



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

July 2010, Issue 21

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

## Need Equipment? DLA Can Help!

The Department of Defense has a clearing house in place to dispose of its excess materiel — from tents to treadmills, from bulldozers to bunny boots. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)—formerly called the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service or DRMS—operates Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services (formerly DRMOs) in Anchorage and Fairbanks. DLAs collect excess items from all of Alaska’s military installations and process them for sale and donation to other government entities and, after a time, for public auction.

Items sent to the DLAs are available for reacquisition by other DoD agencies for two weeks. Following that for 60 days, the same items are available to other qualified governmental agencies, including tribal governments, BIA, and IHS. Items must be viewed at their location and “frozen” while paperwork is processed. This system does not guarantee an item will go to a specific entity, but it puts the entity in line to acquire the object.

Once items are available for acquisition by governmental agencies, they can be viewed on the DLA website [www.drms.dla.mil/rtd03/index.shtml](http://www.drms.dla.mil/rtd03/index.shtml). Searches can be done by object type/category or by location.

On day 61, items that have not been “frozen” are put up for donation to governmental agencies. Once the donation period is over, the items are put out for auction to the general public.

Items available for sale to the public can be viewed on the GSA auction site [www.govliquidation.com](http://www.govliquidation.com).

To learn more about the DLA system, explore [www.drms.dla.mil/index.shtml](http://www.drms.dla.mil/index.shtml).

Upon completion of the paperwork to acquire items, tribes will pay the cost of the item (dramatically reduced from the new price) and any costs associated with transporting it to a desired location.

To qualify for access to the DLA system, tribes must have an open account—a non-closed contract for road or Johnson O’Malley or other funds—with the BIA. Tribes must request, in writing, an AAC number from BIA Self-Determination offices. BIA will then produce a letter that is filed with the proper authorities to access the General Services Administration system.

To begin the process or get more information, tribes can contact or Darryl Guthrie (Juneau) at 907-586-7594, [Darryl.Guthrie@BIA.gov](mailto:Darryl.Guthrie@BIA.gov) or Dee Ayotte (Anchorage) at 907-271-4086. 7

Once the BIA has assisted the tribe in acquiring its necessary documentation, tribal representatives should contact the Reutilization, Transfer, and Donation (RTD) specialist at either location and make an appointment to screen the inventory. In Anchorage the RTD specialist can be reached at 907-552-0245. In Fairbanks, the RTD number is 907-353-1160.

All tribes can access either location. Both DLAs are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 am and 12:00 to 3:30 pm for viewing items. Directions to the facilities and instructions for access can be acquired by phoning the RTD specialist at each location.

Some tribes are already taking advantage of this system, acquiring passenger vans, medical equipment, bulldozers, and household furnishings for flood relief. Inventory always changes and there are bargains to be had. If your tribe doesn’t already, please take advantage of this resource. For more information, contact the USAG Native Liaison, Elizabeth Cook at 907-361-6323.

## USARAK Change of Command, 12 July 2010



On 12 July 2010, command of U.S. Army Alaska was transferred from Major General William J. Troy to Brigadier General Raymond P. Palumbo.

BG Palumbo comes to Alaska from assignment at Fort Bragg where he served as Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

BG Palumbo hails from Windber, Pennsylvania and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1981.

He has served at Fort Bliss; Fort Campbell; Hunter Army Airfield; Giebelstadt (Germany); Kirtland Air Force Base; Balad (Iraq); and MacDill Air Force Base.

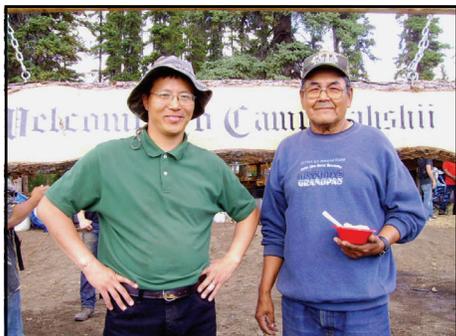
His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He is a Master Army Aviator and wears the parachutist, pathfinder, and air assault badges.

BG Palumbo and his wife, Alice, have four children.

## Fort Wainwright Chapel Team Contributes Time in Beaver, Alaska

(courtesy of USAG FWA Public Affairs Office, excerpted from *Alaska Post*)

While fishing, boating, camping and exploring are common excursions for vacationers here, spending a week in the wilderness of the northern Yukon River, working more than 12 hours a day on grueling tasks like hauling logs from the water and clearing layers of untouched brush to benefit people they will never meet will most likely not top the lists of those flocking to the Last Frontier this summer. But hard work and wilderness conditions did not scare away the 19 Soldiers, family members and civilian employees from Fort Wainwright who recently gave a week of their time, blood, sweat and tears to help Alaska Natives in the Interior. Fort Wainwright's garrison chapel community sponsored a mission trip June 20 to 26 to help expand a camp for Native youth north of Beaver, Alaska. The purpose of the trip was not just to build a camp, but also to build relationships. "I think anytime that we go into a (different) culture and interact on their ground and on their terms there are definitely some strong bonds built," according to Maj. Dan Hart, chapel outreach coordinator.



Traditional Chief Paul Williams, Sr. with Chaplain Lee

The chapel group joined with This Generation Ministries (TGM) who operates Camp Nahshii, a summer camp for Native youth. Although TGM is out of North Pole, ministry workers built a camp in a remote area on the Yukon River, 10 to 20 miles north of Beaver, to reach the youth and families of six Interior Native villages. "We're kind of going along with exactly what that ministry did in going to the people rather than inviting them to come to us and take part in what we're doing," Hart explained. "I feel like some bonds will be built and strengthened later on." The mission of Camp Nahshii— *Camp Healing*, in English— to bring the message of hope to Native youth who have seen a rise in suicide rates in recent years, struck a chord with the chapel community, said Lt. Col. David A. VanderJagt, garrison chaplain.

"They named the site Camp Nahshii because obviously they are hoping that people will catch the vision that even when things are hard there are people who care and love them." The biggest needs TGM staff had were not for ministers to work with the youth, but for laborers to work and build up the camp. "We did exactly what we thought we were going to do," VanderJagt said. "We knew we were not going to be working directly with Alaska Natives; that was not our purpose. Ours was to prepare a place for them to go. That was worth the effort, knowing that it's going to be used for a good cause."

The chapel group tackled projects including building an emergency landing helipad, constructing a "low ropes" obstacle course, clearing a trail to the river, and even clearing trees and logs from the lake so a seaplane can land. "I've never been on a mission trip before," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tom Fritz. "It wasn't a wasted week. We worked hard and did a lot of good work. You could see that the stuff we did was going to have an effect on the people visiting (the camp) in the future."

Another byproduct from the trip was the effect that the experience had on each participant, VanderJagt said. From testing their own mettle in the wilderness of the Yukon River and living in austere conditions to eating unfamiliar foods like bear stew and moose gravy and biscuits, the experience was a first for many of the participants, particularly the teenagers. As the group left for their journey, Hart said he hoped their experience would do even more than provide improvements for the camp and expose the Wainwright group to new living conditions and food, but would also change their lives. "I hope that they will realize there is a world out there that is not plush and comfortable like our own and there are people living in it and people who need to hear about Jesus; there are people who need help, and my hope – especially for the young guys, the (eight) teenagers going – is that their eyes will be opened just to realize that they are blessed and that God wants to use them to minister and to serve people to the ends of the earth whether it be 120 miles north of here or the other side of the ocean," he said.

Participating in mission trips, including one like this that encompassed hard work and challenging living conditions, is something teenagers need to experience, said Jonathan Franklin, 17. "For me, this helped (me see) my own world I see every day with school and church and opened my eyes to see other peoples' problems, like the Native peoples," he said. "It broadens your perspective." Franklin said this experience also convinced him that he can make a difference. "This showed me how doing something small like building the low ropes course I built will affect people for as long as the camp is running," he said.

While the 19 participants completed the work during their week on the Yukon River, Hart said the project was definitely a chapel-wide effort. "There were a lot of people from the chapel who donated time, money and materials to make this trip a reality. There are also people who wrote notes of encouragement to the team that went and a lot of people prayed for the team that went. In total it has been a congregation-wide effort, not just the effort of a few people," he said. The chapel community plans to partner with TGM and Camp Nahshii again in the future and to continue seeking more outreach opportunities. "The goal of the outreach ministry is to involve the people of the chapel in outreach that both meets the needs of the church and the larger community and also develops a sense of service within the congregation," Hart explained.



Unloading the boats at Camp Nahshii

## 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 and FRA Cultural Resource Manager.*

### Fort Richardson (FRA) jurisdiction lands:

- This summer's fieldwork at FRA was completed in May. It focused on Section 106 surveys for seven projects in relatively small (<5 acres) areas, all located on the main post cantonment area and Arctic Valley. One prehistoric site (FAI-03334) was identified while surveying snow telemetry sites (SNOTEL) that will be operated this winter. The site consists of an isolated boulder spall tool found eroding out of a cut bank. The site is located outside the undertaking's area of effect and, as no ground-disturbance is planned, will suffer no adverse effects.
- The *Annual Report: Archaeological Survey and Data Recovery, Fort Richardson, Alaska 2009* is complete.

### Fort Wainwright (FWA) jurisdiction lands:

- Construction projects scheduled within the FWA cantonment and requiring Section 106 consultation include: renovation of buildings 3004 and 4070, installation of a GPS receiver on Hangar 3, construction of a pedestrian bridge from building 3033 to the parking lot of building 3008, and installation of bollards for building 2077. Archaeological surveys were completed in May for two other projects— bike trails and golf course clubhouse. No prehistoric sites were found in either area of effect.
- Interior building surveys of all historic buildings on FWA are currently being done.
- YTA fieldwork includes survey for 10 potential development zone (PDZ) projects entailing approximately 4,500 acres. To date, roughly 3,750 acres have been surveyed and two prehistoric sites have been identified. The first was a potential rockshelter near North Beaver Creek. This site appears similar to the rockshelter identified last summer near FP 8, and adds to the growing body of evidence that potentially demonstrates longer-term prehistoric occupation in the YTA uplands than previously believed. The second site is isolated flake-stone debitage near FP 12.
- At TFTA, roughly 50 acres has been surveyed near Blair Lakes, identifying four prehistoric sites. All are comprised of flake-stone debitage, broken stone tools, and fragments of large-mammal long bones.
- The first round of monitoring 136 prehistoric archaeological sites located in the BAX SDZ at DTA is complete. No adverse effects to the archaeological sites resulting from the use of the BAX range were identified.

## USAG FRA Signs MOA with Eklutna

On 18 May 2010, Colonel Timothy Prior and Native Village of Eklutna Vice President Maria Coleman met to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between USAG FRA and the federally recognized tribe.

The MOA is a follow-up document to an original MOA signed in 2004. The MOA formalizes the relationship between the federal agency and the tribe and documents aspects of the partnership that already exist as well as some areas of expansion in the government-to-government relationship.

Collaborative projects that have benefitted both parties have been facilitated through the MOAs. Projects such as a culturally significant site survey of Fort Richardson lands and Eklutna's contributions to the cultural resources and subsistence sections of the *Resumption of Year-round Firing Opportunities at Fort Richardson, Alaska Draft Environmental Statement*.

Native Village of Eklutna hosted the signing event, including a reception for Army representatives, Eklutna Tribal Council members, and Eklutna staff members. USAG FRA thanks Native Village of Eklutna for its continued partnership and hospitality.



## Good Tribal Relations Build Working Partnership and Evolve the NEPA Process

During development of the *Resumption of Year-round Firing Opportunities at Fort Richardson, Alaska Draft EIS*, the Native Village of Eklutna Culture Committee participated as a subject matter expert. Culture Committee members reviewed, edited, and authored portions of the cultural resources and subsistence sections of the draft EIS, lending their expertise at a very early stage in the process. It was an unprecedented level of participation from a tribe in the Army's NEPA process.

This increased level of participation gets to the heart of the meaning of NEPA – better decisions. Carrie McEnteer, the Army's NEPA Branch Chief, characterizes such stakeholder involvement this way: "It goes above and beyond just participating in scoping or commenting on a draft document. Allowing tribes and agencies to participate in the development of baseline data and impact analysis creates a holistic view of potential outcomes for the decision-maker to consider. Ultimately, better-informed decisions will result. The extent of Eklutna's involvement in development of this EIS has proved very successful and it's a level of participation we should keep striving for."

Public, agency and tribal comment meetings for the *Resumption of Year-round Firing Opportunities at Fort Richardson, Alaska Draft EIS* were held in the Anchorage area April 13-14. The Final EIS is currently scheduled to be available in October 2010.

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## Watch for Convoys (courtesy of USAG FWA Public Affairs Office)

Motorists on the Richardson Highway between Fairbanks and Delta Junction may encounter convoys of military vehicles for the remainder of the summer. Officials expect the convoys — some of them consisting of large groups of vehicles pending Alaska Department of Transportation approval — to be on the highway through October.

Their maximum speed is 45 miles per hour. The convoys are instructed to travel in groups no longer than 200 feet long and to allow space for passing vehicles to get in. Drivers are instructed to pull over when more than five vehicles are stacked up behind them when there is a safe spot to do so. All civilian motorists are asked to pass the convoys with caution.

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

\*OFFICIAL BUSINESS\*

We welcome corrected recipient information. Issues are mailed to tribal administrators and tribal leaders.

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

Thank you.