



U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) Quarterly Update for Alaska Native Tribes November 2004, Issue 2



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.

ARMY GARRISON AND ARMY CORPS JOINT VILLAGE VISITS

On July 29-30, 2004, U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) Commander Colonel Donna G. Boltz and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District Commander Colonel Timothy Gallagher, along with staff from both organizations, traveled to visit Healy Lake Village, Dot Lake Village, and Native Village of Tanacross. Topics of conversation included cleanup of military debris from village lands, soldier respect for the land and subsistence resources, contracting with the military, and the Government-to-Government relationship. Agency personnel truly enjoyed the opportunity to visit in the villages, and want to thank each village for their hospitality!



Healy Lake's Community Hall.



COL Boltz presents afghan to Chief Ben Saylor at Healy Lake Village.



COL Boltz meets Gary Matthews at Tanacross. (Background: Leonard Sanford & Tricia Waggoner)



Chief Jerry Isaac & Roy Denny at Tanacross.



COL Boltz chats with Bill Miller at Dot Lake Village.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms. Amanda Shearer at phone (907) 384-3263, fax (907) 384-0283 (email: Amanda.Shearer@richardson.army.mil). Ms. Shearer is the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska Native Liaison and is available to answer questions or provide any other information, which might be helpful to you.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓JULY 8-9: Visited Tanacross, Northway Village, and Dot Lake Village
- ✓JULY 15: Tour of Eagle River Flats for the Ft. Rich Restoration Advisory Board
- ✓JULY 19: Visited Native Villages of Tazlina & Kluti-Kaah
- ✓JULY 29-30: USAG-AK & USACE joint visits (see article on front page)
- ✓AUGUST 4: Memorandum of Agreement signing at NVE (see article on next page)
- ✓SEPTEMBER 2: Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AITC) requested and was granted permission to post "USAG-AK Newsletter to Tribes" on their website
- ✓SEPTEMBER 23: Ft. Wainwright field trip for tribal leaders & reps (see article on back page)
- ✓OCTOBER 5-6: Visited Native Village of Tazlina
- ✓OCTOBER 12-14: Training for DoD employees "Implementing Government-to-Government Relations in Alaska"
- ✓OCTOBER 19: DoD Liaisons presentation at Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

UPCOMING

- NOVEMBER 15-19: Visit Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Northway, and Tetlin to discuss BAX/CACTF (see article, this page)
- DECEMBER 7: Tribal Military Leader's Meeting in conjunction with Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AITC)

UPCOMING ARMY EAs & EIS

BAX/CACTF Environmental Impact Statement – USAG-AK continues to work on the EIS for the Battle Area Complex and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (BAX/CACTF), two new large training facilities proposed for construction at Donnelly Training Area. The EIS should be available for Tribal, agency, & public 45-day review in Nov. 2004.

33-Mile Loop Environmental Assessment - USAG-AK is proposing to upgrade the Muskeg Hill segment of 33-Mile Loop Road at Donnelly Training Area (DTA), Alaska to provide access for more training opportunities east of Jarvis Creek at DTA. DTA is the main location for larger-sized military collective training in Alaska. The Proposed Action would allow year-round access to Jarvis East and Granite training areas.

Maneuver Corridor Environmental Assessment - USAG-AK is proposing to develop an Arctic Warrior Maneuver Corridor in 2005 on Ft. Richardson to provide additional mounted maneuver training area. The corridor would give commanders multiple training scenario options, like airdrops, practicing perimeter security around drop zones, Stryker safety danger area crossing, live fire from firing points 3 through 6 and McLaughlin/MK-19 Range, and incorporating and practicing freeing disabled or stuck vehicles at a small portion of wetland area before concluding the scenario and/or combining corridor activities with training on the Infantry Platoon Battle Course or surrounding training areas.

For further information on any of these projects, please contact Amanda Shearer at (907) 384-3263.

SIGNING CEREMONY AT NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

On August 4, 2004, Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) hosted a ceremony to celebrate the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) and NVE. The agreement formalizes the Government-to-Government relationship between NVE and USAG-AK and also covers cooperative relationships for conducting research to provide optimal management of natural and cultural resources on public lands on Fort Richardson. Colonel Donna Boltz, USAG-AK Garrison Commander, stated that "this is a smart agreement that enables us to work together on matters of mutual interest in a thoughtful and respectful way." The Eklutna Tribe is, by proximity, often impacted by many training and environmental issues, and has an interest in Fort Richardson, which covers part of their traditional territory.

The celebration included a delicious meal prepared by residents of the village and NVE employees. USAG-AK also presented NVE with a certificate of appreciation for their efforts at partnership.



Maria Coleman, NVE Land & Environment Senior Coordinator, speaks.



NVE President Dorothy Cook and COL Boltz shake hands after signing.



President Dorothy Cook of NVE signs the MOA while COL Boltz looks on.



NVE CEO Lee Stephan speaks at the gathering.

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FT. WAINWRIGHT FIELD TRIP FOR TRIBAL LEADERS & REPRESENTATIVES

On September 23, 2004, tribal leaders and representatives from Interior Alaska met Amanda Shearer at the front gate of Fort Wainwright to participate in a field trip of Army training facilities on the base.

The first stop was at the Terry L. Wilson Battle Command Training Center (BCTC), which is a state-of-the-art facility designed as a key resource in transforming the Army at war. The BCTC conducts Battle Staff training for the U.S. Army Alaska, providing trained and ready combat units to support current and future global operations.

The second tour was held at the PVT Martinez Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF), a 15+ acre site that includes 17 structures augmented with a sports field, underground trainer, 4 landing/pick-up zones, and city clutter. The CACTF enables soldiers to develop the skills and unit cohesiveness necessary to conduct clearing, breaching, offensive and defensive operations in a realistic, urban environment.

After the tour of the CACTF, participants enjoyed lunch with Colonel Donna Boltz, Alaska Garrison Commander and Lieutenant Colonel David Brown, Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander. As the afternoon proceeded, various Garrison staff gave presentations to the group. Steve Reidsma described how Fort Wainwright and other Army managed lands can be accessed by the public for recreation. Cristal Fosbrook provided an update on the status of Army activity at Gerstle River. Julie Raymond-Yakobian gave a presentation on how archaeology is done on Army managed lands in Alaska.



Discussion at the CACTF.



LTC Brown chats with attendees.



Buildings at the CACTF.



Lane Hanson guides tour of BCTC.