



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT WAINWRIGHT
1060 GAFFNEY ROAD #4500
FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA 99703-4500

Directorate of Public Works

SUBJECT: Construction of Permanent Facilities for an Aviation Unit, Fort Wainwright,
PN 65076, 67112, 67113, 67116

Blackbird Airpark
Ave P & 25th Street East
Palmdale , CA 93550

To Whom it May Concern:

The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright (USAG FWA) is proposing to construct permanent facilities to support the restationing of aviation assets at Fort Wainwright (FWA). These facilities are intended to support a Task-Force-sized (710 Soldiers) or a larger Brigade-sized military aviation unit (2360 Soldiers). The aviation assets would include Soldiers, medium- and heavy-lift helicopters, combat-scout helicopters, and attack-aviation helicopters.

This letter will provide some basic information and invites your organization to participate in the Section 106 consultation process for this project under 36CFR800.2(d). If you or your organization are interested in participating in this consultation process, a more detailed package of information will be forthcoming based on your response. Information about the Section 106 process can be found at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation website at <http://www.achp.gov/using106.pdf>.

The need for the proposed aviation unit will provide key aviation assets for operational deployment abroad, and will improve the training of U.S. Army Alaska's (USARAK) two Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) by providing an Alaska-based organizational structure within which integrated training with multiple types of Army aviation assets can be achieved. This stationing action will help sustain the ability of the Army and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to meet mission requirements, transformation goals, and future combat missions. Providing facilities and support for this restationing effort is a high priority for USAG Alaska. Due to the large amount of construction, USAG Alaska has reached a finding of "**Historic Properties Adversely Affected.**"

Proposed construction of this aviation unit support complex at Fort Wainwright is currently being analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This EIS is being prepared by

USAG Alaska and contractors, and the ultimate decision authority lies with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installation and Environment) (ASA (I&E)). Section 106 consultation is being conducted concurrently and will continue in consort with the EIS analysis. As set forth in 36CFR800.11(b), USAG Alaska will be utilizing much of the documentation prepared for the EIS to inform the Section 106 process.

Project Description and Proposed Siting

The proposed project consists of the construction of new facilities and the demolition of existing facilities to support the ongoing transformation of Army aviation units at Fort Wainwright and to ensure that the installation is capable of meeting the current and future needs of a transforming U.S. Army Alaska. The current infrastructure at Fort Wainwright cannot accommodate the addition of these Soldiers, equipment and their functions without substantial new construction. Existing facilities cannot accommodate the increase associated with the new aviation unit, as they are currently occupied by other military units and do not meet the needs of the modern aviation unit. The proposed project as set forth in the EIS is composed of two different action alternatives. There is the Task Force-sized stationing alternative which equates to approximately 38 acres of construction and there is the Brigade-sized stationing alternative which equates to approximately 59 acres of construction. A No Action alternative under which there would be no aviation unit stationing or construction will also be considered in the EIS. The construction associated with the above described aviation assets is located across FWA but is primarily sited on the Southwest side of the Ladd Army Airfield.

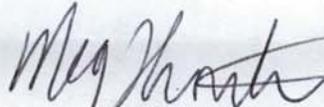
The decision whether to expand USARAK aviation elements into a Task Force or a Brigade will depend upon the near future availability of the necessary additional aircraft and personnel. Because a current need exists for broader ranged aerial support training in Alaska, the preferred course of action is to expand USARAK's aviation as assets become available. If, at the time of the EIS decision, sufficient aircraft and personnel are not available to expand the existing unit into a Brigade, USARAK aviation reorganization will be limited to a Task Force, with the possibility to expand into a Brigade if resources do become available. Currently, the preferred course of action is to station a Task Force-sized aviation unit at FWA. Thus, siting information for only the Task Force element is included in this letter.

To maximize the efficiency of the new aviation unit, facilities are proposed to be grouped together as much as possible into a geographically unified training complex, whose focus is on the active Ladd Army Airfield. This project area falls partly within the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark (NHL) and the Cold War Historic District (HD) (Figure 1). Specifically, the project area includes airfield facilities on the southwest corner of the airfield; one facility on the southeast side of the airfield; barracks south of Montgomery Road between Santiago and Luzon Avenues; vehicle maintenance and parking east of Luzon Avenue and north of MacArthur Road; unit storage south of MacArthur Road; parking on the north side of Chippewa Avenue between South Gate

Road and Luzon Avenue; and battalion headquarters on South Gate Road south of Alder Avenue (see Figure 1).

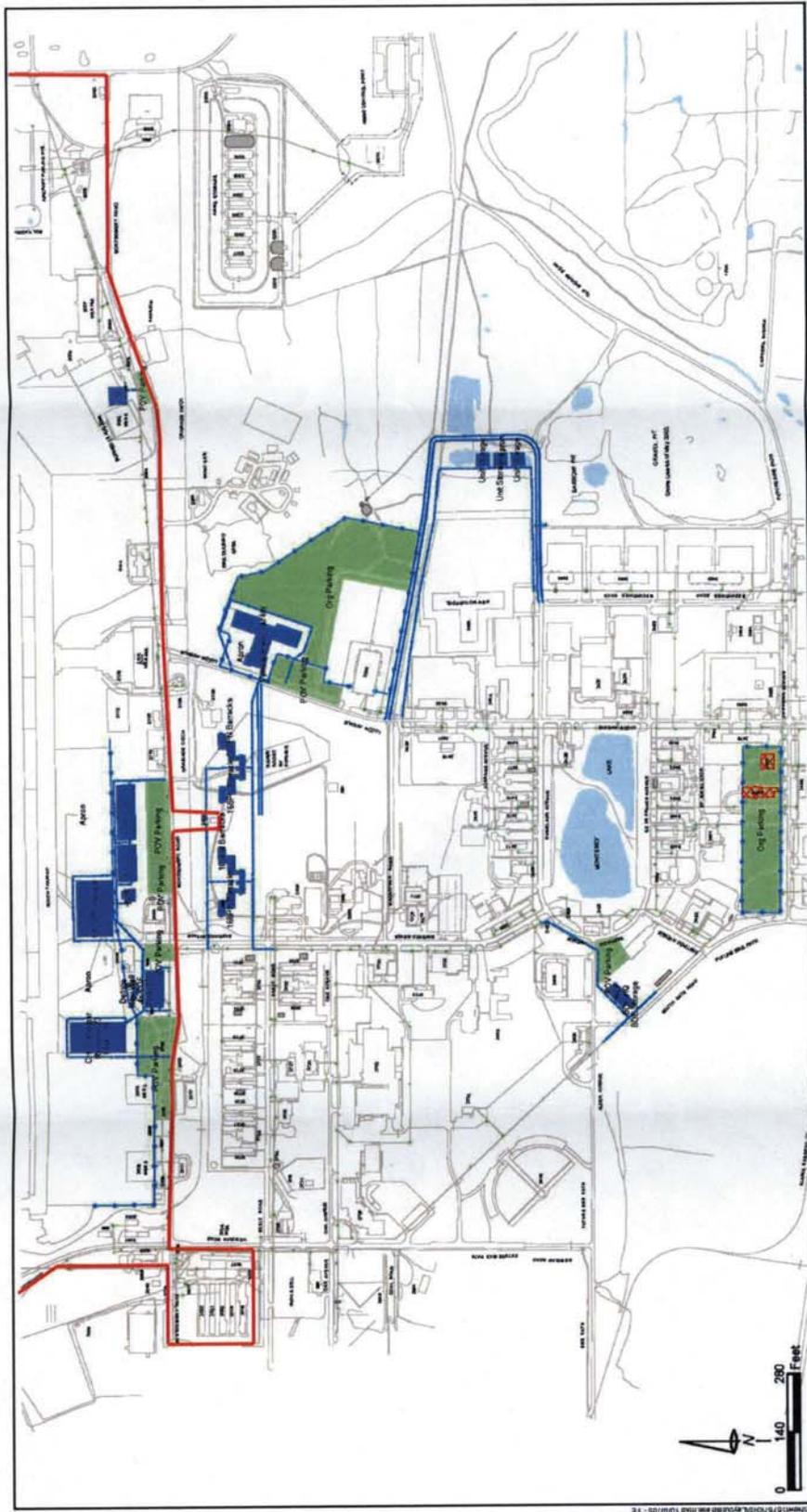
At this time there are several local historic preservation groups, as well as the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, participating in the undertaking. If you are interested in participating in this consultation process or if you have any questions please contact me by email meg.thornton@us.army.mil, telephone (907)490-4626, or by mail at IMPC-FWA-PWE (Thornton), 1060 Gaffney Road, #4500, Fort Wainwright AK 99703-4500.

Sincerely,



Meg Thornton
Cultural Resource Manager
U.S. Army Garrisons FWA and FRA

Enclosures



Proposed Aviation Task Force Complex Facilities

- Legend**
- New ATF Buildings
 - New ATF Surfaces
 - Buildings to be demolished
 - New ATF Fencing
 - New ATF Utilities
 - New ATF Roads
 - Ladd Field National Historic Landmark

Figure 1. Proposed Aviation Task Force sized Construction Footprint.