



**THE ALASKAN FORCES RADIO NETWORK**

Serving the Top Cover of America, the Air Force Arctic Broadcasting Squadron (AFABS), headquartered at Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage, Alaska, conducts the broadcast portion of the Department of Defense (DoD) Internal Information Program in Alaska, parts of Canada, and Greenland. AFABS carries out the DoD policy which mandates that U.S. Military personnel and their families are entitled to, and should be availed the same type of radio and television service as their fellow citizens in the continental U.S.

In Alaska and Canada, AFABS has a radio-only commitment. The Alaskan Forces Radio Network (AFRN) is the squadron's broadcast entity. It's on the air 24 hours a day with two programming services. First, AFRN offers an AM-type schedule aimed at audience members in their late teens or early 20's. As an alternate listening choice, AFRN airs adult contemporary FM-stereo programming at four sites throughout Alaska. Both services are distributed thru a series of low-powered transmitters, and closed-circuit audio distribution systems located at sites where military personnel are assigned.

AFRN's primary studios are co-located with AFABS headquarters at Elmendorf AFB. Other studios are located at Eielson AFB, near Fairbanks, and at Fort Greeley. These affiliates break away from the network for several hours each day to concentrate on local information. The outlet at Eielson AFB is also the entire network's back-up station should AFRN Elmendorf go off the air.

Most programming aired on AFABS radio stations is provided by the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service Programming Center in Los Angeles, California. Programs there are procured from assorted broadcast industry sources.

AFABS personnel in Alaska are mostly Air Force, but some soldiers are assigned to the squadron by the U.S. Army.

The AFABS has a proud history. AFRN is the oldest armed forces radio network in the world. Its first outlet was established on Kodiak Island in 1942 when American soldiers built a small, homemade radio station to entertain the local troops. Since that time AFRN has become one of the largest military broadcasting networks in the world in terms of the number of sites it serves and the geographic area it covers.

In April of 1933 AFABS inaugurated its satellite FM Stereo network in Alaska, again, the first of its type in the military. Stereo programming originates from a state-of-the-art computerized system at Elmendorf AFB and is distributed by satellite to four locations around Alaska: Shemya AFB, far out in the Aleutians; King Salmon, on the Alaska Peninsula; Fort Greeley in the Interior; and Galena in Northwest Alaska.

AFABS reports to the Air Force Broadcasting Service, a Directorate of the Air Force Service Information and News Center, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas.

The former "AFRN North" network, connecting sites at Clear, Eielson AFB, Fort Greeley, and Tok, has been discontinued. These sites all continue to receive programming from Elmendorf AFB.

**ALASKAN FORCES RADIO NETWORK TRANSMITTER SITES**

Location	Power	Frequency (Khz.)
Black Rapids	50 W	1550
Cape Lisburne AFS	50 W	1400
Cape Newenham AFS	50 W	1450
Cape Romanzof AFS	50 W	1240
Clear AFS	100 W	1490
Cold Bay	50 W	1499
Fort Yukon AFS	50 W	1340
Galena	50 W	1400
Indian Mountain AFS	10 W	1240 (Formerly 570)
Indian Mountain AFS	50 W	1490 (Top Control site)
King Salmon AFB	250 W	970 (Bottom Control site)
Kotzebue AFS	50 W	1340
Shemya AFB	300 W	90.5 mhz FM (Mono)
Sparrevohn AFS	50 W	1550
Tin City AFS	50 W	1490
Tok Junction CGS	50 W	1400
Tatalina AFS	50 W	1450
Eielson AFB	50 W	1490
Fort Greeley	250 W	1360
Kodiak CGSC	50 W	960

**ALASKAN FORCES RADIO NETWORK FM NETWORK**

Fort Greeley	250 W	90.5 mhz. FM
Shemya AFB	300 W	101.1
Galena	300 W	90.5
King Salmon	300 W	101.7

**Abbreviations:**

AFB-Air Force Base AFS-Air Force Station CGS-Coast Guard Sta. CGSC-Coast Guard Support Center

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