

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright Cultural Resources Public Outreach

What information is available to the public?

❖ **Historic Context Reports**

The World War II Heritage of Ladd Field
Northern Defenders: Cold War Context of Ladd Air Force Base
Early Mining History
Early Transportation Routes
Homesteads on Fort Wainwright
The Haines Fairbanks Pipeline
Tracking the Unthinkable: the Donnelly Flats MIDAS
Cold Weather Testing in Alaska

❖ **Archaeology Annual and Project Reports**

❖ **Booklets**

Cold Missions: The U.S. Army Air Forces and Ladd Field in World War II
What is already Green about our Historic Buildings? (not developed locally)

❖ **Pamphlets**

NHL
Cold War District
Archaeological Resources on Fort Wainwright
Government-to-Government

❖ **Driving Tour**

Guide to the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark and Ladd Air Force Base Cold War Historic District

❖ **Education Material for Schools**

Archaeological Teachers Toolkit
[A “Teaching with Historic Places” project on Ladd Field’s WWII history is currently being developed; expected completion October 2012]

❖ **Education Material for Soldiers**

Respect for Afghan Heritage Playing Cards (not developed locally)
[PowerPoint Presentation and Poster on Archaeological Resources is currently being developed, expected completion October 2012]

❖ **Cultural Resources Staff Knowledge and Expertise**

How does USAG FWA disseminate this information to the public?

❖ **Mailing Historic Context Reports**

Over 500 reports were mailed in 2010 to Alaska educational institutions. Also, the reports are available yearly at the USAG FWA Conservation booth at the Fairbanks Outdoor Show. Often when Environmental Office staff participate in public outreach events (like the Delta Fair), they provide the reports to the public. Also in the past, copies have been directly provided to UAF for particular projects. Copies are available in the Environmental Office lobby for members of the public, and often, hard copies are mailed directly to individuals per request.

❖ **Lectures**

In 2010, the Cultural Resources Office facilitated an on-post lecture by NPS on Kiska's WWII history. Also, two lectures are planned for September on Fort Wainwright's history for the Fort Wainwright Hospital's staff. Last year, the Cultural Resources staff gave three off-post public lectures: one on the Cold War mission of Ladd Field at the Tanana Yukon Historical Society Meeting; one to a retiree group on Fort Wainwright history; and one to a field school on lithic analysis.

❖ **Tours**

The Cultural Resources staff has given tours to Army officials and family groups.

❖ **Meeting with Groups**

The Cultural Resources Office meets twice a year with the Fort Wainwright Cultural Resources Working Group which currently includes the SHPO, NPS, Tanana Yukon Historical Society, Fairbanks Historic Preservation Commission and UAF. Every couple years, the Cultural Resources staff sends emails with follow-up phone calls to local groups that may be interested in participating in the working group. The BLM, Aviation Museum, Festival Fairbanks, Tanana Chiefs Conference and veterans groups have been invited in the past and/or participated in the working group in the past. Often a week prior to the meeting, the Cultural Resources staff supplies the group with one-page factsheets on projects to be discussed at the meeting, and after the meeting, meeting notes are supplied to all participants.

The Cultural Resources Office participates in the Quarterly Meetings with the Upper Tanana Tribes. The Garrison Commander attends these meetings along with the Subject Matter Experts from the Environmental Division. The Cultural Resources Manager updates tribes on cultural resources projects, particularly those concerning archaeology and those projects with the potential to have an adverse effect on historic properties.

The Cultural Resources Office also conducts less formal meetings with both the Upper Tanana tribes and Nenana Native Association, solely focused on cultural resources. In the past, the Cultural Resources Office has met with tribes on a case-by-case basis, but this year, an additional yearly meeting was instituted to discuss the annual report on archaeology. During both the Quarterly Meetings and less formal cultural resources meetings, the Cultural Resources staff bring maps and reports to describe past, current, and/or future efforts. The Cultural Resources Office also has conducted site visits to archaeological sites for interested Alaska Native tribes.

❖ **Professional Presentations**

In the last three years, the Cultural Resources staff presented at Alaska Forum on the Environment, the Society of American Anthropology conference and at DoD and Army conferences.

❖ **Exhibits**

The Cultural Resources Office created and staffed displays at the Ladd Field 70th Anniversary and the yearly Fort Wainwright Earth Day celebration. This year's exhibit at the Earth Day celebration provided material on how historic buildings are sustainable. The Cultural Resources Office also developed a display for the Environmental Division Office and supported a complete renovation of the General Wainwright exhibit at the Headquarters building including facilitating the conservation of historic artifacts.

❖ **Newcomer Briefs to Soldiers**

The USAG FWA Native Liaison gives a 30 minute presentation to incoming Soldiers twice a month. During her presentation, she discusses Alaska Native history and culture, and general Alaska history. Additionally, three of her slides are solely devoted to cultural resources: what resources we have; what Soldiers can do to protect our resources; and what cultural resources look like (including buildings and archaeological sites).

❖ **News Articles and News Stories**

The Cultural Resources staff provides articles for the Quarterly Newsletter to Alaska Native Tribes and has been interviewed for articles in the Post newspaper, the Alaska Post. Also, the Cultural Resources Manager was interviewed for a news story which aired on the local television station on Fort Wainwright's history. The Cultural Resources Office will be working with the post newspaper on an up-coming article on the archaeology educational program (see ASRA below).

❖ **Interpretive Panels**

A series of nine permanent interpretive panels are located on post, most in North Post with recent additions being added across the airfield along Gaffney. These panels inform the public on Fort Wainwright's Cold War and World War II history.

❖ **Answering Individual Inquiries**

The Cultural Resources staff answers individual inquiries from members of the public via emails and phone calls. Also, the Public Affairs Office often directs members of the public to Cultural Resources Office when they have questions concerning Fort Wainwright's history and cultural resources.

❖ **Web Site**

The majority of publications and archaeology reports are available on-line, and a more interactive web site is currently being developed.

❖ **2012 Alaska Summer Research Academy's summer archaeology module**

This year for the first time, the Cultural Resources Office is working together with the University of Alaska Museum to provide a module for the Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA). ASRA is an intensive two-week learning experience for students with an interest in science and technology. This summer's archaeology module will take place at UAM and the Big Lake Overlook site near the Delta River in Fort Wainwright's Donnelly Training Area. Students will learn excavation and site recording techniques and take their data back to the UAM Archaeology Laboratory.