



# U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK)

## Quarterly Update for Alaska Native Tribes

### July 2004, Issue 1



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.

The U.S. Government and all federally recognized Tribal governments share a Government-to-Government relationship, emphasized in the issuance of Executive Order (EO) 13175, *Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments*, and the implementation of the Department of Defense (DoD) American Indian and Alaska Native Policy. This unique relationship is based upon a recognition of the inherent sovereignty of tribal governments, and the right of Indian tribes to self-government and self-determination. Tribal governments are considered "domestic dependent nations," that is, nations within a nation.

Based upon this Government-to-Government relationship, EO13175 and DoD policy requires the U.S. Army to support the policy of tribal self-determination by implementing an effective process to ensure meaningful and timely consultation with tribal governments during the development of policies that have potential tribal implications.

As Army withdrawn lands in Alaska hold resources and lands that were traditionally utilized by Alaska Native tribes, we realize that Alaska Native tribal governments will have a continued interest in the management of USAG-AK withdrawn lands and proposals. We realize that general and frequent consultation, outside of specific pressures of USAG-AK proposals, will be most advantageous to developing meaningful consultation with federally recognized tribes in Alaska. This newsletter is a part of our efforts to keep in communication with the Tribes and update Tribes on projects the Army is doing in Alaska.



Maria D.L. Coleman presents a necklace to COL Donna Boltz at Native Village of Eklutna



Lee Stephan, COE of Native Village of Eklutna talks with COL Donna Boltz in his office

Colonel Donna G. Boltz, Commander of the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska has recently been busy planning and attending various meet-n-greet visits to tribal governments and Alaska Native associations. One of COL Boltz' goals is visiting the villages to get to know people, learn more about Alaska Native culture and extend the hand of friendship from the Garrison Community. Many of the photos in the newsletter were taken during her meet-n-greet trips.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms. Amanda Shearer at phone (907) 384-3263, fax (907) 384-0283 (email: [Amanda.Shearer@richardson.army.mil](mailto: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.

## May 2004 Accomplishments

- ✓ May 5: USAG-AK held a tribal pre-scoping meeting in Fairbanks to discuss Army Ranges Upgrade Environmental Impact Statement
- ✓ May 11: Native Village of Eklutna hosted a meet-n-greet for USAG-AK personnel, including Garrison Commander Colonel Donna G. Boltz
- ✓ May 12: Tanana Chiefs Conference hosted a meet-n-greet for USAG-AK personnel, including Garrison Commander Colonel Donna G. Boltz
- ✓ May 14: USAG-AK coordinated report of an F-15 flyover Healy Lake Village with Alaskan Command and the Air Force

## June 2004 Accomplishments

- ✓ June 10: Army Ranges Upgrade Public Meeting in Delta Junction
- ✓ June 14: Army Alternate Procedures to Section 106 Tribal consultation in Fairbanks
- ✓ June 16: Army Ranges Upgrade EIS Scoping Meeting with Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ✓ June 16: Army Ranges Upgrade EIS Public Meeting in Fairbanks
- ✓ June 18: Army Alternate Procedures to Section 106 Tribal consultation in Anchorage



President Buddy Brown of Tanana Chiefs Conference  
and COL Donna Boltz

## Current Actions

- July 29-30: Trips to Healy Lake Village, Dot Lake Village, and Native Village of Tanacross
- August 4: Signing ceremony to celebrate a Memorandum of Agreement between the Native Village of Eklutna & USAG-AK
- Planning trip to Native Villages of Tazlina and Kluti Kaah
- Planning visits for tribal leaders and representatives to view an active training exercise on Army ranges

# Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement for Expansion of Range Projects within U.S. Army Training Lands in Alaska

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to assess the potential impact of the expansion of training ranges within U.S. Army Training Lands in Alaska. The proposed federal action to be discussed in this EIS is the impact of constructing a Battle Area Complex (BAX) and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF).

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide year-round fully automated, comprehensive, and realistic training facilities for U.S. Army Alaska and other units. The EIS will analyze impacts to U.S. Army Alaska, and U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska their associated ranges, facilities, infrastructure and the surrounding communities.

Proposed Alternatives to be considered would include:

- 1) No Action (maintain existing range infrastructure)
- 2) Eddy Drop Zone
- 3) Donnelly Drop Zone
- 4) North Texas Range
- 5) Tanana Flats
- 6) West Donnelly Training area
- 7) Yukon Training Area
- 8) Gerstle River
- 9) Black Rapids
- 10) Fort Richardson



Chief Jerry Isaac of Native Village of Tanacross talks with COL Donna Boltz, MAJ Dan Hunter, USAG-AK Public Affairs Officer, stands in background

**SCOPING PROCESS:** A pre-scoping meeting for tribes was held in Fairbanks on May 5, 2004. Public scoping meetings were held in Delta Junction on June 10, 2004 and in Fairbanks on June 16, 2004. Comments collected during the scoping period identifying potential impacts will be analyzed in the draft EIS, which is expected to be released in the fall of 2004. Once the draft EIS is released, there will be a public comment period of 45 days.



COL Boltz presents the Fort Richardson afghan to Maria D.L. Coleman at the Native Village of Eklutna

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# Army Alternative Procedures

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (Council) regulation 36 CFR Part 800 provides guidance for how federal agencies meet their Section 106 obligations in considering what affects their actions may have on historic properties, archaeological sites, and sites significant to Tribes. These regulations also provide federal agencies the opportunity to develop program alternatives to address how they will meet Section 106 in lieu of 36 CFR Part 800. The Department of the Army has prepared Alternative Procedures to 36 CFR Part 800 that have been approved by the Advisory Council on Historic Places.

The Army Alternate Procedures (AAP) approaches the management of historic properties and cultural resource issues programmatically, instead of on a project-by-project review as provided for in the Council's regulations. The AAP allows the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) to implement standard operating procedures for historic properties in our Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) and to implement actions for five years without formal project-by-project review. In 2002, USAG-AK elected to implement the AAP and notified all parties of its intent to do so.

Over the past two years, USAG-AK's Cultural Resources program has held a number of meetings with Tribes that have an interest in Army managed lands. Through these meetings, drafts of the Historic Properties Component (HPC) have been developed incorporating Tribal concerns and comments. The next draft of the HPC is expected out in mid-September 2004. Each Tribe will be provided 60 days to review and make comments. A review meeting will be held after that period in both Anchorage and Fairbanks with Tribes that have chosen to participate in this process.

Once the HPC is certified by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) as meeting Section 106 requirements, consultation on an individual project-by-project basis ends. Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties will be provided the opportunity to address project issues through the NEPA process, which includes scoping meetings and periods of public comment. Further opportunity to comment on USAG-AK's performance under the agreed to standard operating procedures will be provided through an annual review of performance. Tribes may also seek Government-to-Government consultation on issues that have the potential to effect tribal interests. The Government-to-Government relationship between federally recognized tribes and USAG-AK continues to exist regardless of how USAG-AK meets their Section 106 obligations.



Tribal meetings held in Fairbanks to discuss draft Historic Property Component of the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, November 2003

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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