

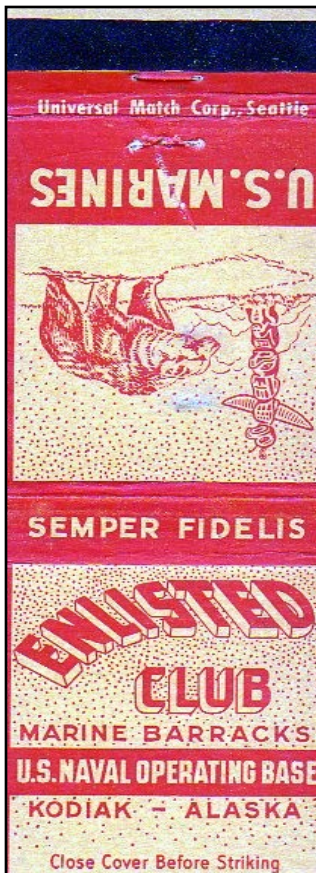


United States Army

Military Corner

Kodiak Naval Operating Base, with its air station, submarine base, North Pacific Force, and joint operations center for the Navy, Army, and Army Air Force, was operational at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was then the principal advance naval base in Alaska and the North Pacific. Coordinating with the naval establishments at Sitka to the east and Dutch Harbor to the west, its flying boats made vital patrols of the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and North Pacific Ocean. The ships and submarines of North Pacific Force played critical roles in the Aleutian Campaign. Establishment of the joint operations center allowed for coordinated planning to drive the Japanese from the North Pacific.

The United States Navy started construction of a naval air station at Kodiak in September 1939, and the station was commissioned on 15 June 1941. Built between 1939 and 1944, the Kodiak facilities served as the main forward operating base for the defense of Alaska, and for operations in the Aleutians' campaign in WWII. Fort Greely, a United States Army facility located in the Buskin River area, housed the forces that operated the island's defenses. The WWII facilities included an airfield with numerous hangars, a seaplane base for a fleet of Consolidated PBY Catalina's, and a submarine base. Home to PBY squadrons early in World War II, Kodiak supported the Aleutian Islands Campaign of 1943, operating scouting and air transport squadrons. The Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak was commissioned as an Air Detachment in April 1947, operating a single PBY Catalina. This was the Coast Guard's first aircraft permanently stationed in Alaska. In October 1950, Kodiak was designated Naval Station, and in 1972 the site was turned over to the U.S. Coast Guard.



Kodiak Naval Operating Base is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also declared to be a National Historic Landmark in 1985 for the role the facilities played in World War II. Some of the current Base structures bear placards indicating their historical significance.

At the height of the War more than 100,000 American and Canadian soldiers were stationed in Alaska. *[Wikipedia]*

