

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

July 2012, Issue 29

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

U.S. Army Alaska Welcomes New Commander



On May 17, 2012 Major General Raymond Palumbo relinquished command of U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) to Major General Michael X. Garrett at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson outside Anchorage. MG Garrett comes to Alaska from his most recent position as Deputy Chief of Staff for United States Forces-Iraq, Operation NEW DAWN.

MG Garrett's other previous assignments include command at the platoon, company, battalion, and brigade level and staff assignments at company through corps level. He commanded the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Richardson, Alaska, deploying in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Additionally, he served a tour deploying to Afghanistan as Chief of Current Operations, Combined Joint Task Force 180, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM; and three tours on Fort Bragg to include his most recent assignment.

MG Garrett is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry upon graduating from Xavier University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 1984. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Senior Service College Fellowship.

MG Garrett's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Ranger Tab.

MG and Mrs. Lorelei Garrett have two children, Samantha and Michael.



Archaeology Field Crews Hard at Work for Summer of 2012

The archaeology field crews at Fort Wainwright have another busy summer field season planned. During the summer of 2012, archaeology crews are:

- ~ Surveying areas around Molybdenum Ridge at Donnelly Training Area (DTA) for a new High Angle Marksmanship Range (HAMR) and for a proposed road leading from DTA East, around the DTA West impact areas, to the new HAMR range;
- ~ Evaluating several archaeological sites on Fort Wainwright and training areas for their significance and integrity, and determining whether protective measures need to be put in place to prevent disturbance of these sites by military and recreational activities;
- ~ Surveying areas in northwestern Yukon Training Area and eastern DTA for new archaeological sites; and
- ~ Working with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum of the North to teach high school students archaeological methods and analyses at the Big Lake archaeological site in DTA through the Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA) program.

Section 106 Update: Fort Wainwright Beacon Tower Determination and Demolition

submitted by Lisa Graham, USAG FWA Cultural Resource Manager



Fort Wainwright plans to demolish the three obstruction beacon towers located along Birch Hill north of the Fort Wainwright airfield. Demolition is scheduled because the towers are no longer used for obstruction identification by pilots and the towers have begun to deteriorate, creating a safety and maintenance hazard. No new construction is planned within the current footprint of the towers. Ground disturbance may occur from the heavy equipment used to demolish and move the towers, and an archaeological site (FAI-00043) is located under the eastern tower. The site consisted of a surface scatter of a burin and 11 chert flakes at the heavily disturbed base of the tower. Fort Wainwright conducted determinations of eligibility for the three towers and the archaeological site, finding none of the properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of the letter being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) detailing this project are being sent to interested tribes.

A Federal Agency Sends Your Tribe a 600-page EIS and Asks for Your Comment...

Now what do you do?!

- ~ Have you experienced turn over in tribal staff and leadership positions in the last few years?
- ~ Is your tribe the recipient of letters and other documents from federal agencies, asking for input regarding projects that involve the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, Section 106) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?
- ~ Would it help if your staff/leadership could attend a two-day workshop on NHPA and NEPA so that your tribe can better respond to these requests?

USAG FWA is gauging tribal government interest in a two-day workshop to assist tribal staff members in understanding what these laws are, how to respond to federal agency inquiries, and how NEPA actions and NHPA undertakings can effect tribal interests.

A similar training was held in 2007 and it may be time to hold another. If you think members of your staff might benefit from attending such a workshop, contact the USAG FWA Native Liaison Elizabeth Cook at (907) 361-6323 or elizabeth.a.cook80.ctr@mail.mil and express your interest!

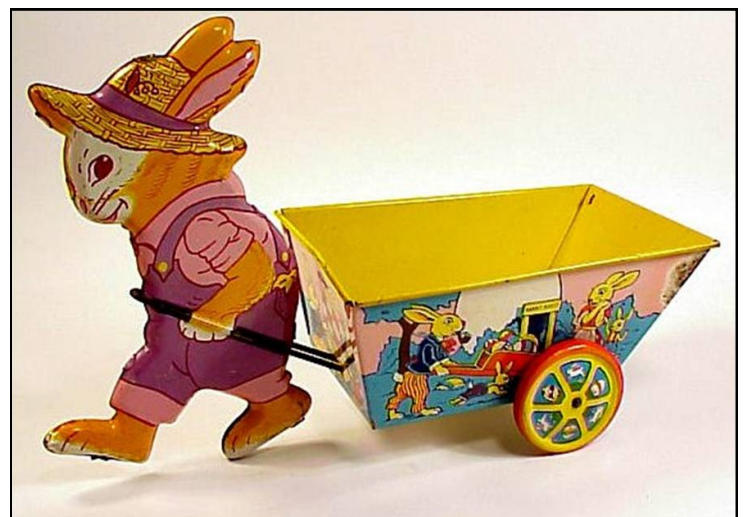
Artifact from Jarvis Creek is Reminder of Past Visitors

submitted by Julie Esdale, USAG FWA Archaeologist

Editor note: This newsletter frequently showcases artifacts from prehistoric era sites on Army-managed lands. Occasionally some interesting historic objects are discovered during excavations, adding to the timeline of knowledge about these areas.



This little guy was discovered at a historic archaeological site in Donnelly Training Area on the banks of Jarvis Creek. This domestic site also contained distinctive Hills Brothers coffee cans and pull-tab beer cans that were used to date the site to the early 1950s. The occupants of this site may have visited the nearby Sullivan Roadhouse or Rika's Roadhouse which were operating at the same time. This camp may also have been associated with work crews on the Alaska highway who frequently camped in the area.



This particular artifact is a lithographed tin Easter toy by Chein. It was made in the United States around 1930.

Alaskan Military Primer—Do you know who the players are?

Department of Defense forces in Alaska include more than 22,000 Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine personnel and 4,700 Guardsmen and Reservists. For those not associated with the military, it can be confusing to understand the workings of Alaska's military components. Some key organizations that might have contact with tribal governments include the following.

Alaskan Command (ALCOM)



ALCOM is the subordinate unified command under U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) responsible for integrating military activities within Alaska. It is headquartered at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), outside Anchorage. It is commanded by the three-star Air Force general who is also commander of the 11th Air Force.

U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK)



USARAK is the military command of the Army in the state. It is a subordinate command of U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC). It is commanded by a two-star general located at JBER, with a colonel as deputy commander at Fort Wainwright. USARAK troops are stationed at JBER and Fort Wainwright. Units include the 4-25 Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 1-25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade (part), 2nd Engineer Brigade, and others.

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright (USAG FWA)



Different from the military mission side of the Army, the garrison manages all installation-based activities under the Installation Management Command (IMCOM). As with garrisons elsewhere, USAG FWA is responsible for Soldier and Family member support and manages all installation functions and equipment that is not mission-related. The USAG FWA commander is a colonel. Formerly there was also a garrison structure at Fort Richardson, but those functions were assumed by JBER once joint-basing occurred (see below).

11th Air Force (11AF)



11AF is the military command of the Air Force in Alaska under Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). It is commanded by the same three-star general who commands ALCOM and is headquartered at JBER. Units include 3rd Wing, 477th Fighter Group, 354th Fighter Wing, 611th Air and Space Operations Center, 611th Air Support Group, and others.

673d Air Base Wing (673ABW)



On July 30, 2010, the 673ABW was activated to perform the combined installation management functions of Elmendorf Air Force Base's 3rd Wing and U.S. Army Garrison Fort Richardson when JBER was created as a joint base. It now supports the Air Force and tenants (which include USARAK and National Guard, among others) headquartered at JBER, their personnel and family members. 673ABW is commanded by an Air Force colonel.

Air National Guard



The 168th Air Refueling Wing employs both active duty and civilian personnel and is the only refueling wing in PACAF. It is stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, with some component at Clear Air Force Station. The unit transfers more fuel than any other Air National Guard tanker wing.



The 176th Wing is one of the largest and most active wings in the Air National Guard. Its mission includes combat search and rescue, tactical airlift, strategic airlift, air control, and rescue coordination. It is based out of JBER with an additional detachment at Eielson Air Force Base.

Army National Guard



Alaska's Army National Guard has both federal and state responsibilities, being a component of the Army and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. In peacetime, the forces are commanded by the governor through a State Adjutant General. Units can be called into action for local or state-wide emergencies. Additionally, the President can activate the National Guard to participate in federal missions. Units are trained and equipped as part of the Army and their forces consist of combat, combat support, and combat service support units. Guard units stationed around the state include the 38th Troop Command comprised of military police, aviation, and other units; 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade; Joint Forces Headquarters; and missile defense battalions. Many sub-units with specialized missions are under these units.

Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service Reach Reimbursement Agreement

submitted by Al Grunin, VA Outreach Specialist

On behalf of the Fairbanks Vet Center, we hope you're enjoying our short but sweet Alaskan summer. As you know, our country is paying more attention to veterans' needs, and occasionally, we do see improvements in services and benefits. I encourage all of Alaska's veterans, including our Alaska Native veterans, to contact and maintain communication with their Vet Centers. These centers continue to provide valuable counseling services, and maintain information about current changes in benefits.

In recent news pertaining to veterans, Senator Begich's office recently announced an agreement between the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This agreement allows IHS to receive reimbursement from the VA for healthcare costs incurred by veterans. This important agreement means more and more eligible veterans living in remote communities can receive medical services from local IHS clinics, eliminating some of the travel to Fairbanks or Anchorage when services can be provided by their home clinics. Rural veterans must register with the VA for this reimbursement. By using veteran's healthcare benefits, veterans are aiding IHS in recouping dollars. Check with your local IHS clinic to ensure that it is included in this initial agreement, as some clinics may not be.

In other news, Fairbanks hosted the Vietnam Moving Wall display during the first week of June. Fairbanks is always honored to host the wall. After the Alaska Native Veterans Association posted colors, the names of the fallen were read. In July, I will have information available at the Midnight Sun Intertribal Powwow, July 13-15 and the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, July 18-21. Lastly, the annual Stand Down, will be held at the Civic Center in Pioneer Park. Clothing distribution will occur on Friday, August 17 and free services are reserved for veterans on Saturday, August 18. If you or someone you know in Fairbanks attends, make sure to bring proof of military service.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and don't forget to contact your local Vet Center and ensure you're registered to enable you to use the benefits you've earned.

Allen Grunin is a retired, 22-year service veteran who works with the Fairbanks Vet Center, assisting all veterans, especially Alaska Native veterans, in utilizing earned benefits.

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

For more on USAG FWA or to get reports you see mentioned in this newsletter, go to www.wainwright.army.mil/env/.

Issues of this newsletter are mailed to tribal administrators and tribal leaders. Address corrections are requested. Thanks.