United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information.

_X_ New Submission _______ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Alaska Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs), 1959–1974

B. Associated Historic Contexts

None

C. Form Prepared by:

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

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Signature of certifying official Title Date

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I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

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Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
USDI/NPS NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form
Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG) Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

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E. Statement of Historic Contexts

The Alaska Army National Guard (AKARNG) has a service record that predates statehood, beginning in the 1940s as the Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG). The Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRC), constructed from 1959 and throughout the Cold War era, are the built record of Alaska’s Scout Battalions. The Scout Battalions were a unique, small-unit organization of the National Guard formed in 1949, which served as a vigilant force in the relative isolation of the arctic tundra.\(^1\) During the Cold War, the AKARNG Scout Battalions were one of the United States’ first line of defense against Soviet aggression, and the FSRCs served as mobilization centers for state and federal activation of troops.

**INTRODUCTION**

The built resources of the AKARNG FSRCs are located throughout Alaska in remote village locations with limited access. As of 2012, seventy-eight FSRC buildings remain in communities throughout the state (see Table 1). This number does not include larger Army Aviation Operations Facilities (AAOF) like those found in Juneau (constructed in 1989) and Kotzebue (1984), or other Office(s) of Military Support (OMS). Instead, FSRCs are diminutive buildings located in relatively remote locations that were built and used during the Cold War era as readiness centers for the AKARNG Federal Scout Battalions.

The AKARNG was created in 1949, doubled in size in 1950, and by 1960 was undergoing a construction campaign to locate FSRCs in forty-eight villages and towns across the state. Additional armories/units were added during a second building campaign in the early 1960s and a third campaign in the early 1970s. The FSRCs not only provided local AKARNG members with a location to train and congregate but also hosted elite military units sent from the Lower 48 to train in the harsh arctic climate. During the Cold War era, when espionage activities behind the so-called Ice Curtain rivaled those behind the Iron Curtain in escalating tensions between the US and the USSR, the AKARNG and the FSRCs served as watchful eyes on America’s Soviet neighbors.

**TEMPORAL CONTEXT (Periods of Significance)**

The temporal boundaries of this submittal encompass three related but somewhat sequential periods of development that collectively span the period from 1959, the initial construction of forty-eight FSRCs throughout Alaska under a single contract, through 1974, the last of the primarily new construction activities to directly serve FSRCs during the Cold War era. These periods of significance reflect the following:

**Statehood (1959–1962)**


Beginning in May 1959, forty-eight buildings under Contract No. DA-95-514-NG-75 were constructed, financed 100 percent via $1,200,000 in federal funds. The FSRC buildings themselves were standardized: 20’-x-60’-long “Garco” metal buildings, manufactured by the Garceau Steel Structures Corporation, of Spokane, Washington.\(^2\) Constructed on wood skid foundations, the gable-roofed buildings were clad in corrugated metal.

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\(^1\) It should be noted that two-thirds of Alaska is subarctic. Use of the term *arctic* throughout this document is not meant to indicate a specific natural science definition. Instead, the term is used to imply the cold and extreme conditions and locations of remote regions of Alaska, and is used throughout for simplicity.

Building interiors featured rolled felt floors and wood or gypsum board walls and ceilings, with a central open room for training and small side rooms for storage and offices.

**Individual Contracts (1959–1962)**
In addition to the forty-eight buildings constructed under Contract No. DA-95-514-NG-75, eight additional facilities (presently managed by the AKARNG) were constructed between 1959 and 1962. The majority of these were built in relatively large urban centers, specifically Bethel (1962), Fairbanks (1962), Juneau (1960/2005) and Nome (1961); these resources are not eligible under this Multiple Property Documentation (MPD), as they are/were not located in remote arctic locations. However, three FSRCs were built in remote locations at this time: Ambler (1960), Kodiak (1959), and Nunapitchuk (1959/1986). Why these three locations were not part of the larger contract is unknown at this time, but should be explored during individual investigations of these FSRC locations.

**Reorganization (1962–1964)**
Beginning in 1962 and authorized in July 1964, additional armories were constructed. These were financed 100 percent via $194,055.50 in federal funding. Three new facilities were constructed in Barrow (1964), Emmonak (1966/1984), and Toksook Bay (1964). The facilities at Barrow represented the majority of funding for the expansion, with $103,631.55 set aside for that location alone. Facilities at Emmonak and Toksook Bay were more modest, at $43,810.16 and $46,613.79, respectively. Similar to those built under the first campaign, the armories were 20'-x-60' buildings in the Challenger style of the Butler Manufacturing Company.

Only a handful of buildings were constructed during the 1970s, specifically those at Alcantra (1974), Goodnews Bay (1973), Kotlik (1973, although it was a 1960s facility relocated from another village), and Sitka (1970). Also, federal excess buildings provided in 1958 to Gambell and Savoonga were replaced in 1973. Similar to those built under the first two campaigns, the armories were 20'-x-60' buildings, popularly referred to as the "Butler type," though not necessarily manufactured by the Butler company. The early 1970s represent the last stage of new construction activities to serve FSRCs directly during the Cold War era.

**Outside of the Temporal Context (1975–present)**
After 1974, FSRC building construction deviated tremendously from the prefabricated, inexpensive, and easily erected buildings of the 1959–1974 FSRCs. Additionally, in the post-1974 period, FSRC construction was used as a means to enliven recruitment efforts for battalions that had not yet formed. The method of building the FSRC first, and hoping the enlistment numbers would follow, put the emphasis not on the vigilant force of the Scout Battalions but on efforts instead to enlist volunteers. Where once the individual AKARNG volunteers had been the symbol of pride and commitment in the community, and the FSRC buildings followed thereafter.
following 1974 the emphasis shifted and the built environment became an often unsuccessful attempt to enlist volunteers.

**GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT**

The FSRCs are scattered throughout Alaska in small communities, demonstrating an interconnected network based not on roads or even cultures, but on the unique geographic constraints of conducting military and other activities in the arctic. Of the approximately one hundred FSRCs built throughout Alaska during the Cold War era, only seven were accessible by road; all others required air or water transport. The remoteness of these locations led to the unique formation of the Scout Battalions, and the arctic survival and military skills that the individual guardsmen brought to the National Guard.

The relationship to natural resources, climate, topographical features, and soil conditions were obvious factors in establishment and growth of the various villages; however, these factors likely played little, if any, role in the intention to locate FSRCs at specific locations. Alaska has a unique archaeological history based on its geography, and the history of a village site in relation to geographical information is an essential part of establishing an individual property’s historic context(s). However, it is unlikely that geographical factors and their typical connections to industry, transportation, defense, and/or subsistence played a role in the siting, location, form, design, function, and materials of FSRC construction. Instead, the relationship of the FSRC locations and these factors seems tangential. Rather, siting of FSRCs seems to have been based simply on the fact that a remote village existed in a certain location, not on the developmental history of the village itself in relation to its geographic context.

To date, no records have been found indicating recruitment efforts on a village-by-village basis, or any other indication as to the prescriptive location choices of FSRCs. In some cases, AKARNG FSRCs were located in villages that had previously been home to ATG units. In other instances, ATG locations were not home to FSRCs.

The unique formation of Scout Battalions in the arctic is tied to the geography of Alaska, however, and the challenges it presents to transportation, industry, defense, and subsistence. The unique skills that native and local people had acquired to survive in the harsh arctic environment were deemed invaluable to military training in the Cold War era. Therefore, FSRCs eligible for inclusion under this MPD are those located in relatively remote villages, where the geographical challenges provided an inherent baseline in arctic training.

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5 Specifically, Stebbins, Unalakleet, Wales, Elim, Kotzebue, Point Hope, Teller, Shishmaref, Koyuk, (Little) Diomede, King Island, Shaktolik, Savoonga, Deering, Gambell and Kivalina were home to ATG units and, eventually, received FSRCs. Golovin was also home to an ATG unit, but did not receive an AKARNG unit and FSRC until 1981. Nome was also home to both an ATG and AKARNG unit, but does not qualify under this MPD due to its (relatively) accessible and populated location.
6 Specifically, Chelaniak and Mary’s Igloo. Mary’s Igloo, a boomtown by 1910, was largely unpopulated by 1952, when the post office and store closed. Similarly, 1940 US census information indicates a total population in both Kotlik and Chelaniak villages of only 127 people; Kotlik received an FSRC in the 1960s, which likely served both communities.
HISTORIC CONTEXT

Brief History of the National Guard

The history of the National Guard can be traced back to the earliest Euroamerican colonists. Colonial militias drew on European military traditions to provide their own line of defense against domestic and foreign attack and, ultimately, helped win the Revolutionary War. As the legislative branch of the newly independent United States of America, Congress was authorized to “provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia,” a role that became—and remains—a dual state-federal initiative. During the nineteenth century, state militias played substantial roles during the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American Wars by providing troops to supplement the relatively small national army. In 1903, under the newly minted term National Guard, state-based militias were legislated as a reserve force for the US Army, a hierarchy that continues to the present day. During World War I, the National Guard comprised 40 percent of combat troops stationed in France, and in World War II, Guard units were among the first deployed overseas. Additionally, as the nation expanded westward over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, local militia groups were enlisted to protect the interests of the nonnative people who were moving onto these newly acquired lands.

From Militia to National Guard

In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia and, in the years that followed, the new territory was managed alternately by various branches of the US military. Having lived under the rule of Russian colonization, native Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians of Alaska were viewed as “well adjusted” to foreign rule, maintained their lives of subsistence fishing and hunting traditions, and considered little threat to their new governors. In southeastern Alaska, the US Navy quickly “formed a native Police Force, complete with uniforms, to maintain law and order in the villages.” By 1885, District Governor Alfred P. Swineford reported on the success of the local program and that “native policeman are exceedingly proud of their blue uniforms, and being the recognized chiefs among their people, exercise a dual authority, which is universally respected and obeyed.”

Efforts on the part of the US military in Alaska to engage native peoples were a marked change from the manifest destiny policies of the Old West, where native populations were subject to and often decimated by federal policies and procedures. Whether polite engagement of Alaska natives was a conscious effort on the part of the territorial government is not known; as historian C. A. Salisbury noted, what was perceived at the time was that Alaska natives’ love of physical fitness, self-discipline, and communing with nature created a “warrior spirit” that “tilted their education toward a military bearing.”

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11 The District of Alaska was the governmental designation from May 17, 1884, until August 24, 1912, when it became the Alaska Territory.
12 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 3.
13 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 3.
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Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG)
Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

In 1892, Company A of the First Regiment, Alaska Militia, was formed in Juneau. Throughout the early twentieth century, various battalions and home-guard militia units followed throughout the Alaska territory. Just prior to World War I, the formation of an organized militia “on a grand scale” began in Alaska. By the end of World War II, the ATG was created, and “compiled a remarkable record of service to the Territory and the Nation.” While the ATG did not see active combat during World War II, the idea of using native people, who were already acclimated to the harshness and isolation of the Arctic, to gather intelligence and keep watch at the Ice Curtain, caught the imagination of the public and some military planners.

The ATG, as it was conceived in the early 1940s, did not fit into the prescribed order of military units established in Washington, DC, and the Lower 48. The harsh climatic conditions, relative isolation of villages, transportation challenges, and nomadic tendencies of the populace were at odds with the larger policies of the National Guard Bureau. Yet the “small unit scout organization” proved so successful during World War I and World War II that it eventually led to the formation of the ATG Eskimo Scouts, from which the Alaska National Guard was born.

As World War II progressed, surveillance and intelligence became increasingly important to the AKARNG’s mission, and the organization was tasked with observing and reporting on “unusual happenings in an area nearly as big as the States east of the Mississippi River.” No other National Guard in America would be organized in such a fashion: a combination of regular National Guards in populated urban centers like Juneau and Fairbanks and “a vigilant force [of small scout units] scattered from Bristol Bay to Barrow at virtually no cost” to Uncle Sam. During times of peace, the ATG was called upon to participate in search-and-rescue missions, firefighting, flood relief, general patrol, and trail building and maintenance. At peak strength, ca. 1948, the ATG enrolled more than 3,000 Alaskans, and “constituted a force ready and able to defend its homeland, quite unlike the State Guards of other states.”

Under the management of Lieutenant Colonel Marvin “Muktuk” R. Marston, the first ATG armory program began around 1945, with twenty “knock-down buildings” and “yak huts” being shipped and erected in western villages (specifically Chanelaik, Deering, Diomede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, King Island, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Koyuk, Mary’s Igloo, Nome, Point Hope, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, and Wales). Designated as “armory-kashims” (an Eskimo term meaning assembly house), these buildings were to be used both for military purposes and village meetings. By 1947, the ATG First and Second Scout Battalions were located in seventy-seven villages and towns throughout Alaska.

14 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 13.
15 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 77.
16 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 77.
18 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 77.
19 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 78.
20 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 79.
23 Marston, Men of the Tundra, 186–227; see also Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 78.
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Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

The Cold War Era

The period of US history known as the Cold War era is generally recognized as encompassing the years between March 1946, when Winston Churchill gave his famous "Iron Curtain" speech, and the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. Prior to this postwar heightening of political hostility, threats, and propaganda between the Soviet Union (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, USSR) and the United States, the two countries had engaged in more amicable relations. The Lend Lease Act of 1941 (Public Law 77-11), for example, enabled the US government to supply defensive articles (food, weapons, munitions, wartime vessels, and other machinery) to the Allies during the first years of World War II. Lend Lease designated Alaska as the exchange point for war materiel between the countries from 1942 to 1945, with approximately 7,500 aircraft flown by both Soviet and American pilots into the USSR during that time. Many Alaskans worked together with Soviet citizens, and "the cooperative lend-lease program demonstrated that two nations could compromise their views, cultural values, and principles enough to achieve a common mutually beneficial goal." By the time Alaska achieved statehood on January 3, 1959, the tide had turned. In the decade following the end of World War II, the United States "found itself in disagreement with the Soviet Union over several issues." The "Iron Curtain" that Winston Churchill referenced in March 1946 became the metaphor for the dividing line between the free countries of Western Europe and those east of the Balkans that suddenly found themselves under Soviet rule. Under the administration of Harry S Truman, and the subsequent Truman Doctrine of 1947, the United States pledged aid to resist Communism in Europe and entered into a noncombative "Cold War" with the USSR that would last more than thirty years.

The beginnings of the Cold War led to restructuring of various branches of the US military, including the National Guard. In 1947, the Department of Defense (DOD) was formed, combining the former War and Navy Departments and incorporating the newly created Air Force. The Army National Guard (ARNG) and Air National Guard continued to serve under the DOD as the main combat reserve for the Army and Air Force, both at home and abroad.

Scout Battalions and FSRCs

With the end of World War II and its mission over, the ATG came under scrutiny. By 1948, Alaska was the only part of the country unprotected by a National Guard unit. A $100,000 National Guard bill was debated by the territorial legislature in Juneau for months. Racism, economics, and organizational problems have been cited.

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26 Chenault, "WWII Alaska-USSR Lend-Lease Monuments."


28 B&ME and AHR, Draft Final Cold War Era, 13.

29 B&ME and AHR, Draft Final Cold War Era, 12–14.

30 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 80.
as some of the various reasons to disband the ATG. The entire program was touted as an “expensive luxury” by Norman C. Brown in an editorial published in the Anchorage Daily News on February 21, 1949. Brown primarily focused his concerns on the economic viability of the construction of armories as places to drill, noting that in outlying communities where enlistment numbers would be around thirty men, these buildings would be small and “admittedly… not be too much of a problem. In larger communities, such as Anchorage, it would not be difficult to recruit 200 to 300 men, and indoor drilling would immediately become a major problem.” Combine the costs of erecting and maintaining facilities with the Territorial obligation of hiring and paying for staff, and the $100,000 appropriation was a mere “drop in the bucket in perpetuating the Guard in Alaska.”

With tensions brewing between the United States and the Soviet Union, however, the Arctic Ocean, strategically, “became the most important body of water on earth.” With the Russians “giving their Far Northern defenses a broad base through intensive colonization,” it was incumbent upon the United States to do the same. This competition in the Arctic not only paved the way for establishing the AKARNG but was also indicative of the one-up mentality that defined Cold War relations between the two superpowers.

By 1949, it became clear that reestablishing the National Guard in Alaska was a necessity, but because of the vast size of the state, rugged coastline, and scattered concentrations of people, the organization could not adhere to the standards of the Lower 48. Alaska required “a special formula approved by the War Department” to “include units scattered widely throughout small communities along the Bering and Arctic Seas” with an importance “for scouting and patrolling and for apprehending any espionage from the other side.” By the end of the year, seven units, principally Scout Battalions, were organized as the Alaska National Guard. By 1950, an additional seven units were added, “stretching from Ketchikan to Barrow in approximately 50 villages and towns.”

Upon establishment, the village guard units required indoor space for drilling, given the harsh Arctic climate and lengthy distance from battalion headquarters. Some of the remaining ATG armories were rehabilitated for the newly formed Guard units. A biennial report of the National Guard indicates that the only armories the AKARNG was operating in 1949 and 1950 were in Deering, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Point Hope, Shishmaref, and Unalakleet. Those six buildings were part of Marston’s initial ATG armory program in 1945.

By 1951, only two years after formation, AKARNG boasted 1,302 men: 1 percent of the total population of the territory, a percentage four times greater than that of enlistment numbers seen in the Lower 48. Armory

31 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 57-88.
32 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 84.
34 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 83.
35 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 81.
36 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 81.
37 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 83.
38 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists; and Stern, “NRHP Eligibility Evaluations for Nine Buildings, Camp Carroll, Alaska Army National Guard.”
39 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 87.
40 McNab, Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson, 40-41.
41 National Guard, “Alaska National Guard Biennial Report.”
buildings were needed, and several were constructed on a 75/25 federal/local cost plan in larger towns. Army surplus buildings were transported to smaller villages at little or no cost to the Territory, and members of the local native population provided most of the labor for construction and remodeling activities during this time.\textsuperscript{42}

From 1953 to 1961, the Eisenhower administration “focused more on technological development and tactical nuclear weapons, and less on maintaining costly ground forces.”\textsuperscript{43} Newly developed technologies, such as nuclear fusion devices and intercontinental ballistic missiles, required new technologies to detect. In an effort to warn of an attack from the Soviet mainland, the United States constructed various defense systems in Alaska during the 1950s. The technology of the time required a network of radar and communications stations stretched across the arctic, turning Alaska “into a time capsule of the technological evolution of America’s first line of defense during the Cold War.”\textsuperscript{44} The Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line, constructed across Alaska in the 1950s, was just such a warning system. Designed to detect incoming attacks via radar warning and communication systems, the system quickly became obsolete but was one example of the new technologies incorporated in Alaska. Under Eisenhower, and in the midst of the Cold War, Alaska became the forty-ninth state on January 3, 1959, “generating a new and vigorous interest in the remote land and its National Guard.”\textsuperscript{45}

The Cold War focus on Alaska as a first line of defense led to expansion of the AKARNG. By 1958, the Scout Battalions of the 297th Infantry “had implemented a radio network in 51 village units, funneling intelligence information acquired along Alaska’s western coast.”\textsuperscript{46} The scouts took their position very seriously, detailing everything they observed while on duty, including “stray aircraft incidents, over the border crossing incidents, stories about Alaska Natives being detained in Siberia, stories about mysterious lights off the coast of Alaska and reports of raft landings on isolated Alaskan beaches.”\textsuperscript{47} Most of the activity occurred in the far reaches of the coast, in the St. Lawrence Island villages of Gambell and Savoonga, and on Little Diomede Island. In 1955, guardsmen in Gambell were hailed for their heroic efforts in rescuing a Navy patrol plane that had been shot down by Russian MIG jets on the American side of the US-Russia border over the Bering Strait.\textsuperscript{48}

\textbf{Statehood}

Alaska Governor Mike Stepovich was the last of Alaska’s territorial governors. In addition to lobbying heavily for Alaskan statehood, Stepovich also instituted a vigorous program of construction for the Scout Battalions, with forty-eight ARNG centers to be constructed across the state. Alternately called FSRCs, Scout Battalion Armories, village armory sites, or any combination thereof, scout battalions and their FSRCs, are unique to Alaska. They are greatly a product of the Cold War, with a WWII precursor. Due to the difficulties of travel in the vast road-less expanse of Alaska, each village with National Guard units has its own small armory (as opposed to other states where the National Guard consolidates rural units into larger armories). As with a standard readiness center, the scout armories serve as mobilization centers

\textsuperscript{44} “Coming in from the Cold,” 18.
\textsuperscript{45} McNab, \textit{Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson}, 58.
\textsuperscript{46} Russell, Stern, and Rogers, \textit{Alaska National Guard Environmental Gap Analysis}, 11.
\textsuperscript{47} Salisbury, \textit{Soldiers of the Mists}, 97–98.
\textsuperscript{48} McNab, \textit{Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson}, 47–48.
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Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG)  Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

during state and federal activation of AK ARNG troops. In rural Alaska, however, they also serve a variety of other community functions.\textsuperscript{49}

Under construction Contract No. DA-95-514-NG-75, Bernard Sturgulewski, project coordinator for Western Alaska, Resident Engineer, US Army, and contracting officer Colonel Charles W. Casper, US Principal Federal Officer for Alaska, contracted the Manson-Osberg Company of Seattle, Washington, to construct forty-eight FSRCs for the National Guard Bureau.\textsuperscript{50}

Beginning in May 1959, the forty-eight buildings of Contract No. DA-95-514-NG-75 were constructed, financed 100 percent via $1,200,000 in federal funds. The FSRC buildings themselves were standardized: 20’-x-60’ “Garco” metal buildings, manufactured by the Garceau Steel Structures Corporation, of Spokane, Washington (FSRC files).\textsuperscript{51} Constructed on wood skid foundations, the gable-roofed prefabricated buildings were clad in corrugated metal. Building interiors featured rolled felt floors and wood or gypsum board walls and ceilings, with a central open room for training and small side rooms for storage and offices.

Of the forty-eight armories Manson-Osberg was contracted to build, the company constructed twenty-five for the First Scout Battalion, 287th Infantry, and the remaining twenty-three FSRCs for the Second Scout Battalion. Costs for each of the remote FSRC buildings were comparable, around $23,000 per armory. Between March and September 1960, each of the forty-eight buildings was inspected for readiness, and by the end of September 1961, all final adjustments had been made. On August 8, 1963, all forty-eight of the FSRCs were accepted by Brigadier General Francis S. Greenlieb, and the contract was authorized to be paid in full.\textsuperscript{52} Around the same time as the construction of the forty-eight new village FSRCs, large new armory buildings were constructed in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, and Nome, and the Seward armory was rehabilitated.\textsuperscript{53}

Reorganization

In 1960, the AKARNG underwent a minor reorganization that included a new Company D at Dillingham for the Second Scout Battalion, Company B relocating from Dillingham to Medoryuk, and Company C relocating from Bethel to Emmonak. Two years later in 1962, the First and Second Battalions were reorganized again and received updated equipment authorization.\textsuperscript{54} Changes to guard locations resulted in the need for additional


\textsuperscript{52} Francis S. Greenlieb letter to Adjunct General, Stat of Alaska, Acceptance of National Guard Scout Battalion Armories, Alaska. Hooper Bay 0001, Part IV, Hooper Bay FSRC files, JBER.

\textsuperscript{53} McNab, *Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson*, 68–69.

\textsuperscript{54} McNab, *Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson*, 68–69.
armories. Designs for armories in Kwiguk, Barrow, and Nightmute were started in 1962 and completed in 1964.\(^{55}\) During the two years of planning and construction, both Kwiguk and Nightmute villages were relocated due to flooding and the new FSRCs were built in the new villages of Emmonak and Toksook Bay.\(^{56}\) In 1964, Guard units were established in the villages of Tanana and St. Mary’s, and the King Island unit was disbanded as a result of inactivity.\(^{57}\) That same year, the King Island armory, originally constructed in 1960, was dismantled and flown to Tanana, where the local people re-erected it. St. Mary’s also received an armory building in 1965.\(^{58}\)

The new armories constructed at Emmonak and Toksook Bay were virtually the same as the original forty-eight Garco buildings built ca. 1960, but were the Challenger model by the Butler Manufacturing Company. They were also 20'-x-60' prefabricated buildings, clad in corrugated metal with a corrugated metal gable roof.

Under President Kennedy in the early 1960s, the Berlin Crisis and Cold War added “new emphasis on the ready reserve program and more money began to be directed towards the Nation’s National Guard.”\(^{59}\) By 1967, the AKARNG force had “increased tremendously” and America became more aware of a possible “over the Pole” attack from Russia, where “winter had historically been an ally;” “the nation’s possession at the top of the world became more important than ever before.”\(^{60}\) The Eskimo Scouts began participating in joint training exercises, were given modern equipment, and gained respect for their winter skills. With thoughts in mind of Napoleon’s nineteenth-century withdrawal from Moscow and the relatively recent German disaster on the Russian Front during World War II, the DOD “developed a series of winter war games in Alaska to test military equipment and soldiers in the harsh Arctic environment.”\(^{61}\) The joint training exercises engaged in by the Eskimo Scouts and the US Army yielded multiple benefits. First, the increased military presence in the far north stalled potential Soviet aggression. Second, the tremendous skills and resources that the Alaska scouts possessed with regard to arctic geography, weather conditions, and general survival were harnessed by the larger US Army.\(^{62}\)

**Later Construction**

In the 1960s, oil reserves were discovered on the north slope near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, which in turn spurred the 1974–1977 development of the 800-mile-long Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. During the oil boom, National Guard enlistment in Alaska was low, a result of high-paying pipeline jobs that made it difficult to “recruit for low-wage weekend work.”\(^{63}\) As Cold War tensions continued to drape the arctic in an “Ice Curtain,” however, mobilization missions of the Eskimo Scout Battalions still called for year-round surveillance of Northern Alaska.

In the late 1960s, the State of Alaska devised a long-range construction program, submitted to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to construct eleven new armories. Some of the requests were for much-needed


\(^{56}\) The village of Kwiguk ceased to exist after the move, but enough people remained in Nightmute that the village continued on, and eventually received its own Guard unit and FSRC in the early 1980’s.

\(^{57}\) McNab, *Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson*, 73.

\(^{58}\) McNab, *Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson*, 80.


\(^{60}\) Salisbury, *Soldiers of the Mists*, 97, 102.


\(^{63}\) Salisbury, *Soldiers of the Mists*, 113.
year hiatus. As the Cold War wound down, the AKARGN was forced to reexamine the Eskimo scout battalion's mission. The decision was made to convert them into more traditional battalions, and integrate them with the rest of the National Guard forces.

With significant reduction in need for scout battalions, village Guard units expanded slowly from the 1990s through the turn of the twenty-first century. Between 1990 and 2004, only six new guard units were added with accompanying FSRC buildings, and around twenty-six preexisting locations received a second or third building. The 30'-x-40' Butler building of the 1980s was updated with a more weather-resistant standing-seam metal panel cladding and roof, with three additional interior rooms. Where land was soft, they were often built with a Triodetic foundation that was stabilized annually. The buildings also featured exterior poles for antennas, a sign of technological improvements in communications.

Some FSRCs, like the one at Holy Cross, illustrate the slow decline of the Eskimo Scout Battalions. Holy Cross received its first FSRC building in 1990, a semistandard 30'-x-50' building constructed on a gravel bed. The unit opened in summer 1991, but closed within two years. The investment made in the facility, under Contract DAHA 51-89-C-0023 with Architects Alaska, was almost $240,000. With less than two years of active service, the AKARGN no doubt wondered at the value of future investments in the Scout Battalions.

Today the AKARGN is nearly absent in the rural villages, with active battalions more centrally located in the larger towns like Anchorage, Bethel, and Nome. Some remote FSRC buildings have been leased over the years to the community for uses such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Tribal offices, or community gathering spaces. Some have been abandoned but maintained, while others show signs of disrepair, neglect, and vandalism. Remnants from the guardsmen can be found in most of the buildings in various degrees, including lockers, file cabinets, uniforms, instructional booklets, maps, and other ephemerae.

Criteria for Evaluation

The FSRC buildings of the AKARGN represent an investment on the part of federal and state governments in a unique system of organization for the National Guard. Integral to the role the United States played in the Cold War, the FSRCs, as constructed and modified between 1959 and 1974, are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A, for their association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our nation’s military history.

The FSRCs are not known to be collectively associated with the lives of significant persons. Examination of the FSRC buildings as a collective under this MPD reduces the connection of any resource under Criterion B, and instead focuses the significance on a dynamic group, the Eskimo Scouts, as opposed to any one member of the AKARGN.

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82 Russell, Stern, and Rogers, Alaska National Guard Environmental Gap Analysis of Armory Significance.
84 FSRC buildings constructed in later construction campaigns, post-1974, lack the cohesive massing and mission of those built from 1959 to 1974. Larger facilities of varying materials and greater “permanence” were built, but these are counter to the initial prefabricated, modular, easily erected facilities that define the historic-era built environment for the AKARGN Scout Battalions. FSRCs built after 1974 are recommended not eligible for the NRHP due to an inability to convey significance within a historic context.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG)
Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

or, as in the case at Koyukuk, to alleviate AKARNG members from meeting out of individual homes, which was “hampering training.”

In the face of growing troop numbers, aging buildings, and revised facility requirements, it became clear the original 20’-x-60’ buildings did not provide enough drilling, storage, and office space for all scout units. The existing buildings were designed to house a maximum of twenty scout personnel, and after three decades of enlistment, many units exceeded their capacity. As a result, in addition to constructing buildings in villages with new units, the National Guard had also begun adding a second FSRC building in many villages, starting in 1981 at Gambell and St. Mary’s. From 1984 to 1986, eleven villages received a second FSRC, including those previously mentioned at Point Hope and Hooper Bay.

A 1988 military construction document for Wainwright explained that FSRC expansion, “requires special design considerations which are exceptions to the criteria in NGR 415-10” because of the Arctic climate in the villages. NGR 415-10 is the National Guard regulation that establishes policy for construction requirements of buildings for Army National Guard readiness centers and logistics, aviation and training facilities. The criteria for special needs included arctic entries on selected exterior personnel doors, Thermopane windows for all exterior windows, and added insulation to the walls, roof, and floors of the buildings to conserve heat during the periods of use, which are almost exclusively during the winter months.

Buildings of the late 1980s and on were still prefabricated 1,200-square-foot structures with two entry doors, but the 30’-x-40’ buildings also featured the aforementioned insulated panel walls and roof, a wider interior drilling room, and three rooms at one end for storage, offices, and a restroom. Reports indicate that they were also Butler Manufacturing Company brand buildings, like many of their predecessors. They were typically situated in close proximity to an existing FSRC building, and connected via an open breezeway or arctic entry. Most included the enclosed arctic entry, an additional structure built between the old and new buildings with a single entrance. Arctic entries often served as a place to get out of the cold and store boots and winter gear, helping maintain the cleanliness of the FSRCs. In some cases, the plot of land or terrain did not allow for a connection between buildings, and ground-level boardwalks were often employed from one entrance to another.

By 1989, eighteen villages had two FSRC buildings. In the remaining years of the Cold War, Alaska Scout Battalions engaged in military training and community aid reminiscent of the early days of the ATG. The first visible thaw in the “Arctic Curtain” was in 1988 when the AKARNG cooperated with the Soviet Search and Rescue organization after walrus hunters from St. Lawrence Island went missing in the Bering Strait. The hunters eventually found their way home, but the collaborative effort was a major step in improving relations.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, broader tensions in the Arctic relaxed, and interactions with friends and families across the Bering Sea resumed after a nearly forty-

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76 Koyukuk FSRC files, JBER.
77 Various FSRC files, JBER.
78 Wainwright FSRC files, JBER.
80 Various FSRC files, JBER.
81 Salisbury, Soldiers of the Mists, 125–127.
replacements of existing Guard units. Guard units at Gambell and Savoonga, for example, were drilling in repurposed Quonset huts that had been brought from elsewhere on St. Lawrence Island and erected by the natives in 1958.64

The Secretary of Defense’s 1970 Annual Report noted that “1,533 existing armories/centers require expansion, conversion or rehabilitation to meet revised space requirements.”65 This could not have been more true for the Alaskan armories. During a 1967 village visit, newly appointed Adjutant General, Major General Conrad F. Necrason, found “some of the buildings are in disrepair due to weather and hard use, but the morale and the capability of the troops is excellent.”66

According to the Secretary of Defense in 1970, there was a nationwide “backlog of inadequate armories/centers required for home station training.”67 As a result, the FY70 budget emphasized armory construction, providing $9.64 million for thirty-eight National Guard armories throughout the country. By 1970, the request for eleven Alaska armories had been whittled down, and new armories were completed in Gambell, Savoonga, Kotlik, Goodnews Bay, and Kenai in 1973.68 St. Mary’s received a new building in 1979. Many of the 1970s buildings were also “Butler type” prefabricated 20’-x-60’ construction,69 though some may be a different brand despite appearing similar to the Butler and Garco buildings.

Also in the 1970s, some of the ca. 1960s armory buildings were scheduled for relocation. The village of Dillingham, for example, had been part of the original ATG and received its first armory in 1945, then received a newer armory as part of the 1960 National Guard building campaign. After the AKNG unit was disbanded and the building vacated in the early 1970s, the armory was dismantled in 1979 and sent to Bethel for storage, until a new home could be found for it.70 Records indicate that it was intended to be sent to Nightmute or Newton, but neither village received the old armory and its ultimate fate is unclear. Dillingham did eventually receive an FSRC building that appears to have been either constructed or repurposed from a preexisting building in the community ca. 1980.71 The extant Dillingham FSRC is rectangular in plan with a gable roof, but varies significantly from other FSRCs of the time in size and other features, being 3,200 square feet with three garage-style rollup doors.

Other 1970s facilities deviated tremendously from the prefabricated, inexpensive, and easily erected buildings of the earlier FSRCs. Facilities at Kenai, for example, built from 1971 to 1973, feature a brutalist, 1970s variation on streamlined modern. The building, as constructed in the early 1970s, was roughly square in plan (120’4” x 117’8”), one and one-half story, and built on a poured-concrete foundation with CMU walls, concrete beams, and a concrete roof. The building cost almost a half-million dollars, of which $349,000 was federally

64 Gambell FSRC files, JBER.
66 McNab, Alaska Guard by Lt. James Richardson, 86.
68 Upon completion of the new buildings, the National Guard requested that the older Quonset huts at Gambell and Savoonga be returned to the villages for community use (Letter from Anderson, 1972, Gambell FSRC files, JBER).
69 Various FSRC files, JBER.
70 Dillingham FSRC files, JBER.
71 Some AKARNG records for Dillingham indicate a build date of 1970, though blueprints show the property lot vacant at that time. The actual build (or repurpose) date for this facility is unknown.
funded. In 2008, the building received a $1.4 million addition. Kenai, and other late Cold War-era FSRCs, lack the cohesive massing, materials, and mission of those built between 1959 and 1974.

**Thawing the Ice Curtain**

By the 1980s, the condition of many armories constructed after the reestablishment of the Guard necessitated replacement, modification, and/or major repairs. Most of the buildings constructed in the temporal context of the statehood years, as well as those added in the mid-1960s (the reorganization temporal context), received major interior modifications that included insulation, sheetrock, insulated windows, and new doors. Some FSRCs also received metal Triodetic foundations to replace the original wood skids, which in some areas of Alaska were unable to withstand the soft, wet ground that resulted from rising water tables, shifting rivers, and melting permafrost. For similar reasons, some FSRCs were relocated within villages due to sinking or river encroachment that threatened to undermine the buildings.

Where once the individual AKARNG volunteers had been the symbol of pride and commitment in the community, and the FSRC buildings followed thereafter, a shifting tide seemed to be putting emphasis on the built environment as a symbol to enlist volunteers. In 1982, a statehood-era FSRC was relocated to Hoonah, following appeals from the local recruitment officer: “As in many Alaskan communities, the armory building is a symbol of commitment by the Guard to that community. Recruitment there (Hoonah) is being significantly hindered by lack of a facility.” At Hoonah, attempts to locate an FSRC began in 1979, and were directly related to the need to recruit a “viable force” to southeast Alaska. The armory at Hoonah (and others constructed during the era under Contract DAHA 51-81-C, which were 100 percent federally funded) was a potent symbol that engendered pride and thereby spurred increased recruitment.

Between 1981 and 1989, fourteen new armories were constructed throughout the state. Many, if not all, were constructed by the US Air Force’s Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) teams rather than through private contract. The Prime BEEF teams were established after the Lebanon Crisis, Berlin Crisis, and Cuban Missile Crisis of the late 1950s and early 1960s, in an effort to provide engineering capabilities and support to troops, first used in Vietnam. Following the end of the Vietnam War, the Prime BEEF teams continued to be in demand and were used for other internal military projects both nationally and internationally, including the construction of FSRCs in Alaska as training exercises.

Erection of buildings for Prime BEEF training included some primary FSRCs in villages such as Wrangell (1981–1982) and Koyukuk (1983–1984), as well as secondary buildings in villages such as Point Hope and Hooper Bay. FSRCs constructed as part of Prime BEEF are 30’-x-40’ buildings on elevated foundations, clad in flat metal siding with metal battens, and feature gable roofs. In some cases, the construction of buildings for FSRC used as part of Prime BEEF was in support of preexisting Scout Battalions, either as a secondary facility

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73 Anonymous, July 1, 1981. Hoonah FSRC files, JBER.
74 Various FSRC files, JBER.
Additionally, the buildings (collectively or individually) do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; do not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values; and do not represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The nature of the buildings themselves—prefabricated in the Lower 48, cheaply transportable, and easily erected in remote village locations—implies a lack of architectural style and/or classification, and a subsequent inability to rise to a level of significance to be eligible under Criterion C.

Similarly, as the FSRC buildings themselves were imported and constructed on temporary skid foundations, an FSRC is unlikely to yield archaeological information important in understanding local, regional, or national history. Further, FSRC buildings are not the principal source of important information related to the role of the Eskimo Scout Battalions during the Cold War era. The buildings documented and eligible under this MPS are unlikely to yield important information that contributes to the understanding of human history during the time, and are ineligible under Criterion D.85

FSRC buildings should, therefore, be considered and evaluated for potential significance under National Register eligibility Criterion A, for their association with the Cold War era history of the military, specifically the AKARNG and the unique organization of Scout Battalions, during the period of 1959 to 1974.

85 It is important to note that in some instances FSRCs were constructed or moved within the boundaries of archaeological sites. For example, the Point Hope FSRC is currently located within the boundaries of the Ipiutak Site, which was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1961. “Discovered in 1939, the site is significant as the type site for the Ipiutak Culture and is one of the earliest manifestation (sic) of a 2000 year occupational continuum at Point Hope. Covering 200 acres of tundra, the site reveals a prehistoric culture which was a forerunner of later Eskimo societies” (See Ipiutak Site, National Historic Landmarks Database, National Park Service, 2012). As is the case with Point Hope, while an FSRC may be located within a site significant under Criterion D, the FSRC is unlikely to contribute to the site’s significance.
F. Associated Property Types

Alaska FSRCs include properties constructed throughout the state. As defined here, built resources of the FSRC system constructed between 1959 and 1974 are significant under Criterion A, for association with the Scout Battalions, a unique organization of National Guard unit formed directly to serve the needs of the Cold War-era military in remote arctic regions.

Property Type Description

Physical Attributes

FSRCs are modular buildings that could be easily imported and constructed in remote locations. As such, no definitive “style” is associated with the buildings aside from the fact that they are prefabricated/modular. The buildings feature variations on platform framing, either via stud or modular steel. They are single-story buildings, rectangular in plan, and constructed on skid (or other temporary) foundations. Sizing of FSRCs is standardized throughout the eligible temporal contexts, being 20’ x 60’ and constructed by either the Garco or Butler companies (or a similar manufacturer). Ornamental architectural details are absent from all FSRCs, further illustrating the industrial and prefabricated nature of the buildings.

Again, FSRCs were imported to remote locations, and therefore they were designed to be easily constructed by unskilled laborers, typically members of the AKARNG and local villagers available to assist with raising the building. The plan was a simple rectangle for ease of construction. Materials were modular and inexpensive, with prefabricated foundations, framing, siding, roofing, and interior materials such as gypsum, felt, or linoleum. Windows and doors were standardized metal sash and frames. Workmanship and artistry are notably absent from FSRC buildings.

Associative Attributes

Associative attributes include “the property’s relationship to important person’s, activities, and events, based on information such as dates, functions, cultural affiliations, and relationship to important research topics.” In the case of FSRCs, all buildings nominated under this MPD will be associated with the AKARNG Scout Battalions. However, some FSRC resources may have additional associative attributes based on activities or events that occurred during the Cold War. These may include events in response to an emergency situation—such as a downed plane or a submarine sighting—during the Cold War. Associative attributes may also be nonmilitary, such as an FSRC playing an exceptional role in a particular community by serving as a valued school, gathering place, or location at which the resurgence of culture occurred within a specific village.

While FSRCs eligible under this MPD must be associated with the AKARNG Scout Battalions, in some instances other associative attributes may require additional evaluation on an individual basis.

Geographical Information

As previously noted, the property’s relationship to natural resources, climate, topographical features, and soil conditions were factors in initial FSRC location within various villages; however, these factors likely played

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little, if any, role in the intention to locate FSRCs at specific locations within those villages. While geographical information may be important for establishing the cultural and/or developmental history of a village and the subsequent individuals who became the Eskimo Scouts, relationship to these factors and their typical connections to industry, transportation, defense, and/or subsistence are unlikely to have played a role in the siting, location, form, design, function, and materials of FSRC construction.

**Locational Patterns**

During the eligible temporal contexts, the AKARNG seems to have paid little attention to the orientation or spatial arrangement of the buildings within their various village locations. In some cases, FSRCs are located on the outskirts of villages, while in other instances they seem to be located in the heart of the village, near schools, tribal centers, and other important community gathering places. Location of FSRCs within individual villages seems to be unpatterned.

**Boundaries**

The boundary of an FSRC is the tax lot on which it is sited. However, FSRCs are primarily located in remote villages and, as such, may or may not have definable tax lots assigned to them. If no tax lot boundary is prescribed, then the FSRC property boundary is the footprint of the building(s) and any associated structures or objects (such as shipping containers and/or fuel tanks), along with a reasonable amount of land (a setback) from the buildings to main roads and/or nearby unrelated homes/businesses.

**Variations**

Flooding and erosion have led to some unique challenges in Alaska. In several instances, parts of and even entire villages have been forced to relocate due to rising seas, rivers changing courses, or melting permafrost. In general, an FSRC that has been relocated from its original location/lot would not be eligible under this MPD. Exceptions to this would include instances in which an FSRC building was relocated in context with an entire village. If an entire village, including the FSRC, moved to a new geographic area, and the FSRC meets all other registration requirements under this MPD, the FSRC would be eligible under this variation.

**Condition**

Inherent characteristics likely to detract from the physical condition of FSRCs are those factors common to resources located in remote arctic regions. These may include poor physical condition due to the harsh climate and/or lack of maintenance; poor structural condition due to shifting foundations (caused by thawing permafrost, erosion, etc.); and/or loss of historic-era materials such as windows, doors, and siding, due to efforts to improve energy efficiency. These social and environmental conditions may affect preservation of FSRCs as, in some cases, integrity may already be lost to such an extent that the building no longer conveys significance within its historic context. In other words, because FSRCs are modular and simplistic in design, loss of any one character-defining feature (massing, siding, location, etc.) may lead to an irreversible loss of integrity.

**Specific Locations**

Table 1 (see Section H) provides a list of FSRC locations constructed under various temporal contexts, as well as notes on subsequent build campaigns (for ancillary and functionally related building units) and current eligibility of property, if known. Eligibility recommendations (when given) are based on two surveys conducted
in 2012, the results of which were the impetus for this MPD, as well as additional primary research detailed in Section H.

**Property Type Significance**

The built resources of the Scout Battalions, specifically the FSRCs, are significant because they are the physical legacy of the development of a unique National Guard unit. The Eskimo Scouts represent a deviation on the part of the National Guard from wholesale consolidation of rural units into larger armories at urban centers. While some larger cities in Alaska, such as Fairbanks, Juneau, and Nome, followed the prescribed National Guard model, the vast majority of AKARNG resources were small and scattered across the state. This model required few permanent resources from the AKARNG and instead depended heavily on the local community to provide not only troops but also local support for construction campaigns and the vital skills necessary for training in harsh arctic environs.

The FSRCs are significant under Criterion A, for contributions to broad patterns of our nation’s military history, specifically for illustrating the role that the AKARNG Scout Battalions played in the Cold War between 1959 and 1974. The FSRCs are significant at a state and national level, for the role the buildings played as organizational centers for the native and local peoples serving in the Scout Battalions of the National Guard, a unique organizational unit known only in Alaska. Specifically, FSRCs served as mobilization centers for troops, training centers for elite forces from the Lower 48, and in some cases, a variety of other community functions.

Some FSRC buildings may need to be evaluated under Criteria Consideration B, as a building removed from its original location but which is significantly associated with the events of the Cold War era. In general, an FSRC that has been removed from its original location is not eligible under this MPD; this may include buildings that were built in one community and then relocated to another as surplus property. However, as previously discussed, some FSRCs may have variations under criteria consideration B, if and only if the FSRC building was relocated in context with relocation of an entire village (due to erosion, rising seas, shifting river courses, or other environmental factors). When an FSRC was relocated as part of a village, Criteria Consideration B is applicable and should be considered during individual FSRC evaluations.

Additionally, some FSRC buildings may need to be evaluated under Criteria Consideration G, as a property achieving significance within the past fifty years. While properties less than fifty years of age are generally not eligible for the NRHP, the built resources of the Cold War era have been shown to have significance and to contribute to the broad patterns of our military history. FSRCs eligible under this MPD are directly related to the Cold War and are only significant within a Cold War era context. As of the writing of this nomination, FSRC buildings constructed under the temporal context defined as Statehood (1959–1962) have all reached the fifty-year age threshold. However, resources from later build campaigns/temporal contexts may need to be evaluated under Criteria Consideration G.
Registration Requirements

Resources nominated under this MPD must, at minimum, meet the following requirements:

Category of Property

Properties nominated under this MPD must be categorized as a building, which is defined as construction created principally to shelter any form of human activity.\(^7\) Properties categorized as districts, sites, structures, or objects are not eligible for this MPD.

“Building” may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit (examples include a house and barn, or a courthouse and jail). In the case of FSRCs, a building may be both the original FSRC, constructed during an eligible temporal context, as well as additional FSRC buildings constructed during a subsequent temporal context and/or outside of the period of significance of this nomination. FSRCs with attached ancillary buildings and/or unattached but functionally related buildings are counted/classified as one building.

Integrity

Because of the prefabricated nature of these buildings, FSRCs in general have limited character-defining features. As such, minor alterations may alter the integrity of a building’s materials, design, and workmanship to such an extent that an FSRC no longer conveys integrity of the temporal context(s) of the MPD. However, as FSRCs are eligible under Criterion A (as opposed to Criterion C, architecture), and given the nature of the resource locations in harsh arctic environments, minor alterations to original materials will not necessarily adversely affect integrity to such an extent that they are no longer eligible under this MPD.

Evaluation of an individual FSRC should take into account all aspects of integrity as defined below, to determine if the property is eligible under this submittal. It is recommended that an FSRC maintain at least four of the seven aspects of integrity. Integrity of association, however, may outweigh other aspects of integrity in some cases, assuming the FSRC maintains sufficient integrity overall to convey significance within the temporal contexts of this nomination.

Location

The extant location of an FSRC must be the original location of construction of the FSRC during a given, eligible temporal context. The only exception to this is with a variation due to geographical influence, specifically if an FSRC was relocated in context with the movement of an entire village/town. If an FSRC was thus moved, it has a geographical variance and would still be eligible.

Setting

The physical environment, or setting, of an FSRC is directly related to the character of remote arctic villages in which the Scout Battalions were formed. Therefore, FSRCs must retain integrity of setting in arctic villages. While it is anticipated that the villages themselves will have grown and expanded since the period of significance of this MPD (1959–1974), the village must have been and continue to be relatively remote.

Design

FSRCs eligible under this MPD include buildings of modular and prefabricated design. The structural system should be platform framed, either with stud or steel, constructed on a temporary foundation (either wood skid or

replacement Triodetic foundations qualify; a concrete foundation would not qualify). The massing is a simple, 20'-x-60' rectangular plan with a gable roof. Interior spaces must include a large central room (historically used for drilling and/or meeting space), as well as smaller side rooms for office and storage. Fenestration patterns must include one door located on a gable-end wall, one door located on a side wall, two asymmetrically placed windows on the side wall with the door, and three mirroring windows on the opposite side wall. FSRCs should be devoid of ornamentation.

Materials
FSRC buildings were constructed of prefabricated, modular, inexpensive, and easily transportable materials. To maintain integrity, exterior siding and roofing should be of corrugated metal. Interior materials should be inexpensive and utilitarian in nature, such as the original gypsum or rolled felt walls, floors, and ceilings.

Workmanship
FSRCs were constructed in remote villages with unskilled labor. Therefore, the workmanship of the building is reflected in the vernacular and modular nature of the buildings themselves and the materials with which they were constructed. Plain finishes done with common building and installation techniques should be extant, illustrating the minimalist aesthetic principle of the FSRCs.

Feeling
To express the aesthetic and historic sense of an FSRC within the period of significance, an FSRC must convey the physical presence of a central and important military building within the village. FSRCs that have been added to over time, either with new construction or additions, do not retain integrity of feeling as the historic-era building will no longer convey the sense of being a building of singular importance within the community. In some cases, an FSRC may share the tax parcel with an unattached building constructed outside of the temporal context of this nomination. In order to maintain integrity of feeling, when modern buildings have been constructed adjacent to a historic FSRC building, the modern building should not overwhelm the original building and/or appear to be the “main” building on the property.

Association
Association is the direct link between an important historic event and a historic property. As FSRCs under this MPD are eligible under Criterion A, for broad patterns of association with AKARNG military readiness and the Eskimo Scout Battalions, an individual FSRC may or may not have a specific association with a Cold War-era event or activity. FSRCs that do maintain a direct link to an important historic event or activity during the Cold War will be found to have integrity of association. FSRCs that cannot be found to have played a direct role in a historic event or activity will be found to lack integrity of association. To be eligible under this MPS, FSRC buildings must have integrity of association.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources
Contributing resources to this nomination must be FSRC buildings that maintain sufficient integrity to convey historic significance within a temporal context of this submittal, as defined.

Buildings and structures constructed on FSRC parcels outside of the temporal contexts of this nomination are considered noncontributing functionally related units. These resources, where present, should be inventoried during survey and evaluation of FSRCs, but are not counted as part of this nomination.
Minimum Eligibility Requirements
In order for an FSRC to be eligible it must, at minimum, meet all of the following standards:
- Designed or purchased at the direction of the AKARNG.
- Erected between 1959 and 1974 in a remote arctic village.
- Owned and operated by the AKARNG during the period of significance.
- Maintain at least four of the seven aspects of integrity, including association, unless the FSRC has a strong integrity of association AND retains sufficient overall integrity to convey significance within the temporal contexts of this nomination.

G. Geographical Data
The Alaska FSRCs extend throughout the state, with buildings located in seventy-nine villages/towns/cities on a variety of public, private, federal, and tribal lands. In general, FSRCs are located in villages that do not follow a single-address numbering system. As a result, the geographic scope of resources potentially eligible for listing under this submittal includes all federal, tribal, city, and county geopolitical subdivisions in the State of Alaska.

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods
In 2007, the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer wrote to AKARNG of a need to evaluate FSRCs located throughout Alaska as a potential multiple property submittal, in an effort to “create a comprehensive historic context” about the AKARNG presence in Alaska.\(^{88}\) Previous surveys (conducted between 2001 and 2009) had disregarded the built environment, either because the survey focused more on the archaeology of the property and not on aboveground resources or because the FSRC buildings were not of an age (fifty years old or older) to qualify for the NRHP. However, as the role of the Cold War era in the military history of the United States becomes a more popular topic of scholarly review, it has become incumbent to evaluate resources of that era for significance and eligibility to the NRHP.

As outlined by the DOD Legacy Cold War Project, “Cold War historic properties are buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts built, used, or associated with critical events or persons during this period and that possess exceptional historic importance to the Nation or that are outstanding examples of technological or scientific achievement.”\(^{89}\) Furthermore,

- Cold War resources should be broadly categorized according to property type and function. Then a series of questions can be asked, such as: How central were they to the military mission? How many were developed or constructed? How much did the Defense Department invest in them? Does a site or structure retain historical integrity? What, and where, are similar or equivalent properties?\(^{90}\)
- The significance of many Cold War resources that have been modified and reused lies in their function rather than their original historic integrity. The history of their evolution can be captured through records

\(^{89}\) “Coming in from the Cold,” 63.
\(^{90}\) “Coming in from the Cold,” 17.
research, photographic studies, oral histories, or measured drawings tracing the stages of change of the structure, site, or landscape.\textsuperscript{91}

- The options for treatment of Cold War–era historic resources may include reuse and/or disposal.\textsuperscript{92}
- Some of the military factors which influenced the shape of plans and operations during the Cold War era include: rapid deployment; large standing force; twenty-four-hour vigilance; short warning/response time.\textsuperscript{93}
- In Alaska, seven “subthemes” associated with the Cold War have been identified, specifically: defense, detection and monitoring, interception, communication, research, support and logistics, and training and readiness.\textsuperscript{94}

For FSRCs under this MPD, the obvious subtheme of the DOD’s Legacy Cold War Project is training and readiness.

In 2012, FSRCs throughout the state turned fifty years old, becoming of an age to make them eligible for the NRHP. Review of available literature and other records pertaining to the Cold War era in Alaska does not indicate that the FSRC facilities were associated with either a recognized individual or a significant Cold War event. Instead, the significance of the FSRCs, if any, is based on a state-level context of establishing the AKARNG and the subsequent construction of small-scale, streamlined, prefabricated facilities to house AKARNG activities.

Background research was conducted during an intensive-level survey of eighteen FSRC buildings in 2012, as well as on a random sampling of thirteen additional FSRCs, providing a variety of analysis on various building types and construction campaigns. In total, NHG reviewed primary documentation, including as-built blueprints, correspondence, and real-estate and other property records on file at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, for over thirty FSRCs constructed from 1959 to 1990. The results of this comprehensive background research informed the historic and temporal contexts found in this MPD.

FSRCs built for the Eskimo Scout Battalions during the Cold War should be systematically reviewed and compiled into this MPD individually (on an ongoing basis). While it is unlikely that any of the FSRCs will be individually eligible under Criterion A (and, as previously illustrated, Criteria B, C, and D do not seem appropriate to these resources), some of the remaining FSRC resources may retain sufficient integrity to convey a historic context and thus be eligible under this submittal. This MPD is intended to guide future evaluations so that, should one or more FSRCs be found to retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance within a temporal context of the Cold War era, the properties can be adequately recognized and documented. Documentation may take the form of a multiple property submission, should more than one FSRC be found to meet the above requirements. Alternately, documentation may be an individual nomination to the NRHP, if only one FSRC is found to convey significance under this historic context. Finally, documentation may be limited to a report detailing the findings of individual surveys and evaluation, should FSRCs be recommended ineligible either individually and/or under the criteria of this submission.

\textsuperscript{91} “Coming in from the Cold,” 19.
\textsuperscript{92} “Coming in from the Cold,” 17–21.
\textsuperscript{93} “Coming in from the Cold,” 66.
Table 1. List of known FSRC locations and eligibility recommendations (if known) for this MPD, including if the property is outside the temporal context/period of significance (POS).\(^95\)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Build Date(s)</th>
<th>AHRS</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>USGS Quad</th>
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\(^{95}\) This final MPD was submitted concurrent with evaluations of eighteen FSRCs inventoried during the development of this MPD. See Natalie K. Perrin et al., Historic Property Determinations for Alaska Army National Guard Federal, February 2013, on file with AK-SEPO and the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
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# United States Department of the Interior
## National Park Service
### Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG)
#### Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

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### United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG)
Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

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Figure 1. Blueprint of Kwigillingok FSRC, showing typical layout of FSRC interior. Image courtesy of JBER Files.

Figure 2. Newtok FSRC floorplan, showing slight variation in typical layout of FSRC interior. Image courtesy of JBER files.
I. Major Bibliographical References


Federal Scout Readiness Center (FSRC) resource files. Real Property Management Division, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Anchorage, AK.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Alaska Army National Guard (AK-ARNG)
Federal Scout Readiness Centers (FSRCs)

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