



THE NAVAL HISTORY OF ALASKA



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SHIPS



33

At least 33 ships have been named after the state of Alaska, its cities, places, and people. A few of those ships include:

USS Akutan (AE 13), 1945
Alaska I (Screw Sloop of War), 1869
USS Alaska II (Id. No. 3035), 1918
USS Alaska III (CB 1), 1944
USS Alaska IV (SSBN 732), 1986
USS Alaskan (Id. No. 4542), 1918
USS Anchorage (LPD 23), 2013
USS Anchorage (LSD 36), 1969
USS Atka (AGB 3), 1950
USS Attu (CVE 102), 1944
USS Bering Strait (AVP 34), 1944
USS Besboro (AG 66), 1943
USS Castle Rock (AVP 35), 1944
USS Cook Inlet (AVP 36), 1944
USS Great Sitkin (AE 17), 1945
USS Juneau I (CL 52), 1942
USS Juneau (CL 119), 1946

USS Kadashan Bay (CVE 76), 1944
USNS Kiska (AE 35), 1972
USS Mount Katmai (AE 16), 1945
USS Mount McKinley (AGC 7), 1944
USS Orca I (S.P. 726), 1917
USS Orca II (AVP 49), 1944
USNS Point Barrow (AKD 1), 1958
USS Shelikof (AVP 52), 1944
USS Sitka (APA 113), 1945
USS Unimak (AVP 31), 1943
USS West Alek (Id. No. 3119), 1918
USS Wrangell (AE 12), 1944
USS Yakutat (AVP 32), 1944
USS Yukon I (AF 9), 1921
USNS Yukon II (T-AO 152), 1957
USNS Yukon III (T-AO 202), 1994

USS Alaska (SSBN 732)

USS Alaska (SSBN 732) is the seventh Trident Ohio-class nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine. Alaska was commissioned Jan. 25, 1986 and is homeported in Kings Bay, GA. Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines like Alaska provide an undetectable platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. They are designed specifically for stealth, extended patrols, and precise delivery of missiles. On average, the submarines spend 77 days at sea followed by 35 days in port for maintenance.

PEOPLE



Col. Archie Van Winkle Medal of Honor Recipient

Archie Van Winkle, a native of Juneau, AK, was a platoon sergeant of Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, during the Korean War. Though twice wounded in the same action, SSgt. Van Winkle refused medical evacuation and led his trapped platoon in a successful charge against a larger enemy force near Sudong, Korea, in November 1950. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions and subsequently promoted to second lieutenant. He continued to serve in the Marine Corps until he retired as a colonel in 1974. Van Winkle is Alaska's only Medal of Honor recipient.



Harvey Jacobs & Mark Jacobs Jr. Tlingit Code Talkers

Machinist Mate 1st Class Harvey Jacobs (left) and his brother Mark Jr. were two Navy Sailors from Sitka, AK. They were part of the five Tlingit servicemen posthumously awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for their service as Tlingit Code Talkers during World War II. Similar to their Navajo Code Talker peers, they communicated using their native language to prevent the enemy from obtaining valuable information. The brothers joined the Navy shortly after Pearl Harbor, skipped basic training, and were put to work immediately on picket boats in Southeast Alaska and the Aleutians, then in the South Pacific.

ALASKA DURING WORLD WAR II



Many American naval bases in Alaska that were significant during World War II are now national historic landmarks. They include Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base (NOB), Unalaska Island; Kodiak NOB, Kodiak Island; and Sitka NOB, Sitka.

Dutch Harbor and Fort Mears were the first bases the Japanese attacked during the Aleutian campaign. Pictured above is the Seabee encampment of several Naval Construction Battalions (NCB) on Dutch Harbor NOB. On July 5, 1942, NCB 4 became the first Seabee battalion to arrive in that area.

PLACES



Did you know that the only World War II battle that took place on North American soil was on Attu Island, AK, in May 1943? As part of the Aleutian Campaign, Americans recaptured Attu from Japanese occupation.



Navy Operational Support Center Anchorage

Located on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, AK, NOSC Anchorage is the only NOSC covering the entire state of Alaska. The primary mission of NOSC Anchorage is to provide mobilization ready reservists to maximize operational support to the fleet. The center consists of eight full-time staff and more than 80 drilling Reservists.



Naval Special Warfare Center (Cold Weather Training), Kodiak

Naval Special Warfare Center Kodiak is a small training command that specializes in training SEAL platoons and Special Boat Unit detachments in maritime cold-weather operations.