



Coast Guard Update
Joint Armed Services Committee



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For
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Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District



Initiatives

- Advance Maritime Sovereignty & National Interests and counter challenges from near-competitors through dedicated presence.
- Counter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing & Enhance LMR Enforcement with an increase in the Coast Guard OPERATION NORTH PACIFIC GUARD commitment.

Specific CG Operations TPs

- Russian Military Exercise, interfering with US Fishing Vessels. CG now monitoring HYDROPACs and engaging with industry when a foreign exercise may overlap with fishing fleets locations. Additionally, CG NSC presence/observation of recent China PLAN battle group transiting through US EEZ.
- Recent (Sept 2021) violations found under WCPFC conservation management measures, related to shark finning.



Domestic Operations



Initiatives

- Build upon the success of ARCTIC SHIELD and the Marine Safety Task Force.
- Strengthen domestic LMR Enforcement on Alaska's \$5.6B fishing industry through use of DSF assets.

Specific CG Operations TPs

- MSST Deployments to Bristol Bay (72 vessel boardings) and Sitka (229 boardings)
- MSTF Facilities Inspections, 128 Facility Inspections, 470 CFV Exams, 5 Gold Dredges, and 6 Transfer Monitors during AS21
- Continue to establish and build relations with the 100+ remote communities to increase efficiencies, comms, and the effectiveness of safety of operations and pollution response at marine facilities within Alaska, particularly in the Arctic.
- Continue coordination/input for the Port Access Route Study (PARS) project to improve shipping routes; review nav hazards, traffic patterns, environmental concerns, and the adequacy of AtoN and hydro surveys.



People

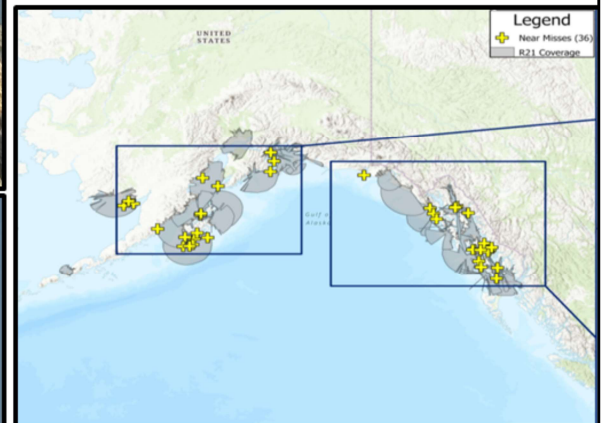
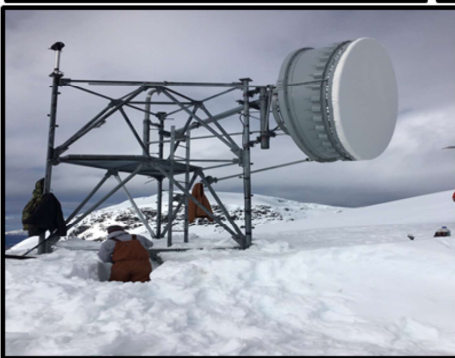
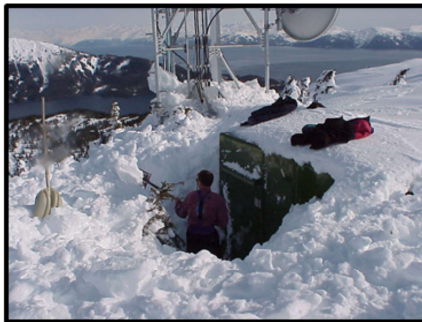
Initiatives

- Focus on mental health after a difficult year of COVID restrictions combined with seasonal challenges of winter in often remote Alaskan locations.
- **Mental Health Support/Personnel:**
 - Gapped Mental Health Specialist billets in Kodiak (LCDR/O4) & Juneau (CDR/O5) will be filled AY22
 - Surge ASSIST training across D17
 - Recruit ACS chaplains

This is one thing we could ask for “help” from with the state, many of our people live in remote communities (unlike DoD which is focused in Fairbanks and Anchorage) and utilize local health care options (when available).



Communications Infrastructure



Initiative

- Establish reliable communications coverage for the Alaska maritime regions. Eliminating SAR near misses due to AK R21 outages.
 - A majority of the time a tower has been down (75%) it has been due to the power generation, or microwave link.
 - Replacement of all generators and microwaves is planned to be completed in 2022 (work has been ongoing the past few years).
 - Contractor began new annual preventative maintenance in 2020.
- As of 29 Sept 2021, 4 sites were down (Mt. McArthur, Sukkwan Island, Deception Hills, and Bede Mtn) (Jan 2019 we had 19 sites down)
 - Mt. McArthur – sked for generator replacement in 2022
 - Deception Hills – sked for conversion of solid oxide fuel cells to generator/solar in 2022
 - Bede Mtn. – generator and microwave recap completed, site down for unknown reasons site visit sked 06 Oct 2021
 - Sukkwan Isl. – generator 95% done, microwave done, site down for unknown reasons, plan visit when WX allows

District Seventeen considers the below cases “Near Misses,” if any of the following

conditions are met:

Distress broadcasts on VHF-FM were never heard due to RFF site outages or lack of VHF-FM coverage in Sea Area,

Operational resources had to be used to perform the duty of a RFF tower,

Coincidental good Samaritan involvement was critical to case prosecution whereby the Coast Guard would have never been alerted.

- Since D17 started tracking “near misses” in August 2019, we have had 36 (18 in each Sector’s AOR).
 - SE AK’s last near miss was in Aug 2021, when a vessel beset by WX made call outs on VHF16, and a good sam responded. The VHF calls did not come through despite sites in the area being active and not degraded. Before this, Sector Juneau went 6 months without a near miss.
 - Southcentral AK’s last near miss was also in Aug 2019, when a F/V requested a MEDICO, the CG could hear the caller on VHF16, but due to Rugged Isl. VHF site’s degraded status, could not transmit to the F/V and had to relay comms through a cell phone on another F/V.



Shore Infrastructure



Initiatives

- Leverage the unprecedented amount of shore infrastructure investment coming to D17
- **Infrastructure / Facilities:**
 - Leveraging unprecedented amount of new assets and support facilities during an 8-year arrival period:
 - ✓ \$281M across 11 distinct appropriations in the last 5 FYs alone
 - Increasing momentum for other significant infrastructure investment:
 - ✓ (PC&I) Kodiak Fuel Pier Recap; FY22 UPL item (\$130M), prioritized funding for FY23
 - ✓ (Housing) Seward Housing: FY22 UPL item (\$13.5M)
 - ✓ (Housing) Kodiak Housing Phase IV (final): FY22 UPL item (\$40M)
 - ✓ (PC&I) Ketchikan Afloat Maintenance Support: FY22 UPL item (\$4M)
 - ✓ (PC&I) Valdez Covered Moorings: planning resources allocated