



U.S. ARMY GARRISON, ALASKA QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

August 2006, Issue 8

This is a quarterly update on U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska activities and issues that might be of interest to federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

Archaeology Field Trip

On June 22, 2006, USAG-AK staff met with representatives of several tribes in Delta Junction for a field trip to an archaeological site on the Eddy Drop Zone of the Donnelly Training Area. USAG-AK staff included Dave Cory, Jennifer Elsen, Molly Proue, Aaron Robertson and Amanda Shearer. Tribal members from Eagle, Tanacross, and Tetlin attended the trip, as well as an archaeologist from Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The purpose of the field trip was to visit an archaeological site that will be impacted by the construction of the training range

Battle Area Complex (BAX). USAG-AK has agreed to excavate 5% of the archaeological site in a Memorandum of Agreement with Alaska's State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). During a discussion on this topic in May, it was requested that a minimum of three site visits be provided for tribal representatives: one before excavation; one during excavation; and, one after excavation. The June 22, 2006 trip was the pre-excavation site visit.

Aaron Robertson, the Donnelly Training Area archaeologist, conducted a brief tour of the site

area and provided information on the site. The archeological site (Site XMH-00874) is located on a high point 200m north of Banjo Lake. Small spruce and aspen are present, but vegetation consists mainly of small shrubs, moss and lichen. A small portion of the surface is exposed immediately south of the crest. Overall, surface visibility is minimal throughout most of the site area. The site was identified during a 2002 survey for the BAX project. Surrounding areas were also surveyed in 2002; all in all, 22 stone artifacts were found on the ground surface, and an additional 259 stone artifacts were recovered from below the surface during preliminary testing.

The age of the site is unknown at this time; however, stone tools found at the site are similar to those found at other sites in the area which date to 8,000 years ago. Determining the age of the site is one of the goals of the upcoming excavation. The site was most likely used for a game lookout and temporary camp site that may have been visited several times. Stone tools found at the site (Figure 1, a through e; see page 2) suggest that game animals were processed (skinned and butchered) here and further analysis may reveal other activities which occurred. No evidence has been found suggesting that the site was used as a permanent village. Some stone



Above: Field Trip attendees, guided by Aaron Robertson, look at the site on June 22, 2006.

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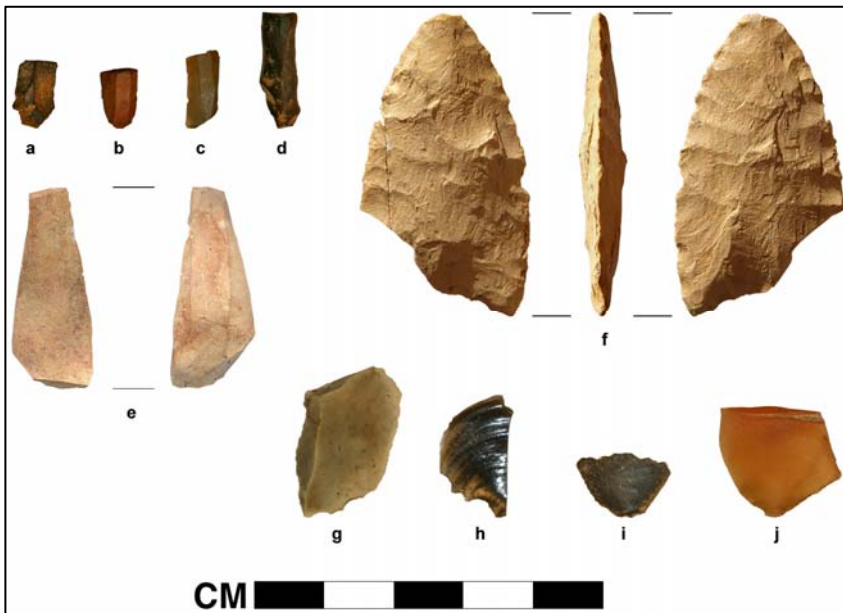
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tools are made of obsidian and jasper (Figure 1, h and j), which are materials not found locally. The materials to make these tools were brought from over 100 miles from the site. Determining the source locations of these materials is another goal of the excavation.

Excavations at the site during the summer of 2006 will focus on areas most likely to contain artifacts and areas where firing targets for the training range will be constructed. Reports of all findings will be provided to the tribes. Artifacts recovered will be stored at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks. USAG-AK will consult with

Right: Figure 1. Artifacts from XMH-00874

- a) Microblade made of dark gray chert
- b) Microblade made of tan rhyolite
- c) Microblade made of light gray chert
- d) Microblade made of dark gray chert
- e) Microblade core rejuvenation flake, made of tan rhyolite
- f) Projectile point, made of tan rhyolite
- g) Flake, made of light gray/green chert
- h) Flake, made of Obsidian
- i) Flake, made of dark gray chert
- j) Flake, made of Jasper



tribes to develop an educational aid for schools or other interpretive product on what was found at the site and the importance of Interior Alaskan archaeology.

Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of a Battle Area Complex and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility Within U.S. Army Lands in Alaska

Introduction—The U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) announces the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Construction and Operation of a Battle Area Complex (BAX) and a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) within U.S. Army Lands in Alaska. The Record of Decision summarizes the findings of the Final EIS and provides the basis for the decision. The Record of Decision also identifies mitigations which were important in supporting the decision.

The Decision—Based on the analysis contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which sets forth the Army's requirements, the impacts associated with the Army's actions on the human environment, and the proposed means by which to mitigate such impacts, the Army has chosen Alternative 2 as its course of action. Under this alternative, the Army will construct and operate both range

training facilities (BAX and CACTF) at the Eddy Drop Zone site within Donnelly Training Area East.

Mitigation of Impacts—Mitigation measures addressing tribal issues were identified in Chapter 4 of the Final EIS. Some of these measures are currently employed by the Army to address impacts associated with routine military training on USARAK installations and within USARAK-managed training lands. The Army has previously committed to undertaking these management programs and will continue to implement these programs. The Army will also undertake all new mitigation measures identified in Chapter 4 of the Final EIS as a necessary part of the BAX and CACTF range project. A monitoring and enforcement program has been adopted as part of this action. Monitoring the effectiveness of resource management efforts in mitigating environment impact

ensures continued review and flexibility to change or add management efforts.

Document Availability—Copies of the Record of Decision are also available at the following locations:

- Noel Wien Public Library (1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, AK)
- Delta Junction Public Library (Deborah Street, Delta Junction, AK)
- Donnelly Training Area Natural Resources Office (Building T100, Room 230, Fort Greely, AK)
- Fort Wainwright Environmental Resources Department (Building 3023, Fort Wainwright, AK)

For further information or to request a copy of the Record of Decision, please contact Ms. Carrie McEnteer (907) 353-9507 (in Fairbanks) or Ms. Amanda Shearer (907) 384-3263 (in Anchorage).

Third Quarterly Meeting with Upper Tanana Inter-Tribal Coalition

Staff from the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Alaska District, traveled to Dot Lake for the third quarterly meeting with the Upper Tanana Inter-Tribal Coalition (UTIC). The UTIC is made up in part by federally recognized tribes from Dot Lake, Eagle, Healy Lake, Northway, Tanacross and Tetlin.

The working meeting was held on May 24, 2006 at the Dot Lake Community Hall. Agency representatives brought maps to help facilitate discussions regarding areas of concern to the tribes. Several topics were presented and discussed:



Above: Meeting attendees enjoy soup and snacks during a break.

- USAG-AK provided an update on the Battle Area Complex and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- USAG-AK provided a historical timeline of key activities that have occurred at the Gerstle River Test Site and a map of proposed surface water sampling areas for the site.
- USACE requested that tribal representatives relay any concerns they have regarding the Gerstle River Expansion Area or the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline.
- USAG-AK discussed the Haines Pipeline Installation, which includes four sites: Haines Fuel Terminal; active Army owned portions of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline; Sears Creek; and, the Tok Fuel Terminal.
- USAG-AK provided an overview of the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). The Army Environmental Center is the proponent of the program, which addresses the potential health and safety hazards

present at munitions response sites. Site investigation work is planned to be performed during the summer of 2006. Tribes were requested to identify areas of concern on the maps.

- USAG-AK gave an update on the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP). The draft will be discussed at the 4th Quarterly Meeting.
- USAG-AK discussed several archaeology and cultural resources issues, including follow-up to questions from the 2nd Quarterly meeting and a brief update on the status of revisions to the USAG-AK's Historic Properties Component (HPC) to the Integrated Cultural Resource Manager Plan (ICRMP).

USAG-AK thanks Dot Lake for hosting the meeting. During the break, guests enjoyed a delicious soup provided by President Bill Miller and the Dot Lake Village Council. Thank you! The fourth quarterly meeting is scheduled to be held on August 14, 2006 at Eagle Village.

Memorandum of Agreement with Tanacross Village Council

President Jerry Isaac and Colonel Donna Boltz signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Tanacross Village Council and the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska, on May 24, 2006. The agreement formalizes

the government-to-government relationship between the parties and allows for further consultation on issues of importance to Tanacross Village Council.



Right: Colonel Donna Boltz signs the MOA while Jerry Isaac looks on.

USAG-AK Change of Command

Colonel David L. Shutt became the commander of the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK), replacing Colonel Donna G. Boltz in a change of command ceremony at Fort Richardson on Friday, June 16, 2006. COL Shutt is an Armor Officer who has served in Alaska since August 2002 when he assumed command of the Fort Richardson Garrison. Since June 2005, he has served as the Director of Transformation, G-7, for the U.S. Army in Alaska.



Above: COL Shutt (center-left) receives the Garrison Flag from COL Boltz (center-right) during the Change of Command Ceremony.

He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelors Degree in Biology, and from the University of Missouri with a Masters in Public Administration. His military education includes the Armor Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advance Course, and the Army Command and General Staff College.

COL Shutt has served in Tank and Cavalry units in the United States and overseas. He has served in numerous staff positions, including Assistant Professor of Military Science, Corps Commander Aide de Camp, Chief of IG Investigations, and on the Army Staff.

COL Shutt's awards include the Legion of Merit, five Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, the Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

COL Shutt is married and has two children.

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