

8 FEB 85

NPAEN-FM-M

SUBJECT: Trip Report - DERP - Gambell, Savoonga, North East Cape,
St. Lawrence Island, AK

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

USEPA SF



1624673

1. A group site visit to St. Lawrence Island, sponsored by the COE, DERP Program commenced from Anchorage on the morning of 5 Feb 85. The group included the following persons:

Byron Coke, NPAEN-PM-C
Pat Shufly, NPAEN
Clare Jaeger, NPAEN-FM-M
Wayne Crayton, US. Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage
Jeff Moch, AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Fairbanks
Robert Taylor, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Dale Brandon, Tetra Tech, Inc.

The purpose of the trip was to visit the ex-military sites on the island, show the areas to the AE and concerned agencies, and assess the sites for future inventory sampling and clean-up.

2. The group arrived in Gambell via Nome at 1445 hours, on 5 Feb 85. The group was met at the runway by members of the village on snowmachines and were quickly transported to the City Hall.

3. At 1500 hours, a meeting was held with Mayor Clinton Booshu, Vice Mayor Winfred James and other members of the City Council: (b) (6) and (b) (6). The Council was emphatic that they desire the ex-DoD debris be cleaned up and offered to guide the group on a tour of the sites in the Gambell area. The Council informed us that the local Native Corporation was the legal land owner and that the Corps would have to obtain Right of Entry from the Corporation. The Council offered to recommend that Right of Entry be granted and coordinated a joint meeting between the Corps and the Corporation for 2030 hours that evening. The meeting was concluded and the group split up as follows: Mr. Coke and Mrs. Shufly remained at the city office to review the real estate aspects with the city officials. The remainder of the group went with the vice Mayor, Mr. James to tour the sites of concern to the local residents. The tour was approximately 15 miles round trip. Mr. James has a remarkable personal knowledge of the past military activities, which included the Army, Navy and Air Force, in the Gambell area. There were some World War II activities, but the major impact seems to have arisen from Army and Air Force camps that were operated from 1952 to 1957. The Army had an estimated 250 personnel and the Air Force had approximately 45 personnel stationed at Gambell. An inventory of the debris, observed by the group and/or described by Mr. James, is tabulated in Inclosure 1. The debris locations are shown on the attached maps, Inclosure 2 and 3. The snow-machine tour of the Gambell area was concluded at 1830 hours and the findings were discussed by the group.

NPAEN-FM-M

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4. At 2030 hours a meeting was held with the Gambell Native Corporation, Sivugag, Inc., which is the legal land owner. Corporate members present were:

Melvin Walunga, President
Paul Apangalook, Secretary/Treasurer
Delbert Oogevaseuk, Vice President

(b)(6) Member

(b)(6) Member

(b)(6) Member

(b)(6) Consultant

(b)(6) Elder Advisor

who's he

The Corps was represented by Byron Coke, Clare Jaeger, Pat Shufly and Wayne Crayton of US Fish and Wildlife Service.

After a brief discussion of the nature of the DERP Program, the following concerns were presented by the Corporation:

- a. They desire to be informed of the progress of the clean-up.
- b. They want the work done this year, as the buried human waste is located very near their housing project and is limiting their construction of new residences. The village is growing and they usually build 10 new residences per year.
- c. They want copies of plans and specifications and copies of inspectors field notes.
- d. They want a copy of the final construction report showing quantities and locations of materials removed, during clean-up.
- e. They want local hire for the labor portion of the clean-up work. They have people trained in most fields of construction.

5. The Corps requested a blanket ROE for survey, testing, recon, and clean-up operations to be accomplished by the Corps, A/E's and subsequent construction contractors over the next three years, in the general Gambell area. The corporate board recessed briefly and reconvened to grant the ROE. We were informed that the ROE would be good only in the Gambell area and that the Savookuk, Inc. Native Corporation of Savoonga would be the responsible party for granting ROE for the North East Cape area. Documents were signed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2130 hours. (The standard \$500.00 entry fee was waved by Sivugag, Inc.

6. February 6 was spent assessing the quantities of debris buried in the Gambell area. We were in and around the Gambell City office and local persons and officials were present to discuss the project. We reviewed our findings with the representatives from Tetra Tech.

7. There was a brief meeting with the Gambell City Council to review the concerns of Sivugag Inc. There were no additions; however, local hire is a major concern. The Corps requested that Mr. James, Vice Mayor, provide the Corps with a letter listing the major concerns of the residents of Gambell.

NPAEN-FM-M.

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8. We attempted to move on to Savoonga on 6 Feb, but the weather was poor and the charter aircraft couldn't get into Gambell, so we spent the night there.

9. On 7 Feb we moved to Savoonga via a Bering Air Charter aircraft and arrived shortly after 1100 hours. Local residents transported us to City Hall for a meeting with Savookuk, Inc, their local government, and the legal land owners. The charter was held on stand-by status pending the outcome of the meeting.

10. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain and arrange for transportation for the AE to North East Cape. The meeting was attended by Savookuk, Inc., members:

Bradley Gologergen, President

Joseph Iya, Sr., Vice President

(b) (6), member

Gordon Iya, Treasurer

(b) (6), member

As well as the 7 member group from the Corps.

Following a brief summary of the DERP program by Byron Coke, the corporation expressed its concerns:

a. They are concerned that the COE attempted to make North East Cape site visit arrangements thru the Navy and the Navy's local representative, Eugene Toolie.

b. They require that all visitors to North East Cape be accompanied by local Eskimo guides on a one to one basis.

c. They would not rent snowmachines, but would taxi persons to North East Cape for a fee as follows:

Supplies	\$ 50.00
Machine rental	
& drivers fee	\$350.00
Gasoline	\$ 50.00
	<u>\$450.00</u>

2800
50/1000
20/1000
10/1000

d. They would grant ROE for the survey group and wave the \$500.00 ROE fee provided we agreed to travel with their guides.

e. Future ROE would be handled on an individual basis and not by a blanket ROE

f. They feel that the Naval facility at North East Cape is only a small part of the problem. There are remains from various other DoD facilities at the Cape.

Some of the items mentioned include, 1) a landfill area at least one acre in size which contains all varieties of debris and wastes. 2) a river which was exposed to a fuel spill and no longer has fish, 3) a group of 55-gallon drums containing a clear odorless liquid, 4) electric transformers from past site operations, 5) numerous POL barrels, 6) fallen and standing buildings and debris, 7) radar antennas and towers, 8) they would like clean-up to be comprehensive and want to be involved.

NPAEN-FM-M

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11. In view of the high cost of snowmachine travel to North East Cape, it was decided that we only have authorized funding to cover three machines. The two representatives from Tetra Tech plus a back-up machine with supplies and three Eskimo guides comprised the survey group going to North East Cape. The tour of the Cape commenced at 1330 hours on 7 Feb and return to Savoonga was scheduled by A/E for 1500 hours 8 February. The A/E spent the night of 7 Feb. at (b)(6) at North East Cape. The remainder of the group re-boarded the Bering Air Charter at 1330 hours on 7 Feb 85, and returned to Anchorage via Nome.

2 Incl
as

Clare L. Jaeger

CLARE L. JAEGER
Chemist

CF: NPAEN-PM-C (Coke) ✓

*NE Cape 1974 closed - White Alice Site - ~~500 peo.~~
2 Gyms - Big -*

DERP PROGRAM

Gambell, Alaska

Ex-DoD Debris Inventory

ITEM #
See Location Map
(Incl 2 & 3)

Type of Waste or Debris

- 1 Ordnance in North end of Troutman Lake
 - 30 mm & 50 mm
 - full and broken cases
- 2 Empty diesel & gasoline barrels on southern slope of Sevuokuk Mt.
 - 2000 to 3000 generally scattered over a mi. or so of land and in rows to mark military trail to operations area on the mt.
- 3 Hand grenades
 - buried in gravels 2½ mi. south of airstrip, not sure of quantity or depth of burial, have been known to wash up on beach
- 4 Landing Mat
 - strewn along inland side of airstrip.
- 5 Armored cable - installed by Navy for communication system (6 cables neoprene coated in a sheathing)
 - originates on Sevuokuk Mt. & goes out for 30 miles, so it extends into the ocean. On land the cable entraps wildlife.
- 6 Navy Communication Building of concrete
 - this small bunker (approx 8 ft cube) is on top of Sevuokuk Mt.
- 7 Navy quonset huts, two only, collapsed
- 8 Army top camp has general metal and wood debris to include:
 - approx 4 quonset huts
 - various pipes and pieces of steel and engine block
 - barbed wire
 - remains of standby generator
- 9 The Air Force top camp has debris similar to army area
 - approx 5 collapsed quonset huts
 - metal debris
 - barrels
 - radar towers which have fallen down
 - communication and electrical transmission wires
- 10 Communication and electric transmission wires going up the west face of Sevuokuk Mountain to serve both Army and Air Force top c.
- 11 Barrels of human waste buried in flats east of Gambell Village housing
 - between 2000 and 3000
 - tops of many barrels are exposed

12

Left over : a) equipment, b) supplies, c) ordnance were buried at the westernly base of Sevuokuk Mountain.

- two or more dozers

- five gallon carboys of sulfuric acid (est. 12 carboys)

13

- electric transformers, mounted on a platform

14

- Air Force ammo including carbine and 30 cal. in full cases & loose

15

A US Navy plane shot down by the Russians about 8 miles south of Gambell on the coast.

16

An ammo cache near Kavalghak Bay

Ammo was hidden on a rocky mountain in preparation of an expected Japanese invasion through Kavalghak Bay during World War II.

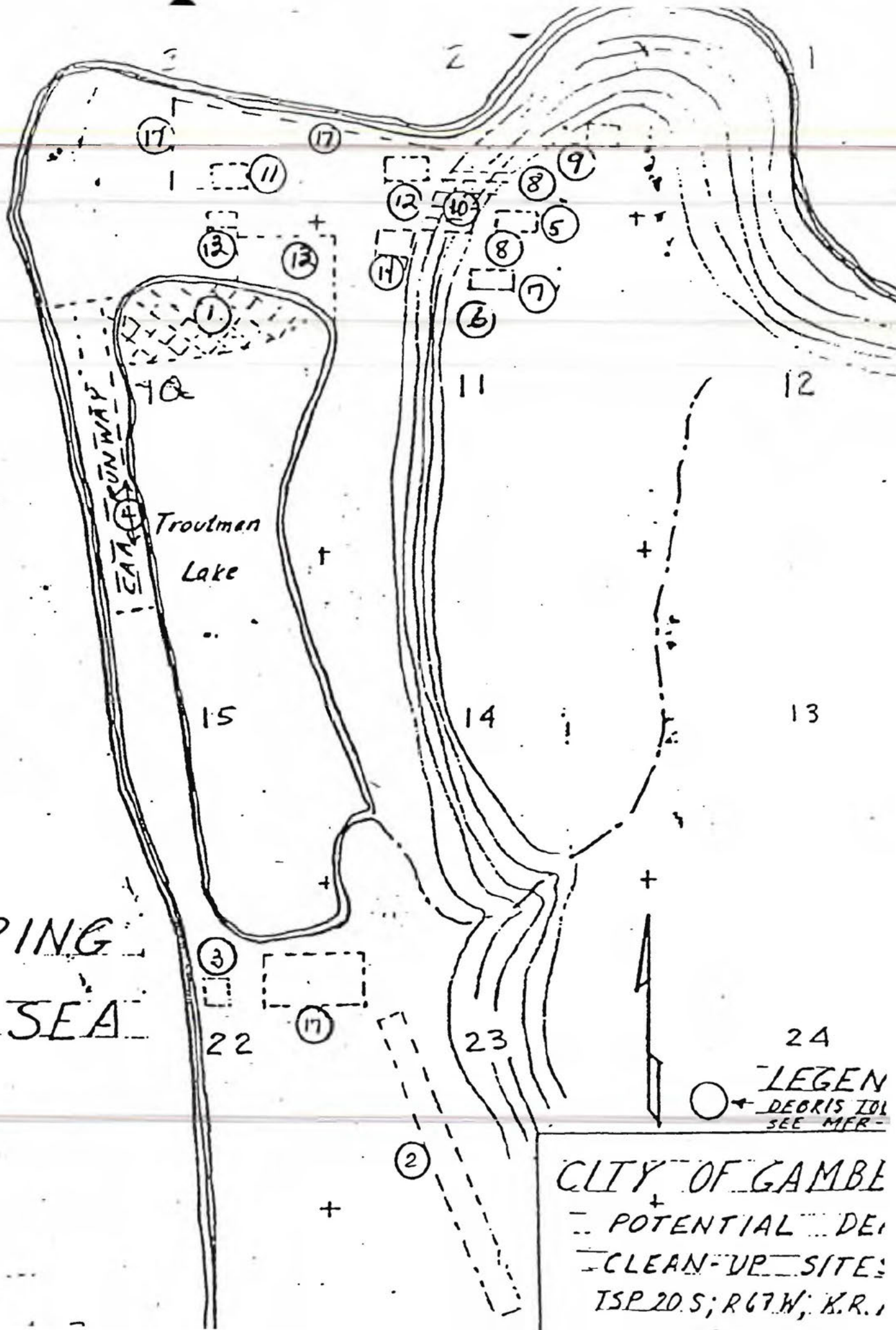
Quantities not known, but some of the elder Gambell residents could assist with site location in summer months.

17

Military activities on the gravel flats around Gambell have left the land scared and rough looking. This needs to be graded after debris is excavated. There are two areas of concern:

- South of Troutman Lake

- Between the Village and Sevuokuk Mountain



BERING
SEA

Troutman
Lake

RUNWAY

LEGEND
+ DEBRIS LOC
SEE MFR

CITY OF GAMBLE
+ POTENTIAL DE
CLEAN-UP SITES
TSP 20.5; R 67 W; K.R. 1

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

460000 m {

08000000 N



MATCH LINE A-A

NORTHEAST

120% O.H.

HOUSING AND
OPERATIONS AREA

POINT 1
N 9° 00' 00"
E 84° 00' 00"

LOCATION

5.14 = 0.0

3.375KV-6
Transformer

AFTS BUILDING (TV)
RESTRICTED
ZONE

Parcel
2

WHITE ALICE SITE

120
ANMO STORAGE

no de-veg. apparently
discontinued
inspection 22 Jul 1972
R. Lloyd

N 94.000

SEE INSET B

LOWER TERMINAL
Parcel 3

Cooling Cable

RESTRICTED
ZONE

UPPER TERMINAL

Parcel 1

FROM THE

ELEVATION

RESTRICTION

DATE

BY

DEFAR