, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, and the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for training
- Assisted with the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (Governor's Administrative Order 351)

Victim Navigator Unit

- Five full time positions
- Navigators assigned in Bethel, Fairbanks, Soldotna, MatSu, and Nome/Kotzebue
- Requesting two additional positions
- Over 900 hundred contacts with victims or family members so far in FY2024



Thank you!

James Cockrell, Commissioner

Department of Public Safety

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