

Successful DoD – Tribal Partnership



Native Village of Point Hope



NATIVE VILLAGE OF POINT HOPE: CAPE THOMPSON NAVAL SITE

The Native Village of Point Hope (NVPH) first became a partner with the Department of Defense (DoD) supported Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) in 2005 to address impacts to tribal lands from the Cape Thompson Naval Site. NVPH is located 330 miles southwest of Barrow, Alaska, on the northwest coast. The area of Point Hope encompasses 6.3 square miles of land and is owned in common by the Native Village of Point Hope and Tikigaq Village Corporation. The Cape Thompson Naval Site is located 32 miles south and east of Point Hope.

The Cape Thompson Naval Station site covers 10 acres and served as a logistical support base for the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory. In 2003, a NALEMP site investigation documented the need for further action regarding the removal of remaining buildings and debris from the Cape Thompson site, including: four buildings, two garages, one generator building, five storage sheds, 14 vehicles, 11 above ground fuel tanks, and 465, 55-gallon fuel drums. The conclusion of the assessment was that removal of the debris would improve public safety by preventing potential accidents to the tribal members who travel in the area by snowmobile or snow cat, hunt caribou, conduct ceremonial activities, gather food, and for recreation.

With guidance from US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, the FY 2005 NALEMP Cooperative Agreement (CA) supported the development of a Strategic Project Implementation Plan (SPIP) for the Cape Thompson Naval site. Under subsequent NALEMP CAs tribal representatives continued to identify and prioritize impacts to tribal lands from former military activities. The debris from the site, which included building structures, storage sheds, vehicles, fuel tanks and drums was consolidated and removed by barge by the Tribe's contractor, and disposed of properly, with some metals recycled. The Tribe also ensured that the fuel tanks were free of petroleum and other liquids site.

Through the NALEMP funding, the NVPH-led mitigation of the Cape Thompson Naval Site protected the health and safety of tribal members, animals, and subsistence plants. Tribal staff members were able to receive HAZWOPER training and become part of the community restoration efforts.



Before: Vehicle and equipment debris.



After: debris removed.