



**WESTERN**



**REGION**



WESTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

US ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

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# Moving Towards Sustainability

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# FROM THE EDITOR



**Jerry Owens**  
Chief, WREO

I recently attended a seminar for "Executives on Legislation Operations" sponsored by the Government Affairs Institute (GAI) of Georgetown University. The seminar is designed to:

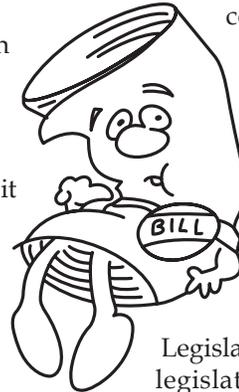
- ▶ Help government executives to fully understand the role of executive branch officials in the legislative process;
- ▶ Identify and understand critical stages in the legislative process, and how legislation is modified and refined at the various stages;
- ▶ Recognize and analyze the practices of congressional committees, including the context and purposes of committee hearings;
- ▶ Understand the roles of individual members and outside interests; and
- ▶ Appreciate the rules and procedures that govern the legislative process, including the current authorization, appropriation, and budget processes.

# SEMINAR FOR EXECUTIVES ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS

I would like to share in this article some of my notes from one of the sessions, "How a Bill Becomes a Law," given by Susan S. Lagon, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

Dr. Lagon used the analogy of a vehicle carrying a bill into public policy. Just as it is dangerous to drive in Washington, D.C., the danger of a bill being defeated or "dying" is also very high. She asked the audience, as in Greek theater, to participate by saying "The Bill Dies" each time she would raise her hand. This was to emphasize how easy it is for a bill to die. At best the chance for success is 5 percent. As a vehicle needs a "licensed driver," a bill must have a sponsor. Only an elected member of Congress can introduce legislation. There are no quotas or restrictions. As a vehicle generally has "passengers," a bill carries many colleagues or co-sponsors. "Dear Colleague" letters generally notify passengers that co-sponsorship is

available. These letters are usually passed by and through congressional staff. Co-sponsorship is not binding, so it is not a high risk to agree to co-sponsor colleagues' proposed bills.



Members of Congress look for diversity in sponsorship, e.g., parties, regional and various interests. Diversity on the Hill doesn't refer to race, creed, color, sex, etc. There are only Republicans and Democrats, then regions and interests. The Office of

Legislative Counsel puts the bill into legislative language and tells the sponsor how the proposed bill affects existing law. Sponsors seek to give bills a name that will encourage action. In order to obtain a number on the bill, the sponsor simply drops it into the "hopper." The bills are numbered sequentially according to receipt. In the last Congress, HR-1 was the "Leave No Child Behind" Act.

At this time, the bill is referred to committee. The House has 20 committees and the Senate has 17 committees. How does the bill affect constituents? What are the funding issues? Who is the sponsor? Whom does the sponsor owe? What kind of media attention will it get? Is it good public policy?

The mark-up begins with the release of a draft proposal called the chairman's mark. The House has 229 Republicans and 206 Democrats. The Senate has 50 Republicans, 49 Democrats and 1 Independent. The bill will normally travel through a subcommittee and then the full committee. The full committee sometimes does not pass agriculture and defense bills at all. The Rules committee determines the procedure for the bill to come to the floor. "Closed Rule" means no amendments. Members must be physically present in both the House and the Senate in order to cast a vote. The voting system includes choices for "yes," "no," "present," and "erase." All votes are public.

## WESTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

The Western Regional Environmental Office Newsletter is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30. It is published on a quarterly basis by the U.S. Army Western Regional Environmental Office, U.S. Custom House, Room 427, 721 19th Street, Denver, CO 80202-2500. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This publication has a circulation of 400. WREO Chief's telephone: (303) 844-0953; all articles proposed should be submitted to the Regional Environmental Office two months before issue dates. These submissions are subject to editing and rewriting as deemed necessary for space considerations.

- Commander, USAEC ..... COL James M. De Paz
- Deputy Commander ..... Dr. Kenneth Juris
- Chief, WREO ..... Gerald F. Owens
- Executive Officer ..... LTC Boyd D. Houck
- Chief of Public Affairs ..... Robert DiMichele

Bills have to pass both the House and the Senate in identical form before they can be sent to the President. The Presentment Clause dictates that the majority and minority Chairs name conference committee conferees in the House and the Senate. Sometimes amendments can reconcile the differences, but most major bills go to a conference committee. The only rule about the make-up of a conference committee is that it will be composed of members from both chambers. Conference Reports equal a compromise. Only issues of dispute are discussed in conference. "Nothing becomes public law that every Member of Congress has not had the opportunity to vote on."

The President can sign the bill into law; veto it for any reason (requiring a two-thirds vote to override); or ignore it, neither signing nor vetoing, in which case it becomes law in 10 working days. A "pocket veto" occurs when a bill is sent to the President within 10 days of the end of the session. He takes no action, in effect vetoing the bill. The end result is that Congress is not in session to override the "veto."

This seminar is recommended specifically as a means to prepare Army personnel who are likely to be involved in preparing testimony for Congress, assisting in the drafting of legislative language for Congress, or educating federal legislators regarding impacts on the military. GAI has additional courses more tailored to specific tasks or personnel that would likely also be of benefit to Army employees. Visit <http://www.georgetown.edu/ssce/gai> for more information on courses.



# INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE TRAINING

**Diane Connolly**

*Regional Counsel, WREO*

**E**nvironmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers basic inspector training to installation personnel. Course attendees include tribal, state, local and new EPA inspectors. EPA also provides an advanced inspector course for individuals who have significant inspection experience. For more information about inspector classes and other EPA courses, visit <http://www.netionline.com>



Here is some useful information from the basic training:

- ◆ Inspectors are prohibited from stating any conclusions during the exit interview after the inspection. Installations frequently believe that EPA is "hiding the ball" regarding its findings. However, under the EPA structure, only the program personnel, in conjunction with the attorneys, are empowered to make decisions regarding any possible violations.
- ◆ EPA often takes a very long time to issue a report to the investigated entity after the actual inspection. While this is frustrating, the military is not the only entity that must deal with these delays. The internal EPA process includes creation of the inspector's report, review by the inspector's supervisor, review by the relevant program personnel, and legal review.
- ◆ The following Web sites may be useful for assessing your installation's compliance or for preparing for an inspection:
  - ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/monitoring/inspections/index.html> contains EPA inspection protocols for various types of inspections and includes a policy document that defines permissible and impermissible inspector activities.
  - ◇ <http://www.assistancecenters.net> contains compliance and other information for specific types of industry processes, such as metal finishing, painting, and auto repair. This site has an enormous amount of information and includes links to state agency sites and requirements.
  - ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/fedsite> provides specific information for federal facilities, such as links to Executive Orders and to federal agency Web sites (but not to the Department of Defense or the Army sites).
  - ◇ <http://www.inece.org/manual/index.html> links to EPA's inspector manual.
  - ◇ <http://www.epa.gov/idea/otis> contains environmental information, including compliance and inspection data, for regulated sites throughout the nation. The site is searchable by specified variables such as geographic region, media and U.S. Standard Industrial Classification code. States have access to a version of this site that includes more detailed site data not available to the public.

# "MAKING FEDERAL BUILDINGS GREEN"

**Curt Williams**

*Contributing Editor*

*Project Manager, WREO*

"Closing the Circle News" is a quarterly publication produced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of the Federal Environmental



Executive (OFEE). A subscription may be acquired by accessing <http://www.ofee.gov>. The most recent issue (Fall-Winter 2002) focuses on sustainable federal buildings and the movement towards integrating green building mentality as the key component of whole building design.

For those who work this particular area or are soon to become involved, this free publication may well serve to be a reliable source of information in constructing new buildings or renovating existing ones to become green.

In 1993, businesses, governments, building professionals, environmentalists, and others came together to form the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), which today includes over 2,000 member organizations. The primary focus of the USGBC has been the formation of a Green Building Rating System entitled LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). This has proven to be a well-thought-out approach to allocating points via a sophisticated checklist that awards points based on a "building's performance" in six major areas: energy and atmosphere, water efficiency, materials and resources, indoor air quality and sustainable sites, and innovative design processes (a creative approach to building sustainability). The total number of assessed points determines the LEED rating (i.e., Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum).

To help stay current in this arena, the Federal Green Building (FedGB) list was designed by EPA in an effort to draw together many federal employees working on green building issues. This focuses on making buildings more efficient in energy usage, water consumption, utilization of more efficient building materials, and improvements to the indoor environment and human health. The FedGB list provides an opportunity for federal green building personnel to enhance their work by sharing with others issues and successes on new programs, publications, Web sites, guidance, regulations, news stories, and requests for help or expertise. To subscribe to the FedGB list, simply e-mail [sandler.ken@epa.gov](mailto:sandler.ken@epa.gov). To post messages to the site, e-mail [fedgb@list.epa.gov](mailto:fedgb@list.epa.gov).



## GREEN BUILDING INFORMATION ON THE WEB:

### – Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG)

This provides a complete Internet resource that includes a variety of building-related design guidance criteria and technology for incorporating sustainable building design principles in design decisions. The goal is to encourage a holistic approach to design and construction for use by federal, military and private sector architects, engineers and project managers to create a successful high performance building. The "Whole Building" design approach challenges the members of the planning, design and construction team to look at the materials, systems and assemblies from a host of new perspectives not considered before. The WBDG may be visited at <http://www.wbdg.org>.



### – Department of Energy (DOE) - Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)

DOE's Web site has been designed to advance energy efficiency, renewable energy and related policies at federal sites, including case studies, software, financing strategies and other useful tools and resources. For more information, visit <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp>.



### – U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

This site offers extensive insight on the LEED building rating system and other activities of the USGBC. For more information, visit <http://www.usgbc.org>.



### – EPA - Green Building

This site links to a variety of EPA sustainable building resources, ranging from Energy Star to Healthy Schools. Once you have accessed <http://www.epa.gov/green-building>, simply click on "EPA's Green Buildings" to learn how the EPA is implementing these principles into its own facilities.



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# FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA...

## "THE WILDLIFE LEGACY OF SHIP CREEK"

**Bill Quirk**

*U.S. Army Alaska*

The Ship Creek drainage in the Chugach Mountains east of Anchorage is a protected watershed comprising 91 square miles (58,240 acres). Ship Creek was first protected in 1919 to safeguard the water supply for the City of Anchorage. Later it was afforded additional protection when the Army in 1941 constructed a timber diversion structure to take water from the creek. In 1952, the Army constructed the currently used Ship Creek Dam and Reservoir, which is a 50-foot high concrete structure supplying water to Fort Richardson, Elmendorf AFB, and the City of Anchorage. In the early 1970s, upper Ship Creek was included in Chugach State Park, and now has the highest order of protection under a wilderness classification. The long and continuously protected status of upper Ship Creek has precluded almost all road building and vehicular use. This has preserved the wildlife resources



and habitat in a natural state since people first lived in Anchorage. The only human activity in upper Ship Creek has been light and recreational: hiking and backpacking, cross-country skiing and winter camping, and hunting (on foot or horseback) for moose and Dall sheep.

The core of the wildlife resources in upper Ship Creek is only 12 air miles from downtown Anchorage. No other modern and progressive city the size of Anchorage can claim such a wildlife spectacle so close to an urban area. The vegetation resources in the Ship Creek drainage are excellent habitat for a wide array of Alaska's most magnificent wildlife. The Ship Creek drainage provides summer and fall habitat for about 200 migratory moose. Predators associated with the moose herd include a wolf pack that remains year round in the upper Ship Creek drainage. Other predators found in Ship Creek are the lynx, pine marten, hawk, owl, and the golden eagle. Predator-scavengers include 15 to 20 brown bears, a moderate density of black bears, wolverine,



ermine, raven, and magpie. Other large mammals found in upper Ship Creek are Dall sheep. The population of sheep in Ship Creek has been as high as 350 and averages 275. Neotropical land birds nest in the Ship Creek drainage in the summer. A pair of white gyrfalcons were observed by the author in upper Ship Creek in June 1992. The upper part of Ship Creek supports a large population of beaver. Marmots, red and ground squirrels, and rodents complete the list of resident wildlife found in Ship Creek.

To maintain such an abundance and variety of Alaska's treasured wildlife, upper Ship Creek in Chugach State Park and Fort Richardson will need to be continually managed for the long-term sustainability of the animals and the habitat.

*About the Author: Bill Quirk, Environmental Scientist/Biologist for Department of the Army, Fort Richardson, Alaska, is also a seasoned Alaskan Pilot with his Arctic Team tail dragger based at Merrill Field in Anchorage.*



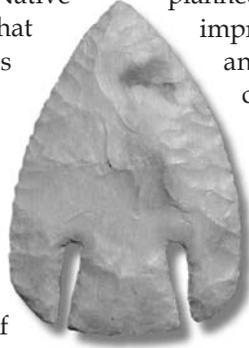
# UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ASSEMBLES MILITARY AND TRIBES TO HOST TRIBAL CONSULTATION TRAINING

**Tim Blume**

*Army REC Region 8*

*Horne Engineering Services*

The Department of Defense (DoD) American Indian and Alaska Native Policy preamble emphasizes that the policy comprises principles for interacting and working with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native governments. As the policy only provides general guidance on issues affecting tribes, DoD personnel must consider the unique qualities of individual tribes when applying the principles, particularly at the installation level. They must recognize the importance of increasing understanding and addressing tribal concerns, past, present and future. The concerns must be addressed prior to reaching decisions on matters that may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian lands. However, there is more direction for military agencies to follow. Questions often asked are "What do I do?" "What tribes must I consult with?" and "Whom do I contact in the tribes?" Understanding that it's often a bewildering situation for those in the military who have no experience interacting with tribes, the National Guard is working to help smooth the road.



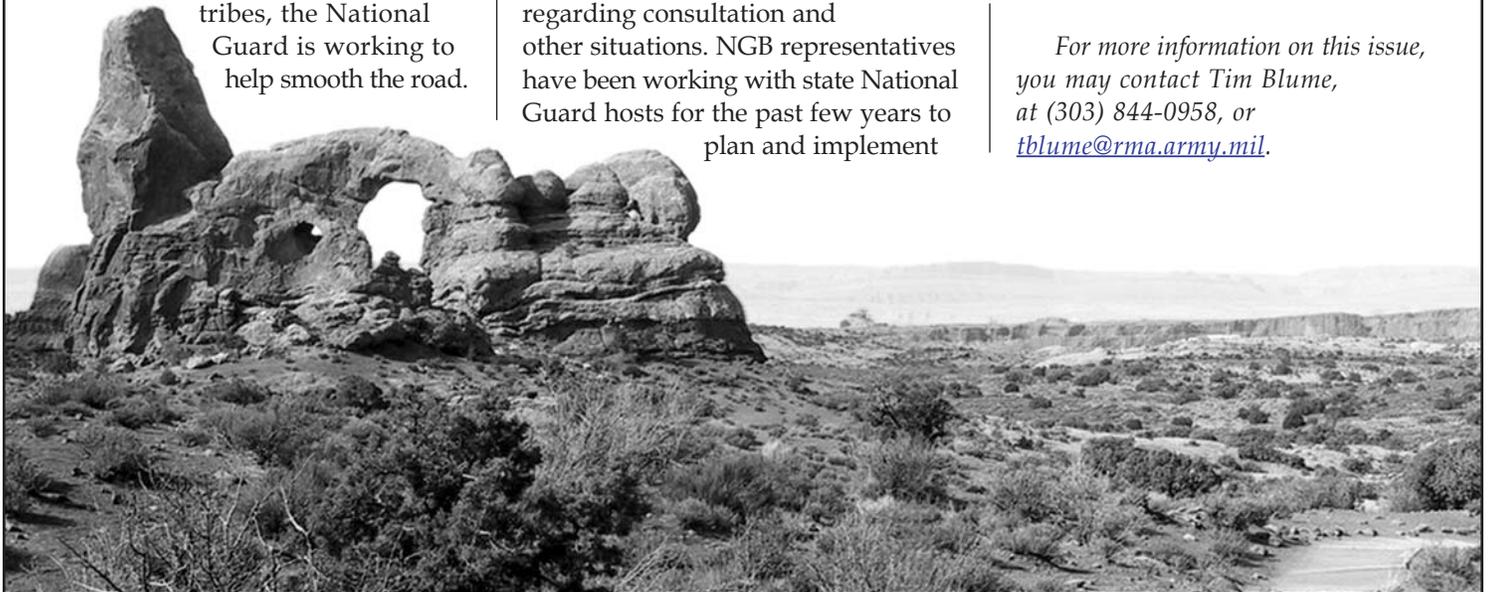
The Utah Army National Guard planned and hosted a workshop to improve participants' awareness and knowledge about tribal consultation requirements, procedures and tribal preferences, on June 3-5, 2003, near Logan, Utah. Participant organizations included representatives of National Guard Bureau (NGB), nine state National Guards, 12 tribes, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Army Reserve 96th Regional Support Command, Dugway Proving Ground, Hill Air Force Base and the U.S. Army Environmental Center Western Regional Environmental Office. Both military and tribal representatives participated in the workshop to facilitate their introduction and provide the opportunity to establish positive relationships, which laid a foundation for future interaction regarding consultation and other situations. NGB representatives have been working with state National Guard hosts for the past few years to plan and implement

these workshops across the country as a way to improve awareness and facilitate relationship building. This is the eighth workshop that the Guard has conducted across the country. The workshop included formal presentations as well as panel discussions, touching upon legal consultation requirements, what works and what doesn't, tribal oral traditions, curation issues, and other valuable information. Additionally, there were informal activities and time allowed for tribal and military representatives to meet, interact and begin to establish relationships. Based on the closing remarks at the end of the event, both tribal and military representatives found the workshop to be extremely valuable in achieving its goals.



Participants were optimistic that the discussions during the meeting would be a good beginning to future positive interactions among tribal and military representatives.

*For more information on this issue, you may contact Tim Blume, at (303) 844-0958, or [tblume@rma.army.mil](mailto:tblume@rma.army.mil).*



# FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA ACHIEVES "CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE" STATUS

**Doug Johnson**  
U.S. Army Alaska

Fort Wainwright occupies more than 900,000 acres in the Fairbanks North Star borough in interior Alaska. The site consists of a main post area (two miles east of Fairbanks on the Chena and Tanana Rivers), small arms range complex, and close-in range complex. Part of Fort Wainwright lies within the city of Fairbanks, with a population of 35,000. EPA added Fort Wainwright to the National Priorities List in 1990, but the base is still active, and is used to train infantry soldiers, test equipment, and facilitate the rapid deployment of troops worldwide.

Soil and groundwater contamination at the post resulted from fuels, solvents, and pesticides being disposed of or spilled on the ground. The U.S. Army signed a Federal Facilities Agreement with EPA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), outlined the schedule and process for cleaning up contamination, and identified five operable units. To date, 15 active soil vapor extraction/air sparging/air injection treatment systems in 11 source areas have been installed as a result of source area remedial investigations. A post-wide ecological risk assessment process identified the Chena River as the area most likely to be affected by multiple source area releases at Fort Wainwright. To evaluate this potential threat, the Chena River Aquatic Assessment Program was initiated to monitor the river's health and measure the effects that cleanup efforts have on the river's ecology over time.

A unique effort at the site is the use of the Army's geographical information system (GIS) database in tandem with the



digging permit process to ensure effective post-wide and site-specific institutional controls. "The GIS database and permitting process help ensure all parties are aware of contamination levels," said Dianne Soderlund, EPA remedial project manager.

In addition to achieving construction completion, the cleanup team has signed Records of Decision (RODs) for each operable unit. "The success of the cleanup efforts are due in part to the outstanding working relationship between EPA, the Army, and the ADEC," Soderlund said. "Not once have we delayed a significant schedule in our cleanup activities, nor have we had to go to dispute resolution."

*About the Author: Doug Johnson is the Chief of the Environmental Department of the Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Alaska.*



## "MAKING FEDERAL BUILDINGS GREEN" – CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)

### – DoD - Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX)

DoD's environmental Web site now includes a Sustainable Design section containing information on military plans and specifications to "green" your facilities. You are encouraged to visit <http://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Sustain/sustain.html>.



### – DOE - EREN

This is the home page for DOE's Office of Energy

Efficiency and Renewable Energy. This site provides resources on how to improve energy performance in building operations, utility partnerships and upgrades, available training, technical assistance workshops, conferences, mobility fuels conservation, and FEMP regional offices contact list. For more information, visit <http://www.eren.doe.gov>.



A special thanks goes out to EPA (OFEE) and DOE (FEMP) for serving as a resource in providing the information outlined above. On a quarterly basis, EPA's "Closing the Circle News" and DOE's "Focus" highlight federal and DoD facilities' creative and innovative energy conservation successes.

# FORT CARSON TAKES PRECAUTIONS AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

**Susan Galentine-Ketchum**  
DECAM, Media Relations  
Fort Carson, CO

Mosquito season is here and so is the need to take precautions against West Nile Virus (WNV). Fort Carson recognizes that there exists a potential for human illness due to the WNV, which can be transmitted to humans through bites from mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds such as crows, ravens, magpies, or jays.

The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management (DECAM) developed a proactive plan that aggressively surveys and controls mosquito larvae and adult populations; alerts Fort Carson medical staff regarding the current status of WNV; informs the military and civilian communities regarding preventative safeguards; and coordinates with county health departments (in the areas surrounding Fort Carson and the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site) for collection and testing of dead birds.

Surveillance data collected from 1999 through 2002 in other infected areas of the United States shows that the WNV can be detected in birds and mosquitoes weeks before there is a significant risk to human health. Therefore, the tracking of dead bird reports, especially crows, ravens, magpies and jays, and the routine surveillance

of mosquito populations, will provide the installation with the opportunity to specifically target those locations where the virus is most prevalent. A Grid Positioning System unit is used to map the locations where dead birds are found to keep track of any potential WNV area.

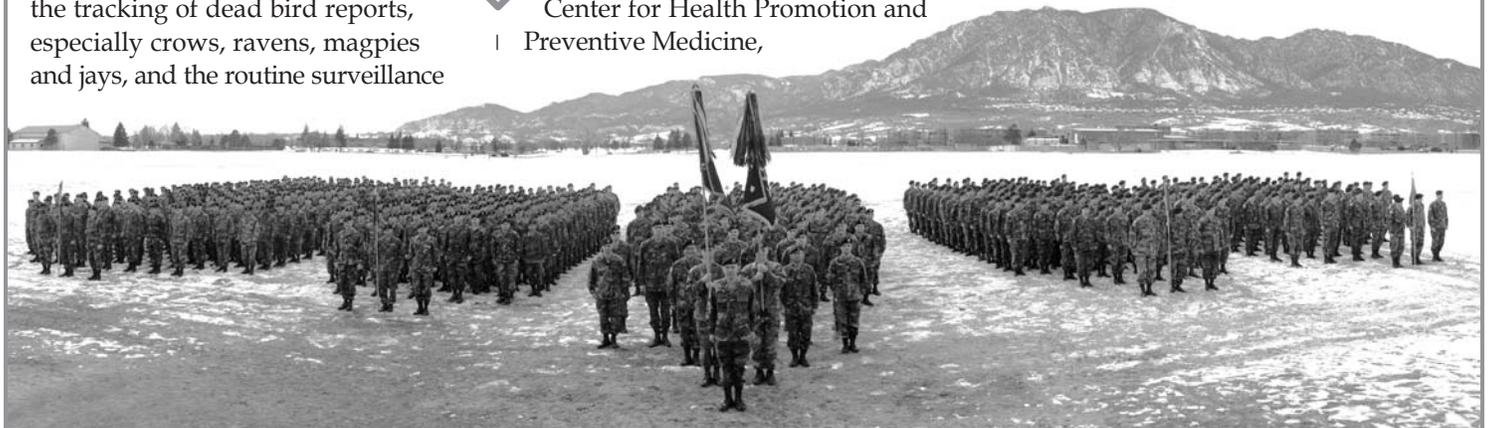
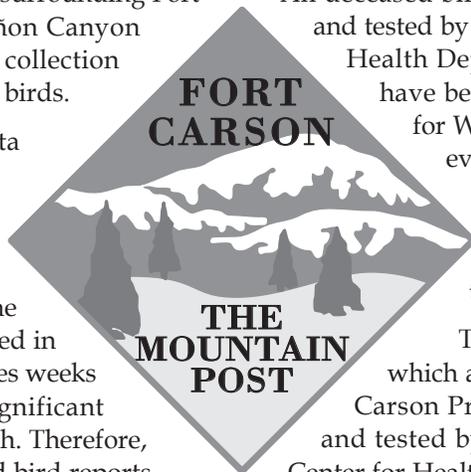
The state of Colorado (Department of Public Health and Environment) announced one confirmed case of WNV found in a dead magpie near Penrose (eight miles from Fort Carson) as of early June.

All deceased birds found on post and tested by the El Paso County Health Department this year have been found negative for WNV. Last fall, however, three of the dead birds collected on Fort Carson tested positive for the virus.

The mosquitoes, which are collected by Fort Carson Preventive Medicine and tested by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine,

out of Fort Lewis, Washington, have also been found negative for WNV.

Extensive education and outreach to inform the community on how to reduce the risk of contracting WNV is part of the installation's WNV plan. Up-to-date information is publicized by the DECAM in the *Mountaineer* (the installation newspaper) and brochures, and by Fort Carson Family Housing via newsletters and other means to on-post residents. Outreach efforts included inviting media for a story on Fort Carson WNV efforts, which TV Channel 13 filmed and aired this past June.



## SYMPTOMS OF WNV:

People who become infected with West Nile Virus may show mild symptoms, no symptoms at all, or in the case of some individuals, especially the elderly and people with compromised immune systems, very serious and life-threatening symptoms. Symptoms usually occur within 5 to 15 days and may appear as:

**Mild:** Fever, headache, rash, swollen glands and pink eye.

**Severe:** Severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, paralysis, coma and death (if not treated promptly).

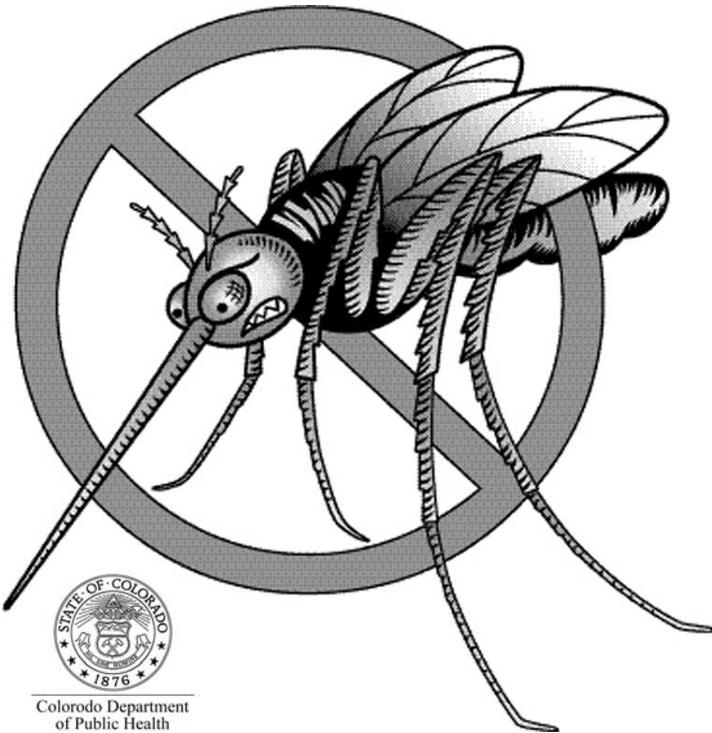
The chances of contracting this disease are extremely small, because very few mosquitoes actually become infected. In fact, for people who are bitten by an infected mosquito, there is less than a *one percent* possibility of human illness. However, the risk of contracting the disease far outweighs the effort it takes to protect yourself.



## SAFETY TIPS FOR PROTECTION:

Here are several safety tips that can help protect you and your family:

- ✓ Wear white or light-colored long-sleeve shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, especially in the early mornings and evenings in areas where mosquitoes are most active as dark colors tend to attract mosquitoes.
- ✓ Apply insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors. Be careful applying repellent to children under 12 years old. For young children, only apply repellent that contains 10 percent or less DEET. Avoid spraying or applying DEET to their hands and mouth area.
- ✓ Avoid standing water in stagnant puddles, wetlands and ditches. Standing water provides an ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes.
- ✓ Change the water in birdbaths, pools and other containers of standing water every two to four days.



For more information on this initiative, contact the Fort Carson West Nile Virus Action Officer, at (719) 526-1686.

## U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER COMMANDER VISITS WESTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

**Curt Williams**

*Contributing Editor*

*Project Manager, WREO*

COL James M. De Paz, commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC), visited the Western Regional Environmental Office (WREO) on June 20, 2003, completing the last of his Regional Environmental Office tours. Members of the WREO staff had an opportunity to provide an overview of the specific involvement and interactions each position has within the total area of responsibility to support the office mission. This one-on-one time provided an excellent opportunity to share current issues being worked, successes accomplished, challenges for the future, and the value added to Department of Defense, including the types of support provided to installations, bases and other federal agencies.

The final leg of the WREO visit concluded with a site visit and abbreviated tour of Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and an update of the status of the cleanup efforts currently underway.



*(From left to right) Jerry Owens (DoD-REC/WREO Chief), Tim Blume (Army REC, EPA Region 8) and COL James De Paz (USAEC Commander) discuss issues currently underway within the six states of EPA Region 8.*

## WHY DO INSTALLATIONS NEED RISK COMMUNICATION TRAINING?

**Curt Williams**

*Contributing Editor*

*Project Manager, WREO*

Over the past two years, many installations have taken on the ambitious initiative of projecting ahead into the next 25 years what it will take to be properly postured to ensure the ability to train and support our national defense mission. In doing so, it was quickly recognized that to develop this form of preservation required not only active engagement of installation staff, planners, and operators, but also the participation of neighboring communities, regulators, regional stakeholders and special interest groups, to collaborate and focus on creating solutions to encompass the needs and assets of the surrounding community and region to achieve overall long-term "sustainability" goals for the installation and well-being of neighboring communities.

To build a strong level of trust and sound working relationships, identify potential stakeholders, and develop long-term collaborative partnerships, a firm understanding of how to reach out and communicate effectively has become essential in the sustainability process. This requires the development of sound risk communication skills to learn the concepts, understand the principles and tools to effectively address conflict, engage the

media, and develop lasting confidence with acquired stakeholders, in collectively working together towards coexistence.

Risk Communication as it applies to the Installation Sustainability Program is offered in two forms, introductory and advanced. These courses are available through the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. The program offers risk communication training to help military and government personnel strategically plan for effectively addressing organizational conflicts, public concerns regarding health, environment, deployment and homeland security, and similar issues that affect mission success.

To find out more on how to take advantage of this tool in formulating your sustainability efforts into the future, visit <http://chppm.www.apgea.army.mil/> or call (410) 436-8147 to find course locations and dates of future training and/or discuss the options of bringing this training to your installation to meet your specific needs.

*(See box on next page)*

# MILITARY VEHICLE PULLED FROM ALASKA LAKE ...REMEDY OF AN OLD ENVIRONMENTAL INSULT

## Public Affairs

U.S. Army Alaska

**F**ORT WAINWRIGHT - After being submerged for nearly 40 years, a military vehicle pulled out of Healy Lake February 26, 2003, thaws in a motor pool here. The vehicle, thought to be an artillery or ammunition transport vehicle, went through the ice into the lake in 1964 or 1965 during force-on-force training exercises Polar Siege or Polar Strike, said Doug Johnson, U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) environmental department chief. The exercises began southeast of Healy Lake, which is 29 miles east of Fort Greely, and moved northwest to the Yukon Training Area as the mock war raged on. Years later,

representatives from the Army went to the lake to research how to remove the vehicle.

"A native organization told them the vehicle had become somewhat of a landmark," said COL Fredrick Lehman, garrison commander. So the Army left the vehicle there. A little more than a year ago, the Healy Lake traditional Council contacted USARAK

about getting the vehicle out of the lake. "The Healy Lake village said that the wrong tribe spoke up, and they wanted the vehicle out of the lake," said Lehman.

Representatives from USARAK again began researching ways to remove the vehicle with only a foot or so of the vehicle out of the water. A member of the tribe referred them to a company who had pulled a bulldozer out of the lake before. USARAK hired the



FORT WAINWRIGHT - The vehicle sits parked behind the Directorate of Public Works awaiting sandblasting.

same company. They removed the vehicle by allowing it to freeze into the ice. They cut the ice into a huge block and pulled the block out with the vehicle inside, said Lehman.

After the operation, representatives from USARAK gave the tribe from Healy Lake an American flag as a goodwill gesture. The company brought the vehicle to Fort Wainwright where it will remain until break-up. Once the vehicle thaws, it will be sandblasted to find a serial number that will indicate the exact type of vehicle and its origin, said Johnson.



HEALY LAKE - A military vehicle gathers mud and debris submerged in Healy Lake after falling through the ice during the 1960s. The vehicle was removed in February and brought to Fort Wainwright.

At the request of Joe Bonfiglio, District Public Affairs Officer, an Executive Session on Risk Communication and Public Outreach was given to LTC David Press, Commander and District Engineer, Honolulu District in May. Fulton Communications under contract to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM) was providing support to the U.S. Army Hawaii Transformation Office in identifying stakeholders. A similar Executive Session was given for COL Debora Lewis, the new Seattle District Engineer, in August. District Engineers often speak at public meetings where there is a low-trust, high-concern audience.



(From left to right) - Mike Flannery, Army REC; Joe Bonfiglio, District Public Affairs Officer; Sandy Martinez, Fulton Communications; LTC David Press, District Engineer; Jennifer Lynch, USACHPPM; Keith Fulton, Fulton Communications.

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## SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS AND SUCCESS STORIES WITH OTHERS!

If you have environmental or energy good news/success stories, on innovative solutions to tough issues you would like to share with other installations, facilities, bases or activities, please contact us at the WREO. Even if you have an event that needs work to develop the issue into a news article, we will work with you to help write it for publication. This offers you the opportunity not only to share the results of your efforts and provide potential benefit to other colleagues, but also to bring recognition to you, your staff and the installation you support. The WREO's newsletter distribution list and population base is multi-agency and multi-service. Please contact our project manager at [cwilliam@rma.army.mil](mailto:cwilliam@rma.army.mil) or (303) 844-0952, to help share your successes, as we are here to work with you!



WESTERN REGION

WESTERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE
US ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

2003 Edition, Volume 2
Standard Federal Regions 8, 9 and 10

### Earth Day – A Daily Event

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Engaging Garrison Commanders
- Alaska Forum on the Environment
- Fort Carson Applied Sustainability Workshop
- Army Affirmation Procurement Program

## CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

The WREO is continuously looking for ways to improve the quality of the quarterly Regional Newsletter to our readers, by keeping the material interesting, and allowing this to serve as a useful vehicle for informational exchange. We enjoy hearing from you and want to gather your input and feedback to incorporate your ideas, needs and desires to make this publication better meet your expectations. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us. We would like your feedback! Thank you.



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