DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CONSTRUCTION OF A BATTALION OPERATIONS FACILITY AND TWO COMPANY OPERATIONS FACILITIES, FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Summary 1
II. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action 2
A. Purpose and Need 2
B. Objectives 2
III. Proposed Actions and Alternatives 2
A. Alternatives Considered and Rejected 3
B. Reasonable Alternatives 4
IV. Description of the Affected Environment 5
A. Environmental Baseline Study 5
B. Superfund (CERCLA) Status of Fort Wainwright 6
C. Physical Factors 6
1. Air Quality 6
a. Refrigeration/Air Conditioning 8
b. Heating System 8
c. Standby Electrical 8
d. Fueling/Defueling 8
2. Noise 8
3. Water Quality/Wetlands 9
4. Geology/Topography 9
5. Meteorology 10
6. Special Concerns 10
a. Building Foundation 10
b. Floodplain 10
c. Environmental Justice 11
d. Environmental health risks/children safety risks 11
D. Biological and Ecological Factors 11
1. The Aquatic Environment 11
2. The Terrestrial Environment – Vegetation 11
3. The Terrestrial Environment – Wildlife/Endangered Species 11
E. Cultural, Land Use and Socioeconomic Factors 12
1. Cultural Resources 12
2. Land Use 14
a. Recreational Use 14
b. Aesthetics 14
3. Socioeconomic 14
V. Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action and Alternatives 15
A. Direct Impacts 15
1. Air Quality 15
2. Noise 15
B. Indirect Impacts 16
1. Surface and Groundwater Quality 16
2. Natural Resources 16
C. Cumulative Impacts 18
1. Cantonment Area 18
2. Air Quality 18
3. Natural Resources 19
a. Wildlife and Vegetation 19
b. Recreation 19
4. Cultural Resources 19

VI. Mitigation 20
A. BOF/COF 20
1. Architecture 20
2. Engineering 20
3. Snow Removal 20
4. Soils 20
5. Parking Lot 20
6. Air Quality 21
7. Timber 21
8. Accidents/Spills 21
9. Cultural Resources 21
B. Alternative B 21
C. Alternative C 21
VII. Conclusion 22
VIII. Notice of Public Availability and Public Comment Period 23
IX. Contacts 24
A. Environmental Assessment Preparers/Editors 24
B. Persons contacted USARAK Env/Engineering 24
C. List of Agencies and External Persons Contacted 25
X. References 25
XI. Common Abbreviations 28
XII. Recommendation for a Finding of No Significant Impact 28
XIII. Appendix A – Record of Non-Applicability 30
XIV. Appendix B – USFWS Correspondence 31
XV. Appendix C – Timber Policy 32
XVI. Appendix D – Wetlands Correspondence 33
XVII. Appendix E – SHPO Consultation 34

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – Location of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and the Cantonment Area 3
Figure 2 – Preferred location for the proposed Battalion Operations Facility and Two Company Operations Facilities 5
Figure 3 – Summary of Cumulative Impacts Relating to BOF/COF Construction 17

I. SUMMARY

U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) proposes to construct a small Battalion Operations Facility and two medium Company Operations Facilities (BOF/COF, project number 57353). The proposed facilities will provide space for administrative support of battalion and company operational activities as required by the USARAK military mission.

Three alternatives have been analyzed in this environmental assessment (EA) for the construction of the BOF/COF facilities. Alternative A – 'No Action' proposes no construction activities, leaving a deficiency due to the lack of battalion and company level administrative facilities. Alternative B – 'Demolition/Construction' proposes demolition of buildings 3420, 3418, and 3421. The BOF/COF would be built in the footprint of these demolished buildings. Preferred Alternative C – 'New Construction' proposes construction of new BOF/COF east of Santiago Avenue, across from building 3701 (Furniture Store).

A Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) has been prepared for BOF/COF due to location in the non-attainment zone for carbon monoxide (Appendix A). In addition, a comprehensive RONA for vehicle emissions relating to USARAK projects at Fort Wainwright has been completed as part of the Alert Holding Area and Pallet Processing Facility EA, and is available for reference (USARAK 1994). Wetlands and other special aquatic sites are not present (upon initial evaluation and site investigations) and will not be affected by action of alternatives B and C (Appendix D). Threatened and endangered species do not use either of the alternative project site location areas and will not be impacted (Appendix B). Noise levels at the facilities would be compatible with existing land uses. Construction and use of the facilities will slightly increase the post's energy demands, air emissions, and traffic levels.

To mitigate potential adverse impacts, the contractor will be required to prepare a storm water pollution prevention plan and implement best management practices to stabilize exposed soils and manage storm water runoff. Stabilization and re-vegetation measures will be coordinated with the USARAK Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

If contamination is encountered, appropriate measures will be taken to remediate the site.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office has concluded that a wetlands permit is not required for this project (Appendix D). The EA supports the conclusion that the project would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Given the noted mitigation measures, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was recommended for all three alternatives. The preferred alternative is Alternative C – 'New Construction'. This supports the notion that an EIS would not be required to construct and maintain the proposed BOF/COF at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Purpose and Need

"The primary purpose of the EA is to serve as a means to ensure that the policies and goals defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the Federal Government" 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR ξ 1502.1). Specific guidelines for preparation of this EA are found in Army Regulation 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions* (Department of the Army, 2002).

USARAK is currently in draft stage in preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the effects of the force transformation of the 172nd Infantry Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). A notice of intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on March 4, 2002 (Vol. 67, No. 42, pp. 1916-1917).

The need for the BOF/COF is independent of the force transformation of the 172nd Infantry Brigade. The proposed BOF/COF's are considered separate and complete projects. Fort Wainwright will experience no increase in troop strengths as a result of this proposed action.

The proposed BOF/COF is considered necessary to support the mission requirements of USARAK at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska (Figures 1, 2). The planning and design of the BOF/COF will be funded from a Milcon budget with a construction start date in FY03.

B. Objectives

Objectives for the proposed action include the following:

a) Provide administrative space necessary for units equipped to meet the USARAK military mission.
b) Remain in proximity to soldier living spaces, increasing efficiency in parking, driving, and formation space.
c) Build to anticipate future requirements for the USARAK mission.

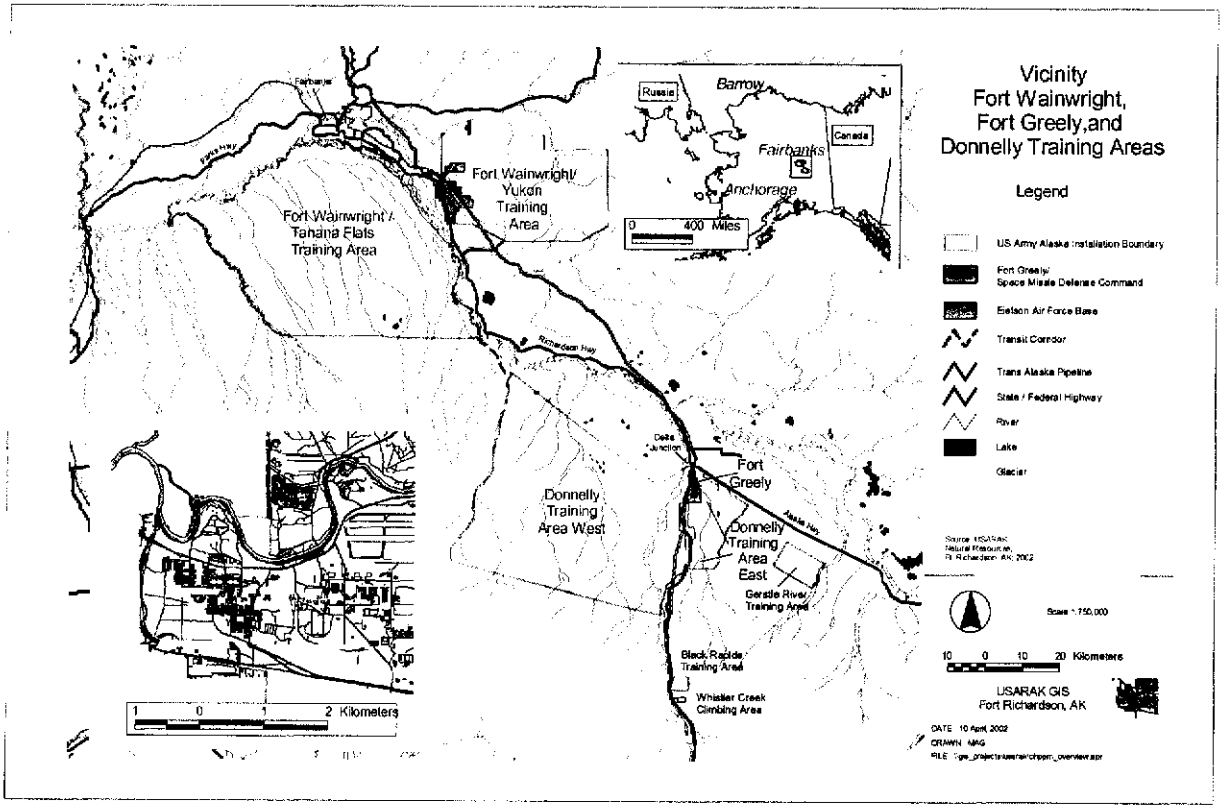
Decisions to be made that reflect the content of this EA include choosing an appropriate site location that will meet the objectives of the proposed project and simultaneously satisfy Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for NEPA documents as defined in 40 CFR ξ 1500.1.

III. PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

The project includes construction of a 12,363 s.f. battalion headquarters operational facility with classrooms, and 15,482 s.f. of company operational facilities to support activities for USARAK on Fort Wainwright, Alaska (Figure 1, 2).

The facilities include fire suppression systems, and energy monitoring and control systems. Anti-terrorism/force protection measures include structural reinforcements and setbacks, along with laminated glass. Supporting facilities include utilities, fire alarm systems, paved walks, parking, erosion control and storm drainage. Access for the handicapped will be provided. The beneficial occupancy date will be 2004.

Figure 1- Location of Fort Wainwright, Alaska and the Cantonment Area.



A. Alternatives Considered and Rejected

A cost estimate and economic analysis was done comparing the below alternatives. This can be found in the document requesting construction (Form 1391) available in the strategic planning administrative file, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

1. Renovation, Expansion or Conversion of Similar Existing On-Post Facilities
To meet the USARAK requirements, the renovation, expansion or conversion of similar existing on-post battalion and company operations facilities were evaluated. It was determined that there were no existing vacant facilities available to renovate, expand or convert into the proposed project in a cost-effective manner. Additionally, the BOF/COF

project is site specific, and needs to be located near work areas and barracks to provide mission support.

2. Lease or Purchase of Available Off-Post Facilities

The option to lease or purchase available off-post facilities was promptly eliminated from further consideration. This option was not practicable, because off-post facilities were not logistically feasible to meet the need for the BOF/COF.

3. Contract Service or Product from the Civilian Sector

The option to contract service or product from the civilian sector was promptly eliminated since there was no known civilian sector provider of battalion and company operations facilities.

4. Use of Existing Facilities at Nearby DOD Installations

The option to utilize existing facilities at nearby DOD installations was eliminated from further consideration. There are no installations within a reasonable commuting distance from Fort Wainwright with existing battalion and company operations facilities having the full capability to meet the site-specific requirements.

B. Reasonable Alternatives

1. Alternative A – 'No Action' Alternative

Existing assets for these functions are fully utilized at Fort Wainwright. Users at these facilities could be relocated to other facilities that would require renovation to meet their needs, but would result in additional costs.

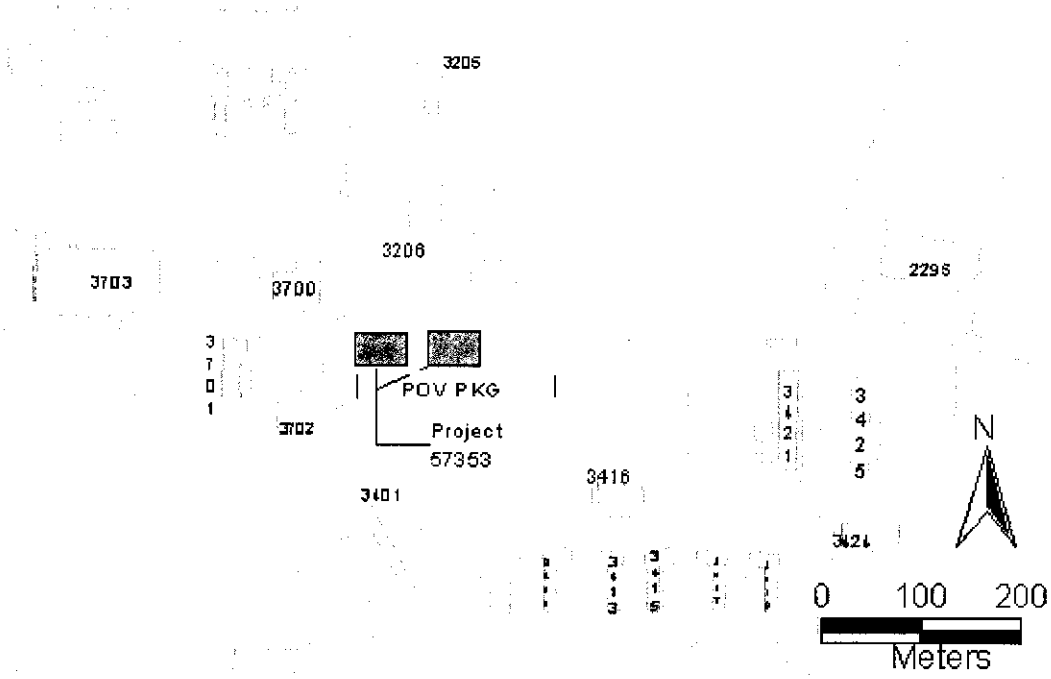
2. Alternative B – 'Demolition/Construction'

This alternative proposes demolition of buildings 3420, 3418, and 3421. The BOF/COF would be built in the footprint of these demolished buildings.

3. Alternative C – 'New Construction'

This alternative proposes construction of the new BOF/COF east of Santiago Avenue, across from building 3701 (Furniture Store; Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Proposed location for Alternative C – 'New Construction', Battalion Operations Facility and Company Operations Facilities, Fort Wainwright, Alaska



IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Environmental Baseline Study (EBS)

An EBS was conducted by the Fort Wainwright DPW Environmental Resources Department on the proposed project sites to identify potential concerns for inclusion in this EA. Items investigated were:

1. Any property or structure that was known to store, release, or otherwise dispose of hazardous substances. None were found, with exception to the Superfund status of the installation as discussed below.

2. Fort Wainwright Environmental Resources Department records, including all applicable documents associated with the Installation Restoration Program (IRP).

3. Historical aerial photographs of the project site were produced in 1949 and 1967. Copies of the most recent aerial photographs (and standard photo documentation of areas of concern) are located at the USARAK Environmental Resources Department office at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

4. Any visible features indicating potential contamination, as detected on a site inspection.

5. Any permits, permit discontinuances or closure requirements that apply to the sites.

6. Other sources of information, such as interviews and historic records.

B. Superfund (CERCLA) status of Fort Wainwright

All of Fort Wainwright was listed on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Priorities List on August 30, 1990 under the auspices of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), also known as *Superfund* (et seq.). In the spring of 1992, the Army, EPA, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) signed a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), which requires a thorough investigation of suspected historical hazardous waste source areas and appropriate remediation actions taken to protect public health. Fort Wainwright is currently in the process of clean-up activities under an Installation Restoration Plan (IRP). Any discovery of hazardous material contamination as outlined in the FFA will require appropriate regulatory coordination and compliance. For more information concerning the *Superfund* status of Fort Wainwright see the *Administrative Record* (DPW Environmental Resources Department 1994).

A more lengthy, detailed description of the environmental setting for this and adjacent military land comprising Fort Wainwright may be found in the *Working Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Installation Utilization at Fort Wainwright, Alaska* (Pratt et al. 1977) or the *Alaska Army Lands Withdrawal Renewal Final EIS* (USARAK 1998). Specific site characteristics are listed below.

C. Physical Factors:

1. Air Quality:

Fort Wainwright is classified as a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) major facility as defined in the following regulatory citations:

(1) 18 AAC 50.300(c)(1) due to the potential to emit more than 250 tons per year (tpy) of a regulated air contaminant in an area classified as attainment or unclassifiable;

(2) 18 AAC 50.300(c)(2)(A) due to the potential to emit more than 100 tpy of a regulated air contaminant in an area designated attainment or unclassifiable and is a fossil-fuel-fired steam electric plant of more than 250 mmBtu/hr; and

(3) 18 AAC 50.300(c)(2)(V) due to the potential to emit more than 100 tpy of a regulated air contaminant in an area designated attainment or unclassifiable and is a fossil-fuel-fired boiler or combination of boilers totaling more than 250 mmBtu/hr.

Fort Wainwright is classified as a non-attainment area major facility as defined in 18 AAC 50.300(d) because it has the potential to emit more than 100 tpy of a regulated air pollutant, carbon monoxide (CO), in an area classified as non-attainment for this pollutant.

Currently, Fort Wainwright must comply with permit conditions outlined in the state issued Air Quality Control Permit to Operate #9331-AA003, the Title V Operating Permit Application, and Air Quality Construction Permit #0031-AC059. The latter two documents were consolidated into a revised Title V Operating Permit Application and submitted to the ADEC for review in October 2001. The Title V Operating Permit Program identified in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) requires source owners with air pollutant emissions exceeding major source thresholds to obtain a Title V Operating Permit. The Title V major source threshold for all criteria air pollutants (CAPs) is 100 tpy. The major source threshold for individual hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) is 10 tpy; or a combined threshold for multiple HAPs of 25 tpy. Under this set of regulations, Fort Wainwright is a major source for CAPs and HAPs and must comply with these requirements. In December 1997, Fort Wainwright submitted a Title V Operating Permit Application to the ADEC (revised in October 2001).

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were developed as part of the CAAA. The NAAQS are health-based standards, and were established by the EPA to protect human health and the environment. Major source thresholds will vary depending upon the local attainment status for a pollutant with an established NAAQS. Most of Fort Wainwright's cantonment area is located within an area that is in attainment with the NAAQS, with the exception of CO.

The proposed BOF/COF project is west of Luzon Avenue on Fort Wainwright, placing it in the boundary of the CO non-attainment area of the Northern Alaska Intrastate Air Quality Control Region, EPA Region 10. Since the proposed location of the facilities are located in the CO non-attainment area, the General Conformity Rule as described in 40 CFR Part 93 Subpart B will apply. Periodic non-attainment episodes are typically experienced during the winter months during periods of strong inversions, but may occur during the spring months.

Arctic haze is another factor that impacts the ambient air quality in the Fairbanks region. Industrial pollutants from Europe and Asia are transported across the Arctic Ocean and produce an effect known as arctic haze. During an arctic haze episode, sulfate pollutants in the ambient air may be boosted by 0.68 micrograms per cubic meter (Rahn 1982). During these episodes, the ambient air concentration of vanadium, a byproduct of fossil fuel combustion, may average up to 20 times the normal background level and may also be found in the snow pack (DOTPF 1992). Recent analysis of the Canadian Arctic snow pack chemistry also indicates the long-range transfer of small concentrations of

organochlorine pesticides (Gregor and Gummer, 1989). It can be expected that this arctic haze condition is a minor contributor to the overall contamination of the air in the Fairbanks region.

The General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93 Subpart B) applies to Fort Wainwright because it is located in an area designated as a CO non-attainment area. Any Federal action within a non-attainment area or maintenance area must not hinder attainment of the NAAQS or impede local efforts to control air pollution. The intent of compliance with this regulation is to make a demonstration that Federal actions "conform with" the approved State Implementation Plan for the geographical area. As part of the air quality impact analysis for this project, Fort Wainwright must evaluate this action to ensure compliance with the regulatory provisions of the General Conformity Rule. If impacts are identified, mitigation measures must be identified and included in the conformity documentation for the project. There will be no new combustion units added to the Fort Wainwright inventory from this construction project, either in the form of boiler or generator units. Increased vehicle emissions associated with construction equipment would be of a temporary nature.

a. Refrigeration/Air Conditioning. The BOF/COF will not be equipped with refrigerators or air conditioning systems. However, if the occupants choose to purchase their own refrigeration units, the refrigerant used as a cooling agent must comply with the regulations found in 40 CFR 82.

b. Standby Steam. No steam boilers will be installed at the BOF/COF project. The buildings will use steam from the existing utilidor connected to the Central Heat and Power Plant (CHPP), Fort Wainwright for primary heat. In addition, no provisions for an emergency backup heating system are part of this project.

c. Standby Electricity. The CHPP will provide electricity to these facilities. Emergency standby generators will not be utilized on this project.

d. Laundry Facilities. The BOF/COF will not contain laundry facilities.

This project will have little or no impact on existing air quality in the Fort Wainwright area. A Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) has been completed for this project to demonstrate compliance with the General Conformity Rule (Appendix A). In addition, a comprehensive RONA covering stationary and mobile source vehicle emissions can be found in the EA entitled "Construction for the Alert Holding Area and Pallet Processing Facility, Fort Wainwright, Alaska", August 2002 (USARAK 1994).

2. Noise:

Average noise exposure over a 24-hour period is often presented as a community noise equivalent level (CNEL). CNEL values are calculated from hourly equivalent noise levels (Leq) values, with the Leq values for the evening period (7 PM to 10 PM)

increased by 5 decibels (dB) and Leq values for nighttime period (10 PM to 7 AM) increased by 10 dB.

The Department of Defense evaluates the acceptability of noise levels at military installations according to three noise level zones – CNEL levels below 65 dB (Zone I), CNEL levels of 65 – 75 dB (Zone II), and CNEL levels above 75 dB (Zone III). All types of land uses are considered compatible with Zone I noise levels. Educational and residential land uses generally are not compatible with Zone II noise levels unless special acoustic designs and features are used to ensure acceptable interior noise levels. Residential and educational land uses are not compatible with Zone III noise levels. Industrial and manufacturing land uses may be acceptable in Zone III areas if special building designs and other features are implemented. The proposed project site is located within the 55 Ldn noise contour (Zone I).

3. Water Quality/Wetlands:

The Fort Wainwright cantonment area lies entirely within the Tanana River drainage basin. Depending on specific location, drainage may flow into several different rivers and creeks that feed the Tanana River system. A list of these rivers and creeks includes: Tanana River, Chena River, Flood Channel B, and the much altered and channelized Clear Creek. The most likely rivers to be affected by the construction of the BOF/COF are the Chena River and the Tanana River. All of the rivers have been classified as anadromous, (e.g., containing one or more species of salmon or arctic char). These systems have been classified as having good water quality. Generally, streams, creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers have pH values within ADEC standards. The Tanana River contains sediment loadings that will average between 300 mg/l during periods of high stream flow and 5 mg/l during quieter periods. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Program has classified a small percentage of the Fort Wainwright cantonment area as wetlands. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch has confirmed this classification. Wetlands are most commonly found in the alluvial valley floors that are underlain by permafrost. Concerns for groundwater quality are contained in the *Administrative Record* of the Defense Environmental Restoration Activity (DERA) clean-up program being administered by the U. S. Army, the EPA and the ADEC for Fort Wainwright (USARAK 1994).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch has determine that the preferred alternative site location C for the BOF/COF does not require a wetland permit (Appendix D). Since alternative site location B would involve reconstruction on existing foundations, no new wetlands would be affected.

4. Geology, Topography:

The area lies within the Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowland of the Western Alaska province. All of Fort Wainwright, including the training lands, consists of approximately 915,714.34 acres. The site is characterized by alluvial depositions of both the Tanana and Chena Rivers. The potential construction site has little to no prior disturbances

associated with construction. Fort Wainwright generally has been characterized by heavy vegetation of high brush, bottomland spruce/poplar forest consisting of black spruce, tamarack, birch, quaking aspen, poplar, willow, low bush cranberry, mosses and sedges, and lowland spruce/poplar forest. Understory vegetation consists of moss, brush and grasses on the lower slopes with willow and alder found in the uplands. Drainages in the area are the Tanana River, Chena River, Flood Channel B and a few channelized creeks including Clear Creek (USARAK 1994). Soils in this area are generally Quaternary deposits characterized by shallow silt loam over gravelly sand or silt loam with sandy clay loams of widely variable texture. Soils adjacent to the rivers and tributaries have been classified by the U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service as Salchaket Association. Soils in the upland sites have been classified by the U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service as Fairbanks-Steese-Gilmore Association (USARAK 1999).

5. Meteorology:

This area lies within a sub-arctic continental climatic zone. It is characterized by extreme diurnal shifts in available daylight, with extremes ranging from slightly more than 3 1/2 hours to more than 22 hours. Consequently, extreme temperature shifts are encountered, with extremes ranging from -70°F to +95°F. This area experiences low precipitation and low relative humidity. Average annual precipitation, including snowfall, is equivalent to approximately 11 inches, (equated to inches of rainfall). Average snowfall approximates 70 inches with a large loss due to sublimation. The wettest month is August with average rainfall of 1.68 inches and the driest is April with an average of 0.27 inches. Precipitation will average slightly higher at the higher elevations. Generally, the frost-free period runs from the third week in May until the end of August. The prevailing winds at Fort Wainwright characteristically come from the north during the winter months. During the summer, however, the winds originate from the southwest. Fairbanks has very mild wind conditions with average speeds around five knots. The greatest wind speeds are encountered during thunderstorm activity in the summer and blizzard conditions are rare. Construction of the BOF/COF should not have any effect on the Fairbanks meteorology.

6. Special Concerns:

a. Old building foundation: A wooden beam was uncovered during soldier training exercises conducted in the open field proposed for Alternative Site Location C. An investigation by the Cultural Resources Program Manager (Russ Sackett, 384-3041) is pending to determine the cultural significance of this find.

b. Flood plain: All of the alternative sites lie within the 100-year flood plain for both the Chena and Tanana Rivers with average depths of less than one foot or with drainage areas less than one square mile. All of the alternative sites are protected from the 100 year flood with levees. Compliance with Executive Order 11988, 1977, Floodplain Management is required stating that structures cannot impede or channalize flow. The Chena River Flood Control Project protects this portion of the floodplain. Fort Wainwright last flooded in September of 1967. Complete avoidance of the floodplain is

not possible. None of the alternatives impede or channalize flow from the flood plain, therefore mitigation measures do not need to be addressed. Moreover, no practicable alternatives to placement of a new vehicle maintenance facility exist outside the floodplain.

c. Environmental Justice: The purpose of Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-income Populations* dated 11 February 1994, is to avoid disproportionate placement of adverse environmental, economic, social or health effects from federal actions and policies on minority and low-income populations. The process requires identification of minority and low-income populations that may be effected by implementation of the proposed action or alternatives. The process has resulted in the following findings: (1) The addition of the BOF/COF will not result in any adverse impacts on the social, safety or health of minority or low-income populations. (2) There is expected to be no effect on any social or economic components of the surrounding population.

d. Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks for Children: The purpose of Executive Order 13045, *Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, dated 21 April 1997, is to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children. Under the EO, federal agencies are required to ensure that policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children resulting from environmental health risks or safety risks. The Army has analyzed the proposed action and found that there will be no environmental health risks or safety risks associated with the action, which would disproportionately affect children.

D. Biological and Ecological Factors:

1. The Aquatic Environment: The Chena River is an anadromous stream, providing a spawning area for chum and king salmon. Additional populations of northern pike, grayling, various whitefish, and burbot inhabit this watershed.

2. The Terrestrial Environment - Vegetation: Fort Wainwright falls within the Northern Boreal Forest. The cantonment area, south of the Chena River, is mostly human modified. Landscaped lawns, overgrown lots (including native and invasive species), and second growth woodlands (Balsam poplar, Aspen, Alders) are the dominant vegetative types found in the area. Specifically, alternatives B and C contain *Picea glauca* (White Spruce), *Picea mariana* (Black Spruce), *Populus balsamifera* (Balsam Poplar), and *Betula papyrifera* (Alaska Paper Birch). Understory consists of wild rose, willow, fireweed, and grasses. All alternative sites contain timber that is of commercial quality and/or quantity (Appendix C).

3. The Terrestrial Environment – Wildlife/Endangered Species: A number of wildlife species are found within the cantonment area on Fort Wainwright. A current list of species within the Fort Wainwright area can be found in Appendix F in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan 2002-2006 (USARAK 2002). Species that may be

found on the proposed construction sites include woodchucks, a variety of small mammals, ground-nesting birds and other species that are attracted to human modified vegetative landscapes. The sites and much of the area around them are human modified, grass/herb vegetative cover and/or native grass that provide minimal wildlife values. Although some species may benefit from the berry producing plants and spruce cones, it is less than three acres of continuous woods, fragmented by trails and ditches and surrounded by development. Smaller mammals (squirrels, snowshoe hares, red backed voles) and some birds (pine grosbeak, chickadees) may be able to utilize some or all of this small area. Larger, continuous sections of forest and wetlands exist in the training areas surrounding the cantonment area.

Post streams and ponds will not be affected by this project.

There are no threatened and endangered species on sites proposed. The habitat available would not support them, due to the fragmented urban surroundings. Formal coordination with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is located in Appendix B. The American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), a species that is endangered, and the Arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius),* a recently delisted species, are known to subsist within the Fairbanks area. There are three known American peregrine falcon nests in the vicinity of the Salcha River that lies east of the Yukon Training Area near Eielson AFB. These Arctic peregrine falcons migrate throughout the area, but will not be affected by the proposed project.

E. Cultural, Land Use and Socioeconomic Factors:

The following is a list of both site-specific impacts and general aesthetic, cultural or socioeconomic impacts related to all alternatives.

1. Cultural Resources:

Fort Wainwright was initially established in 1939 as a cold weather test facility under the name of Ladd Field. Ladd Field became a significant facility with the outbreak of World War II, not only in the cold weather testing, but also in support of the Aleutian Campaign and the Lend-Lease program. Ladd Field was designated as Ladd Field National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1984 after its recognition as having a naturally significant role in World War II. This NHL is centered on the runways and has 37 contributing buildings and structures.

Following World War II and the formation of the U.S. Air Force in 1947, Ladd Field became Ladd Air Force Base. From 1947 to 1961 exceptionally significant missions were directed and flown out of Ladd Air Force Base during the Cold War. In recognition of this exceptional significance a historic district has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. Ladd Air Force Base Historic District contains 71 contributing buildings and structures. Additionally, Buildings 4069 and 4070 have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP for their association with the Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory.

The Air Force moved its functions to Eielson Air Force Base 26 miles east of Fairbanks in 1961. It was then transferred to the U.S. Army and renamed Fort Jonathan Wainwright.

There are two historic districts on Fort Wainwright that have a listing in or are determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In addition, there are two buildings that have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP on their own merit. No confirmed archaeological sites have been found in the cantonment area and the project area has a moderate probability for containing such sites.

Any activity that may require changes to the exteriors of buildings that contribute to the NHL or historic district will have a direct effect on these historic properties. Any additions of buildings adjacent to or in the boundaries of the NHL or historic district will have a direct effect on the historic properties. Any activity that may cause ground disturbance on the south slope of Birch Hill could have a direct effect on archaeological resources.

There are known archaeological and historical resources in the adjoining lands of Fort Wainwright as previously evaluated and reported in, *Archeological Survey and Inventory of Cultural Resources at Fort Wainwright, Alaska* and the *Sixth Infantry Division (Light) Historic Preservation Plan for U. S. Army Lands in Alaska* (AHRG 1986, Dixon et al 1980). All activities at the site shall be halted and the DPW Environmental Office notified at 353-3002 in the event that artifacts are discovered.

Alternative A: Alternative site A proposes no construction/demolition activities, therefore no historic properties would be affected.

Alternative B: Alternative site B is located near the Ladd Air Force Base Historic District and the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark. Demolition of buildings 3420, 3418, and 3421 would not affect the status of either the historic district or the historic landmark. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning the Section 106 process for demolition of the above mentioned buildings is complete (Appendix E). SHPO consultation concerning BOF/COF construction is still underway.

Alternative C: Alternative site C is also located near the Ladd Air Force Base Historic District and the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark. SHPO consultation is currently underway, addressing potential visual/aesthetic impacts to both the historic district and the landmark. This consultation process (for both Alternatives B & C) will meet USARAK obligations under Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended, PL 89-665; 16 USC 40 *et seq.*).

Asbestos/Lead-Based Paint: Information on asbestos, lead-based paint, and why they are important considerations prior to building demolition can be found in Fort Wainwright's Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint Management Plan (Tolliver 1999). Asbestos and lead-based paint are present in buildings 3420, 3418, and 3421, whose structure are proposed for demolition in Alternative B.

McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney Act): A detailed description of the McKinney Act can be found at the following web address: www.usacpw.belvoir.army.mil/librarie/rp/guidance.htm. A building must be in excess or surplus, unutilized or underutilized in property surveys performed by The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to qualify for the McKinney Act. For this reason, demolition of buildings 3420, 3418 and 3421 (given Alternative B) will need to be coordinated through HUD and construction commencement would pend completion of the McKinney Act requirements. The buildings would not be considered in excess or surplus under Alternative B; therefore McKinney Act requirements would not prevent demolition activities. Alternative C would not include demolition activities or reuse of existing facilities; therefore construction activities would not be affected by McKinney Act requirements.

2. Land Use:

a. Recreational Use: The open spaces remaining in the Fort Wainwright cantonment area are important contributors to the recreation opportunities for the Post inhabitants. The core area of the cantonment consists of landscaped yards, office buildings, ball fields and open fields. Surrounding the cantonment area, and across the Chena River, the post remains in a natural state. Recreation opportunities consist of hunting, fishing, ORV use, bird watching, dog walking, skiing etc.

Alternative sites B and C are in the vicinity of a baseball field, but do not contain any developed recreational sites. The sites consist of second growth cottonwoods and some large White Spruce. Some bird watching, berry picking and other natural style recreation may occur on this site by soldiers, due to its proximity to barracks and other facilities. Most recreation is directed into the Training Areas north of the Chena River on Main Post. There is probably little to no civilian use of the area, and hunting and off-road vehicle use are not allowed south of the Chena River on Fort Wainwright.

Demolition of buildings 3420, 3418 and 3421 (Alternative B) and new construction at the proposed sites (Alternatives B, C) will have no impact on recreation. No managed recreation occurs on this site, although it borders a baseball field. Additionally, due to the site's small size, no nature-oriented recreation occurs here. There are, however, some defined trails and clearings within the site, which appear to be used by the soldiers for small unit training.

b. *Aesthetics:* The remaining open spaces of the Fort Wainwright cantonment area are aesthetically pleasing portions of the installation. The *Installation Design Guide* shall be consulted as to design guidance for the distinguishable areas of Fort Wainwright (Higginbotham/Briggs& Associates 1991).

The proposed alternative site locations border motor pools, barracks, roads and ball fields. A drainage ditch is located on the north side of the site, and a smaller,

straightened stream/ditch is located on the south side. The site has been disturbed in the past, including some berms and dirt piles.

3. Socioeconomic: The Proposed Action would result in about $18 million for design and construction of proposed facilities. Most of this money would be spent in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Construction could temporarily increase population and employment levels, particularly during the short summer construction season. Operation of the facilities would not significantly permanently impact demographic numbers or characteristics since such operation do not significantly impact military or civilian employment at Fort Wainwright. The Proposed Action would not affect public facilities, utilities, transportation systems, or services.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The following is a list of direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts related to all alternatives. Subjects that are not specifically referenced in either the direct impact or cumulative impact sections have either no environmental impacts or relatively minor environmental impacts, and therefore have been eliminated from discussion in this chapter.

A. Direct Impacts

Direct Impacts are defined (under CEQ regulation 1508.8) as those effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

1. Air Quality: Any use of motorized vehicles has a detrimental effect on air quality. Common motorized vehicle pollutants arise from the partial combustion of incompletely oxidized fuel and carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. During periods of extreme cold temperatures, vehicle exhaust produces small, particle-size ice crystals that are a significant contributor to the presence of ice fog. Ice fog degrades the atmosphere since it obscures visibility, thus affecting air quality. The additional vehicles associated with construction would temporarily result in an increase in some pollutant emissions of a temporary nature. The conformity analysis conducted for this project resulted in a Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) prepared as supporting documentation to this EA (Appendix A). Also, a comprehensive RONA covering stationary and mobile source vehicle emissions can be found in the EA entitled "Construction for the Alert Holding Area and Pallet Processing Facility, Fort Wainwright, Alaska", August 2002 (USARAK 1994). Demolition of buildings (given Alternative B) would directly affect air quality requiring a Fugitive Dust Management Plan and compliance with the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollution (NESHAP; 40 CFR 61, Subpart M).

2. Noise: Noise levels at this facility would be compatible with existing land uses within a Zone I area and no significant noise effects are anticipated. During construction, noise may exceed Zone I criteria in the immediate vicinity of construction equipment.

B. Indirect Impacts

Indirect effects are defined (under CEQ regulation 1508.8) as those effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

1. Surface and Ground Water Quality: Vehicular traffic and parking have indirect detrimental effects on surface and groundwater pollution. This degradation occurs in three methods:

(1) Leaks, drips and seeps of petroleum products from vehicles collect on parking lot surfaces and are then washed into watersheds by subsequent snowmelt or rainfall.

(2) The impervious nature of parking lots create mini-flood episodes during snowmelt and rainfall. These episodes increase turbidity in adjacent water bodies and may degrade water quality.

(3) Petroleum hydrocarbons from either spills or vehicle exhaust will dissolve in water or accumulate in snow and may degrade water quality.

The significance of these parking lot discharges is compounded by the nature of spring breakup in the sub-arctic. Generally, parking lots will thaw due to low albedo (high solar absorption) and begin producing water weeks before the ground thaws. With the ground still frozen and unable to absorb water, runoff is significantly enhanced and therefore problematic.

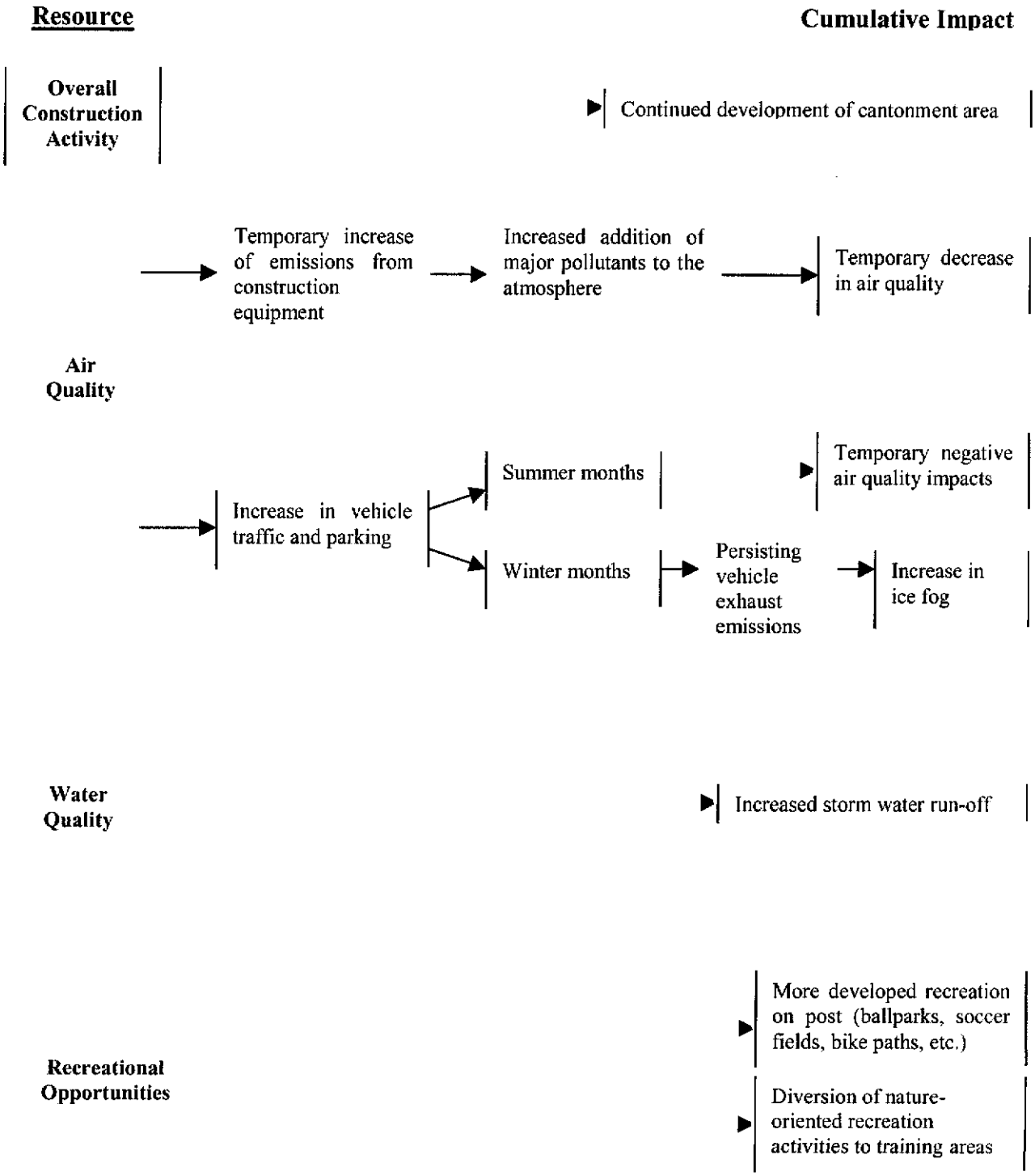
2. Natural Resources: Indirect impacts to natural resources are discussed in the cumulative impacts section of this assessment.

C. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined (under CEQ Reg 1508.7 and 32 CFR part 651) as impacts on the environment resulting from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place locally or regionally over a period of time. Fort Wainwright's training lands, in combination with neighboring lands, can be viewed as a generally stable, well-managed natural system surrounded by areas of varying levels of growth and development. If Alaska is chosen as an Army transformation site during 2002-2006, USARAK could encounter a significant change in military mission.

Figure 3 - Summary of Cumulative Impacts Relating to BOF/COF Construction, Fort Wainwright, Alaska (further described in following sections)



1. Cantonment Area: Numerous projects are planned in the vicinity of the Fort Wainwright cantonment area, including the proposed alternative site locations. While these projects are independent of the proposed action described in this EA, it is nevertheless appropriate to consider impacts associated with the preferred and other alternatives in light of these independent projects.

The proposed action is another action in this process. The project continues the development of the cantonment area, which is a cumulative impact. However, this development is planned, has minimal environmental impacts, adequate mitigation, and is required to support the USARAK military mission at Fort Wainwright.

Other projects include upgrades to the power plant, on-post housing renovation projects, construction of an ammunition supply point, motor pool and assembly building, and range upgrades.

2. Air Quality: The generation of temporary emissions from construction equipment and increased vehicular traffic from construction worker's personal vehicles could impact air quality; however, these impacts would be of short duration and temporary in nature. Most of the construction activities are expected to occur during the summer months, when pollutants generated from these sources would likely dissipate rapidly. Since the facility is designed to provide parking for vehicles, there could be detrimental impacts to air quality. This is of primary concern during winter months when temperature inversions could cause vehicular exhaust emissions to persist in the area.

Given this increase in parking, traffic will also increase at this location, leading to temporary negative air quality impacts.

3. Natural Resources:

a. Wildlife and Vegetation: There will be a cumulative loss of forested/undisturbed lands within the cantonment area. The reduction of these resources includes birch, spruce, and poplar forest ecosystems along with open wetland meadows and other ecotypes listed within the natural resources management plan. The cantonment area generally consists of roads, housing, offices, barracks, hangars, airfields and other aspects of urban life. The cantonment area is a "city". Areas not designated as training areas are considered in the cantonment area, and this is where most new construction of infrastructure takes place. As construction continues in the FWA cantonment area fragmentation of existing undisturbed habitats will grow forming isolated populations of wildlife and vegetation. Existing areas that are still in their natural state are on the fringes of the cantonment area and are probably used by species that use the much larger undisturbed areas of the training areas. Over time, most of the undisturbed areas will be impacted by the human footprint, and wildlife will be restricted to those that may migrate through (moose, waterfowl) and those birds, small mammals that adapt to a landscaped environment.

Vegetation at the proposed BOF/COF site locations is second growth Balsam Poplar. This is a site that is slowly recovering from prior human disturbance. Since it is an isolated site, overall loss of the trees and vegetation on site will be of minimal cumulative impact. The cantonment area and the surrounding city and borough continue to grow. Second growth vegetation is found on many abandoned lots, yards and parks.

The cumulative amount of storm water runoff on paved surfaces will increase with the construction of the new facility. Landscaping on site will reduce runoff from rain, hold the soil better and provide an improved and continuous landscaped view to the area.

Overall, most of the cantonment area has already been modified to a landscaped environment. Continued development may no longer have much impact on wildlife due to its adaptation to existing conditions and use of the more natural sites found in the surrounding training areas.

b. Recreation: Recreation will be affected in two ways. Primarily, there will be more developed recreation such as ballparks, soccer fields and bike paths. More nature-oriented recreational activities will be directed to the training areas, increasing travel time by only a few minutes. These areas will remain in a natural, undisturbed state to provide sustainable training for soldiers.

4. Cultural Resources:

The placement of the BOF/COF adjacent to the Ladd Air Force Base Historic District does not adversely affect the historic qualities that make the historic district eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The placement of this project may, however, negatively affect the aesthetic/visual qualities of the historic district.

VI. MITIGATION

As defined in CEQ Regulation 1508.20, "Mitigation" includes the following:

- Avoiding the impact altogether
- Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action
- Rectifying the impact through repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring
- Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations
- Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

To provide further environmental protection, specific mitigation measures will be strictly enforced.

The BOF/COF mitigation (shown below in section A) will need to be addressed regardless of the chosen alternative. Mitigation measures listed below in section B and C are specific to that alternative or action.

A. Battalion Operations Facility and Two Company Operations Facilities

1. Architecture: Comply with the scope and design criteria of DOD 4270.1-M, "Construction Criteria," that were in effect 1 January 1987, as implemented by the Army's Architectural and Engineering Instructions (AEI), "Design Criteria," dated 3 July 1994.

2. Engineering: Ensure that arctic engineering concepts are incorporated into facility design that will preclude vapor barrier, warm roof, and other common problems unique to this environment. Insure that adequate insulation is incorporated into the facility design to reduce excessive use of fossil fuels for facility heat. Ascertain that appropriate engineering safeguards are incorporated to ensure Clean Water Act compliance.

3. Snow Removal: Incorporate snow removal operations into the facility design. Ascertain that snow avalanches from roofs will not occur in the area of entryways, parking lots, or emergency service areas. Set aside areas in the immediate vicinity of parking lots as temporary snow removal repositories.

4. Soils: Stabilize exposed soils and manage storm water runoff using seeding, hay bail placement, siltation fence techniques and other appropriate engineering controls during and post-construction. Reseed all grassy areas disturbed during construction. Comply with the Fort Wainwright landscaping plan.

5. Parking lot: Parking lot design shall provide adequate clear space on the margins for snow deposition during snow removal operations. These sites shall not be within 50 feet of any wetland, water body, creek, slough, or river. As an alternative, appropriate settling basins, diversion dikes or other engineering practices shall be incorporated into the design to insure compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) criteria for both rainfall run-off and snowmelt. Parking lot design shall minimize obstructions, as the design process permits, to facilitate the orderly and efficient snow removal and transport by DPW typical equipment.

6. Air Quality: Enforce a restrictive vehicle idling policy during periods of cold weather. Ensure availability of adequate vehicle head bolt outlets so that vehicles avoid cold starts during periods of extreme cold weather and thereby reduce the amount of vehicular exhaust produced.

7. Timber: Commercial forest products will not be given away, abandoned, carelessly destroyed, used to offset costs of contracts, or traded for products, supplies, or services. All forest products will be accounted for and commercial harvests completed prior to the start of any construction that may impact forest resources. Harvestable timber will be stockpiled. If any harvesting will occur then it will be coordinated with USARAK installation forester. Timber that is stockpiled during construction will also be coordinated through the installation forester (Appendix C). Use existing large white spruce and paper birch in the landscape design if possible.

8. Accidents/Spills: All USARAK units are required to comply with USARAK Regulation 200-1 and USARAK Pamphlet (PAM) 200-1 (USARAK 2000). All units are required to possess and have available appropriate spill response materials for the types and quantities of hazardous materials they may transport. All spills/releases are required to be reported to Fort Wainwright's Fire Department. All spills/releases in USARAK are reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) and appropriate mitigation measures are accomplished.

9. Cultural Resources: Currently, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer is underway. Construction commencement will pend completion of this consultation.

B. Alternative B -'Demolition/Construction'

1. Check for swallow nesting and eggs prior to building demolition. If demolition is scheduled for summer then begin spraying rafter areas to remove swallow nests before birds arrive.

2. Asbestos removal will be conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations (40 CFR 61). RCRA, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and 29 CFR 1926.62 guidelines will be followed for projects disturbing painted surfaces containing lead-based paint.

3. Develop a fugitive dust management plan.

4. Coordinate demolition activities through HUD to ensure completion of McKinney Act requirements prior to demolition commencement.

C. Alternative C- 'New Construction'

1. A wetland delineation and permit would be necessary only if there is any alteration to the method, scope or location of the proposed project.

2. The contractor will prepare a storm water pollution prevention plan and implement best management practices to stabilize exposed soils and manage storm water runoff.

3. Reseed in areas where trees and/or grasses were removed and construction did not take place. This will help control erosion and maintain soil stabilization.

VII. CONCLUSION

Construction of a Battalion Operations Facility and Two Company Operations Facilities (project number 57353) as described in the preferred and other alternatives do not pose any significant environmental impacts that are not otherwise adequately addressed in the

mitigation section of this EA. The No Action Alternative would not address the increasing need for new facilities. After a comprehensive evaluation of all potential impacts, it has been determined that the proposed action in Alternative C will not result in significant impacts. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be prepared to accompany this EA. Mitigation measures contained herein shall be incorporated in their entirety into any Work Plan, Operations Plan or similar document that anticipates the construction of a new BOF/COF at Fort Wainwright as outlined in this EA.

VIII. NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Army Regulation 32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; Final Rule, March 2002 implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Chapter 5 of 32 CFR Part 651 authorizes the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) after an Environmental Assessment (EA) review indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

ACTION: Construction of a Battalion Operations Facility and Two Company Operations Facilities at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS: An EA and a mitigated FNSI have been prepared for the proposed project. Copies of these documents are available upon request. Interested parties are invited to submit, in writing, any comments or objections they may have concerning the proposed action. Comments received will be reviewed and relevant issues will be addressed and incorporated into a revised EA. If no comments are received during the Public Comment Period, the original EA will become the final EA. The Public Comment Period begins on the first day upon publication of this notice and extends for 30 days. **For further information, please contact Gale Skaugstad, Environmental Resource Department, United States Army Alaska (USARAK), Directorate of Public Works, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-6500, telephone: (907) 353-3001.**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: An EA is prepared to determine the extent of environmental impacts of a proposed action and decide whether or not these impacts are significant. If the proposed action may or will result in significant impacts, an EIS is prepared to provide additional information on the context, duration, and intensity of the impacts. If an EA shows that the proposed action will not result in significant impacts, a FNSI is prepared and the NEPA compliance is satisfied. A FNSI is a document, which briefly presents the reasons why a proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

The FNSI documents the decision that an EIS is not required for NEPA compliance. A FNSI is complete when no comment period is necessary, a comment period was held but evidenced no significant public concern, or public concern resulted in reconsideration of the FNSI, which was still appropriate upon re-examination.

Frederick J. Lehman
Colonel, U.S. Army
Garrison Commander

IX CONTACTS

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This environmental assessment was prepared by the United States Army Alaska, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental/Planning Division. Below is a list of contact personnel who either prepared or edited this assessment.

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Kearns, Amy – USACHHPM – 384-0505
Monroe, Kent - ADEC Solid Waste Program - 451-2134
Newman, Sheila – USACE Regulator Office – 474-2166
Priday, Jonathon – U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Fairbanks – 456-0203
Wright, John – Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Wildlife Conservation Division - 459-7292

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XI. COMMON ABBREVIATIONS:

ACM	Asbestos Containing Material
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, also known as *Superfund* (PL 96-510 et seq.)
CRREL	Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, headquartered in Hanover, NH.
DOD	Department of Defense
DOTPF	State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
DMA	Defense Mapping Agency
DPW	Directorate of Public Works
DERA	Defense Environmental Restoration Act. The DOD equivalent to CERCLA (see above)
EA	Environmental Assessment, See Army Regulation 200-2 (32 CFR-Part 651)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
E.O.	Executive Order. A binding order issued by the President of the United States.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency, Region X, headquartered in Seattle
F	(Fahrenheit), a temperature measurement scale wherein water free at 32 degrees and boils at 212 degrees.
FFA	Federal Facilities Agreement. A legally binding agreement administered by the EPA that specifies *Superfund* (see CERCLA above) clean-up activities, schedules and specifies levels of 'clean'.
FWA	Fort Wainwright, Alaska
IRP	Installation Restoration Plan. The required actions for the long term clean up of *Superfund* known contamination throughout Fort Wainwright, Alaska
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollution
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
MIM	Military Installation Map
mg/l	Milligram per liter (approximates one part per million)
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Superfund	See CERCLA above.
US	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USARAK	United States Army, Alaska
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

XII. RECOMMENDATION FOR A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CONSTRUCTION OF A BATTALION OPERATIONS FACILITY AND TWO COMPANY OPERATIONS FACILITIES, FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:
U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) proposes to construct a small Battalion Operations Facility and two medium Company Operations Facilities (BOF/COF, project number 57353). The proposed facilities will provide space for administrative support of battalion and company operational activities as required by the USARAK military mission.

Three alternatives have been analyzed in this environmental assessment (EA) for the construction of the BOF/COF facilities. Alternative A – 'No Action' proposes no construction activities, leaving a deficiency due to the lack of battalion- and company-level administrative facilities. Alternative B – 'Demolition/Construction' proposes demolition of buildings 3420, 3418, and 3421. The BOF/COF would be built in the footprint of these demolished buildings. Preferred Alternative C – 'New Construction' proposes construction of new BOF/COF east of Santiago Avenue, across from building 3701.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

1) There are no anticipated adverse effects (from the proposed alternatives) due to the proposed project on water quality, fish and wildlife or their habitats including threatened and endangered species. Correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed.

2) The Air Quality Conformity Analysis for this project has been completed for all alternatives, and no significant impacts were identified. A Record of Non-Applicability has been completed.

3) Correspondence with the State Historic Preservation Officer (determining no adverse effect on historic properties) for all alternative site locations is still pending, and will be completed prior to construction commencement.

4) Correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office indicates absence of wetlands. A delineation and wetland permit will not be necessary prior to construction commencement.

MITIGATION AND CONCLUSION: Mitigation actions, as defined in CEQ Regulation 1508.20, have been incorporated into this Environmental Assessment (EA). BOF/COF mitigation will need to be addressed regardless of the chosen alternative. Additional site-specific mitigation measures are incorporated and compliance is mandatory. These mitigation measures shall be reviewed and incorporated in their entirety into any Work Plan, Operations Plan, or similar document that anticipates the construction of a BOF/COF at Fort Wainwright as outlined in this EA, with adoption of

the mitigation measures included therein. It has been determined that this project will not have significant effects on the environment, so long as mitigation measures included therein are enforced, concurrence from the SHPO for no significant cultural resources is received, and a wetland permit is attained. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS AND POINTS OF CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Interested parties are invited to submit any written comments or objections they may have concerning the proposed action. Comments will be reviewed, and relevant issues will be addressed and incorporated into a revised EA. If no comments are received during the public comment period, the original EA will become the final EA. The Public Comment Period begins on the first day upon publication of this notice and extends for 30 days. **For further information, please contact Gale Skaugstad, Environmental Resources Department, United States Army Alaska (USARAK), Directorate of Public Works, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-6500, telephone: (907) 353-3001.**

Frederick J. Lehman
Colonel, U.S. Army
Garrison Commander

XIII. APPENDIX A
RECORD OF NON-APPLICABILITY

GENERAL CONFORMITY – RECORD OF NON-APPLICABILITY

Project/Action Name: Construction of a Battalion Operations Facility and Two Company Operations Facilities, Fort Wainwright, Alaska (Project 57353)

Project/Action Point of Contact: Kate Siftar, Chief, Environmental Compliance, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, telephone: 907.353.6249

Begin Construction Date: March 2003
Midpoint Construction Date: September 2003
End Construction Date: March 2004

General Conformity under the Clean Air Act, Section 176 has been evaluated for the project described above according to the requirements of 40 CFR 93, Subpart B. The requirements of this rule are not applicable to this project/action because:

_____ The project/action is an exempt action under 40 CFR 153(c) or (d), (SPECIFY APPLICABLE EXEMPTION CATEGORY AND REGULATORY CITATION).

OR

__X__ Total direct and indirect emissions from this project/action have been estimated (No additional carbon monoxide (CO) emissions are associated with this construction project), and are below the conformity threshold value established at 40 CFR 93.153(b) of 100 tons/year CO;

AND

The project/action is not considered regionally significant under 40 CFR 93.153(i).

Support document and emission estimates if relevant are

( ) ATTACHED
(X) APPEAR IN THE NEPA DOCUMENTATION (Projects 57353)
( ) OTHER

Kate D Siftar

Kate D. Siftar,
Chief, Environmental Compliance
Fort Wainwright, Alaska

XIV. APPENDIX B
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE CORRESPONDENCE

United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Office
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September 23, 2002

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Directorate of Public Works
APVR-WPW-EV
1060 Gaffney Road, #6505
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-6505

Re: Construction of Battalion Headquarters and Company Operation Facilities, Ft. Wainwright, AK

Dear Ms. Hunter:

This responds to your request for a list of endangered and threatened species and critical habitats pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This information is being provided for the proposed construction of battalion headquarters and company operation facilities, Fort Wainwright, AK.

No listed species occur in these project areas and there is no designated or proposed critical habitat in the vicinity of the proposed projects. Therefore, the Service concludes that this project is not likely to adversely impact listed species. Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation under section 7 of the Act regarding this project is not necessary.

This letter applies only to endangered and threatened species under our jurisdiction. It does not preclude the need to comply with other environmental legislation or regulations such as the Clean Water Act.

Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under the Act. If you need further assistance, please contact Jonathan Priday at (907) 456-0499.

Sincerely,
Ted Swem
acting for
Ted Swem
Branch Chief
Endangered Species

XV. APPENDIX C
TIMBER POLICY

Policy on Use of Timber at Fort Wainwright

Army Regulation 200-3, *Natural Resources - Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management* (28 February 1995) Chapter 5 Forest Management, Section 5-2 Timber Management, b. Harvesting actions, (2) Disposal action, (d) states,

"Commercial forest products will not be given away, abandoned, carelessly destroyed, used to offset costs of contracts, or traded for products, supplies, or services. All forest products are to be accounted for and commercial harvests completed prior to the start of any construction that may impact forest resources. When forest products are removed from Army lands by any means other than a commercial timber sale, a dollar amount equal to the fair market value is to be deposited to Budget Clearing Account 21F3875.3960 20-C S99999 for products removed."

USARAK policy on forest products use, as stated in the DRAFT Fort Wainwright Forest Management Plan, is as follows:

- All forest harvesting actions must be coordinated with the Environmental Resources Department / Installation Forester prior to action.
- Public use of forest products require a permit from the Environmental Resources Department / Installation Forester prior to removal of timber from the Installation.
- Mechanical clearing techniques must be coordinated with the Environmental Resources Department / Installation Forester prior to action.
- Hand clearing techniques should be used to preclude erosion or when conducting harvesting activities in wetlands, when possible.
- Timber harvest activity is not allowed within 50 feet immediately adjacent to an anadromous stream or high value resident fish water body. Within the next 50 feet, a 50% minimum retention of trees must occur.
- Permits are required for the vehicular crossing of anadromous and resident fish streams.
- Trees with a diameter-breast-height (dbh) of less than four inches may be cut without prior approval.
- Trees with a dbh of less than four inches; slash; and other debris may be distributed into adjacent upland areas, piled for burning, hauled away, or chipped and distributed into adjacent upland areas. Specific disposal methods will be determined by the Environmental Resources Department / Installation Forester prior to action.
- If spruce logs are not immediately removed from the site, the following special precaution must be taken. All spruce logs greater than four inch dbh must be scored the length of the log with a chainsaw to a half-inch depth so as to cause drying of the phloem to prevent bark and ips beetle infestations in nearby healthy trees.
- Trees with a dbh of more than four inches should be salvaged for public use up to a four inch top.
- Trees with a dbh of more than four inches should be stacked separately from smaller diameter trees.
- All stumps should be cut within six inches or less of the ground surface.
- Spruce boughs are only to be collected from trees sized less than four inches dbh for troop training.
- All large-scale harvest activities must be coordinated with the Natural Resources Office / Installation Forester to ensure other miscellaneous harvest requirements are met prior to action.

Changes in policy may occur prior to October 1, 2001 pending final approval of the Fort Wainwright Forest Management Plan. If changes occur, an updated version with noted changes will be distributed.

APPENDIX D.
WETLAND CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
3437 AIRPORT WAY
SUITE 206 WASHINGTON PLAZA
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-4777

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 30, 2002

Regulatory Branch
North Section
8-2002-1150

Directorate of Public Works
APVR-WPW-EV (LIPYANIC)
1060 Gaffney Road 36500
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-6500

Dear Ms. Lipyanic:

This is in response to your October 25, 2002, letter requesting a Department of the Army (DA) jurisdictional determination for proposed Army Project Number 57353, (IBCT Small BOF and two COFs) located within section 18, T. 1 S., R. 1 E., Fairbanks Meridian, on Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Based on our review of the information you furnished and available to our office, we have determined that your proposed project would not involve placement of fill material into waters of the U.S. under our regulatory jurisdiction. Therefore, a DA permit is not required.

However, should you decide to alter the method, scope, or location of your proposed activity, please contact this office for a determination of DA jurisdiction and, if applicable, the required DA authorization.

Your proposed project was reviewed pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a DA permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344).

For regulatory purposes, the Corps of Engineers defines wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Please be advised that land clearing operations involving vegetation removal with mechanized equipment such as front-end loaders, backhoes, or bulldozers with sheer blades, rakes, or discs in wetlands; or windrowing of vegetation, land leveling or other soil disturbances are considered placement of fill material under our jurisdiction.

This approved jurisdictional determination is valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of this letter, unless new information supporting a revision is provided to this office before the expiration date. Should you desire to appeal this approved jurisdictional determination, please contact this office to request additional information on the Administrative Appeals Process.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as excusing you from compliance with other Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations that may affect this work. For informational purposes, a copy of this letter is being sent to the agencies and individuals on the enclosed list.

Please take a moment to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire. Our interest is to see how we can continue to improve our service to you, our customer, and how best to achieve these improvements. Upon your request, you may also provide additional comments by telephone or a meeting. We appreciate your efforts and interest in evaluating the regulatory program.

We appreciate your cooperation with the Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program. Please refer to file number 8-2002-1150 in future correspondence or if you have any questions concerning this determination. You may contact me at (907) 474-2166, or by mail at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Sheila Newman

Sheila Newman
Regulatory Specialist

Enclosures

APPENDIX E.
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
SECTION 106 CONSULTATION

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1310
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3565
PHONE: (907) 269-8721
FAX: (907) 269-8908

File No.: 3130-1R Department of the Army
3330-6N Building 3421 and Building 3425 Fort Wainwright

January 23, 2002

David B. Snodgrass, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Director Public Works, Department of the Army
Headquarters U.S. Army Alaska
600 Richardson Drive #5000
Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505-5000

Subject: Demolition of Building 3421 and Building 3425 Fort Wainwright

Dear Lt. Col. Snodgrass:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office reviewed Department of the Army correspondence received January 14, 2002 regarding the subject referenced above.

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the Department of the Army finding Building 3421 (1953) and Building 3425 (1955) not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties.

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the Department of the Army finding of no historic properties affected for the undertaking to demolish Building 3421 (1953) and Building 3425 (1955).

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please call James J. Malanaphy III, AIA at (907) 269-8726.

Sincerely,

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB:jjm

cc: Russell Sackett, Cultural Resource Manager (APVR-RPW-EV)
Fairbanks North Star Borough - City of Fairbanks Historical Commission

Printed on Recycled Paper

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

550 W 7TH AVE, SUITE 1310
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3565
PHONE: (907) 269-8721
FAX: (907) 269-8908

File No.: 3130-1R Department of the Army

December 11, 2002

David B. Snodgrass, Colonel U.S. Army, Director Public Works
Department of the Army, Headquarters U.S. Army Alaska
600 Richardson Drive #5000
Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505-5000

Subject: New DCE Lodging Building, New BOF/COF Building and New Commissary Building Addition - Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Dear Col. Snodgrass:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office reviewed Department of the Army correspondence and attachments – *Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Card Building 3700* (One Sheet), *Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Card Building 3701* (One Sheet), and *Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Card Building 3702* (One Sheet) - received November 12, 2002.

Thank you for providing the additional information requested. The submittals that have been received have not been complete. The quality of the information received has not been adequate to assist the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer with the review of the projects. Please insure that future correspondence on similar undertakings contains clear and legible drawings and photographs with accurate descriptions of the undertaking, the historical context and the area of potential effects. Provide - at a minimum:

1) Accurate legible site plans, floor plans and exterior elevations that clearly illustrate the overall physical dimensions and exterior finish materials for each building and the relationship of the proposed construction to other historic properties located in the area of potential effects.
2) Accurate clearly labeled photographs of the site and other historic properties located in the area of potential effects.
3) A written description of the exterior finish materials and analysis of how the proposed building's architectural character, massing, form and exterior finish materials are sympathetic to architectural character, massing, form and exterior finish materials of other historic properties located in the area of potential effects.

To avoid additional delay for two of the undertakings, the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer proposes to concur with two Department of the Army findings though information provided for review is incomplete.

The site of the new DCE Lodging Building is located outside the boundaries – but within the secondary view shed - of Ladd Field National Historic Landmark and Ladd Air Force Base Cold War Historic District. The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer therefore concurs with Department of the Army finding construction of a new DCE Lodging Building at Fort Wainwright, Alaska will have no adverse effect on the historic district.

The site of the new BOF/COF Building is located outside the boundaries – but within the view shed - of Ladd Field National Historic Landmark and Ladd Air Force Base Cold War Historic District. Department of the Army demonstrated that the design of the new BOF/COF Building is sympathetic to the design character of the historic district. The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with Department of the Army finding construction of the new BOF/COF Building at Fort Wainwright, Alaska will have no adverse effect on the historic district.

The site of the new addition to the Commissary Building is located within the boundaries of Ladd Air Force Base Cold War Historic District. Department of the Army did not provide enough information to determine how the design of the new addition to the Commissary Building is sympathetic to the design character of the historic district. The floor plans are illegible and new work matching the 75' x 200' dimensions described was not clearly identified. The site plan does not appear to be related to the floor plans and elevations provided. The elevations do not indicate the height or other dimensions of the building. The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer therefore cannot concur with Department of the Army finding construction of a new addition to the Commissary Building at Fort Wainwright, Alaska will have no adverse effect on the historic district.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have questions or require further information, please contact James J. Malanaphy III, AIA (907) 269-8726.

Sincerely,

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB:jjm

C: Russell Sackett, Cultural Resource Manager (APVR-RPW-EV)
Fairbanks North Star Borough - City of Fairbanks Historical Commission
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
Tanana Yukon Historical Society
Interior and Arctic Alaska Aeronautical Foundation