



US ARMY GARRISON FORT WAINWRIGHT QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

April 2011, Issue 24

This is a quarterly update on United States Army Garrison Fort Wainwright activities and issues of interest to federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

United States Army Alaska Commander Earns Second Star

courtesy of USARAK PAO, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

United States Army Alaska's (USARAK) commanding general earned his second star in a ceremony here (at JBER) 18 March.

Admiral Eric T. Olson, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, conducted the ceremony.

Major General Raymond P. Palumbo, who was a brigadier general when he assumed command of U.S. Army Alaska in July 2010, credited his family, fellow service members and mentors for his success.

"A smart man once said we're probably all just the average of the five people we hang around with the most, and I'd like to think that's true," MG Palumbo said. "There are so many people that have influenced me, from the time I was a little guy, until today. I'm the average of all of that."



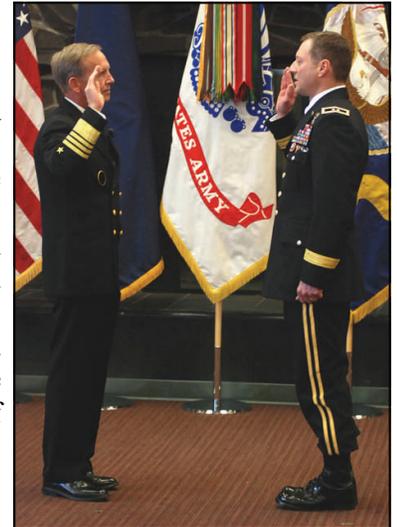
MG Palumbo receives the two star flag from Admiral Olson.

Photo: Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt

The general is a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. He has a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University, a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College and is a graduate of the British High Command and Staff College.

He has commanded at the company, battalion, and brigade levels and served in numerous aviation and special operations assignments. Prior to his arrival in Alaska he served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as the assistant commanding general of the Joint Special Operations Command and then as the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

MG Palumbo is a native of Windber, Pennsylvania. He is married to the former Alice Sweet of El Paso, Texas and has four grown children and two grandchildren.



MG Palumbo takes the oath of office administered by Admiral Olson.

Photo: Master Sgt. Eric Reinhardt

Revisions to Fort Wainwright's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP)

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright (USAG FWA) is revising its *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan* (INRMP) for the period of 2012 through 2016. The INRMP establishes policies, programs and practices that USAG FWA will use to manage military and non-military use of Army-withdrawn training lands in Alaska, including Donnelly, Tanana Flats, Yukon, Gerstle, and Black Rapids Training Areas. The INRMP also guides USAG FWA natural resources managers and personnel in their decision-making actions regarding management of Army lands in Alaska and the implementation of proposed natural resource projects. The document also serves as a funding identification device for natural resources management and recreational use of Army-managed lands. A wide range of goals, objectives, planning resources, inventories, monitoring schematics, and management responsibilities are proposed for soils; wetlands; surface water; forestry; fish and wildlife; endangered species; and outdoor recreation. Implementation procedures will be proposed, including funding mechanisms, priorities, staffing requirements, planning methods and command support.

Tribal and public participation in the development of FWA's INRMP will be requested throughout the development of the proposed plan by way of newspaper notices, newsletters, and consultation. Very few changes from the 2006-2011 version of the INRMP are anticipated. Tribes will be asked to review the plan in early summer 2011. Review sessions will be held with other interested parties during the summer of 2011. The final plan should be in place by October 1, 2011.

For questions, suggestions, or concerns about the INRMP document or the revision process, please contact USAG FWA Native Liaison Elizabeth Cook at 907-361-6323 or USAG FWA Natural Resources Chief Gary Larsen, 907-361-6104.

Prehistoric Rockshelters Located in the Hills of the Yukon Training Area

contributed by Edmund P. Gaines, USAG FWA Archaeologist

Recent surveys in the hills of the Yukon Training Area identified three prehistoric sites that likely represent the remnants of collapsed rockshelters/caves.

In 2009 survey crews identified site XBD-00364 on the crest of a hill in the vicinity of Firing Point 8. Test excavations recovered the remains of stone tools buried in the debris at the base of a 3-meter high rock outcrop.

With this exciting find in mind, archaeological crews in 2010 targeted rock outcrops as high-probability survey areas. Two more sites were discovered along North Beaver Creek Road. These sites—XBD-00368 and XBD-00370—also consist of the remains of stone tools buried in the debris adjacent to the face of 2 to 3-meter high rock outcrops. Considering the nature of landscape evolution over time and the manner in which rockshelters erode and change, it is thought that these sites—the first of their kind known from the Tanana Valley—were rockshelters or caves that provided shelter and served as short-term habitation sites for prehistoric hunters traveling across the high ridges and hills in the area.

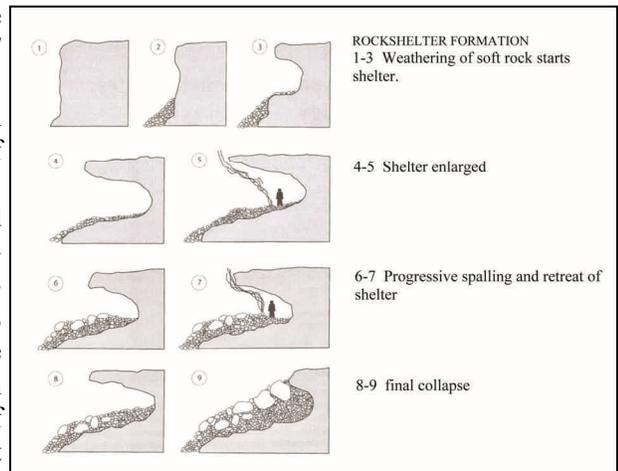


Illustration: *Principles of Geoarchaeology: A North American Perspective*, Michael R. Waters, University of Arizona Press, 1992



Upcoming Cultural Resources Studies

contributed by Mary K. Shanks, USAG FWA Historian

The Fort Wainwright Cultural Resources office is currently beginning two studies on some of the more unexplored aspects of Fort Wainwright's history.

The first of these will focus on the history of the Tanana Flats Training Area with a special emphasis on military use of the area. The Tanana Flats Training Area is a large land unit bordered by the Tanana River, Wood River, and Richardson Highway. The Tanana Flats has been extensively used both in historic and prehistoric times, first by nomadic peoples from 13,000 years ago and more recently by the Athabascan population. The area was used during the Alaskan Gold Rush at the turn of the twentieth century as a transportation corridor, and the historic Bonfield Trail is still used by the Army as a winter road. Since the land was withdrawn from the public domain for military use in the mid-twentieth century, it has been primarily used for military training needs.

The second project will look at military cold weather testing in Alaska. Cold weather testing lies at the heart of the history of Fort Wainwright. While some of this testing has been controversial, the knowledge of these activities is integral to understanding the history of Fort Wainwright. This study will look at cold weather testing and training at Fort Wainwright starting with the pioneering arctic aviation studies conducted by the Cold Weather Test Detachment in the 1940s. The study will also focus on the Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory's Cold War research and later research conducted by the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

As the Cultural Resources office develops these studies, any information or stories related to either project would be appreciated. For additional information or to speak with a cultural resources staff member, please contact Mary Shanks at 907-361-9329 or Natalie Thomas at 907-361-4364.

Seeking Information About Culturally Significant Sites and Past Off-Training-Land Activities

USAG FWA is beginning its next (and final) Culturally Significant Site Survey. Previous surveys have collected information about Donnelly Training Area and Fort Richardson training areas. This study area includes lands between Fairbanks and the Canadian border. Interviews will be sought with community members who have knowledge about locations that are *on* Army-managed lands and need to be avoided during training and development because of their significance; or are *off* Army-managed lands, but were sites of past Army activity.

Specific topics of interest to the Army include the Alaska Native community's interactions with the Alaskan military during World War II and the Cold War, including the military use of Northway and Tanacross airfields; historic land use by the Alaska Native population of lands now identified as Tanana Flats Training Area, Yukon Training Area, Gerstle River Training Area, and Donnelly Training Area; and off-post Army exercises on lands traditionally used and occupied by Alaska Native tribes.

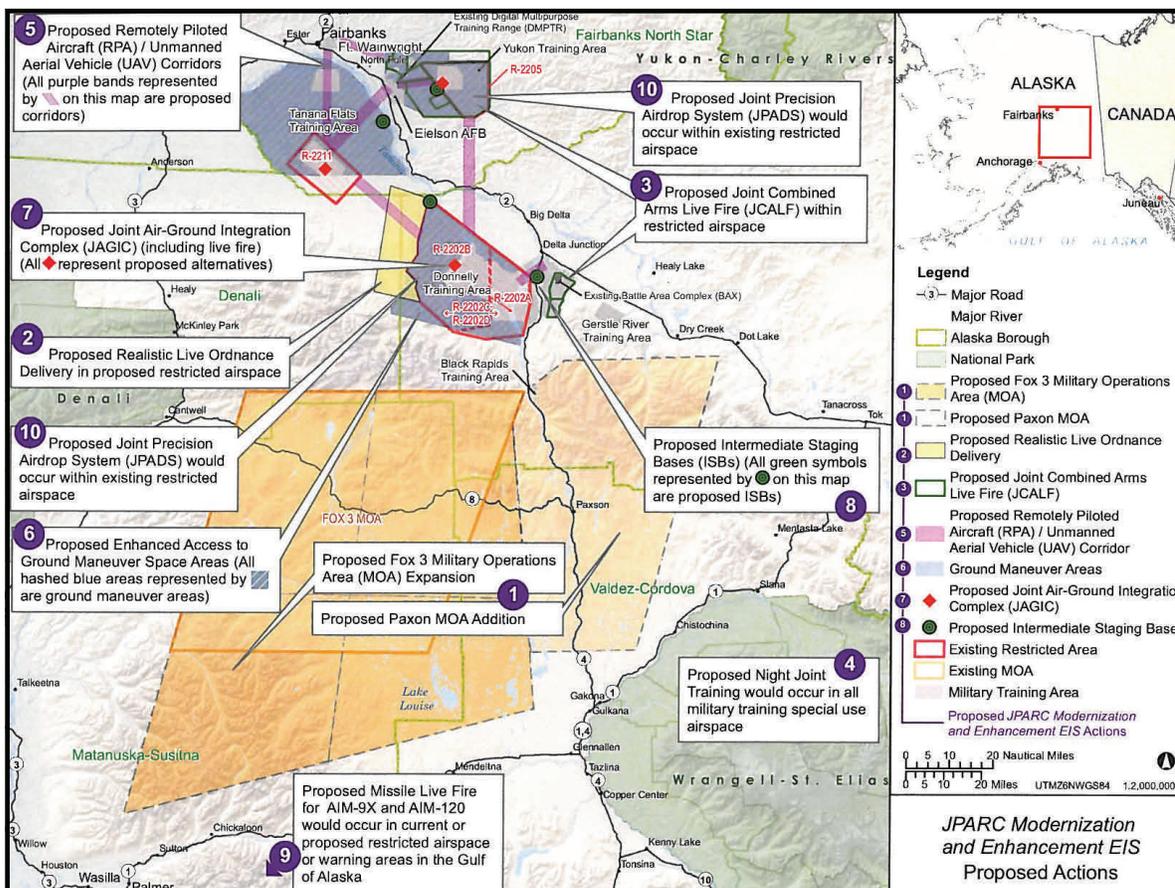
The ultimate goal is to secure interviews with individuals in village communities who may have first-hand information about these topics and to do so before more knowledge holders are gone and the knowledge is lost forever. The information gathered in these interviews will assist the Army in being a better land-manager for generations to come.

USAG FWA staff will travel to speak with tribal councils about this project, if invited. Suggestions for possible interviewees from council members and tribal staff are welcome. The current goal is to secure interviews by the end of summer 2011.

Questions or concerns about the project should be addressed to the USAG FWA Native Liaison, Elizabeth Cook at 907-361-6323 or elizabeth.cook3@us.army.mil.

Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) Update

The Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) is a joint services project that will attempt to unite all training areas in Alaska— air space, training ranges, and maritime training areas— more cohesively for more realistic rehearsals of joint battle engagements. The Alaskan Command (ALCOM), in cooperation with the Army and the Air Force, has initiated the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A scoping period for the EIS was held through March 5, 2011 to assist ALCOM in identifying potential concerns for analysis. Public meetings were held in Anchorage, Wasilla, Talkeetna, Healy, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Glennallen in January.



In addition, a government-to-government consultation meeting with three tribes who expressed concerns over three of the proposed actions was held in late February of 2011.

ALCOM is currently working on development of the Draft EIS. This document will be published and made available for tribal and public review in late 2011 over a yet to be determined comment period.

Anyone having questions or concerns about the JPARC training area proposals, or to obtain current information regarding status of the EIS process should contact ALCOM Public Affairs at 907-552-2341. More information about the JPARC concept and the EIS can be found at www.JPARCEIS.com.



Fort Wainwright Observes Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month was celebrated at Fort Wainwright on 13 December 2010. The 1/25th Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) sponsored the event that was well-attended by honored guests, military personnel and civilians.

Ms. Shirley Holmberg of Tanana and Fairbanks spoke about being Athabascan and her upbringing. She shared the cultural and life lessons she learned from friends and relatives. Ms. Holmberg spent part of her childhood in California, the family having relocated so her parents could participate in vocational training. She educated the audience about her hide clothing and various customs she grew up with — their meanings and origins.

The Soaring Eagle drum group played several songs and led a welcome dance around the room.

President Obama's proclamation for the observance was read and a similar proclamation from Governor Parnell was read by a member of his staff.

Following the formal presentation, attendees enjoyed refreshments and displays of artifacts and posters that discussed Native American participation in the military among other topics.

The event had been previously scheduled for November 23, but had to be postponed due to the ice storms that paralyzed the Interior.



Reminder: Red Flag 2011

Alaska's U.S. Air Force bases will host Red Flag exercises on April 14-29, July 7-22, August 11-26, and October 6-21. Northern Edge exercises will be conducted June 9-24.

Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division
ATTN: IMPC-FWA-PWE (Cook)
1060 Gaffney Road #4500
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-4500

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Does your tribal government have a consultation policy that directs agencies how to interact with your tribe? If so, please share it with us. Don't have one? A workshop for creating such documents is being planned. Let us know if you're interested!