



Department of Public Safety Overview

Senate State Affairs Committee

Presentation by
Commissioner James Cockrell
February 7, 2023



Department Objectives



Commissioner
James Cockrell



Deputy
Commissioner
Bryan Barlow

Key Objectives

- Recruit and Retain
- Rural Alaska Law Enforcement and Safety
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Village Public Safety Officer Program
- Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection
- Narcotics and Major Crime Investigations



Department Success in 2022

- Added two missing and/or murdered indigenous people investigators
- Seized 13,425,000 potentially fatal doses of illicit fentanyl
- Currently have 68 Village Public Safety Officers
- 15.2% decrease in Alaska's overall crime rate
 - This reflects the lowest number of reported offenses since 1975 and continues the downward trend in Alaska crime that started in 2018
- Continuing to hire State Troopers; 51 new Troopers started training in 2022
- Expansion of the wellness program
- Body worn camera pilot project scheduled for Spring 2023
 - draft policy posted for public feedback





Department Organizational Chart

Commissioner James Cockrell

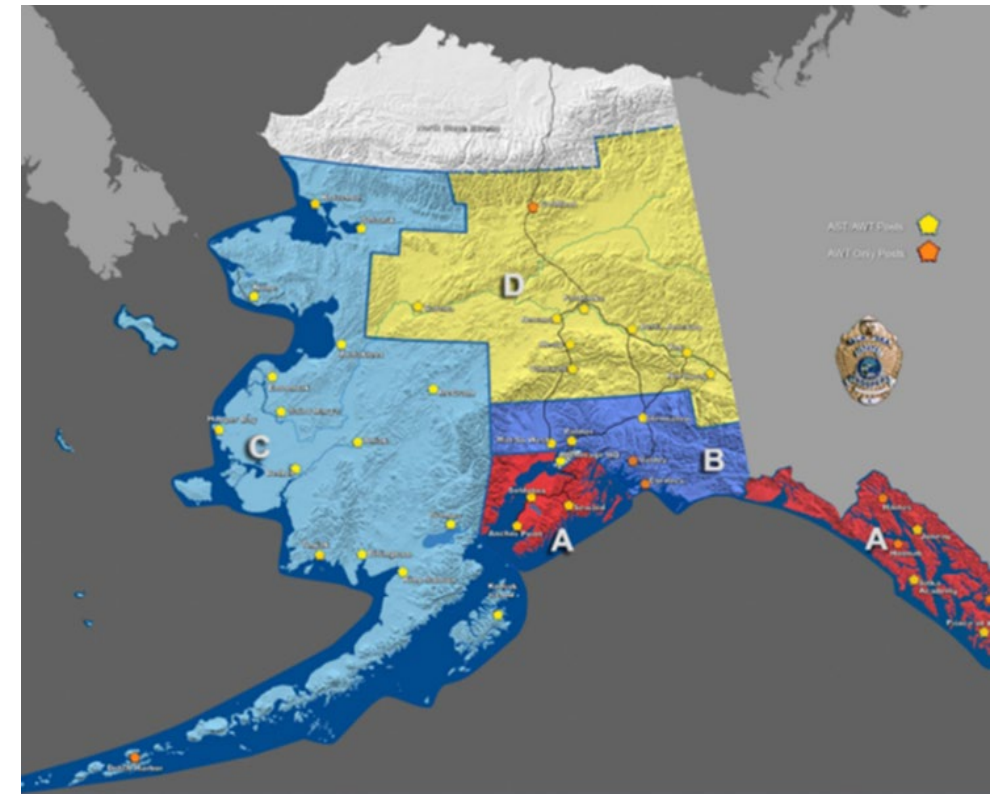




Division of Alaska State Troopers

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

Alaska State Trooper Detachments





Division of Alaska State Troopers

Accomplishments

Seized 215% more methamphetamine, 440% more fentanyl, and 334% more heroin from 2021

Solved 85% of homicides within Trooper jurisdiction

Expansion of the two-on/two-off posts in rural Alaska

Online reporting program

Challenges

Recruitment and Retention

Technological changes in how crimes are committed

Importation of drugs and alcohol into rural Alaska

Rural housing

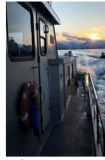




Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers



Alaska Wildlife Troopers



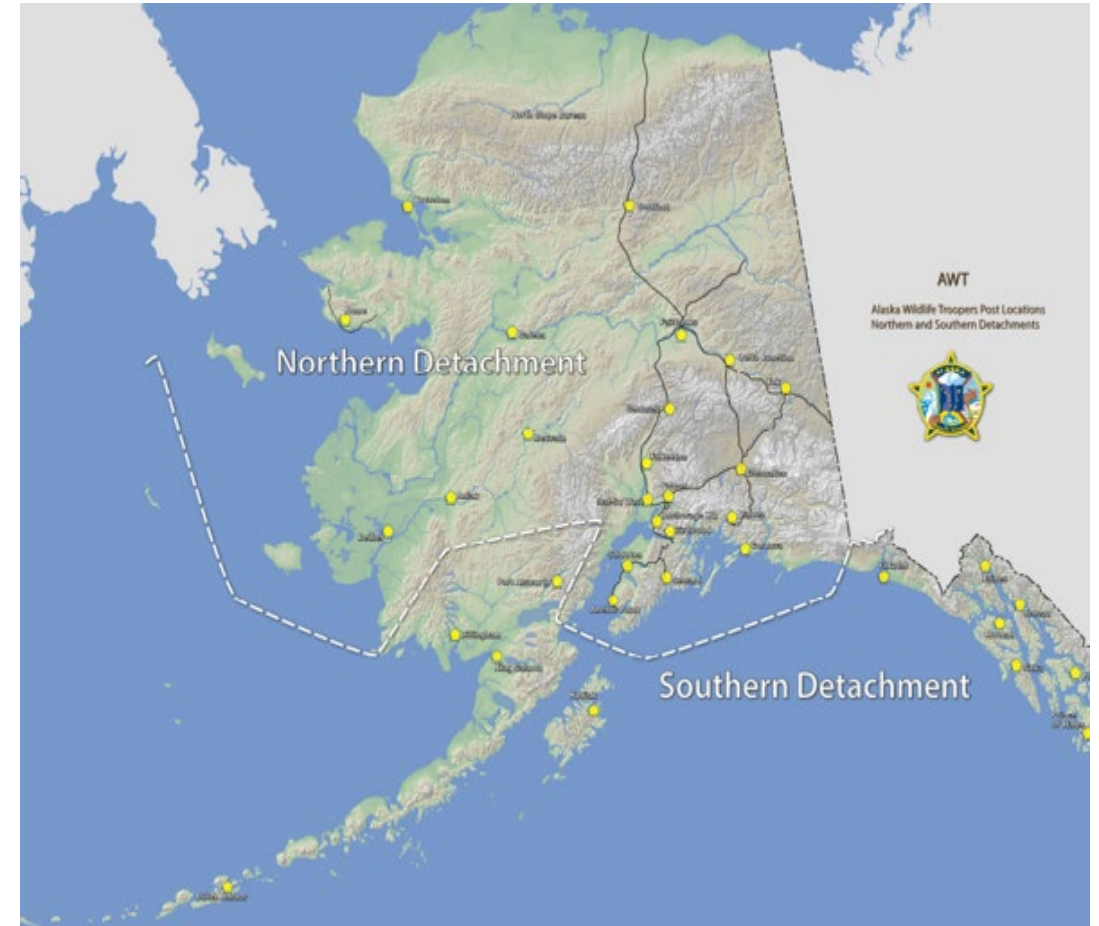
Alaska Wildlife Troopers Marine Enforcement

Accomplishments

- Collaboration with State and federal agencies, search and rescue groups, and public resource users
- Boating safety education and enforcement to reduce boating fatalities
- Identification of commercial resource crime and successful prosecution

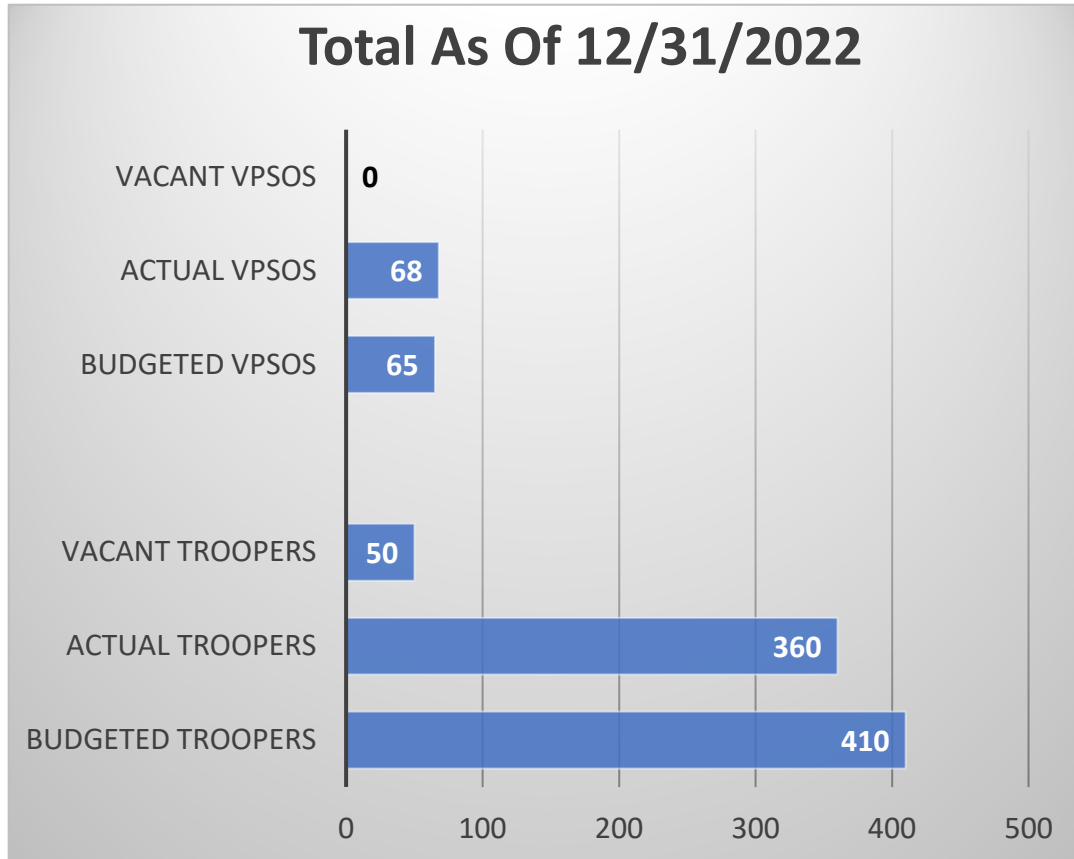
Challenges

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





Department Vacancies: Troopers and Village Public Safety Officers



- **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 Sections

Aircraft Section

- Law enforcement response/investigation
- Search and rescue
- Wildlife resource protection
- Prisoner transport
- Major fleet refreshment underway
 - 44 fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft
 - 19 aircraft bed-down bases
 - 5,667 hours flown in 2022 (calendar year)



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 Enforcer, Juneau (84' being decommissioned)
 - 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 Program

Program Status

- \$15,207.7 awarded
- 10 Grantees
- 68 VPSOs currently employed
- 2022 Statute Reform: Added program clarity and improved wages and support (multi-officer assignment, traveling officers, training reform, Tribal relationships w/ DPS liaison)

Challenges

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





Division of Fire and Life Safety

Rural Fire Protection

Fire Training Programs

Safety Inspections

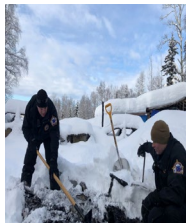
Building Plan Review

Public Education

Alaska Fire Standards
Council

Mission: to prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion. Fire safety is improved through three means:

- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Education



Accomplishments

- 664 building fire and life safety inspections
- 776 fire and building plan reviews completed
- 45 significant fire investigated
- New web-based application to process permits deployed on Nov 17, 2022; 170 applications processed in 2-4 weeks

Challenges

- Rural fire department capacity
- Communication methods to reach high-risk groups and areas regarding personal responsibility to decrease loss



Division of Statewide Services



Alaska Public Safety Communication Services

- Supported 12,409,758 calls and 20,436,826 push to talks
- Completed update of site repeaters in all State-owned sites; 72 site repeater locations

Information Systems

- Linked over 30 years of historical case files to the current Records Management System
- Deployed a new Online Police Reporting program

Criminal Justice Information Systems Program

- Secured multiple federal grants to support Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) modernization efforts
- National Incident Based Reporting System repository purchased with federal grant funds, 30 law enforcement agencies participating

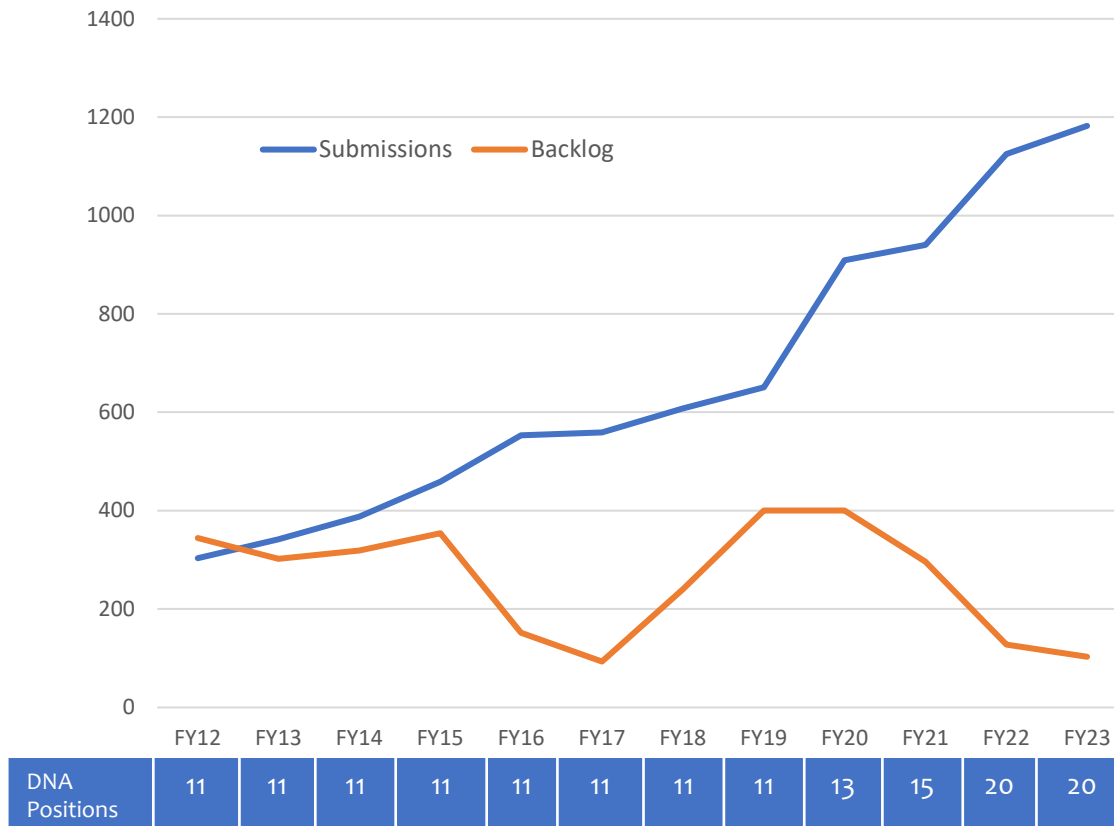
Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Lab

- 9,146 DNA database samples from arrestees and convicted offenders
- 2,491 sexual assault kit testing completed; backlog reduced by 57% per AS 44.41.065



Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Lab

Yearly DNA Submissions and Backlog



Note: submission data for FY23 is a projection based on current submissions through 12.31.2022

- Five DNA Scientist/Forensic Technician positions added in FY23 Governor's budget
- Lab processing times (in DAYS):

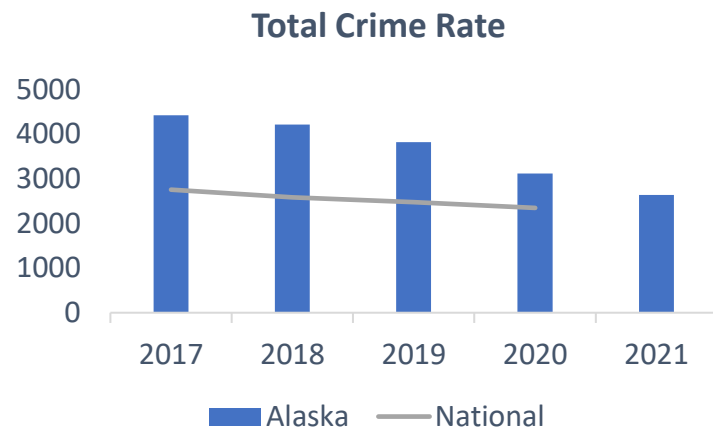
	FY22	FY23 YTD
DNA Sex Assault Casework	70	55
All DNA Casework	120	65
Forensic Alcohol Casework	19	25
Seized Drugs Casework	23	49



Uniform Crime Reporting

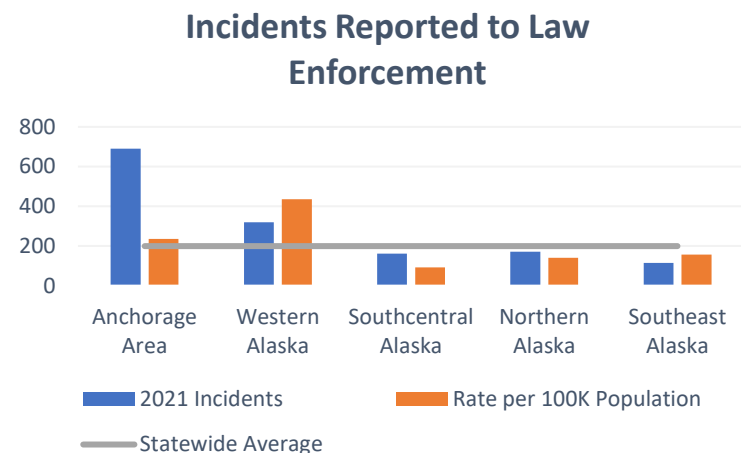
2021 Crime in Alaska Publication

- Overall reported crime rate, based on 100,000 population, decreased 15.2%
- Overall reported violent crime rate decreased 9.7%
- Overall property crime rate decreased 17.2%



2021 Felony Sex Offense Publication

- Victims over 18 year of age reported being assaulted by a stranger in 17% of incidents
- Nearly 58% of victims are juveniles
- 76% of locations were reported as residence/home





Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Mission: Promotes the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault and provides safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a statewide system of crisis intervention and support, and by supporting perpetrator accountability and rehabilitation.

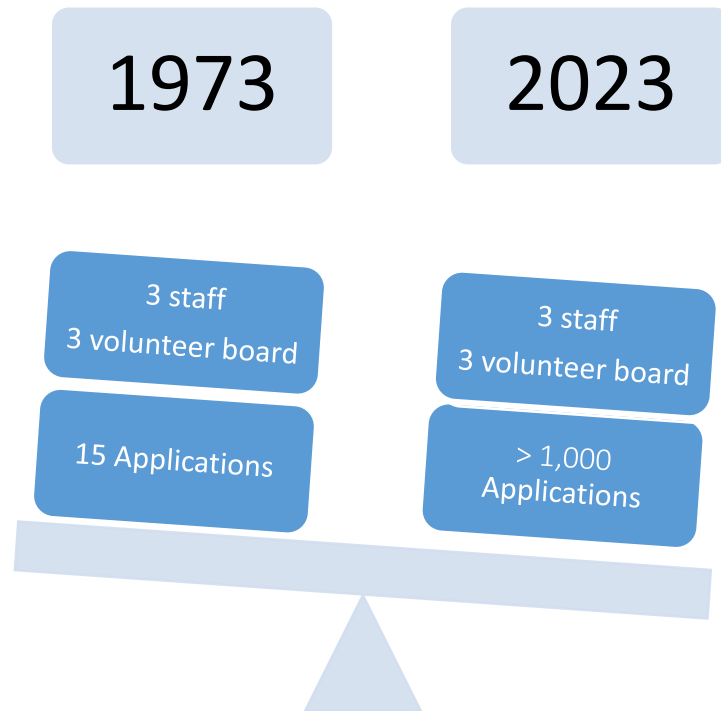
- Eleven-member Board of Directors
- Eleven full-time staff
- Fund 34 community-based agencies serving Utqiagvik to Unalaska
- Manage and monitor a total of 90 grant awards
- Created 4-year Violence Against Women Act/Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors State Implementation Plan to prioritize training and service needs to better prevent and respond to interpersonal violence
- Began implementing a Language Access Plan





Violent Crimes Compensation Board

Mission: The Violent Crimes Compensation Board exists to alleviate some of the financial burden victims face following a violent crime



Crime and Expense Type

Homicide	Funeral & Burial
Assault	Lost Wages
Arson	Medical & Mental Health
Child Abuse	Relocation
Sexual Assault	Safety & Security
DUI/DWI	Crime Scene Clean Up
Robbery	Travel



Alaska Police Standards Council

Mission:

To produce and maintain a highly trained and positively motivated professional, capable of meeting contemporary law enforcement standards of performance.

Values:

- A** - Accountability
- P** - Professionalism
- S** - Service
- C** - Character





Thank You



Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

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