



# Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs

“Searching.....To Save a Life”

## Search and Rescue Statistics: 1997-2000

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**A**laska Search and Rescue Dogs (ASARD) is a professional, non-profit, volunteer emergency service unit based in Anchorage, Alaska.

### ASARD Activity

Incorporated in 1987, ASARD has participated in over 200 search and rescue (SAR) missions across the State of Alaska. ASARD dogs and their handlers conducted SAR operations in the following disciplines: avalanche, wilderness, cadaver, water and urban. In addition, our handlers have supplied mission support services within the incident command structure.

Since 1997, ASARD has responded to 106 search and rescue call-outs (Fig. 1). During these four years, this represented a total of 1801 man-hours comprising over 517 search hours. Our teams traveled almost 13,000 miles to locations across the state (Fig.2).

Avalanche, wilderness and cadaver missions accounted for 80% of ASARD’s activity (Fig.3). Searches in these three disciplines increased from a total of 16 in 1997 to 30 in the year 2000. Similarly, water and urban searches increased from one to five SARs over the same four years.

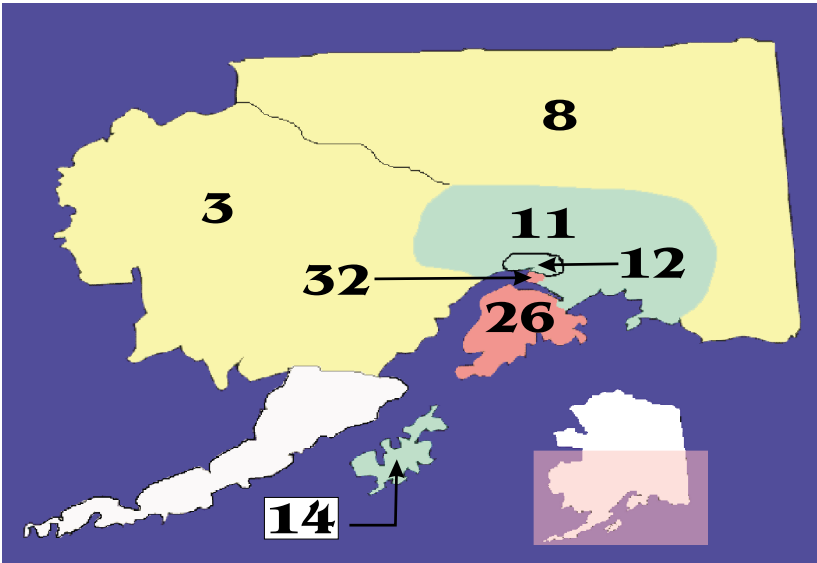


Figure 2: Total ASARD missions by geographic regions: 1997-2000



Foster, one-half of a team-in-training

### Agencies We Assisted

ASARD was primarily called upon by the Alaska State Troopers, often in conjunction with the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group. However, ASARD responded to other municipal and national agencies, including Alaska State Parks, the National Park Service, and local Police Departments (Fig. 4). ASARD also sent teams to assist the Anchorage Nordic Ski Patrol on the annual Ski Train to Grandview.

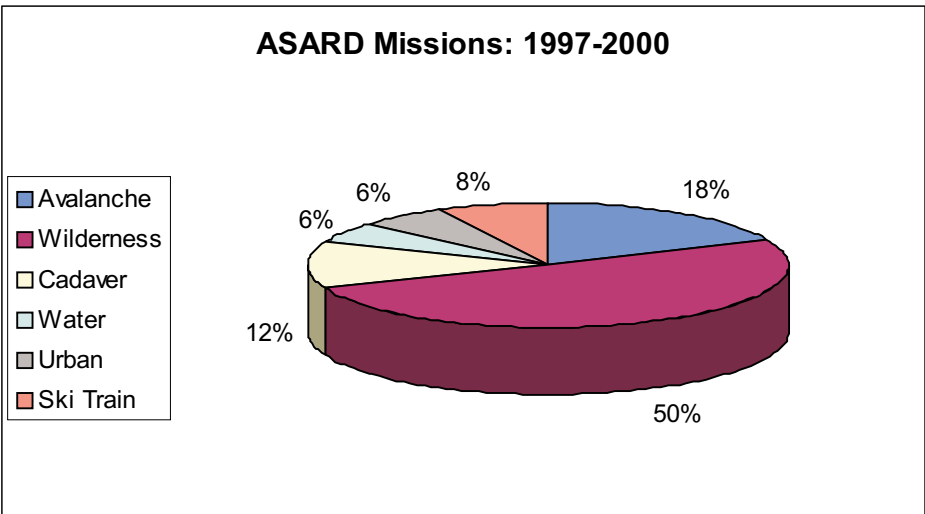
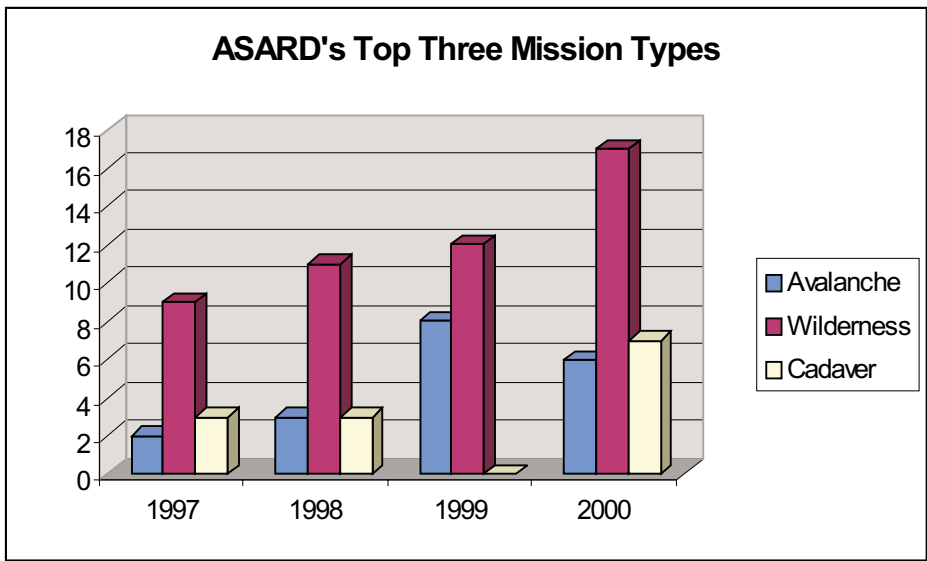


Figure 1: A total of 106 search and rescue call-outs separated into disciplines.



As part of successful inter-agency responses to avalanches in the back-country, ASARD dogs have contributed to the recovery of several individuals. Additionally, the substantial increase in cadaver searches in 2000 was a result of more law enforcement agencies calling upon ASARD teams for assistance. ASARD's ability to support these efforts is due to highly trained dogs and skilled handlers. Thus, ASARD remains dedicated to providing qualified dogs to Alaska's search and rescue community.

Figure 3: Avalanche, wilderness and cadaver ASARD missions: 1997-2000.

Additionally, ASARD members provided 54 Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) presentations designed to both increase the awareness of hazards in Alaska's back-country and increase people's knowledge of SAR dogs. These PSARs were conducted in schools, at local organizations and other community events.

**Using Dogs for SAR**

Throughout Alaska, agencies are recognizing the important role search dogs play in locating lost or missing people. This is evidenced by the marked increase in missions as seen in Figure 3.

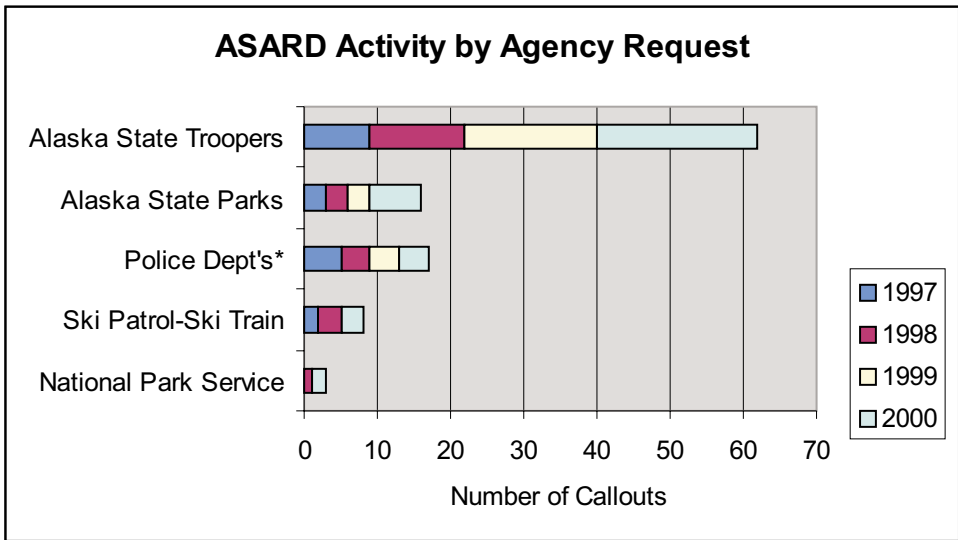


Figure 4: ASARD search and rescue call-outs by agency (1997-2000). \*Police Departments include Anchorage, Kenai and the Anchorage International Airport.



Bean and Kiana waiting for the tram at Alyeska ski resort.

ASARD would like to thank the following businesses for their support:

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