



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

October 2010, Issue 22

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

## Colonel Jones Welcomes Visitors to WEIO

Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander Colonel Timothy Jones addressed the audience and athletes at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics (WEIO) during the opening ceremonies at the Carlson Center on 21 July. Colonel Jones joined Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins and North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson in welcoming the spectators and encouraging the athletes who were present for the start of the annual sporting event.

Colonel Jones told the audience how proud the Fort Wainwright Soldiers and Family members are to be a part of the greater Fairbanks community. He also wished the athletes luck in the week's events. "The skills you have honed in order to be here—strength, stamina, balance, and speed—are equally valued by the Army community," he added, sharing in the spirit of the evening.



Photo courtesy of USAG-FWA PAO

Following opening remarks and the grand entry of the dance groups and athletes, Colonel Jones and the mayors helped with the games, pulling the blanket during the preliminary women's blanket toss competition.

## Updated Tribal Contact Information Sought

The frequency of contact between federally recognized tribes and the U.S. Army can vary, depending on the information being conveyed and the locations of the tribes. Mailings received by tribes might include this newsletter, invitations to comment on NEPA documents or Section 106 undertakings, or other offers of government-to-government consultation.

Out of respect for the sovereign status of tribes and their rights of self-governance, it is important to the Army to correctly address tribal leaders and staff contacts when addressing topics such as environmental or cultural resource concerns. It is one of the ways that the Army can support tribal efforts of self-determination through the fostering of government-to-government relationships.

It is often difficult to keep up with tribal elections and staff turnover in the villages. Other Department of Defense agencies, service providers, and governmental agencies such as the BIA also have difficulty maintaining accurate tribal contact information.

As the tribal administrator or leader, if you would like to share your most current staff and elected official information with the Army, please take a moment to complete the enclosed form and mail, email, or fax it to Elizabeth Cook, USAG-FWA Native Liaison. If you would like this information shared with the other Department of Defense Native Liaisons in Alaska, please check the appropriate box. Your tribal information will not be shared without your consent.

Digital copies of this newsletter can be found at [http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/Native\\_Liaison.htm](http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/Native_Liaison.htm).

## JBER Becomes Fully Operational

On 1 October, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson or JBER (pronounced: *jay bear*) became fully operational. While the transition has been occurring since January 2008 and the stand-up ceremony occurred on 30 July 2010, the combining of Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base is now complete.

Those needing assistance with government-to-government relations or having questions about happenings at JBER should now contact Jon Scudder at 907-552-4157 or [Jon.Scudder@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:Jon.Scudder@elmendorf.af.mil).

Mr. Scudder, formerly the Native Liaison and Cultural Resources Manager for Elmendorf's 3rd Wing, serves as the JBER Native Liaison and Cultural Resources Manager.

## Section 106 Undertakings

*This is a quarter-to-quarter update of the undertakings being done by the Cultural Resource Management team in response to the National Historic Preservation Act's (NHPA) Section 106. Contributed by Lisa Graham, USAG-FWA Cultural Resource Manager.*

- The renovation of Fort Wainwright building 2077, a contributing property to the Cold War Historic District, will require Section 106 consultation.
- USAG-FWA has completed an interior building survey of all the historic buildings within the cantonment as part of its regular management of the post's historic properties.
- Another potential rock shelter site was found near North Beaver Creek. A total of three prehistoric sites were identified this summer in the Yukon Training Area.
- Our archaeological field crews surveyed 3,615 acres and discovered 53 prehistoric archaeological sites in the Tanana Flats Training Area (TFTA). This more than doubles the number of known prehistoric sites in the TFTA. All of these are comprised of flakestone debitage (refuse from stone tool production), broken stone tools such as projectile points (arrowheads) and scrapers, and fragments of large-mammal long bones. Based on the stratigraphic context of artifacts, it is strongly suspected that a few of these sites date to the end of the last Ice Age.
- At the Donnelly Training Area, USAG-FWA completed four rounds of monitoring of 136 prehistoric archaeological sites located in the Battle Area Complex (BAX) Surface Danger Zone (SDZ). Thus far this work has identified no adverse effects to the archaeological sites resulting from the use of the BAX range.

### Osprey Update

Over the weekend of 24-26 September, the two osprey families that call Fort Wainwright their summer home flew south for the winter. A total of eight chicks fledged this year. They most likely headed to South America or Mexico.

Osprey return to the same nest every year. Once the chicks reach breeding age, they will return to their natal areas, but will most likely have to find a new location to nest if the nest they were raised in is still occupied by their parents.

Biologists theorize that the osprey range is expanding north due to warmer climates, although this has not yet been conclusively determined.

*Does your tribe have a tribal consultation policy that directs agencies how to interact with your tribe? If so, please share it with us so we can better foster healthy G2G relations.*

## JPARC Activity Update

The Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) being proposed by Alaskan Command (ALCOM) is a joint services project that will attempt to unite all the training areas— air space, Army training ranges, and the maritime training areas— more cohesively for more realistic rehearsals of joint battle engagements.

Additionally, one of the long-term goals of JPARC is to provide each of the services with aspects of training they are currently without by combining resources or developing new resources to meet the needs of all agencies.

Offers of potential consultation from Alaskan Command's (ALCOM) Lt. General Dana Atkins were mailed to 37 tribes on 20 September. These tribes are geographically proximate to the proposed areas of potential effect and are offered government-to-government consultation if they feel that their rights or resources may be significantly affected by this action. Tribes are asked to respond to this offer for consultation by 8 November.

Consultation offer letters contained information with details of the proposed projects and maps of the areas of effect. If additional information is needed, tribes should contact ALCOM's Native Affairs Advisor Jerome Montague at [Jerome.Montague@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:Jerome.Montague@elmendorf.af.mil) or 907-552-2769.

For an undertaking with such a large scope as JPARC, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be necessary. The Notice of Intent for the EIS is currently scheduled to be published in November. Public scoping meetings are proposed to be held in December. Preliminary plans call for multiple public scoping meetings to be held in various places around the state, including Anchorage, Wasilla, Talkeetna, Healy, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Glenallen. Tribes are invited to participate in the public scoping meetings.

The EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the multiple proposed actions that combine to create the JPARC proposal. Although the list of actions being analyzed in the EIS has not been finalized, nine potential proposed actions presented to tribes for consideration include changes to:

- existing air space Military Operating Areas (MOAs),
- creation of new Military Operating Areas (MOAs),
- restricted airspace,
- ordnance delivery target areas,
- ground maneuver infrastructure on training lands,
- seasonal training land access routes,
- construction of temporary staging bases for personnel and equipment, and
- hours of flight training.

## Recreation on Military Training Lands

contributed by Ken Steinnerd

A significant percentage of Interior hunting and recreation occurs on military training lands. Several Interior draw hunts are located on military training lands within Game Management Units 20A, 20B, and 20D. Popular hunting and outdoor recreation areas include the Tanana Flats Training Area, Yukon Training Area, Donnelly East and West Training Areas, and Gerstle River Training Area—all lands managed by Fort Wainwright. If you wish to recreate on military lands there are some access restrictions and safety requirements of which you need to be aware. This information can be located in the U.S. Army Outdoor Recreation Regulation Supplement, and at [www.usarak.army.mil/conservation](http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation).

In order to ensure the safety of the public, the Army requires all persons 16 years of age or older to have a Recreation Access Permit (RAP) in their possession and to check into a training area by calling the U.S. Army Recreation Tracking System (USARTRAK). You can obtain a free RAP at the Main Gate Visitor Centers. The Fort Wainwright Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday 5:30 am to 10:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Permits are available at JBER (Fort Richardson) Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Fort Greely Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday 6:00 am to 5:00 pm.

When calling USARTRAK you will be informed of training area openings and closings caused by training. From time to time the Army must close training areas to all recreation, including hunting, to conduct military training exercises. This ensures the safety of the public while meeting the mandate of military readiness through soldier training, the primary purpose of the training lands. Additionally, within military training lands there are areas that are always closed to all forms of recreation. These areas include impact areas, small arms ranges, and military structures and towers. A complete list and location of closed areas can be found in the Recreation Supplement and on the website. Maps of military training areas can also be found on the website and downloaded to your computer.

A new Fort Wainwright USARTRAK brochure has been issued because of changes to training area boundaries and numbered training area units within the larger training areas. A copy of the revised brochure has been included with this newsletter. If you are a recreational user of Army training lands, please review the revised brochure. Please note that USARTRAK brochure maps are not intended for



navigational purposes. It is the visitor's responsibility to ensure that they are utilizing areas that are open to recreation.

Fort Wainwright no longer requires all hunters to complete a basic hunter education course. All hunters are, however, required to adhere to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) hunter education requirements.

Fort Wainwright requires all ORV operators to wear a helmet and eye protection. All passengers and boat operators are required to wear a personal flotation device. Loaded firearms may be carried on an ORV or within a boat as long as there is not a live round under the firing pin.

Training lands are open to all users on an equal basis when training is not occurring, however, no permanent structures, including tent frames or tree stands, are allowed. Please remove all equipment and trash when leaving the field.

For questions concerning hunting within Alaska, call your nearest ADF&G office. USAG Natural Resources offices can answer training land-specific questions concerning hunting and recreation. For Donnelly and Gerstle River Training Areas, call 873-1616. For JBER (Fort Richardson) lands call 384-3909. For Yukon and Tanana Flats Training Areas, call 361-6490. To contact an Army Conservation Officer, call 361-7692.

### Unexploded Ordnance

It is possible that unexploded ordnance can be found anywhere on military training lands.

If you find anything you believe is ordnance, **do not touch it!** Flag the area and GPS the location, if possible. Call Range Control at 353-1266 or 873-4714 as soon as possible and report your find.

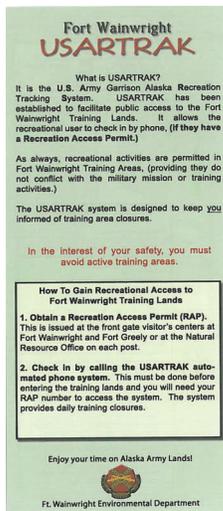
### Historic Yukon River Bombing (Second Notice — excerpted from the 4/2009 newsletter)

From 1942 through the 1960s bombs were dropped by military personnel to break up ice jams along the Yukon River and its tributaries between Ruby and Galena and perhaps as far downriver as Nulato. Army records do not provide the coordinates of these target areas so there is no way to tell where bomb debris or unexploded bombs might be located.

USAG-FWA requests any information village residents might have related to these activities. This information is vital to mapping the area of effect.

The Army also offers unexploded ordnance identification training. Training includes a review of sample photos, discussions regarding the hazards of unexploded ordnance, and instruction on reporting items to the proper authorities.

For more information on training materials or to report information, please contact Elizabeth Cook at 907-361-6323.



## Fort Wainwright Starts Recycling

Fort Wainwright recently began collecting items for recycling and reuse from the post community. In partnership with K&K Recycling, a Fairbanks business that many are acquainted with as a scrap metal recycler, bins have been placed at several pick-up locations at Fort Wainwright. It is one aspect of sustainability efforts being implemented at Fort Wainwright in response to the sustainability movement being promoted on Army installations nationwide.

Papers, plastics, metals, and glasses are being collected and utilized or processed and stockpiled for future use. Paper and cardboard will be processed—pelletized, shredded, etc.— and combined with wood products for use in a small heat and power biomass plant that is under development at the K&K facility as a test case for a larger power production facility. Plastics #1-7 will be processed and compressed into discs that will be stockpiled as a raw material for a yet unidentified, future manufacturing use. Metals are being shipped out for recycling as part of K&K Recycling's normal business. And all glasses are being ground and stored for future use in the manufacturing of traction sand or aggregate for some other manufactured item such as pavement.

By next spring, K&K forecasts collecting #6 plastic (polystyrene or Styrofoam) separately and recycling it into items such as concrete forms.

Fort Wainwright and K&K Recycling are cooperating with the Fairbanks North Star Borough Recycling Commission, working toward resolving a community-wide waste management problem. K&K Recycling is also in talks with University of Alaska Fairbanks and Eielson Air Force Base.



*Photo courtesy of USAG-FWA PAO*

Directorate of Public Works  
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 Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-4500

\*OFFICIAL BUSINESS\*

Issues are mailed to tribal administrators and tribal leaders.

Please post these newsletters for your tribal and community members to share.

Thank you.