



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL		
CHAPTER 6	ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS (AWT)	
	Effective: 7/24/2023	Commissioner Approval: 
	Authorities: AS 18.65.030	
	Applicability: ALL DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES	
	Special Instructions:	

6.100 RESPONSIBILITY

The Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers is charged with enforcement of statewide law enforcement, prevention of crime, pursuit and apprehension of offenders, natural resource protection and search and rescue.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers core mission statement is to protect Alaska's Natural Resources through Wildlife Enforcement. Through education, presence, and enforcement action the Division is committed to the following:

Statewide Patrol of Commercial Big Game Services

Reduction of Illegal Guiding and Transporter Activities

Statewide Commercial Fisheries

Reduction of Unlawful Harvest and Sales of Wild-Stocks

Statewide Sport Fish and Sport Fish Guiding

Reduction of Illegal Harvest and Sale of Sport Fish

Statewide Game and Trapping

Prevention of Waste and Illegal Harvest

Boating Safety

Reduction of Boating Related Deaths and Injuries

Safeguarding Habitat

Reduction of Watershed Damage and Non-Compliance of Environmental Permits

6.300 DIVISION DIRECTOR

The Division Director is an AWT Colonel, appointed by and accountable to the Commissioner, who is charged with carrying out the responsibilities and duties of the Division. The Commissioner designates the location of the Director's Office.

The Commissioner will appoint a commanding officer to act as Director under exigent circumstances.

6.310 DIRECTOR'S STAFF

A. Deputy Director. The Deputy Director is an AWT Major, appointed by and accountable to the Director. The Deputy Director is the Commander for the Division and acts under the Director's delegated authority in the absence of the Colonel.

B. Assignment to staff duties. The Director may assign officers to staff positions as necessary to accomplish Division functions. Staff personnel may be assigned command responsibility or supervision of major Division activities.

E. Support Sections. The following sections are assigned and accountable to the Director and Director's staff.

1. Vessel Section is responsible for:
 - a. the maintenance, repair, operational safety, fiscal accounting, and budget for all vessels under the section's jurisdiction;
 - b. providing safe, dependable watercraft as required to support the enforcement and emergency response activities of the Department of Public Safety;
 - c. vessel needs which are routed through the chain of command, with final determination made by the Director, or designee, after consultation with the vessel supervisor.

6.320 ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS DIVISION ORGANIZATION

A. Division Organization. The Division is divided into two (2) Detachments and the Wildlife Investigation Unit (WIU). Southern and Northern Detachments, and the WIU. The headquarters and posts for the detachments and WIU are:

Detachments	Headquarters	Posts
Southern	Anchorage	Craig, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Ketchikan, King Salmon, Kodiak, Petersburg, Sitka, Wrangell
Northern	Palmer	Anchorage, Anchor Point, Aniak, Bethel, Cantwell, Coldfoot, Cordova, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Galena, Girdwood, Glennallen, Kotzebue, Mat-Su West, McGrath, Nome, Palmer, Tok, Seward, Saint Mary's, Soldotna, Valdez
WIU	Anchorage	Palmer

- B. Detachment organization.**
1. Detachments are commanded by AWT Captains appointed by, and accountable to, the Director.
 2. Each Detachment is charged with Division responsibilities within a specific geographic area.
 3. Detachments consist of a headquarters and one or more posts.
- C. Post Organization.**

1. A post shall only be established, abolished, or have its status changed with the approval of the Commissioner.
 2. A post is responsible for a specific geographical area and consists of one or more Troopers.
 3. The post Trooper or Officer-In-Charge is accountable to the Detachment Commander or his designee.
- D. Wildlife Investigations Unit (WIU).
1. WIU has statewide responsibility and conducts investigations of significant or complex resource related, offenses;
 2. WIU provides assistance and advice to the Detachments in the conduct of major investigations, and assumes other specialized assignments at the discretion the Director or designee;
 3. WIU is responsible for conducting special and covert operations into known or suspected illegal fishing, hunting, and guiding activities; and
 4. WIU provides the Director or designee the status of ongoing investigations and related trends in Alaska.

6.330 ORGANIZATION CHANGES

The Director may create additional bureaus, services, sections or units as deemed necessary to perform the function of the Division, upon approval by the Commissioner. [Ref. AS 18.65.030]