

The Port of Anchorage

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

This year, the Port of Anchorage is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It's a momentous and fulfilling milestone for Alaska's major marine cargo terminal. "We are thrilled to celebrate 50 years of successful service in Alaska, but we're even more excited about the next 50 years with our expansion project and state-of-the-art infrastructure," says Director Bill Sheffield.

The Port of Anchorage is a major economic engine and serves as a critical hub in Alaska's statewide intermodal transportation system, which links rail, road and air cargo from across the state of Alaska. Sheffield describes the Port—which offers free summer tours to the public—as Alaska's "lifeline." Ninety percent of the merchandise goods for 85 percent of Alaska's population come through the Port of Anchorage. Or as Sheffield puts it: "If you eat it, wear it or drive it, it probably came through the Port."

Helping Out

Cargo shipments through the Port support more than 250 villages through fuel, cargo and dry goods. The Port also provides 100 percent of the jet fuel for Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) and two-thirds of the jet fuel used at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The Port is designated as one of only 19 Department of Defense National Strategic Seaports. As a testament to its longevity, the facility has remained operational through the Good Friday earthquake of 1964, numerous military deployments and weekly cargo shipments which prove vital to Alaskans.

"For 50 years, the Port of Anchorage has been Alaska's port, supporting business, fuel, cargo, dry goods, military operations, tourism and so many more goods and services for the state of Alaska," Sheffield says. "The Port has and will continue to be an important asset and an essential lifeline to Alaska."



Governor Sheffield, Port Director (center) with Port of Anchorage staff.

Unlike most municipal departments, Anchorage's Port is self-sufficient. No city property tax dollars are used to cover its operational costs, and it contributes over \$750 million to Alaska's economy annually.

To further enhance its service, the Port continues to move forward with modernizing and expanding its antiquated and deteriorated facilities. The multi-phase undertaking will enable the Port to double in size and become a world-class intermodal facility, better poised to support current tenants and future business—such as large gas line and power projects. The larger facility will provide increased seismic protection, additional acreage for commercial use, the ability to accommodate larger vessels, two new barge berths and secure road access for military deployments. The Port will remain fully operational during the project to ensure ships can always call on Alaska's port—including cruise ships, its most recent customer addition.

Port of Call

The Port of Anchorage expects a dozen port calls from cruise ships in 2011 and has a

committed schedule for the 2012 cruise season. The increased cruise ship traffic is good for the Port and for Anchorage businesses. Disembarked passengers enjoy sightseeing, wildlife viewing and other local attractions; off-duty crew members indulge in no-sales-tax shopping to collect bags of clothing, electronics and other items.

In the future, the Port will continue focusing on enhancing its operations to benefit visitors, Alaskans and global customers. "We are confidently moving forward through development, new customers, more jobs and better service," Sheffield says.



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