

To Tell the Story



Past · Present · Future

*"I believe that in the future, whoever holds
Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the
most important strategic place in the world."*

General Billy Mitchell
Testifying before Congress
1935

History of Alaska Military



THE UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE in Alaska began in 1867, with purchase of the Alaskan territory from Russia for \$7.2 million negotiated by US Secretary of State William Seward. Alaska became a military district commanded by General Grant. During the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898, Army Post Fort Seward was established near Haines Mission.

As the clouds of war gathered in Europe for WWII in 1939, U.S. military infrastructure buildup commenced in Alaska as airstrips, bases and docks were constructed along the shores and across the remote wilderness as defense against threat of Japanese military invasion and on June 3, 1942 when the Dutch Harbor Naval Base was bombed by an aircraft carrier strike force. Imperial Japanese Army troops invaded and occupied Kiska and Attu Islands in the Aleutians (the first occupation of continental US territory since the War of 1812). On May 11, 1943, American and Canadian forces retaliated and launched the first amphibious attack named “Operation Landgrab” against Japanese Imperial Forces during the Battle of Attu. After weeks of fierce fighting, Attu was recaptured, and in August 1943, Kiska was also reclaimed.

In the Lend-Lease Act of 1941 Alaska played a pivotal role in helping Russia defeat the Nazis during WWII by enabling 8,000 American-made war planes to fly through Canada and Alaska on the Alaska-Siberia (ALSIB) route onward to the frontlines after red stars were secretly painted on in Fairbanks. The Red Army defeated the Nazis, securing an Allied victory.

In 1942, the Army constructed the 1,400 mile Alaska-Canadian (ALCAN) Highway in eight months, a phenomenal engineering accomplishment in subzero temperatures across harsh terrain, providing crucial support for military logistics.

Arctic Natives comprised the fiercely loyal and vigilant Alaska Territorial Guard, the U.S. Army's Arctic Reserve force. Their ancient skill sets and knowledge of the terrain helped them master wartime logistics and surveillance in the punishing Arctic conditions. Many scored expert sharpshooter rankings. Missions included guarding platinum mines and the terrain along Lend-Lease air route, and caching survival supplies along transportations routes. Present day Native Army troops continue to train fellow warriors how to thrive with sparse resources, apex predators, challenging terrain and weather.

Later during the Cold War, Alaska entered the new age of creating military infrastructure to support long range air power and missile technology, forward air defense bases, and the 3,000 mile Distant Early Warning (DEW Line) radar system across Canada to Alaska. The arena of warfare shifted dramatically as technology advanced at the height of the Cold War. Multi-engine Soviet bombers could now reach the Northwest United States. US Military forces countered with equal capabilities. With statehood in 1959 came the threat of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) development. The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) located at Clear, Alaska, began operations in 1961, helping to track and provide critical data relays for anti-ballistic missile interceptors.

A new stage of modernization during the late 1970's through the 1980's enabled a reduction of manpower replaced by technology. Contractors began to be hired to man systems rather than military personnel. New generation F-15 fighters along with E-3 Airborne Warning & Control (AWAC) aircraft contributed to the modern military's defense presence in Alaska and Soviet deterrence.

Alaska remains strategically important. Northern Sea Routes are opening and Polar issues are undergoing a sea change as maritime traffic increases and the potential of new trade routes open in Arctic waters. Along with opportunities for economic growth, the US and the world will face new security challenges. Alaska's strategic location will continue to be important in terms of global logistics, natural resources and commercial development, international air commerce and the military protection of the US homeland. ★

From History to Museum

WITH STORIES NEEDING TO BE TOLD and artifacts needing to be protected, the idea for the Alaska Military Heritage Museum began in the Fall of 2017. By February of 2018, the original AMHM Board of Directors met and filed with the state and federal government to form the originally named, Alaska Military History Museum non-profit corporation. We are now known as the Alaska Military Heritage Museum to better represent not just military history, but also the past, present, and future stories and culture surrounding Alaska's military involvement.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: To identify collect preserve and interpret Alaska's rich military history through the collection, preservation and restoration of unique historical military artifacts from remote Aleutian and interior locations in the State of Alaska and to tell the relatively unknown story based on facts of Alaska's historic military past, present and future role in standing guard for America.

At the very core of our organization, we started the AMHM to Tell the Story of Alaska's unique, strategically significant role in the nation and the world. Our chairman has the vision, “To ENSURE the AMHM remains an engaged, seamlessly integrated member of the community by emphasizing a culture of dignity towards the preservation of Alaska's valued military history while upholding personal and professional standards. The AMHM will ensure the museum remains consistent in telling the story of Alaska's past, present and future military importance and the vital role and contributions of our veterans throughout America's rich and vibrant history”.

Over the coming years, AMHM will create exhibits detailing everything from the start of Alaska's military with the involvement of Alaska's Native tribes to describing today's significant role that Alaska plays where the East meets the West along the Arctic Front. Alongside of the museum, we plan to restore and maintain our own squadron of airworthy aircraft to partner and participate with other organizations in commemoration events around the world such as going to the 75th anniversary of D-day or recreating the Lend Lease route to Moscow. We are also working to kick off two unique programs called Operation Combat Pike and the Veteran's Internship Program. Both of these programs are detailed below and will elevate the AMHM to a different level as we will not be just made up of static displays, but will host live programs working to aid our local community, environment, schools and veterans.

Since the start of the museum in February, our first priority has been saving Hangar 1. On March 4, 2019 Hangar 1 was added to the National Register of Historic Places. ★

[LEARN MORE CLICK HERE](#)

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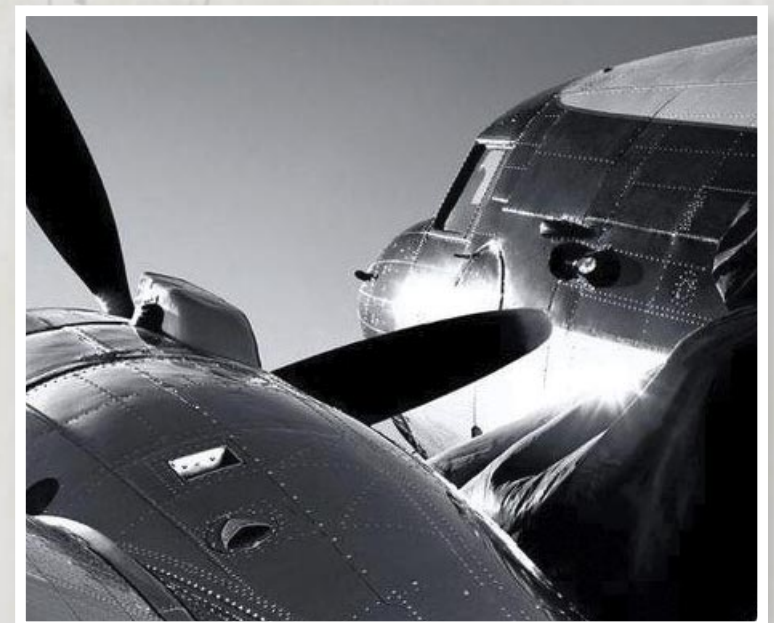


Photo by Dmitri Kessel, circa 1944 / Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images

Museum Programs

Hangar 1 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in March, 2019. The 100 acres and 4 buildings (vacant since 2011), are the ideal future home of the National Museum of Arctic Warfare.



Courtesy Alaska Air National Guard

Save Hangar 1

HANGAR 1 is at the former Kulis Air National Guard base (ANGB) on the South side of Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage, Alaska.

The hangar was built in 1957 and is 26,950 square feet. It was nominated for Landmark Status in the National Register of Historic Places by the Alaska State Historical Preservation Office on September 25, 2018.

Kulis ANGB and its original Hangar, "Hangar 1", has had a long and proud history within the State of Alaska. Its personnel and equipment played vital roles in a

multitude of conflicts and contingencies to include the Cold War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operating Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. In addition to participating in almost every military conflict this country has been involved in, Kulis ANGB was also a major staging area for all military response operations for disasters and Defense Support to Civil Authorities in Alaska to include such events as the 1967 Fairbanks Flood. In wake of the 1964 Alaska earthquake, Hangar 1 sheltered hundreds of survivors for days as the 176th Guard provided food, beds and managed other disaster logistics.

Kulis ANGB and Hangar 1 have a rich and vibrant history that deserves to be honored as both a state asset and a national treasure. We have witnessed the enormous contributions that Kulis ANGB and its members have given to the state and people of Alaska over the decades. The history of the Pararescue men alone is legendary for establishing USAF records for the number of lives saved and for establishing landmark Tactics, Techniques and Procedures developed to save lives in challenging Arctic environments, resulting in policy changes system-wide across the entire USAF. ★

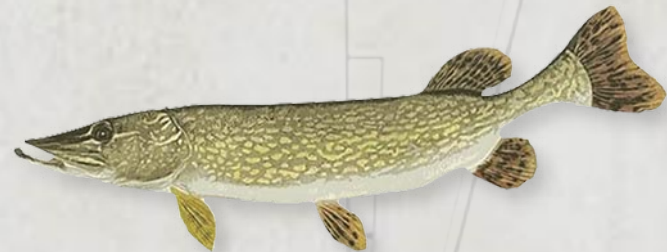
Operation COMBAT PIKE

Operation Combat Pike

THE ALASKA MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM is working to make the museum a living, breathing museum that commemorates and interprets the stories of the past, while maintaining operational artifacts that best depict these stories. As a part of our present program, we want to show our gratitude to the active-duty men and women of Alaska through our program called Operation Combat Pike (OCP).

The primary goal of OCP is to equip, transport, and guide thousands of active duty service members to fish for Northern Pike. Pike are opportunistic predators that are native to northern and western Alaska, but are invasive in South Central Alaska. Due to the pike's ability to survive in a wide-range of waters and the abundant food supplies currently present, pike are growing rapidly in numbers and are damaging both the state's native and stocked fisheries populations. Salmon serve a huge economic role for Alaska in commercial and sport fishing.

Our museum wants to help battle pike populations in South Central Alaska by teaching active duty service members across Alaska the techniques and equipment required to fish for and kill pike. This program will offer season-appropriate fishing trips, at no cost, to active duty service members at targeted watersheds to most effectively decrease the pike's ability to spread to other bodies of water and decrease the likelihood of pike affecting migratory fish populations. This program will also increase morale of our troops and help them realize the beauty of Alaska. We hope to start offering trips during the summer of 2019. ★



Aircraft Restoration Projects

Douglas C-47 Dakota This 1944 twin engine C-47 Dakota transport flew troops, cargo and wounded extensively through every theatre of WWII. More than 50,000 paratroopers were dropped by C-47s in the first few days of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy, France in June, 1944. This plane was among only a few that was selected in 1952 to become 1 of 4 VC-117D 'Admirals' which served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. This airworthy aircraft will be a living tribute to Alaskans who flew in WWII, the 11th Air Force, Colonel Everett S. Davis and to the Alaska Territorial Guard.

Martin B-26 Marauder The 1940 twin engine aircraft was part of the actual 73rd Bombardment squadron that helped repel the Japanese invasion on June 3, 1942. B-26 # 40-1370 has been under restoration to return to flight. It is our intention to raise the funds to purchase and transport this treasure back to Alaska to help 'Tell the Story'. This one of a kind artifact will be restored in tribute to Colonel William O. Eareckson of the 73rd Bombardment Squadron and the 11th Air Force's role in WWII

Curtis C-46 Commando The 1944 twin engine aircraft was part of the 313th Troop Carrier Group in France where it took part in Operation Varsity. 3,140 Commandos were built yet only a handful continue to fly today. These aircraft obtained fame by flying over the treacherous Himalayan mountains, between India and China, which was nicknamed the Hump. This legitimate warbird will be maintained in flying condition in tribute to Senator Ted Stevens, George Brown, Governor Jay Hammond and Cliff Everts who flew in China in WWII and also flew these aircraft.

Fairchild C-123 Provider This medium twin engine tactical airlift transport aircraft was used extensively throughout the Cold War. The aircraft's unique aspect was having both propeller and turbojet propulsion. This type of aircraft was the primary transport for the Alaska Air Guard from 1960 to 1976. This flying tribute will be to the Alaska Air Guard, the 144th Air Transport Squadron, the 176th Tactical Airlift Squadron and to all Guardsmen who have served including in Operation Santa Claus which has transported Mr & Mrs Claus to Alaska native villages since 1956. ★

Alaska Territorial Guard Shacks

THE ALASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD is actively divesting former Guard Scout Armories at over 60 locations across Alaska. The museum is requesting three of these buildings to be located at the former Kulis Air Guard base. The rich history of these Scout Armories help tell the story of the incredible, mostly untold heroic feats of the Alaska Territorial Guard and their mission to help guard the Last Frontier from foreign invasion. ★



Veteran Internship Program

OFTEN MILITARY PERSONNEL are exiting the military without any type of civilian job in place and without a proper support network. These significant life changing problems only add to the difficulty of reintegration into civilian life and starting a new career path. We recognize these problems to be unacceptable and have developed our live-in intern program to prevent soldiers transitioning from active duty to civilian life from becoming one of these statistics.

According to the 2017 US Department of Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts, there were 124 homeless veterans in the State of Alaska making up roughly 7% of the overall homeless population. We are working to create housing facilities on the former Kulis ANGB within the campus of the Alaska Military Heritage Museum as part of a 2 year 2 stage intern program. Based on the intern's military job training and personal ambitions, interns will work in 6 key areas at the museum including facilities maintenance, artifact restoration and maintenance, security and emergency management, business administration and development, education, and outfitting. Throughout the course of the intern year, the AMHM will work to develop a supportive environment with a team and individual success oriented atmosphere to further aid new veterans during their entry into civilian life. ★

Give

Individuals

★ General Donation
Give at whatever amount you would like and we will find the place for your gift to best tell the story

★ Individual Membership
You can choose one of 5 levels of annual membership to join our crew. Each level offers different perks including quarterly newsletter, museum stickers, discount tickets for when we open, invitations to special events, and more.

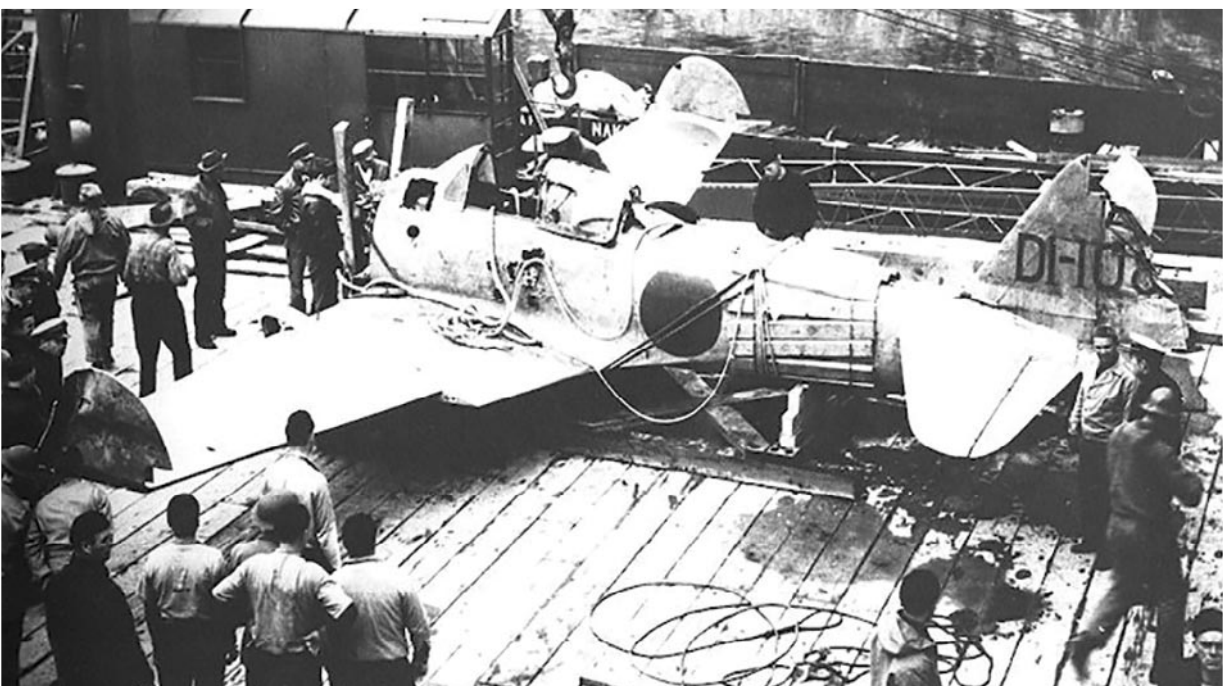
Consider joining the Alaska Military Heritage Museum as a Member and being part of telling the story. Go to alaskamhm.org to join our crew.



The Aleutian Islands are a chain of steep, high mountains rising out of the North Pacific between Alaska and Siberia. There, among fog and sudden storms, the world is still in the making. Volcanoes blow rings of steam. Islets pop out of the ocean and then mysteriously vanish again. Earthquakes make and unmake harbors, cliffs, beaches and caves.

Life Magazine 1944

ALASKAMHM.ORG



Photos by Dmitri Kessel, circa 1944 / Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images

Corporate Donorship Levels



★ Bronze \$1,000
Name on website for 1 year (Bronze Level), 1 newsletter, vehicle stickers and Bronze Level on the DC-3 wing trailer.

★★ Silver \$2,500
Name on website for 1 year (Silver Level), 1 newsletter, vehicle stickers and Silver Level on the DC-3 wing trailer.

★★★ Gold \$5,000
Name on website for 1 year (Gold Level), 1 newsletter, vehicle stickers, Bronze level in The Alaska National Guard Heritage Ball and Gold Level on the DC-3 wing trailer.

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Name on website for 1 year (Platinum Level), 1 newsletter, vehicle stickers, Silver level in The Alaska National Guard Heritage Ball and Platinum Level on the DC-3 wing trailer.

★★★★★ Diamond \$25,000
Name on website for 1 year (Diamond Level), 1 newsletter, vehicle stickers, Gold Level in The Alaska National Guard Heritage Ball and Diamond Level on the DC-3 wing trailer.

★★★★★★ Legacy \$50,000
Name on website for 1 year (Diamond Level), 1 newsletter, VIP Patch, two vehicle stickers, Platinum Level in The Alaska National Guard Heritage Ball and Legacy Level on the DC-3 wing trailer.



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