5. RESPONSIBLE AND/OR INTERESTED PARTIES

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens, can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."[8]

5-1 U.S. Army Alaska

5-1a Commanding General

In accordance with AR 200-3, the Commanding General is responsible for the following:

(1) Provide funding for a staff of natural resource management professionals, and other resources required to effectively manage the natural resources on the installation

(2) Plan land utilization to avoid or minimize adverse effects on environmental quality and provide for sustained accomplishment of the mission

(3) Where applicable, enter into Cooperative Plans, in accordance with 16 USC 670a, with state and federal conservation agencies for the conservation and development of fish and wildlife, soil, outdoor recreation, and other resources.

(4) Ensure the functioning of an Installation Environmental Quality Control Committee

(5) Ensure that timely coordination of current and planned land use is ongoing between mission, natural resources, environmental, legal, and master planning

(6) Inspect and review mitigation measures that have been implemented or recommended for protection of natural resources as prescribed in environmental documentation in accordance with AR 200-2

(7) Ensure all installation land users are aware of, and comply with, procedures and requirements necessary to accomplish objectives of the integrated natural resources management plan, laws and regulations, and other measures designed to comply with environmental quality objectives

5-1b Directorate of Public Works

In accordance with AR 200-3, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for the following.

(1) Manage all phases of the Natural Resources Program on the installation with appropriate DOD natural resource management professionals

(2) Develop programs to ensure the inventory, delineation, classification, and management of all applicable natural resources including: wetlands, scenic areas, endangered and threatened species, sensitive and critical habitats, and other natural resource areas of special interest

(3) Provide for training of personnel

(4) Implement this Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

(5) Review all environmental documents (e.g., environmental impact assessments and statements and remedial action plans) and construction designs and proposals to ensure adequate protection of natural resources and that technical guidance as presented in the INRMP is adequately considered

[8] Margaret Mead, Anthropologist.

(6) Coordinate with local, state, and federal governmental and private conservation agencies relative to the installation's natural resources management program

Within the USARAK Directorate of Public Works, these functions and responsibilities are carried out by the Natural Resources Branch of the Environmental Resources Department.

5-1c Directorate of Plans, Training, Security, and Mobilization

Directorate of Plans, Training, Security, and Mobilization (DPTSM), particularly its Range Division, is the interface between the Natural Resources Branch and troops training in the field. The DPTSM has the responsibility for managing range complexes, coordinating military training, and releasing training areas for forestry, land restoration, and recreational use.

Integration of a conservation ethic into Fort Richardson's military operations is an essential component of natural resources management. DPTSM provides control of military activities needed to conserve and protect natural resources. Military units on Fort Richardson are responsible for repairing damage resulting from training, including damage to roads in some cases. DPTSM provides access to ranges to accomplish natural resources management and provides opportunities for wildlife related recreation. It also enforces environmental considerations involving range use (see Section 13-3c).

Both DPW and DPTSM are involved in implementing the ITAM program on Fort Richardson. This program is designed to perpetuate quality training lands on the post. Relationships between the two organizations for implementation of this program mirror those at the Department of Army level.

5-1d Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities

Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities (DPCA) manages outdoor recreational facilities on the cantonment area of Fort Richardson. These facilities include ball fields, day-use picnic areas and parks, tennis courts, a golf course, exercise trails, motor cross operating area, and similar areas. Outdoor recreational facilities in the back country are managed cooperatively by DPCA, DPW, and DPTSM. These include remote cabins and hiking trails, off-road vehicle areas, cross-country ski trails, and areas for berry picking, bicycling, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. Outdoor recreation is discussed in detail in Section 18.

5-1e Provost Marshal

The Provost Marshal (PMO) enforces hunting and fishing regulations and responds to wildlife conflicts, taking technical direction from the USARAK Natural Resource Branch. The Provost Marshal's office also provides training for hunter safety certification, issues permits for hunting and fishing and other activities, and operates the post's wildlife museum. Natural resource enforcement issues are further discussed in Section 16.

5-1f Other USARAK Organizations

Implementation of this plan requires assistance of other directorates and organizations on the post. Such organizations include Directorate of Logistics (supply and transportation), Directorate of Resource Management (budget, personnel, and equipment authorizations), Directorate of Contracting (purchasing), Public Affairs (public awareness programs), and Staff Judge Advocate (legal assistance).

5-2 Tenant Organizations

There are two large military tenant organizations on Fort Richardson. The largest of these is the U.S. Army National Guard (USARNG), which has its state headquarters at Camp Denali, and a second location on Fort Richardson at Camp Carroll. The USARNG has tentatively taken control of Bryant Army Airfield, which will be used as the Guard's primary consolidated facility for helicopter and fixed-wing operations in the Anchorage area. The U.S. Army Reserve is also a tenant with a new administration and motor pool facility located in the Fort Richardson cantonment area. The Reserve operates a heavy equipment engineering unit.

Use of Fort Richardson for the two Camps and the Reserve are granted through temporary land-use

permits. Both the Guard and Reserve use lands on Fort Richardson for training exercises. The Fort Richardson Range Control office coordinates and schedules training land use. These tenant organizations are bound by the requirements and provisions of this natural resources management plan. All actions planned by these entities affecting USARAK's natural resources will be done in accordance with this plan and will be authorized and thoroughly coordinated with USARAK Natural Resources prior to commencement of the activity. Any specific action plans developed by these tenant units will be subject to approval by USARAK Natural Resources and will be included in Appendix 1 of this plan.

Fort Richardson also hosts several non-military activities, including the Fort Richardson National Cemetery, administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Fort Richardson Fish Hatchery, run by the State of Alaska.

5-3 Other Defense Organizations

5-3a Elmendorf Air Force Base

Elmendorf AFB was established in 1949 on land ceded by Fort Richardson. Since then, the two installations have maintained close ties. In the event of deployment, the Commanding General of Elmendorf AFB serves as supreme commander of all military forces in Alaska. Elmendorf AFB is approximately 13,125 acres, 10,680 of which are undeveloped (Rothe et al., 1983). A number of management activities are undertaken cooperatively by Fort Richardson and Elmendorf AFB on these undeveloped lands. The most intensive areas of cooperation involve management of moose, bears, and Canada geese. The base also shares a common interest in the quality of ground and surface water on Fort Richardson.

Elmendorf AFB uses Malemute Drop Zone throughout the year for air cargo and personnel drops. The Air Force also practices take-offs and landings with C-130 aircraft on the short-field assault aircraft landing strip (3,500 feet x 60 feet). Most personnel drops are carried out by the 1st/501 Airborne Battalion on Fort Richardson.

5-3b U.S. Army Pacific Command

The U.S. Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) located at Fort Shafter, Hawaii is the USARAK major command headquarters. Per AR 200-3, USARPAC will assist with development and implementation of USARAK conservation programs. USARPAC has review and approval authority for this INRMP and provides funding to implement much of this plan.

5-3c Army Environmental Center

Army Environmental Center (AEC), located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, provides oversight, centralized management, and execution of Army environmental programs and projects. AEC supports NEPA, endangered species, cultural resources, ITAM, environmental compliance, and other related areas.

5-3d Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Alaska District, assists USARAK by administering contracts for outside or other agency support. It also is responsible for issuing wetland permits in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

5-3e Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

The U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) supports northern military installations and plays an integral role in natural resources management on Fort Richardson. It has been a major contributor in the evaluation and planning of remedial actions for ERF and to wetlands management on the installation. Since 1990, CRREL has been involved in numerous studies on ERF including major remedial investigations (Racine *et al.*, 1993). In addition, CRREL is cooperating with Waterways Experiment Station (WES) in a wetlands inventory of all USARAK lands. Both labs cooperated in conducting a floristic inventory in 1995.

5-3f Waterways Experiment Station

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station (WES) along with CRREL is as-

sisting USARAK in delineation of wetlands and development of a model to evaluate wetland functions and values.

5-3g Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM), formally known as Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, is a partner in the study and the remediation plan for ERF.

5-3h U.S. Army Training Support Center

The Army Training Support Center (ATSC) is the executive agent for the ITAM program, and as such, supports the Fort Richardson ITAM program. The ATSC provides higher-level integration and general program oversight.

5-4 Other Federal Agencies

5-4a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS is a signatory cooperator in the implementation of this plan in accordance with the Sikes Act. USFWS is a partner, along with the Army and ADF&G, in the management of fish and wildlife on the post, as outlined in the *Cooperative Agreement for Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources on Army Installations in Alaska* (U.S. Army, 1986). This INRMP supersedes this Agreement. Major cooperative efforts involving USFWS include species inventories and wetlands management, particularly within ERF. In 1987, USFWS became part of a five-member interagency task force formed to identify the cause of wildlife mortality in ERF and undertake remedial actions (CH2M Hill, 1994b). Appendix 5-4a includes specific items of cooperation between the USFWS, BLM, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and USARAK as required by the Sikes Act.

5-4b U.S. Bureau of Land Management

BLM is a signatory partner in the implementation of this INRMP. BLM is the Secretary of Interior's authorized delegate for jurisdiction responsibilities regarding vegetative and mineral resources on specific Fort Richardson lands. These lands are identified through various PLOs and EOs (Appendix 2-4). Further, the Secretary of Interior through BLM reserves authority to change use and grant various rights to others to use the lands (rights-of-way, utility lines, gas, water, electric, cable, TV, sewer, telephone, fiber optics, etc.), with the concurrence of the Army. Appendix 5-4a includes specific items of cooperation between the BLM, USFWS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and USARAK.

5-4c U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was part of an interagency task force formed in 1987 to investigate and resolve the problem of waterfowl mortality in ERF. EPA has supported studies of contamination and its effects in ERF. The agency presently has an important role in remedial actions to rehabilitate contaminated areas of ERF. In 1994, Fort Richardson was placed on EPA's National Priorities List. EPA has other responsibilities in environmental program areas on Fort Richardson.

5-4d U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) may be called upon to provide technical assistance for forest management on Fort Richardson. USFS is especially concerned with forest pests and wildfires on the post. In 1991, Oregon State University, in collaboration with Chugach National Forest, obtained approval to conduct a long-term forest research study on Fort Richardson. This research includes a white spruce (*Picea glauca*) regeneration study, a field transplant nursery, and an evaluation of different site preparation techniques. In addition, Oregon State University obtained funding in 1994 from Alaska Science and Technical Foundation for reforestation studies in several regions of Alaska. USARAK has been participating in the study by providing land for field research plots representative of southcentral Alaska. The research is investigating site preparation techniques and white spruce regeneration. Fort Richardson also has a land-use permit for glacier and mountaineering training on Spencer Glacier in the Chugach National Forest on the Kenai Peninsula.

5-4e Natural Resources Conservation Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted a soil survey of Fort Richardson that will be completed in 1998.

5-4f National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) is a major land holder in Alaska. Sections of this INRMP of interest to the NPS are those that deal with the future of outdoor recreation and the protection and management of cultural resources.

5-4g U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) supports the development of USARAK's GIS, providing remotely sensed imagery and other terrain and vegetation data. It also has an interest in ground and surface water resources on Fort Richardson.

5-4h Office of Aircraft Services

The Office of Aircraft Services (OAS), Department of the Interior, has both fixed-wing and rotor aircraft at its disposal. In the past, USARAK has used aircraft contracted by OAS for moose and waterfowl inventories. The assistance of OAS has proved to be indispensable in these situations. Funds can be transferred directly from USARAK to OAS, which is a significant advantage.

5-5 State Agencies

5-5a Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is a signatory and cooperating agency in the implementation of this plan as required by the Sikes Act. It is also the primary state agency for fish and wildlife management at Fort Richardson. The post is part of the Cook Inlet Management Area for fisheries, and Game Management Unit 14C for wildlife. Within Game Management Unit 14C, it has been given its own designation as a special management area by the State Game Board. It is officially referred to as the Fort Richardson Management Area.

ADF&G has assisted in most areas of fish and wildlife management on Fort Richardson in accordance with the *Cooperative Agreement for Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources on Army Installations in Alaska* (U.S. Army, 1986). This INRMP supersedes this Agreement. ADF&G is also USARAK's primary partner in moose management, as described in a 1972 draft cooperative agreement (unsigned, but used by both agencies). In 1987, ADF&G joined an interagency task force for investigation and management of ERF. Appendix 5-4a includes specific items of cooperation between the ADF&G, BLM, USFWS, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and USARAK as required by the Sikes Act.

5-5b Alaska Department of Natural Resources

5-5b(1) Division of Forestry

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Division of Forestry (DOF), is responsible for fire suppression on all lands, regardless of ownership, in the southern half of the state. Fort Richardson falls within a Coastal Zone Management Unit administered by the Division. Specific concerns with regard to implementation of the INRMP include prescribed burns/fire suppression, forest pest management, and forest inventory.

5-5b(2) Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

The ADNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, is involved with USARAK on issues of public access and tourism within the Anchorage area. It also has an interest in joint recreational facilities projects between USARAK and the State of Alaska and the future management of the former Nike missile site as a Cold War historical and recreational site.

Since Fort Richardson's largest neighbor is Chugach State Park, the Division has an obvious interest in natural resources management on the post. Most of the southeastern boundary of Fort Richardson borders the park. Chugach State Park and Fort Richardson share interior forest, alpine, and subalpine habitats. Areas of cooperation and concern include forest management, outdoor recreation, wildlife

management, fire management, and forest pest management.

5-5b(3) Plant Materials Center

USARAK has entered into a cooperative agreement with the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center (PMC) for the purpose of enhancing, rehabilitating, and maintaining USARAK training lands at levels that will ensure their continued long-term use and effectiveness. The Center is providing support to USARAK in implementing LRAM and other erosion control projects.

5-5c Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development

The Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development (ADCED) is a state agency interested in Fort Richardson's role in supporting tourism within the Anchorage area.

5-5d Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is the state's primary regulatory agency responsible for insuring the appropriate remediation of ERF. In addition, some aspects of wetlands management and water quality may fall under its jurisdiction.

5-5e Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination

The Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination (ADGC) acts as a clearinghouse for state agency review of projects and other actions. It enforces compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

5-6 Municipality of Anchorage

Primary interests of the city of Anchorage with regard to natural resources management on Fort Richardson are outdoor recreation, moose management, Ship Creek, and surface water and groundwater resources. The Municipality controls air quality permits which limits the ability of USARAK to use prescribed burning. The Municipality is also interested in right-of-ways through Fort Richardson for utility corridors and recreation.

5-7 Universities

USARAK has contracted universities for research projects on the post. Experts from universities have provided specialized knowledge needed to effectively manage natural resources on Fort Richardson. University of Alaska facilities at Anchorage and Fairbanks are the installation's nearest resources for academic research. Over the years, the Anchorage campus has maintained a close relationship with the Fort Richardson community. Recently, researchers at the Fairbanks campus were contracted to conduct a small mammal survey on the post and contributed to a survey of vascular plants and the more common lichens and mosses.

For large, specialized needs, USARAK may request assistance from academic resources outside of Alaska. Through a Cooperative Agreement with USARAK, the Center for Ecological Management of Military Lands (CEMML) at Colorado State University (CSU) is a source of support for the development of ITAM, Geographical Information System (GIS) databases, and general natural resources inventory and management planning. CSU is also providing staff to implement ITAM, including the GIS. Miami University, Ohio completed an old-growth forest study on the post in 1997.

5-8 Private Contractors

Private contractors are becoming more important in all facets of post management as the DOD continues to scale back the number of federal employees. USARAK uses contractors for many programs associated with natural resources, including INRMP preparation, NEPA documentation, cultural resources surveys, water quality studies, and ERF evaluations.

5-9 Other Interested Parties

A public meeting was held on July 11, 1995 to explain the INRMP planning process and invite public comment. Prior to this meeting ten environmental and conservation groups were sent letters an-

nouncing the meeting and offering to meet with them on an individual basis. There were no responses.

Groups contacted were:

- Alaska Center for the Environment
- Alaska Conservation Foundation
- National Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Parks and Conservation Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Sierra Club
- Trustees for Alaska
- The Wilderness Society
- Wildlife Federation of Alaska

This indicates that there are no strong concerns regarding the general management of natural resources on Fort Richardson among the local environmental and conservation community. However, some special interests groups may, in fact have very specific concerns. For example, there has been considerable interest in rafting on the Eagle River during the past few years. Other interests, such as dog training and snowmobiling have been expressed in the past. In summary, there appears to be no significant concerns over management of natural resources on Fort Richardson in general, but some recreation groups may become very concerned when their activity is potentially threatened.

The Partners in Flight (PIF) program may be useful in studying and managing neotropical migratory birds. PIF is a partnership of federal and state agencies, educational institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. The program integrates neotropical migratory bird management efforts into existing natural resource and land management programs consistent with the military mission. The program focuses on inventory, on-the-ground management practices, education, and long-term monitoring to determine changes in populations of these birds on DOD installations.

The Nature Conservancy is an important nongovernmental organization with interests in Fort Richardson's natural resources program. The Nature Conservancy (Alaska Natural Heritage Program), together with WES and CRREL, were contracted for a floristic inventory of Fort Richardson. This included investigation of possible rare plant species.

5-10 Binding Agreements

Written agreements between USARAK and partnering agencies and groups strengthen and solidify cooperative efforts as well as define roles and responsibilities. These documents in the form of Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), Letters of Agreement (LOAs), Cooperative Agreements (CAs), and like documents associated with Wildlife and Natural Resources are found in Appendix 5-10.