The Alaska Earthquake Information Center (AEIC) monitors earthquakes in Alaska and provides earthquake information to the citizens and public officials of Alaska. The Center is a cooperative program of the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska and the U.S. Geological Survey and is located at the Geophysical Institute in Fairbanks with the Alaska State Seismologist's Office.

The Alaska Earthquake Information Center located a strong earthquake that occurred on Monday, March 17th at 7:36 AM AKST in the Rat Islands region of Alaska. This earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 and was located at a depth of about 6 miles (10 km). The magnitude and location may change slightly as additional data are received and processed. It was felt strongly in the eastern Aleutain Islands communities and mildly as far as Fairbanks. No report of damage have been received at this time.

Distance to nearby locations:

- 148 km (92 miles) SW of Amchitka
- 240 km (150 miles) SSE of Buldir Is
- 349 km (218 miles) SE of Shemya Is
- 410 km (256 miles) SE of Attu
- 423 km (265 miles) WSW of Adak
- 594 km (371 miles) WSW of Atka
- 744 km (465 miles) WSW of Amukta Pass
- 922 km (576 miles) ESE of Bering Is, Komandorsky

Preliminary earthquake parameters:

- Origin Time (UT): 03/17/2003 16:36:12
- Latitude: 50 N 29’
- Longitude: 177 E 41’
- Depth: 10 km
- Magnitude: Ms (NEIC) 6.8

The location and magnitude for this earthquake may be updated as data from additional seismic stations are received. The Alaska Earthquake Information Center will continue to gather data and may issue additional releases as appropriate. With any moderate or large earthquake, aftershocks should be expected to occur.

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