



# ONAP National Best Practice Webinar

Featuring the Alaska Association of Housing Authorities

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APRIL 15, 2026

# OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS (ONAP)

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# Introductory Comments

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- Innovative Readiness Training
  - Community applications for fiscal year 2028 mission applications are due by September 30, 2026
  - To create a community member account visit
  - [https://lmiirtprod.servicenowservices.com/irt?id=irt\\_login](https://lmiirtprod.servicenowservices.com/irt?id=irt_login)
  - <https://irt.defense.gov/>
- Guest appearance –
  - Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation IRT Mission

# TODAY'S FEATURED GUEST

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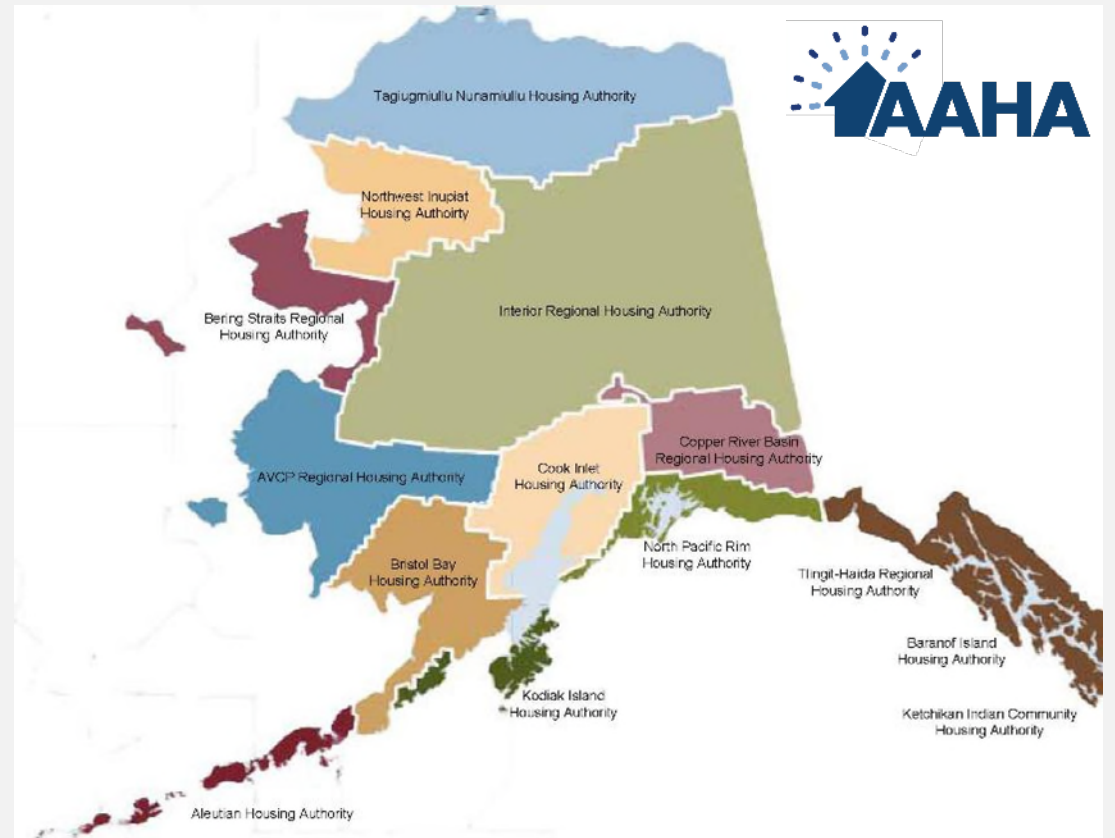
# Overview

About the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities  
About the Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority  
Overview of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program  
Case study: Operation Arctic Haven  
Best practices for IRT and Tribal housing projects  
The case for expanding collaboration with the military



# About the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA)

- Members include Alaska's 14 regional housing authorities and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Housing authorities serve 201 of Alaska's 237 federally-recognized Tribes under NAHASDA
- AAHA provides advocacy, professional development, and funding information



# About the Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority (TNHA)

- Regional housing authority for the Arctic Slope region, roughly the size of Minnesota
- TDHE for six of the region's eight federal-recognized Tribes
- Logistics can consume 20-35% of construction budgets depending on village and transport mode
- Tradeoffs between cost and timing a major consideration



# Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)

- Builds mutually beneficial partnerships between U.S. communities and the military to meet training and readiness requirements for service members and units while addressing public and civil society needs
- Projects typically include building critical infrastructure and housing, providing mobile health clinics, transporting equipment and/or materials or conducting cyber vulnerability assessments.
- Generates military readiness for approximately 7,500 joint service members each year by providing hands-on training for mission-essential tasks in complex interagency, joint, and total force environments that are seldom found outside of a national crisis and often only simulated during other training events.

# IRT Missions from Around The Country



# Case Study: Operation Arctic Haven



# Case Study: Operation Arctic Haven

- Locations: Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, and Wainwright, Alaska
- Mission: Operation Arctic Haven
- Air National Guard-led transport of construction equipment and materials (340,000 pounds) on military cargo aircraft to three remote Alaska Native villages to enable construction of five (5) housing units at major savings.



# Case Study: Operation Arctic Haven

- Relationships and relevance to current military needs matter
- Pivoted from construction to a transport mission after feedback on an earlier assistance request that did not move forward
- Easier to accommodate transport mission than dozens of “boots on the ground” in a remote setting
- Consider potential risks to mission and have a solid Plan B



📷 : Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority

# Case Study: Operation Arctic Haven

- Important to track hard and soft costs to get an accurate view of the total value of an IRT mission
- Expect to leverage significant personnel resources in the short to mid term for overall impact
- Other costs included a staging site, short haul trucking, land excursion, meals, etc.



 : Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority

# Best Practices for IRT and Tribal Housing

- Determine the mission category that best suits your project and environment: construction (horizontal or vertical), transport, etc.
- Understand the dynamics of how the military interacts with your region and community, and anticipate their training needs
- Understand the politics around any private industry likely to be impacted (transport carriers, trade unions, contractors, etc.).
- Expect a two-year lead time for most applications, but be aware that “out-of-cycle” applications can and do get approved
- **Invest in the relationships**

# The Case for Expanding Collaboration with the Military through IRT

- Increased supply of affordable housing builds community resilience and social stability, contributing to a secure homeland
- Stretch precious IHBG resources further with civil-military “dual-use” approach – more bang for the U.S. taxpayer buck
- Alaska Native and American Indian people serve in the military at higher rates than the general population
- Increasing need for military readiness derived from complex real-world environments due to the geopolitical situation=

# FIRST STEPS

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- What are first steps that you would recommend for someone who wants to have an IRT mission in their community?



# APPLICATION TIPS

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# LOGISTICS

- How long were National Guard members onsite for this mission?
- Did the Guard stay onsite?
- What surprised you about the visit?
- What was community reaction to the visitors?



# FUNDING

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- What are some of the hard and soft costs that the mission saved TNHA?
- Were there any costs to the Housing Authorities associated with the mission?

# RESULTS

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- Did the mission have a long-term impact on the community?

# FUTURE PLANS

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# QUESTIONS?

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Email comments to: [Codetalk@hud.gov](mailto:Codetalk@hud.gov)

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