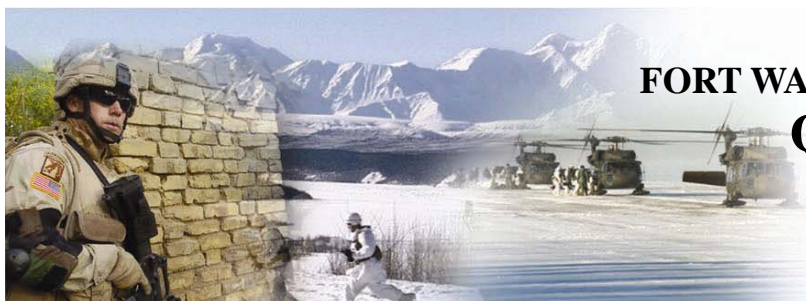


U. S. ARMY GARRISONS FORT WAINWRIGHT AND FORT RICHARDSON QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

April 2009, Issue 16



This is a quarterly update on USAG Fort Wainwright and Fort Richardson activities and issues of interest to federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

Tribal and Military Leaders Meet

The fifth Tribal-Military Leader Meeting (TMLM) was held December 9, 2008 at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. The meeting, sponsored by Alaskan Command (ALCOM), is an occasion for the top military leaders in the state to have face-to-face meeting time with the chairpersons, first chiefs, and presidents of Alaska's federally recognized tribes. It was held this year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Alaska Inter-tribal Council.

This year's meeting saw the top nine leaders of ALCOM and the Air Force, Missile Defense, National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Army, and Coast Guard meet with 26 of the state's tribal leaders.

The meetings occur every two years and give military leaders an opportunity to present the current state of their respective branches as well as a forecast for the following fiscal year's plans. Subject matter of interest to the Native community is focused upon. Topics include personnel numbers, 8(a) contract numbers, and forecasted growth. Tribal leaders have an opportunity to raise questions and concerns about military related issues as they effect the Native community.

A reception with refreshments and a performance by the Band of the Pacific followed the formal, closed-door meeting.

It is hoped that a greater understanding and a more helpful cooperative relationship can be created through this dialogue. The next Tribal-Military Leader Meeting should occur in 2010.



Please share this newsletter with your tribal and community members. Response from the tribes is a valuable part of improving USAG/tribal relations and continuing the government-to-government relationship.

Military Munitions Response Program: Historic Yukon River Activity Public Announcement

submitted by Joseph Malen, Remedial Program/
Project Manager, USAG-FWA

Historical information indicates that bombs ranging in size from 100 to 4,000 pounds were dropped by U.S. military personnel from 1942 through the 1960s to break up ice jams along the Yukon River between Ruby and Galena, Alaska, a distance of approximately 100 river miles. Unfortunately, records do not provide the exact coordinates of these historical target areas so there is no way to tell where fragments are or if unexploded bombs exist, or where they might be located. The potential area affected consists of approximately 109,441 acres along the main river and the immediate area around tributaries.

The Army is providing this information to all villages in the potentially affected area, as munitions debris may be encountered in the areas described above. The Army requests that if any person finds an unexploded bomb or large pieces of a bomb that might still contain explosive material, they stay away from the items, mark the area in some way so that it can be retrieved by the Army, and notify village personnel of the potential hazard. The Alaska State Troopers, or the USAG Native Liaison, should also be contacted. Under no circumstances should anyone try to touch or move the potential hazard. The military has Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts who are trained in disposing of the device in the proper manner.

Additionally, information about remnants of exploded devices encountered in the past is welcome. This information will help in mapping the area affected by this historical activity. A description of what was found and where it was found, or the GPS coordinate of the location, would be very helpful.

In addition to removing suspect items, the Army is also willing to provide on-site unexploded ordnance identification training for village councils and elders, other community groups, and school children, if requested. Training would include a review of sample photos, discussions regarding the hazards of unexploded ordnance, and how to report any suspicious items to the proper authorities.

If any village would like to review the available information or schedule training sessions, contact Elizabeth Cook at 907-361-6323.

MMRP Background

submitted by Joseph Malen, Remedial Program/
Project Manager, USAG-FWA

Over the years, the Department of Defense (DoD) has conducted live-fire training and testing of weapon systems at military installations throughout the United States to ensure force readiness. DoD has made great progress in addressing the potential hazards associated with former munitions-related activities at active and former military sites and is committed to continuing this effort.

In 2001, through direction provided by Congress, the DoD established the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), which is set out in 32 CFR Part 179. The goals of the MMRP are to manage environmental, health and safety issues presented by unexploded ordnance (UXO), discarded military munitions (DMM) or munitions constituents (MC), to enhance our understanding of the nature of the munitions sites and to manage response activities at these sites effectively.

Under the MMRP, DoD developed the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol (MRSP) to assign priorities to current and formerly used defense sites that potentially could contain UXO, DMM, or MC. This protocol helps determine the types of munitions that could be present; the current and potential future land uses; the ease of access to sites; and quantifies the number of people with access to sites. The assessments provided by the MRSP will help the U.S. Army budget, manage, and integrate safety and restoration requirements for these sites into its overall environmental clean-up program.

In accordance with the 32 CFR Part 179, *et. seq.*, and taking into consideration various factors relating to safety and environmental hazard potential, the U.S. Army and Fort Wainwright have evaluated several potential sites on the cantonment or in the surrounding area as follows:

Sites on the installation proper:

- o Airfield Firing-in-Butte
- o Arctic Survival Area – ski slope
- o Bayonet assault course
- o Donnelly Training Area rifle range
- o Hand grenade complex missile range
- o Pistol range
- o Solid waste landfill
- o Training Area 101
- o Training Area 105 (outside the boundary fence)
- o Training Area 107

Sites adjacent to or away from the installation proper:

- o Yukon River
- o Bombing area between Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely



M47 20lb. frag bomb pieces

↙ This information is available for public viewing at the Fort Wainwright Administrative Record located in Building 3023, Fort Wainwright, in accordance with the 32 CFR Part 179 requirements. If you have or would like additional information about the sites listed above or other potential MMRP Sites associated with Fort Wainwright, please contact the USAG Native Liaison.

Archaeological Tool Kit Coming Soon!

The Cultural Resources Management team and the Native Liaison program are creating an educational toolkit for distribution to fourth grade teachers from Delta to Northway. The kits are being created with the state educational content and performance standards for social studies kept in mind. The goal is to provide a resource that will be easy to use, will complement lesson plans already used by these teachers, and will assist in teaching local history and prehistory to local students.

This teacher resource will introduce the concept of archaeology in general, the methods archaeologists use to investigate history, and the prehistory of the area in and around Donnelly Training Area (DTA).

Through these topics, several cultural concepts will be introduced that relate artifacts found at DTA to the real lives of the students.

Each kit will include replicas of items found at Donnelly Training Area sites, small activities to lead learning, illustrative posters, and teacher reference materials. The goal is to illustrate how prehistoric life on the Donnelly Training Area land is similar to or different from life for the contemporary fourth graders.

Teacher input is strongly desired for this project. If a teacher in your community would be willing to consult on the project, please refer him or her to the USAG Native Liaison.

October 20, 2008 saw the 10-year anniversary of the Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy. It outlines the trust responsibilities, government-to-government relation protocol, consultation expectations, and natural and cultural resource protection obligations expected of each military branch. If your office needs a copy of the policy or its implementation guide, please contact the Native Liaison, 907-361-6323.



Section 106 Undertakings

The article is included as a quarter-to-quarter detail of the undertakings being done by the USAG-FWA and FRA's Cultural Resource Management team in response to the National Historic Preservation Act's (NHPA) Section 106.

Fort Richardson jurisdiction lands:

- Surveys will be done for the **Baumeister Power Road** upgrades, a project in the vicinity of Otter Lake.
- Discussion with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) over building surveys of the **cantonment area** is occurring.
- Consultation for the management of the **Nike Site Summit Historic District** is nearing completion with the Programmatic Agreement (PA) scheduled to be signed at the end of April after two years of development. This PA outlines a management strategy of selective retention of buildings within the District. Selective retention includes securing structures that are critical to the historical understanding of Site Summit and demolition of unused structures (with the retention of their foundations for interpretation).

Fort Wainwright jurisdiction lands:

- Multiple **cantonment construction and demolition projects** are scheduled to start this summer and run through 2010.
- USAG-FWA is working toward creating a PA for the **Aviation Stationing** project. The PA will outline measures to minimize and mitigate any adverse effects on historic resources, especially the World War II National Historic Landmark.
- Several small **archaeological surveys** within the Fort Wainwright cantonment are planned in preparation for construction of: 1) Stryker Mechanized Wash facility; 2) facilities to house the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron; and 3) RV parking facility.
- **Archaeological surveys** of three areas at **Yukon Training Area** are planned to assess areas planned for development of gravel sources.
- **Archaeological surveys** are planned at **Tanana Flats Training Area** in an initial assessment of the Pacific Area Range Complex (PARC) project. These efforts will entail survey of new areas in the Blair Lakes region, and several other areas in the vicinity of Wood River and Clear Creek.
- A draft monitoring and data recovery plan has been developed for the **Battle Area Complex (BAX) at Donnelly Training Area**. This document analyzes the potential impact of and mitigation needed for archaeological sites located near the range. Tribal consultation for this document will occur soon.
- The **Annual Report: Archaeological Survey and Evaluation, Donnelly Training Area, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 2008** has been completed. This document describes the past summer's field work at **Donnelly Training Area** and will be available soon.

Digital copies of this newsletter are available at :
<http://www.usarak.army.mil/dpw/index.cfm?pageinfo=2003>

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Notices

This block is provided as an easy-reference, quarter-to-quarter update of significant NEPA activity being managed by the USAG-FWA and FRA NEPA staff.

The Army has prepared the **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Stationing and Training of Increased Aviation Assets within U.S. Army Alaska** to analyze the impacts resulting from the reorganization and increase of existing aviation assets in Alaska. These actions will better support operational mission requirements while providing integrated aviation support to the training of USARAK Brigade Combat Teams (BCT). As part of this action, aviation units would potentially receive additional helicopter and manpower assets at Fort Wainwright (FWA), Fort Richardson (FRA) and other Eielson Air Force Base and would train on Army training lands in Alaska. Air operations would consist of routine air travel, individual and multiple aircraft training flights, aircraft tactical training and joint air-ground training activities.

The EIS discusses two stationing alternatives: an Aviation Task Force (710 Soldiers and 40 additional helicopters), and a Combat Aviation Brigade (2,360 Soldiers and 84 helicopters). Both alternatives include facility construction at FWA's cantonment. Under the proposed action, the frequency of helicopter training would be expected to increase, however, helicopters would train on military lands with no changes to existing airspace and no construction of training range facilities.

USARAK has historically supported training with helicopters, but the current assets are not sufficient to provide the training required by the modern BCT. Additional and varied aviation assets are needed in order to conduct realistic training that complies with training doctrines. Since 2006, USARAK has received additional Soldiers and helicopters on a temporary basis. The permanent stationing of these assets comprises the Proposed Action and is the focus of this DEIS.

Tribes are invited to comment on the DEIS by June 9, 2009. The public comment period will last for 45 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on April 24, 2009. The Army plans to hold three public comment meetings—in Anchorage on May 18, in Fairbanks on May 20, and in Delta Junction on May 21. Meeting time and locations will be announced in advance through the local news media. After April 24, the DEIS will be available for public review at libraries in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Delta Junction. It may also be viewed at http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/NEPA_home.htm

USAG and UTIC Hold 9th Quarterly

USAG-FWA and the tribes of the Upper Tanana Inter-tribal Coalition held their ninth quarterly meeting at the end of January in Tetlin. Topics of current and future Army activity were discussed including projects for the upcoming archaeology and biology field seasons and the latest news in mitigation activities at Tok and Sears Creek Fuel Terminals. A review of current NEPA projects was presented. Special guests from the Army Corps of Engineers also presented an update on issues surrounding the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline.

Thanks to all in Tetlin who hosted and attended. USAG representatives truly felt welcome and the soup was fantastic!



The field season is fast approaching and the Natural and Cultural Resources management staffs are hiring their seasonal field workers. See <http://www.cemml.colostate.edu/Jobs/cemmljob.htm> for job listings.

Directorate of Public Works
 Environmental Division
 ATTN: IMPC-FWA-PWE (Cook)
 1060 Gaffney Road #4500
 Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-4500

Archaeological Aide Training Offered

Archaeological aide training will be offered April 24-26 and May 1-3 at the Delta Career Advancement Center, Delta Junction, Alaska by USAG archaeologist Aaron Robertson. The course is a partnership between USAG and Partners for Progress in Delta, Inc. The purpose of the class is to introduce newcomers to archaeology and archaeological fieldwork. Those who successfully complete this coursework will be eligible to apply for aide positions with the Army and other agencies seeking entry-level fieldworkers, such as the National Park Service, UAF Museum, and Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Successful applicants who are hired and complete a season's fieldwork with on-the-job training for the Army will be eligible for employment advancement in future seasons as archaeological technicians.

Funding for housing during the class is available for out-of-town participants on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$15 reservation deposit is required at the time of application.

If you are interested in exploring a job in archaeology, applications are available from USAG Native Liaison Elizabeth Cook at 907-361-6323. Class size is limited so reserve your spot soon!