

**DECLARATION OF PROJECT CLOSEOUT DECISION
FOR
YAKUTAT AIR BASE FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE
CON/HTRW PROJECT F10AK0606-17
AREA OF CONCERN M1
YAKUTAT, ALASKA**

STATEMENT OF BASIS

Authority for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) for Containerized Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (CON/HTRW) projects is derived from the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, 10 United States Code (USC) 2701-2707. The decision to close out CON/HTRW project F10AK0606-17 is based on the 2017 Project Closeout Report, the results of remedial investigations conducted from 2000 through 2006, and historical research completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2015.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

In 1995, an Inventory Project Report (INPR) was completed and a Hazardous, Toxic, or Radioactive Waste (HTRW) project, F10AK0606-02, was approved for the Yakutat Air Base. As part of the 1995 INPR, the Findings and Determination of Eligibility stated that the Yakutat Air Base was formerly used by the Department of Defense (DOD) and eligible for cleanup under the DERP-FUDS. In 2015, a revised INPR was completed and twelve new CON/HTRW projects (F10AK0606-08 through -19) were authorized, including F10AK0606-17, Area of Concern (AOC) M1.

The approximate site location is 59.514626 degrees North Latitude, 139.678783 degrees West Longitude. During the initial remedial investigation activities conducted by ENSR in 2000, AOC M1 was identified as the "Suspected Hangar Pipeline System/Tactical Underground Storage Tank (UST)" based upon information detailed on a construction drawing dated April 1943. This drawing depicted plans of a tactical gasoline storage and pipeline system originating at the Army Dock on Monti Bay and extending from the Air Corps Operations Reserve (ACOR) tank farm (AOC L) to the Yakutat hangar. Historical reports from 1944, document that the planned construction was only completed as far as the truck fill No. 2 at the ACOR tank farm. The remainder of the tactical gasoline system was cancelled as a result of the war effort shifting westward to the Aleutians by midsummer 1943.

DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

Historical records research provides documentation that there was no DOD construction at the site, and this was validated by remedial investigations performed by ENSR, Shannon and Wilson, and USACE-Alaska District between 2000 and 2006, which found no DOD-related contaminants at the site. Therefore, USACE has determined that no further action is required at AOC M1 and Project Closeout is protective of public health, welfare, and the environment. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

(ADEC) has reviewed and concurred with the remedial investigation reports and historical documentation. This AOC M1 project closeout decision was made in coordination with ADEC.

DECLARATION

In accordance with the DERP-FUDS, USACE has completed an investigation at AOC M1, CON/HTRW Project F10AK0606-17, (*previously identified as M1 - CAMP AREA SUSPECTED PIPELINE SYSTEM/TACTICAL UST*), in Yakutat, Alaska. This Declaration of Project Closeout Decision supports the conclusion that no known CON/HTRW sources were found or are thought to exist at the site. No further CON/HTRW actions are required by the DOD at this project location. This decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if any new information becomes available indicating the presence of eligible CON/HTRW that may cause an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

This Declaration of Project Closeout has been prepared and approved by the undersigned in accordance with the FUDS Program Policy, Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-3-1, May 10, 2004.

For: 

MICHAEL S. BROOKS
COL, EN
Commanding

Date 28 Aug 17

REGULATORY REVIEW AND CONCURRENCE

The State of Alaska, through the Department of Environmental Conservation, agrees this F10AK0606-17 AOC M1 CON/HTRW project closure is consistent with state cleanup requirements. The decision may be reviewed and modified in the future if information becomes available that indicates the presence of contaminants or waste that may cause unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Kimberly DeRuyter

Kimberly DeRuyter

Environmental Program Manager

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Date 9/1/17

Project Closeout Report

Containerized Hazardous, Toxic, or Radioactive Waste
Project # F10AK0606-17

*Yakutat Air Base Formerly Used Defense Site
Area of Concern M1*

Yakutat, Alaska

August 2017



Prepared By:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska District
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JBER, Alaska 99506-0898



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Figure 1 – Location and Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Approximate location of Area of Concern M1

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACOR	Air Corps Operations Reserve
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
AOC	Area of Concern
CAA	Civil Aeronautics Administration
CON/HTRW	Containerized Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DOD	Department of Defense
ENSR	ENSR Consulting and Engineering
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Sites
RI	Remedial Investigation
S&W	Shannon & Wilson, Inc.
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UST	Underground Storage Tank
WWII	World War II

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) authorizes the cleanup of contamination resulting from past military activities at sites no longer owned or operated by the Department of Defense (DOD). A hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW) project (F10AK0606-02) was authorized for the Yakutat Air Base in 1995. The Yakutat Air Base was formerly used by the DOD and is eligible for cleanup under the DERP-FUDS. In 2015, a revised Inventory Project Report (INPR) was completed to modify the existing -02 HTRW project into twelve new containerized hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (CON/HTRW) projects: F10AK0606-08 through -19 (USACE 2015). Included in the 2015 INPR revision, a separate CON/HTRW project, F10AK0606-17, was established for Area of Concern (AOC) M1, previously identified as the Camp Area Suspected Pipeline System/Tactical UST, and Suspected Hangar Pipeline System/25,000 Gallon Tactical UST.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an agent for the Department of Defense and has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites. This Project Closeout Report is issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE-AK); the lead agency for the Yakutat Air Base FUDS. Based on the environmental investigation results, and a 2015 historical document review, the AOC M1 site is recommended for project closeout and no further action status.

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The City of Yakutat, Alaska is approximately 225 miles northwest of Juneau and 380 miles southeast of Anchorage, Alaska. Located at the mouth of Yakutat Bay, the community is bounded by the Wrangell-Saint Elias Mountains and Yakutat Bay to the north, the Tongass National Forest to the south and east, and the Gulf of Alaska to the west. The approximate site location is 59.514626 degrees North Latitude, 139.678783 degrees West Longitude; Section 5, Township 28 South, and Range 34 East, Copper River Meridian. The land is owned by the United States Forest Service. The site is listed as Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) HAZARD_ID 3272.

1.2 YAKUTAT AIR BASE HISTORY

United States (U.S.) military interest in Yakutat began by Executive Order in 1929 with the creation of the Yakutat Bay Naval Reservation. However, occupation was not set in motion until 1939 with a proposal by the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA), now known as the Federal Aviation Administration, to develop a landing field. The War Department acquired 46,083 acres from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Navy, and the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish an "Auxiliary Landing Field and Staging Area." Runway construction began in 1940, and with the arrival of the first troops in October of that year, the Yakutat Landing Field was activated. In

September 1942, the Yakutat Naval Base was established as a "Naval Air Facility," and upon base completion in February 1943, was re-designated as a "Naval Auxiliary Air Facility." This small naval facility included a Seaplane Base.

Because of its strategic geographic location, the Yakutat Air Base was intended as an advanced airfield supporting pursuit and bombardment aircraft against Japanese invasion forces. However, as western Aleutian bases expanded and the Japanese were stopped on Attu and Kiska, its military value diminished significantly and no aircraft were permanently assigned. Instead, the base served as a ferrying post and temporary station for aircraft squadrons and as a refueling stop between the 48 contiguous states and points in Alaska. In December 1943, after the Japanese were expelled from the Aleutians, military activities were gradually reduced with personnel and equipment being transferred elsewhere.

Completed in June 1943, the Air Base was placed on caretaker status less than a year later in April 1944. In December 1945, it was declared surplus to military requirements and operation of the former Army airfield was transferred to the CAA. Improvements, equipment, and materials, not transferred to CAA, were declared excess by the War Department to the War Assets Administration for disposal in June 1948, pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944.

Beginning in 1946, ownership of the air base property was relinquished and retransferred to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (Tract B containing 42,437 acres - in two portions: July 1946 and March 1947), the Department of Commerce (Tract C, 147 acres – November 1948), and the Department of the Navy (Tract A, 3,500 acres – March 1949). In 1953, the Yakutat Bay Naval Reservation was revoked, which withdrew 266 acres for the CAA (now known as the Federal Aviation Administration), and returned the remainder to the Tongass National Forest. The USACE conducted cleanup operations around Yakutat in 1984 and most of the remaining World War II facilities were removed at that time.

1.3 INVESTIGATIVE AND CHRONOLOGICAL SITE HISTORY

Site visits and remedial investigations have been conducted at AOC M1 as part of ongoing activities at the Yakutat Air Base. A brief summary of the related investigations for the site are listed in Table 1. Results and details of these investigations can be found in the referenced documents. In summary, the remedial investigations found no surface soil, subsurface soil or groundwater contamination at AOC M1.

Table 1 – Previous Investigations and Reports

Docs. Referenced	FRMD #	Report Title	Report Date
ENSR Consulting and Engineering (ENSR) 2003a	F10AK060602_03.10_0006_a	2000 Remedial Investigation Report – Final – Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Yakutat Area, Alaska	Feb-03

Docs. Referenced	FRMD #	Report Title	Report Date
ENSR 2003b	F10AK060602_03.10_0005_a	2001 Remedial Investigation Report – Final – Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Yakutat Area, Alaska	Mar-03
Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (S&W) 2006	F10AK060602_03.10_0002_a	2005 Final Focused Remedial Investigation, Former Yakutat Air Force Base, Yakutat, Alaska	Aug-06
S&W 2010	F10AK060602_04.09_0503_a	Final Feasibility Study Report, Former Yakutat Air Force Base, Yakutat, Alaska	Jul-10
USACE 2006	F10AK060602_03.10_0007_a	Final Rapid Optical Screening Tool (ROST)/ Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF) Focused Remedial Investigation, Former Yakutat Air Force Base, Yakutat, Alaska, FUDS Property No. F10AK0606.	Sep-06

During the initial remedial investigation activities conducted by ENSR in 2000, AOC M1 was identified as the “Suspected Hangar Pipeline System/Tactical Underground Storage Tank (UST)” based upon information found on a construction drawing dated April 1943. This drawing, *Yakutat Landing Field, Field Revisions, A.C. Tactical Gas System, Sheet 1 of 2, April 17, 1943, revised June 6, 1943*, depicted plans of a tactical gasoline storage and pipeline system originating at the Army Dock on Monti Bay and extending from the Air Corps Operations Reserve (ACOR) tank farm (AOC L) to the Yakutat hangar. On the basis of that historic drawing, ENSR performed a Remedial Investigation (RI), at the M1 site, which included a geophysical survey, along with soil and groundwater sampling. A water-filled pit and a ditch were located at the site, evident in historical photographs from 1947, were presumably the locations of the proposed pipeline and UST. However, the geophysical survey identified no anomalies and the concentrations of contaminants in the soil and groundwater did not exceed the 2016 ADEC cleanup levels.

In a 2005 RI, Shannon and Wilson, Inc. conducted a more thorough geophysical survey at the location. Again, no anomalies were identified which would indicate the presence of buried piping.

Also in 2005, USACE conducted an RI at the adjacent site, AOC M2 – Garrison Laundry Area (F10AK0606-07). Although M2 was found to have extensive petroleum contamination, originating from the former above-ground storage tank, the investigation confirmed that the contamination plume extended southwest from the tank foundation to the Forest Service workshop, away from AOC M1. No contamination was found at M1.

In 2015 historical research of the Yakutat FUDS property was performed by USACE. Two reports from 1944 document that the planned construction was only completed as far as the truck fill No. 2 at the ACOR tank farm (AOC L). The remainder of the tactical gasoline system (including the “suspected pipeline and tactical UST” at AOC M1) was cancelled as a result of the war effort shifting westward to the Aleutians by midsummer 1943.

The *History of Yakutat Landing Field, Alaska, 26 October 1940 to 31 May 1944* states that: “just prior to the completion of the entire project the tactical gasoline system was cancelled with the exception that two standard 300 gpm truck filling stands were to be installed in the vicinity of the tanks” (AOC L).

The *Engineer Narrative Report Yakutat Army Air Base, 27 November 1944*, stated: “Termini of the [aviation gasoline storage] system are the government dock at the NW end of Engineer road and truck fill stand No. 2, on Engineer road, 11,000’ from the NW end of the SE runway”. This description is consistent with the location of a truck stand that was found and removed from AOC L, by USACE, and confirms the termination of the aviation gasoline system was at AOC L.

Additionally, the *Yakutat Landing Field Utilities Layout, A.C. Expansion Area* drawing, dated 28 June 1943, depicts the plan of the garrison laundry structures directly south of AOC M1, which are the only structures near the M1 location. Also shown on that drawing is an overhead telephone line and an underground power cable. No pipeline or tactical fuel storage tank are detailed on the drawing. The overhead telephone line and garrison laundry structures are also depicted on the 1943 *Yakutat Landing Field Layout Plan, Sheet 6 of 11*, but no tactical gasoline pipeline or UST are shown to have been in the area.

In conclusion, there is sufficient historical information documenting that the suspected pipeline system and 25,000 gallon fuel UST were not constructed, and the remedial investigation results demonstrated that there are no chemicals of concern found above ADEC Method Two cleanup levels at the AOC M1.

2. SUMMARY OF DECISION

Based on historical reports and drawings, and the results of the remedial investigation efforts completed between 2000 and 2006, USACE has determined that no further action is required at AOC M1 (F10AK0606-17) and project closure is protective of public health, welfare, and the environment. This Project Closeout determination may be reevaluated in the event that additional information becomes available, or previously undiscovered and FUDS-eligible contamination is present.

3. REFERENCES

- Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 75. (2017). Oil and Other Hazardous Substances Pollution Control. March.
- ENSR International. (ENSR). 2003a. *2000 Remedial Investigation Report Final, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Yakutat Area, Alaska*. February. F10AK060602_03.10_0006_a
- ENSR. 2003b. *2001 Remedial Investigation Report Final, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Yakutat Area, Alaska*. April. F10AK060602_03.10_0005_a
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- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 1943a. *Yakutat Landing Field, A.C.O.R. Truck Fill Stands & Pumphouse Schematic, Piping Details, In 1 Sheet, July 23, 1943*. F10AK0606--_01.04_0525_a
- USACE. 1943b. *Yakutat Landing Field Alaska, Field Revisions, A.C. Tactical Gas System, Sheet 1 of 2, April 17, 1943*, revised June 6, 1943. F10AK0606--_01.04_0521_a
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- USACE. 1944a. *History of Yakutat Landing Field, Alaska, 26 October 1940 to 31 May 1944, Prepared by 2nd Lt. William C. Fries for Major, Air Corps, John S. McIntosh, Jr., Commanding Officer, Yakutat Landing Field, Alaska*. F10AK0606--_01.06_0503_a
- USACE. 1944b. *Engineer Narrative Report Yakutat Army Air Base, 27 November 1944*. F10AK0606--_01.06_0505_a
- USACE. 2006. *Final Rapid Optical Screening Tool (ROST)/ Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF) Focused Remedial Investigation, Former Yakutat Air Force Base, Yakutat, Alaska, FUDS Property No. F10AK0606*. F10AK060602_03.10_0007_a
- USACE. 2015. *Defense Environmental Restoration Program - Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) Revised Inventory Project Report for Property No. F10AK0606*. Yakutat Air Base, Yakutat, AK. September. F10AK0606--_01.08_0502_a

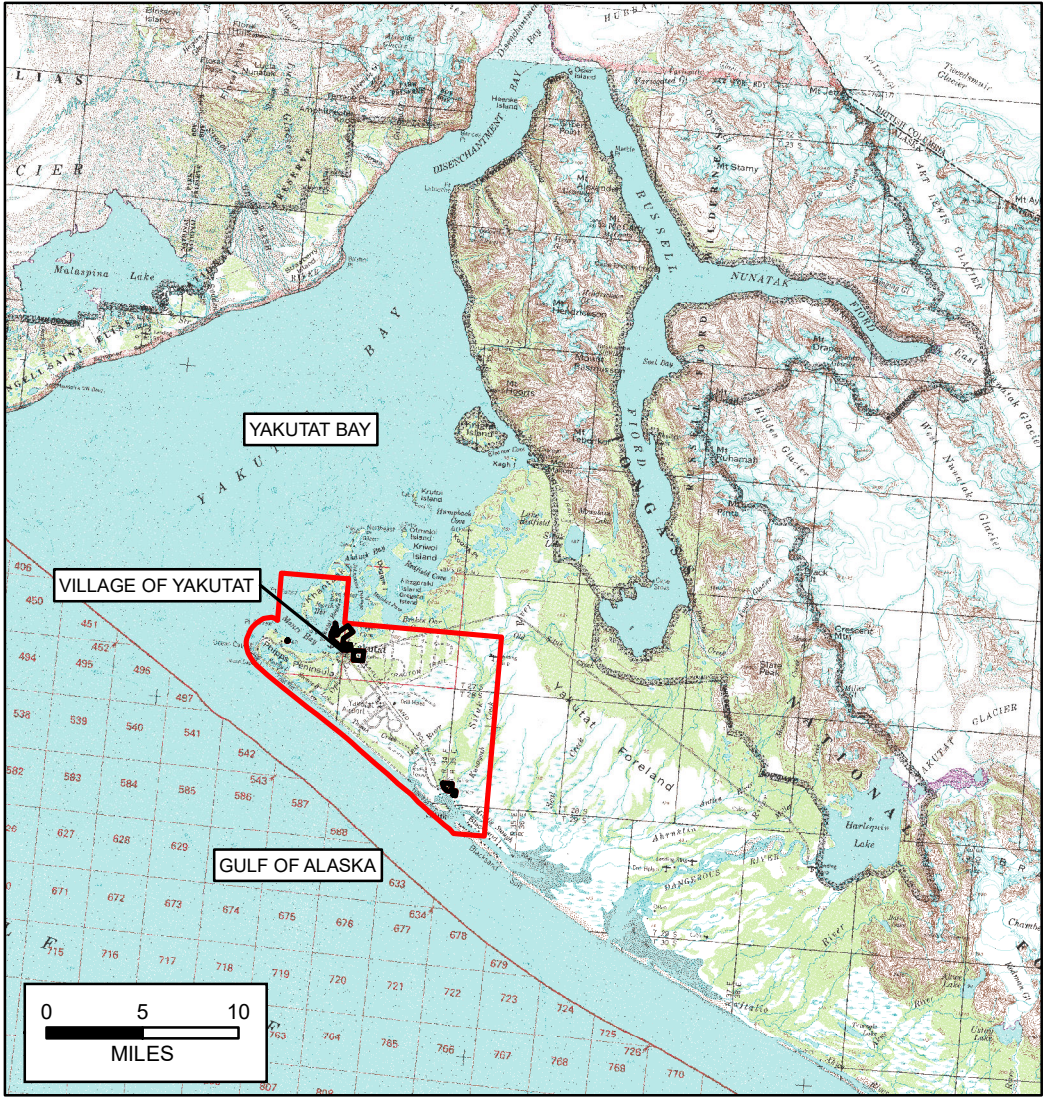
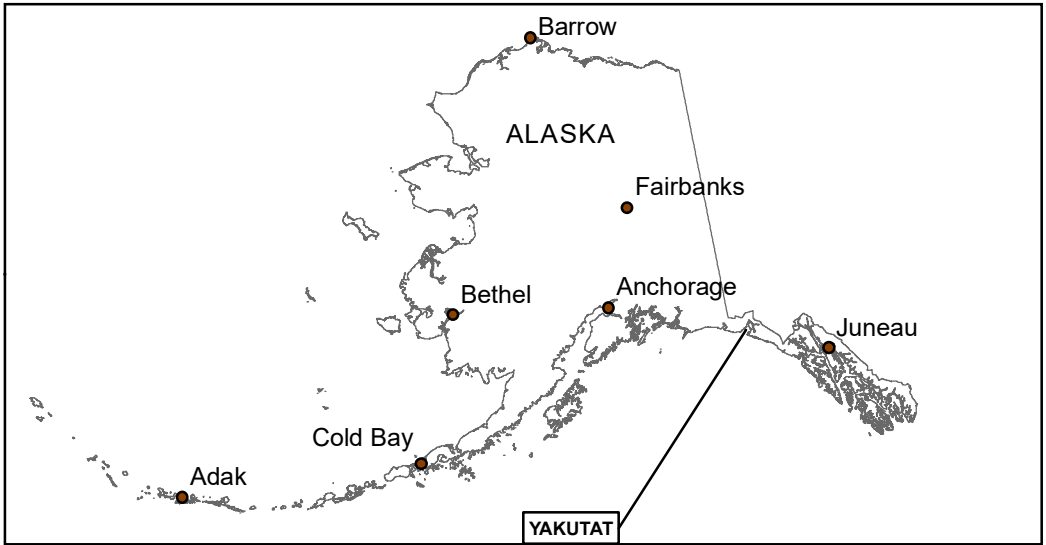
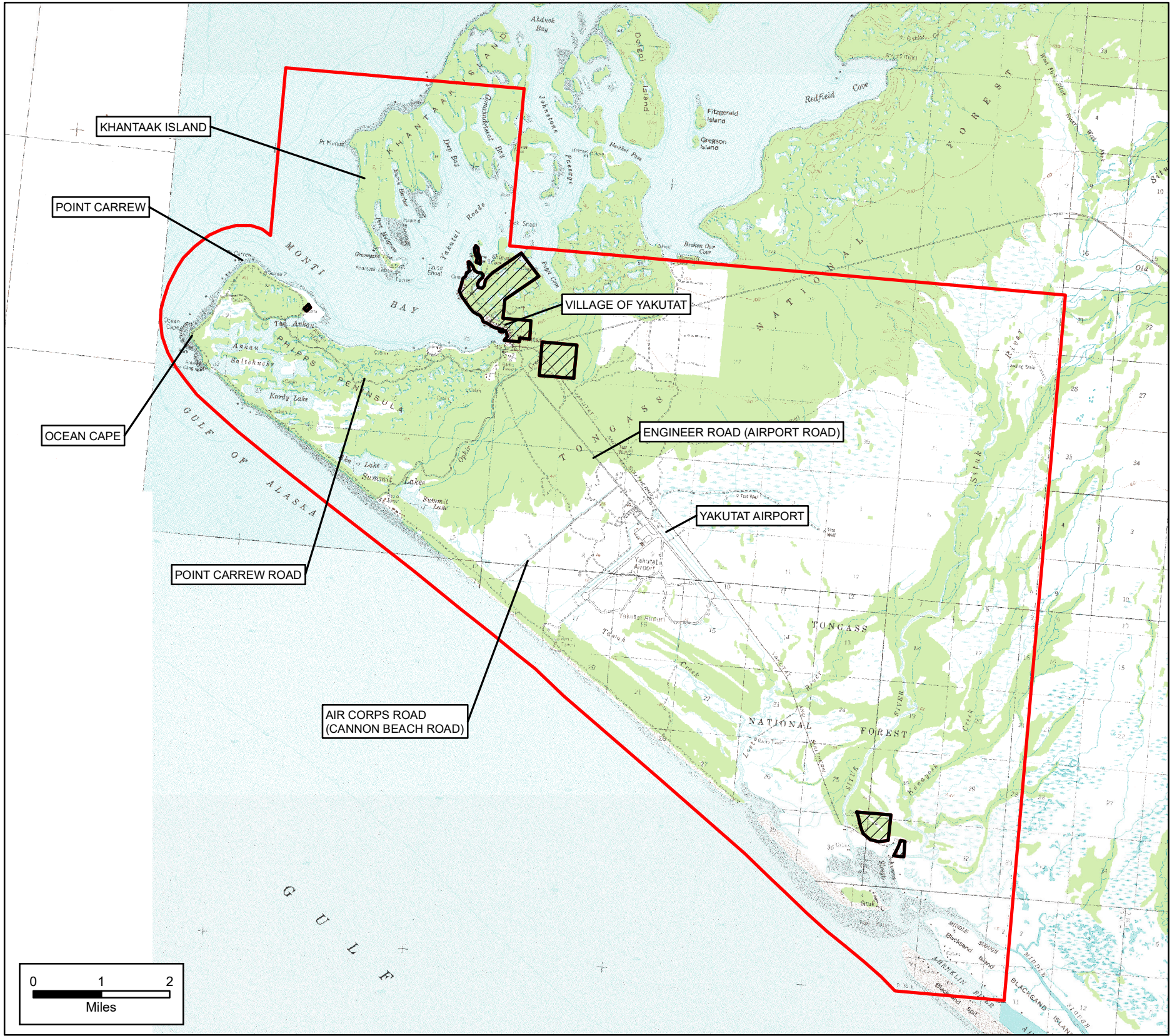
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FIGURES

Figure 1 – Location and Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Approximate Location of Area of Concern M1

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REFERENCES

BACKGROUND MAPS ARE USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:
YAKUTAT B-5, 1959, 1:63,360
YAKUTAT C-5, 1970, 1:63,360
YAKUTAT C-4, 1972, 1:63,360
YAKUTAT, ALASKA 1982, 1:250,000

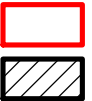
NOTES

1. FUDS PROPERTY BOUNDARY IS BASED ON MAP TITLED
"REAL ESTATE, YAKUTAT AIR BASE MILITARY RESERVATION" DATED 16 APRIL 1949.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

USACE - U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
USGS - U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LEGEND



FUDS PROPERTY BOUNDARY

PROPERTY WAS NOT OWNED, LEASED, OR OTHERWISE
POSSESSED BY DOD AND IS EXCLUDED FROM FUDS



LOCATION AND VICINITY MAPS

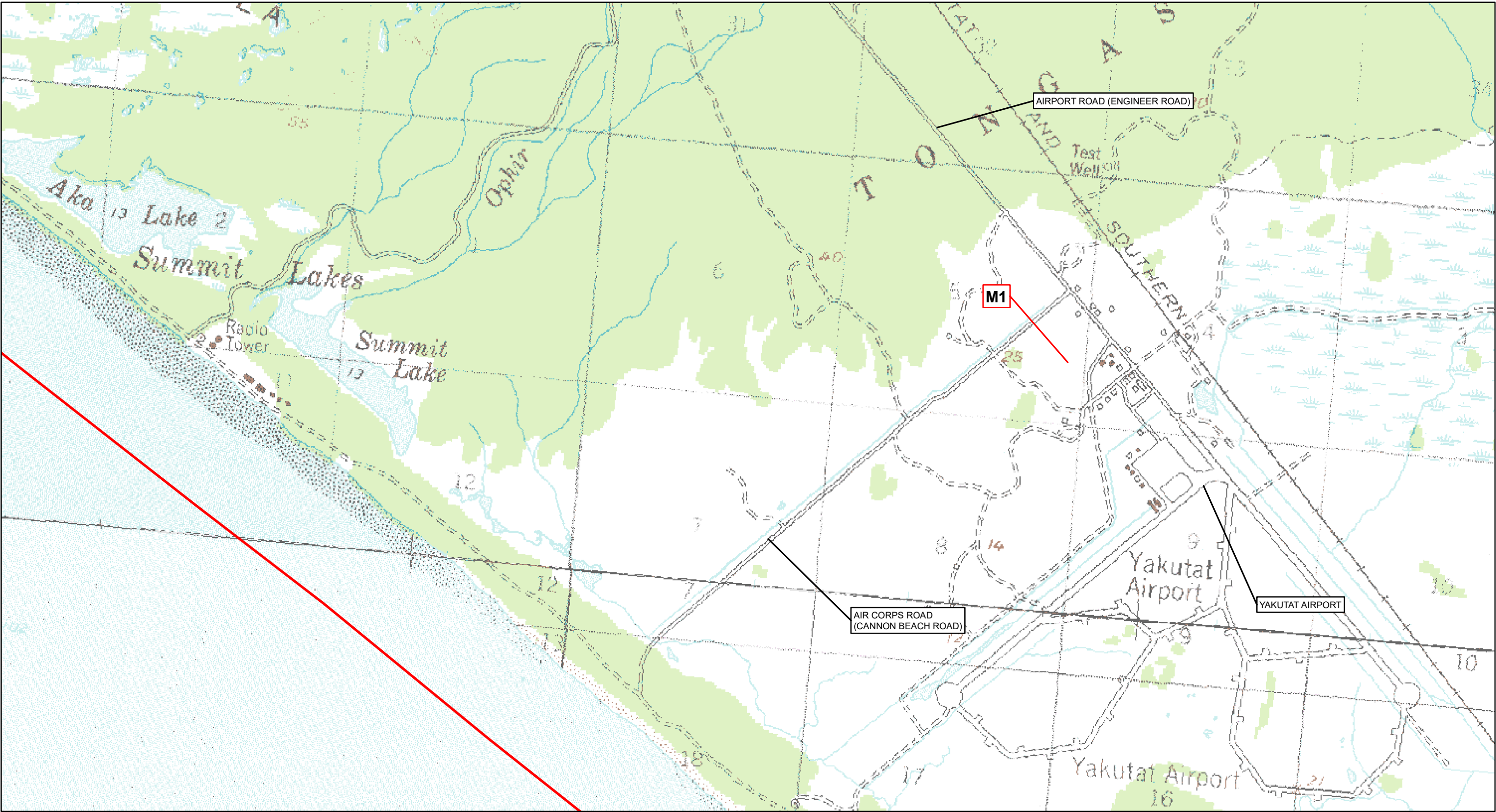


U.S. ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ALASKA DISTRICT


YAKUTAT AIR BASE - F10AK0606
YAKUTAT, ALASKA

FIGURE 1

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<p>REFERENCES BACKGROUND MAPS ARE USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: YAKUTAT B-5, 1959, 1:63,360 YAKUTAT C-5, 1970, 1:63,360 YAKUTAT C-4, 1972, 1:63,360</p>	<p>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USACE - U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS USGS - U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AOC - AREA OF CONCERN</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <p> FUDS PROPERTY BOUNDARY</p> <p> Site Location</p>	<p></p>	<p>Approximate Location of Area of Concern M1</p>	
<p>NOTES 1. FUDS PROPERTY BOUNDARY IS BASED ON MAP TITLED "REAL ESTATE, YAKUTAT AIR BASE MILITARY RESERVATION" DATED 16 APRIL 1949. 2. AOC LABELS HAVE RED BORDERS.</p>	<p> U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ALASKA DISTRICT</p>		<p>YAKUTAT AIR BASE - F10AK0606 YAKUTAT, ALASKA</p>	<p>FIGURE 2</p>	

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ALASKA DISTRICT POA STAFF ACTION SUMMARY <small>HQSACE Staff Action Handbook, the proponent is the Executive Office</small>				1. CONTROL# PM-17-102		2. Suspense 2017-09-01 3. Today's Date 2017-08-24	
4. Subject Project Closure Document Approval for Yakutat Air Base FUDS #F10AK0606-17							
5. Office Symbol PM-ESP		6. Action Officer Christy Baez		7. Telephone # 753-5568		8. E-mail christy.j.baez@usace.army.mil	
COORDINATION							
9. Division		10. Name		11. Concur/Nonconcur		12. Comments	
6 <input type="checkbox"/> DC		Brooks		JB -			
5 <input type="checkbox"/> DDC		Buursma		-			
4 <input type="checkbox"/> DPM		Bowker		RUB -			
<input type="checkbox"/> EA				-			
<input type="checkbox"/> E&C				-			
14. Routing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DDC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DMP	
		<input type="checkbox"/> EA		<input type="checkbox"/> E&C			
15. For:		<input type="checkbox"/> Information		<input type="checkbox"/> Read-Ahead		<input type="checkbox"/> Decision	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature			
16. PURPOSE/BOTTOM LINE/DISCUSSION: 1. PURPOSE: Routing FUDS Project Closure Document for Yakutat Air Base, AOC M1 #F10AK0606-17 through POA for DC signature. 2. BOTTOM LINE: This report documents the completion of remedial investigation activities at the AOC M1 site and recommends closure of the project. 3. DISCUSSION: Based upon the results of remedial investigations conducted between 2000 through 2006 and examination of historical records and imagery, USACE has determined that no facilities were constructed at the site, and it was not used by DOD as initially suspected. No further action is required at AOC M1 - F10AK0606-17. The ADEC regulator supports the closure decision for this site. 4. RESOURCE IMPACT: Project closure meets the scheduled FY17 metric & documents FUDS Program progress.							
17. Releaser: Larry M. Phyfe, Branch Chief, PM-ESP <div style="text-align: right; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">  8/24/17 </div>							
18. Recommendation: Approve and sign documents							
19. Action:		Approved <input type="checkbox"/>		See Me <input type="checkbox"/>		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

COORDINATION (cont.)				
20. Division	21. Name	22. Concur/Nonconcur	23. Comments	24. Date
3 <input type="checkbox"/> OC	K. Davis <i>C. Davis</i>	<i>15th</i> <i>Mr</i> -		<i>28-10-17</i>
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<input type="checkbox"/> ACE-IT		-		
<input type="checkbox"/> EM		-		
<input type="checkbox"/> HR		-		
PM-ESP (2)	Phyfe	<i>AS</i> -		
FUDS (1)	Sorum	<i>AS</i> -		<i>8/24/2017</i>
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