



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

February 2006, Issue 6

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.

Revisions to U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) proposes to update its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the period of 2007 through 2011. The primary purpose of the proposed INRMP is to establish policies, programs and practices USAG-AK will use to manage military and nonmilitary use of Army withdrawn training lands in Alaska. The secondary purpose of the INRMP is to guide USAG-AK natural resources managers and personnel in their decision-making actions regarding management of Army lands in Alaska

and the implementation of the proposed natural resource projects within the INRMP. Furthermore, the INRMP serves as a funding identification document for the natural resources management and recreational use of Army managed lands.

A wide range of goals, objectives, planning resources, inventories, monitoring schemes, and management responsibilities are proposed for the following resources: 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 USAG-AK's INRMP will be promoted throughout the development of the proposed plan by way of newspaper notices, questionnaires, newsletters and consultations. Scoping meetings and review sessions will also be held with tribes and state/federal

agencies. Tribal pre-scoping sessions were held in Anchorage on December 12, 2005 and in Fairbanks on December 13, 2005. The next tribal meetings are scheduled to be held in March 2006. A first draft INRMP should be available for tribal review at that time. General public review of the draft final INRMP in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Delta Junction is planned to occur in May 2006. The final completed INRMP must be in place by October 1, 2006.

Meeting with Upper Tanana Inter-Tribal Coalition at Tanacross Community Hall

Staff from the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Alaska District traveled to the Native Village of Tanacross for a meeting at the invitation of the Upper Tanana Inter-Tribal Coalition (UTIC). The meeting at Tanacross was held on October 12, 2005.

The UTIC is made up in part by federally recognized tribes from Dot Lake, Eagle, Healy Lake, Northway, Tanacross and Tetlin. Several issues were discussed, including the Gerstle River Test Site, the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline corridor, Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), the Native American Lands Environmental

Mitigation Program (NALEMP), small business contracting and the government-to-government trust relationship. At request of the tribes, Colonel Donna Boltz, USAG-AK Commander, committed to quarterly meetings with the UTIC to continue the dialogue. The second quarterly meeting

is scheduled to be held on February 13, 2006 at Tanacross Community Hall.

USAG-AK truly appreciates the candidness of the UTIC tribes and thanks Tanacross for hosting the meeting.

Ms. Margaret Friedenauer, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reporter, has set up a Web log at <http://newsminerextra.com/iraq/> to record her experiences in Iraq where she is embedded with the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, based at Alaska's forts Wainwright and Richardson. She has written one front-page story almost daily since her arrival at Mosul in mid-December.

Update on Army Alternative Procedures to Section 106

USAG-AK is working to finalize the Historic Properties Component (HPC) of the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP), which implements the Army Alternate Procedures (AAP) to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Under the AAP, tribes and other stakeholders will continue to be involved in cultural resource decisions on a project-by-project basis through the Army's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The AAP will save time for all parties

involved, since tribes and stakeholders will have previously agreed on the standard operating procedures (SOPs) by signing the HPC. Tribes and stakeholders will have the opportunity to be involved in cultural resource decisions earlier through the NEPA process than in the past with the Section 106 process, which is typically done after NEPA.

Comments from tribes on the HPC have been extremely useful in identifying a number of areas needing further clarification or

explanation. These comments covered technical issues associated with cultural resources management and the role of NEPA in the AAP. USAG-AK and the Army Environmental Center have reviewed the comments for incorporation into the third and final draft HPC.

After USAG-AK finalizes the HPC, it is subject to an internal Army review process. It is anticipated that the final draft of the HPC will be available for tribal and public review in fall

2006. The draft environmental assessment addressing the HPC will also be released for public review at this time. Copies will be mailed to participating tribes and will also be available on the internet. Tribes will have 30 days to review the documents and submit final comments. This will be the last comment review period prior to the publication of the final document. There will be a signing ceremony for those tribes interested in signing the HPC.

Military Munitions Response Program

The U.S. Army is the best-trained, best-equipped military fighting force in the world, primarily because they train to fight, under realistic battle conditions. There is no substitute for effective training. However, after years of training activity, unexploded ordnance (UXO), discarded military munitions (DMM) and munitions constituents (MC) are present at many historical ranges and sites.

The Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) was developed to manage the environmental, health, and safety issues presented by UXO, DMM and MC. MMRP is a new program element of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), under which the Secretary of Defense carries out environmental restoration resulting from historical activities. DERP, through the Installation Restoration Program, historically focused on constituents in environmental media (including explosive contaminants), but has not addressed either UXO or DMM on active installations. MMRP provides for the more focused response needed to address the challenges presented by sites containing UXO, DMM and MC.

The Department of Defense (DoD) established MMRP to better reflect the statutory program goals established for the DERP, to enhance the understanding of the nature of munitions response sites and to manage response activities more effectively. Since the DERP is intended to address environmental problems remaining from past practices, MMRP will not cover munitions responses for areas that operated after the fiscal year 2002.

Important Elements of MMRP are as follows:

- Requires DoD to establish and maintain an inventory of non-operational ranges and UXO, DMM, and MC sites that require a military munitions response;
- Establishes the requirements to identify, characterize, track, and report data on MMRP site and response;
- Requires a determination of risk to prioritize site cleanup and site-specific cost estimates to complete the response; and,
- Requires installations to program and budget for MMRP responses.

The Army has completed the Range/Site Inventory. Identified ranges and sites have been evaluated to determine their eligibility for MMRP, and site-specific data elements have been entered into a comprehensive site tracking and management database. The comprehensive range inventory will help the U.S. Army budget, manage, and integrate the factors that affect munitions management, including operations, fiscal, safety, environmental protection, restoration and installation management requirements.

MMRP sites will be prioritized using a risk management approach. Generally, those sites that present a greater relative risk to human health and safety or the environment will be addressed before sites that present less risk. Factors affecting prioritization include:

- Relative risk among sites;
- Results of health, safety or ecological risk assessments;
- Reasonably anticipated future land use;
- Availability of technology to address the site;

- Standing commitments in formal orders or agreements;
- Stakeholder concerns;
- Cultural, social and economic factor including environmental justice considerations;
- Economic considerations; and,
- Implementation and execution considerations.

For more information on the MMRP, please contact the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Public Affairs Office, at phone number (410) 436-2556 (e-mail: usaecpao@aec.apgea.army.mil).



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Seasonal Archaeology Jobs: Summer 2006

Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands

Colorado State University

Position: Archaeological Technician as part of U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska's Cultural Resources Program.

Location: Two archaeological technicians will be hired; one for work at **Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska** and one for work at **Donnelly Training Area, Delta Junction, Alaska**.

Duration: Two 6-week long positions are available between June 1st and August 30th (exact dates to be determined through consultation with supervisor). Crews typically work four 10 hour days each week.

Salary: Technicians will be paid \$12.19/hr

Job Description: Technicians will work with a field crew of four archaeologists to complete assigned work. Archaeological work on Fort Wainwright, adjacent to Fairbanks, will focus primarily on archaeological surveys of proposed projects. The Fairbanks-based field crew may also be completing survey projects on Fort Richardson adjacent to Anchorage. Archaeological work on Fort Wainwright's Donnelly Training Area, adjacent to Delta Junction, will focus on completing archaeological surveys of proposed project areas and the evaluation of sites for eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Typical duties of the job at all locations include: walking in forested environments, carrying a backpack for 10 hours a day, four days a week, identifying and recording archaeological sites, digging, kneeling and driving. Camping may be required for some projects. Per diem is provided when camping. No housing in, or transportation to Fairbanks or Delta Junction will be provided.

Qualifications: Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, be able to commit to the entire duration of the position, should have completed their junior year in high school, and have an interest in archaeology. Applicants must be in very good physical condition and:

1. Be able to walk long distances in adverse terrain and weather conditions, carrying all necessary supplies and equipment;
2. Be able to camp in remote areas for several days to a week at a time; and,
3. Be extremely flexible and able to work well with others.

Application Procedure: Submit (1) one letter of application, including a statement (250 words) explaining why you are interested in the position, your preferred work location (Fairbanks or Delta Junction), and noting how housing and transportation will be provided for, (2) a letter of recommendation, and (3) college transcripts if applicable.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by March 1, 2006. Qualified applicants may be contacted after the closing date to schedule and interview.

Submit applications to:
Directorate of Public Works
ATTN: IMPA-FWA-PWE (J.R. YAKOUBIAN)
1060 Gaffney Road #4500
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-4500

For more information, contact Julie Raymond-Yakoubian at 907-353-3002 or email at:
julie.raymondyakoubian@us.army.mil

Update on Battle Area Complex and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) is currently reviewing all comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the construction and operation of at Battle Area Complex (BAX) and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) and taking them into consideration during the preparation of a second or Supplemental Draft EIS. USAG-AK is preparing a Supplemental Draft EIS to evaluate an additional alternative location for the BAX and CACTF. In-depth

environmental field studies were conducted during the summer of 2005 and results will also be included in the Supplemental Draft EIS. In addition, wetland delineation and general wetland functional assessment information in the Supplemental Draft EIS was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District Regulatory Branch. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was invited by the Army to be a cooperating agency in the continued preparation of the EIS and Record of

Decision (ROD).

The anticipated publication date for the Supplemental Draft EIS is expected to be in the late spring of 2006. Tribes will receive a copy of the EIS and a meeting will be held with tribes to discuss the differences between the first and second EIS documents and to collect comments. The meeting is anticipated to be held between March 2006 and May 2006. Distribution of a final EIS can be expected in mid to late summer of 2006. The publication of the

ROD, which will outline the decision made and identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected, is anticipated to occur in September of 2006. A monitoring and enforcement program will also be developed for any mitigation associated with the construction and operation of a BAX and CACTF. Tribes will receive a copy of the Final EIS and Record of Decision and USAG-AK will discuss the decision with tribes at that time.

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