U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Pacific Ocean Division
Alaska Regional Ports and Harbors Conference

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Supporting the Army in the Pacific
Alaska is large in size when compared to the Lower 48 states....but its infrastructure is not comparable.

Alaska
6,640 miles of coastline

Lower 48 States
6,053 miles of coastline

Hawaii
750 miles of coastline
1948 – ALCAN open to civilians
1970’s - Parks Highway built
1927- Richardson Highway open to automobiles
1974 - Dalton Highway built to support the trans-Alaska pipeline

• 1956 – Interstate Highway System started
• Look at the roads - too many to name!
None of Alaska’s Rivers have the transportation infrastructure that even begins to compare to lower 48 standards.

Locks and Dams are on almost every major river in the lower 48. Development started in the 1800’s and continues today.
Rail Connections

Alaska has one rail connection, but lots of plans to link with the Lower 48.

Lots of existing rail connections that could be accessed through Alaskan or Canadian Ports.
Comparison in the 1800’s
Alaska to Lower 48

Lower 48
- 1802 - Corps of Engineers established by Congress
- First mission was improvements to navigation
- Waterway network development for the Ohio, Mississippi, Red, and Missouri Rivers
- Canals
- Locks

Alaska
- Russian Territory until purchased in 1867
- 1805 First cargo of Russian Furs exported
- 1880 Gold discovered near Juneau
- 1882 First canneries
- 1897 Gold discovered in the Klondike
## Comparison 1900’s to today

**Lower 48 States:**
- Corps mission expands to include hydropower and flood control
- Eventually recreation and environmental restoration added
- 1914 - Panama canal built
- 1921 – Port Authority of New York and New Jersey established

**Alaska:**
- 1904 cable from Alaska to Lower 48 for telegraph system
- 1954 DEW line system started
- Becomes 49th state in 1959
- 1968 oil and gas discovered on North Slope
- 1974 construction begins on TransAlaska Pipeline System
- 1989 Exxon-Valdez spills 11 million gallons of oil in Prince William Sound

## In Congress:
- 1902 – Board of Engineers decides which projects to construct
- 1986 – Corps projects require cost sharing; prior to this date all were 100% federal cost
- 1992 – Board terminated and Congress decides which projects to construct
Conclusion

- Nation’s focus today is maintenance of infrastructure.
- Alaska’s focus is providing basic infrastructure.
- What is needed?
- What partnerships are needed?

Port of Long Beach

Needs of Alaska