



U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT WAINWRIGHT QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

July 2011, Issue 25

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

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright Welcomes New Commander



COL Johnson receives the colors from Ms. Debra Zedalis, Director of IMCOM Pacific.

On July 8, 2011 Colonel Ronald M. Johnson accepted the command of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright (USAG FWA) from outgoing commander, Colonel Timothy A. Jones.

Colonel Johnson hales from Montana and has served since 1988. He most recently served as the Senior Mentor and Advisor to the Afghan Minister of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Special Forces Command.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel Johnson was the commander of USAG FWA prior to its becoming a stand-alone garrison, serving from 2005 to 2008.

Colonel Johnson has achieved a Bachelors degree in Microbiology, a Masters degree from the Army Command and General Staff College, and a Masters degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval War College.

Awards and decorations received by Colonel Johnson include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 5th OLC), Joint Forces Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal (with OLC), Army Achievement Medal (with OLC), National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (with OLC), Meritorious Unit Citation, Southwest Asia Service Medal (with Bronze Star Campaign Star), Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Outstanding Volunteer Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award (USACOS 1996), Saint Philip Neri Award (Bronze), Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Thai Military Free Fall Badge, Thai and Korean Master Parachutist Badges, and Canadian and Chilean Basic Parachutist Badges.

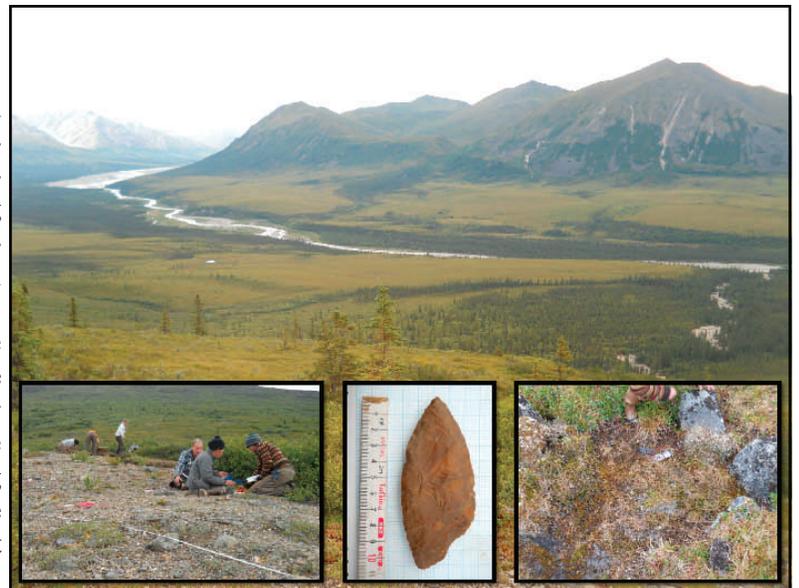
At his change of command ceremony, Colonel Johnson stated that he was happy to be back in Fairbanks and that the workforce at Fort Wainwright was one of the reasons he felt fortunate to return. Colonel Johnson returns to Fairbanks with his wife Candis and their three children Christina, Chloe, and Hunter.

Big Finds at Molybdenum Ridge (DTA)

submitted by Julie Esdale, USAG FWA Archaeologist

In late July USAG FWA archaeology crews surveyed Molybdenum Ridge in Donnelly Training Area. Twenty-three prehistoric sites were discovered, ranging from individual projectile points to large surface scatters of tool-making debris. One site had over one hundred artifacts on the surface, including core fragments, scraping tools, and a small triangular projectile point.

The ridge (right) reaches 5,000 feet at its peak. Sites were found at the top of the ridge, along lower benches, and on the terraces near the river. Inset photos (L to R) show the crew mapping the largest surface site, a thin biface that may have been used as a knife, and a rock cairn, possibly a hunting blind or meat cache. Hundreds of caribou surrounded the crew during one stop on their survey— demonstrating what an attractive place the ridge was for ancient hunters!



New Staff Members Join USAG FWA Environmental Office

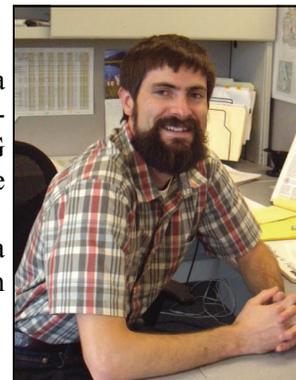


In June, Julie Esdale joined the Cultural Resource Management staff within USAG FWA ENV as the Fort Wainwright staff archaeologist.

Esdale received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology and her MS in Quaternary Geology from University of Alberta. She received her PhD from Brown University. Although she came to work in Alaska in 2009, her fieldwork history has taken her to the northern Yukon and Anaktuvuk Pass. Originally from Alberta, Canada, Esdale lives in Fairbanks with her archaeologist husband and two children.

Matt Sprau joined the permanent USAG FWA ENV staff in May as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordinator, providing environmental policy guidance to the garrison. He previously worked for USAG FWA ENV for four years as a seasonal employee with the forestry crew. He has also worked for the U.S. Forest Service, surveying the forests throughout southeast and south central Alaska.

Matt received his BS in Natural Resources Management/Forestry from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. And while Sprau is originally from Pennsylvania, he lives in Fairbanks and plans to remain in the north indefinitely.



Previously employed at USAG FWA ENV as a botany technician in 2007, Amy Tippet now finds a permanent position with the wetlands staff doing wetland determinations on Army lands. She holds a BS in Environmental Science and is working toward her MS in Marine Biology at University of Alaska Fairbanks, studying seagrass ecology and the impacts of climate change on marine nearshore food webs.

Amy, originally from the Puget Sound area of Washington state, says, "I grew up crunching on sand and sedges in the tideflats, and knew mud and wetlands would be important to me forever." In addition to swampy mucky things, Tippet finds cultural exchange and languages irresistible and has lived in Jamaica, Spain, and Mexico. The expanses of Alaska, Iceland, and Chile are next on her list to explore.

And don't forget the seasonal field crews...

This summer 28 crew members joined the staff as seasonal hires to get all the necessary work completed during the Interior's short field season. The forestry (2) and fuels (4); cultural resources (4) and archaeology (6); wetlands (6); wildlife biology (2); and RTLA/ITAM (4) crews are still in the throes of work that will continue, in some cases, until the snow flies. Watch future newsletters to see reports on the fruits of their labors.

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

USAG FWA is still seeking interviews with individuals in village communities who may have first-hand information about locations that are culturally significant to neighboring Alaska Native tribes 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 Army activity. This information will be utilized to more sensitively manage lands under Army stewardship and better understand past use of non-Army lands for Army activity. Additional 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.

Funding for this project expires at 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.

Red Flag 2011: Alaska's U.S. Air Force bases will host more Red Flag exercises on August 11–26 and October 6–21.

Colonel Johnson Addresses WEIO Opening Ceremonies on 50th Anniversary

The opening ceremonies of the 50th anniversary World Eskimo–Indian Olympics opened with great fanfare on the night of July 20. Dance groups, athletes, Miss WEIO candidates, event record holders, and Miss WEIOs of the past entered the arena. Messages of welcome were delivered to the spectators and participants by mayors of Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks, and City of North Pole; Colonel Ron Johnson of Fort Wainwright, and the U.S. Coast Guard

17th District Admiral Thomas Ostebo. Following the welcomes and the grand entry of all the participants, torch runners entered the arena, the lamp was lit and four days of games were officially underway.



Colonel Johnson visits with Willie Lord, First Chief of Nenana Native Association and member of the Alaska Native Veterans Association

Cultural Resource Management Report, Summer 2011

Fort Wainwright cantonment: This season's archaeological surveys have sought to identify cultural resources in training areas north of the Chena River. Surveys for the development of a soil stockpile location discovered one historic archaeological site composed of a depression, a wood and metal sled-like vehicle and a small shelter. A large survey of the Birch Hill ski area's south side found no archaeological sites but facilitated vegetation clearing and ski trail development for the 2013 Arctic Winter Games.

Yukon Training Area: A proposed road maintenance project resulted in archaeological surveys along North Beaver Creek Road, Skyline Road, and Brigadier Road.

Donnelly Training Area: New prehistoric sites were discovered in the Molybdenum Ridge area, near 33-Mile Loop Road, and in the Texas and Washington Ranges. These surveys were conducted to facilitate new trail development, future Soldier training locations, and Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) activities. Surveys at DTA continuously increase our knowledge about how people have used that landscape over the last 10,000 years.

Updating the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP)

submitted by Lisa Graham, USAG FWA Cultural Resources Manager

The USAG FWA Cultural Resource office is beginning the process of updating its Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP). An ICRMP is a planning document that outlines specific management information used by Army installations when managing cultural resources—historic buildings, archaeological sites, and traditional cultural properties—at their facilities. An ICRMP generally contains:

- Cultural resource context information;
- All legal requirements for cultural resource management;
- Identification of the installation's cultural resources and prioritized lists for further identification or survey;
- Procedural recommendations and related funding requirements for managing the installation's cultural resources in a manner that is compatible with the installation mission and satisfies legal requirements;
- Priorities and related funding requirements that ensure support of the mission, compliance with legal requirements, and ongoing stewardship responsibilities; and
- Management procedures for the ongoing identification, maintenance, and enhancement of cultural resources.

The ultimate goal of the ICRMP is to promote the management of cultural resources in ways that are beneficial to both the military mission and the resources, as well as other public interests. It is intended to be thoroughly integrated with other installation plans and to establish requirements and goals that can be easily reflected in budget documents and decision-making processes. USAG FWA's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for government-to-government relations/tribal consultation will be included in the ICRMP.

To facilitate this process of updating the ICRMP, USAG FWA staff will hold meetings this winter with interested tribes to seek tribal input.

USAG FWA Environmental Office Hosts University Intern

Chloe Johnson, an environmental science student at Montana State University Billings, joined the environmental division staff this summer as an intern. While gaining college credit and meeting a degree requirement, Johnson gained experience with the many facets of environmental work on post — conservation, restoration, compliance, and planning.

Johnson's reason for pursuing the internship was to investigate her career path options and narrow her goals to better refine her degree choice. She states that it has been helpful discussing aspects of environmental jobs with such a wide variety of professionals in the environmental division.

Although the NEPA office was her home base, she has been able to work with myriad subject matter experts in the office and several seasonal crews. Her summer's field experiences have included delineation of wetlands areas, vegetation plot analysis with the forestry crews, and wildlife surveys of waterfowl and migratory birds.

In the office, Johnson worked on NEPA documents for trail development on post, environmental surveys for construction projects, and building surveys with the cultural resources staff. Additionally, Johnson travelled to various restoration sites to observe contractor work, toured the work beginning at the expanding permafrost tunnels, and toured Usibelli coal mine facilities.

Yet this summer Johnson will learn about planning for hazardous waste, travel out to training lands with the archaeology field crews, and join the Range and Training Land Assessment (RTLTA) staff in performing vegetation surveys.

In addition to all the field work she has experienced, her class requirements include composition of a resume and the writing of a capstone paper discussing what she gained from the summer's work. At summer's conclusion, Johnson will be transferring to University of Alaska Fairbanks to continue her degree pursuit. She plans to narrow her major, pursuing a degree in wildlife biology.



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