

The Big Picture – Alaska: The Outpost State

Sergeant Stuart Queen: Today, a timely *Big Picture* report on Alaska, the 49th state.

Announcer: The United States Army presents *The Big Picture*, an official report produced for the armed forces and the American people. Now, to show you part of *The Big Picture*, here is Sergeant Stuart Queen:

Sergeant Stuart Queen: Not since the year 1912 has a new state been admitted to the Union. It was then that Congress accepted Arizona and New Mexico. Today nearly half a century later, *The Big Picture* focuses its cameras on the land, the people, and the military position of our newest state, Alaska.

Narrator: Ever since Alaska was acquired by the United States nearly a century ago, the American public has thought of the area in terms of sub-zero temperatures and arctic winds, of crushing ice and constant snow. This picture of our newest state is true, but only in part.

Alaska is considered a rugged land and rightly so. Like saw's teeth, two lofty mountain ranges span its length from north to south, the Pacific and the Rocky Mountain systems. The face of Alaska is as varied as it is large. Steep mountain faces fall away to rivered valleys and sweeping plains. During the warmer months...