

## 4.0 ARMY-WIDE EXEMPTED UNDERTAKINGS

### 4.1 Army-Wide Exempt Undertakings

There are Army-wide exemptions for undertakings where there is an imminent threat to human health and safety as presented in the [AAPs](#) (Section 4.5(a)(3)):

- In-place disposal of unexploded ordnance; or
- Disposal of ordnance in existing open burning/open detonation units; or
- Emergency response to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants;
- *Impact areas and surface danger zones when active; or*
- Military activities in existing designated surface danger zones (SDZs); SDZs are temporary in nature and only active during training activities. The exemption will apply to designated impact/dud areas, areas with unexploded ordnance, and SDZs only when actively utilized for training.

Undertakings addressed through a fully executed nationwide Programmatic Agreement or other Program Alternative executed in accordance with [36 CFR § 800.14](#) of [Section 106](#) regulations, a Program comment, of a Memorandum of Agreement will be exempt.

### 4.2 Areas of USAG-AK that are Exempt from Archaeological Inventory

Some areas of [USAG-AK](#) will be exempted from archaeological inventory requirements during the planning period due to low site potential or limited potential for mission impact.

- **Impact Areas:** Designated impact areas contain unexploded, anti-personnel ordnance and are off-limits to cultural resources management.

**Cantonment / Developed Areas:** The cantonment area is the central, developed portion of an installation. Fort Richardson's cantonment contains 568 buildings, covers 5,760 acres and includes most areas not part of training or impact areas (Center for Ecological Management of Military Lands, 1998a). On Fort Richardson, the high level of disturbance from development means that most of the cantonment has negligible potential to contain archaeological sites that have integrity. However, isolated portions of the

cantonment, notably near Ship Creek and northeast of Camp Carroll, remain relatively undisturbed and may be suitable for survey. At Fort Wainwright, the cantonment area may contain archaeological remains related to earlier homesteads and is, therefore, not excluded from survey. *There may be times that USAG-AK must respond to disasters or emergencies that affect the operations and missions of the installations. These emergencies can be both natural or in response to situations that result from human events. This may also include those actions necessary to respond to a threat to national security, including short-term mission essential activities for deployable troops. SOP 12.3 outlines how emergency actions will be addressed by the CRM.*

#### **4.3 Land Management Undertakings under the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans**

*The Cultural Resources Manager* identifies land management activities that will have no effect on cultural resources:

- Maintenance work on existing features, such as roads, fire lanes, mowed areas, active disposal areas and manmade ditches, waterways, and ponds, when no new ground disturbance is proposed.
- Outdoor recreation programs including hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive uses in accordance with Fort Richardson and Army regulations.
- The following natural resources management activities: tree plantings *within cantonment areas*, planting and maintenance of wildlife food and shrub plots in previously disturbed areas, *and* prescribed burning of *existing and active* rangeland.
- Removal and replacement, in kind, of plant materials when they pose an imminent hazard to people or structures.

#### **4.4 Maintenance and Repair of Historic Buildings**

Certain activities performed as part of the maintenance and repair of historic buildings will have minimal effect on the historic buildings. These actions are described below in SOP 2.