



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

February 2007, Issue 9

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

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR TRIBES SAVE THE DATE!

USAG-AK will host "Government-to-Government Relationship Building" training for tribal representatives and Army/Department of Defense (DoD) personnel in Fairbanks on **February 27 – March 1, 2007**. This training is similar to the training that was hosted by the 611th Air Support Group in March of 2006. There will be different speakers covering new topics and attendance is highly encouraged, even for those that have attended similar training in the past. The goal of the training is to help Army/DoD employees and tribes in Alaska understand the government-to-government working relationship. It also promotes inter-cultural communication between the DoD and tribes. The most important benefits of the training are the ideas, experiences, and lessons learned and shared between Army/DoD personnel and federally recognized tribal participants. USAG-AK will pay for travel reimbursement for up to two tribal representatives to attend and there is no registration fee. Amanda Shearer has sent training invitations to tribal offices, please save these dates to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Haines Restoration Advisory Board

The Haines Fuel Terminal Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at the Chilkat Center Lobby in Haines on the evening of October 16, 2006. Attendees included USAG-

AK staff, a representative of the Corps of Engineers, contractors from CH2M Hill, and members from the Haines community, including a tribal representative of the Chilkoot

Indian Association.

The military built the Haines Fuel Terminal in 1955, which served as the take-off point for the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline. The Army operated the terminal from 1955-1971 supplying fuel to interior Alaska, after which Defense Fuels used it as a reserve fuel storage facility until 1988, when the military shut down the facility.

Fuel handling operations at the Haines Fuel Terminal led to various petroleum-related compounds reaching soil and groundwater at several locations within the tank farm. Site investigation initiated under the Installation Restoration Pro-

gram (IRP) began in 1992, and consisted of studies and investigation of areas of concern on the terminal. These studies identified the presence of petroleum contaminants in soil, surface water, and groundwater; subsequent investigations confirmed off-site migration of petroleum contaminants was occurring in an isolated Paleochannel in the middle of the site. Remedial actions and treatment of various areas have occurred.

The Army is currently investigating and treating three active remedial areas: a geological feature that is referred to as the Paleochannel; the Tanani



Haines Fuel Terminal.

Revisions to USAG-AK's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) is revising its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the period of 2007 through 2011. The INRMP establishes policies, programs and practices that USAG-AK will use to manage military and nonmilitary use of Army withdrawn training lands in Alaska. The INRMP also guides 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. 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 have been promoted throughout the development of the proposed plan by way of newspaper notices, questionnaires, newsletters, and consultation. Tribal pre-scoping sessions were held in Anchorage on December 12, 2005 and in Fairbanks on December 13, 2005. Scoping meetings and review sessions have been held with interested parties. The draft INRMP was released for tribal and public review on December 17, 2006 for thirty days and the final plan should be in place by February 1, 2007.

RAB: Haines

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Burn Pit; and, the Former Drum Storage Area.

The Army convened a RAB in 1997 to communicate with the public about on-site activities and hear the public's concerns associated with the site and its cleanup. Originally, the RAB was held quarterly, but later it was determined that semi-annual meetings would be sufficient due to the decrease of activities at the site.

During the October 16th meeting, Amanda Shearer briefly discussed USAG-AK's government-to-government program and how she can be a resource to the Chilkoot Indian Association.

Mr. Ed Warren, Haines, RAB Community Co-Chair, provided a summary of his trip to attend the RAB Roundtable that was held in Anchorage last February during the Alaska Forum on the Environment.

Therese Deardorff, USAG-AK, gave an update on performance based contracting and Jeremy Blei, CH2M Hill, gave an update on current restoration activities at the site.

There were some questions and discussion from RAB members and the general public. RAB members discussed possible meeting dates for the next meeting, which will be scheduled for the spring of 2007, and the meeting was adjourned.

ALASKA TRIBAL AND MILITARY LEADERS MEETING IV



Alaskan Command
Elmendorf Air Force Base
November 29, 2006

Colonel Dave Shutt participated in the fourth Tribal Military Leader's Meeting hosted by the Alaskan Command (ALCOM) on November 29, 2006. The event was held on Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Quarterly Meetings with Upper Tanana Tribes

USAG-AK has been meeting with representatives of tribes in the Upper Tanana region and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a quarterly basis since October of 2005. The meetings are hosted in the villages, which allow Army personnel to gain an understanding of life in rural Alaska. The meetings also provide an opportunity for tribes to learn about upcoming and ongoing Army activities and projects in Alaska.

The 4th quarterly meeting was held in Eagle Village on August 14, 2006, which began with a salmon lunch hosted by former chief Isaac Juneby and his wife Sandi. Discussion topics included:

- The record of decision (ROD) and mitigation measures for the Battle Area Complex and Combined Arms Collective Training Facility.
- Surface water sampling at the Gerstle River Test Site.
- The Military Munitions Response Program, which is managed by the Army Environmental Center.
- USAG-AK's draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP), which covers Fort Richardson, Fort Wainwright and the Donnelly Training Area.
- Alaska District Corps of Engineers' work on the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline, including site sampling planned to occur during the summer of 2007.
- Alaska District Corps of Engineers' Tribal Liaison Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for government-to-government consultation, which mandates that project and program managers within the Corps contact tribes that may be affected by their projects.



Meeting attendees in Northway on December 5, 2006.

The 5th Quarterly meeting was held in Northway on December 5, 2006. Topics discussed at the meeting include:

- Early notification of USAG-AK's upcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the reorganization of existing aviation units at Fort Wainwright. There are no planned changes to current military operations areas or current flight corridor.
- Copies of USAG-AK's Draft INRMP were distributed. The goal is to have the final INRMP signed by February 2007.
- An update and report on the archaeological excavation and data recovery project occurring at the Battle Area Complex site on the Donnelly Training Area (Site XMH-00874). Two upcoming field trips/site visits to be held for tribes in 2007.
- Dihthaad Environmental Global, LLC, is conducting a traditional cultural properties and sacred sites study of the Donnelly Dome Area.
- Updates on Corps of Engineers FUDS activities on the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Corridor and site eligibility determinations for the CANOL No. 4 Pipeline and the Alaska Highway.
- Department of Defense Instruction Number 4710.02 entitled "DoD Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes" dated September 14, 2006 was distributed. There are no vast differences between the Instruction and DoD American Indian/Alaska Native Policy signed by the Secretary of Defense in 1998.



Colonel Dave Shutt, U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Commander, presents Isaac Juneby, former Chief of Eagle, with a U.S. Flag at Eagle Village on August 14, 2006.

Introducing Meg Thornton, USAG-AK's New Cultural Resource Manager

The U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska welcomes Ms. Meg Thornton as their new cultural resources manager. We asked her to introduce herself, and this is what she had to say:

"Hi – my name is Meg Thornton and I'm the Cultural Resource Manager for U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. I received my B.A. in Archaeology from Washington University in St. Louis and my M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Fairbanks. I fell in love with Alaska while studying in Fairbanks – it's history and

it's people – and I've been trying to get back ever since. However until I found a job here, I've been working in cultural resource management throughout the country based in New Orleans, Minneapolis, and most recently Moab, Utah.

My previous work in Alaska led me to various summer destinations; Coldfoot, along the Innoko River, up near Atigan Pass, McGrath, and one sum-

mer I was able to spend the weekends traveling and salmon fishing. I'm thrilled to be back in Alaska and I love spending time at my cabin in Fairbanks with my 7-month old standard poo-

dle, Phineus. I'm looking forward to my first halibut fishing trip this coming July with my sister and getting back to that salmon fishing."



Meg and Phineus arrive in Alaska.

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