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1953

- REPORT -

HISTORY OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS RELATING TO CURRENT MOBILIZATION

ALASKA DISTRICT

**North Pacific Division
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army**

(Period: 1 July 1953 through 30 September 1953)

Prepared at the office of the Alaska District Engineer, Anchorage, Alaska, in compliance with par 2, NPD letter order, 29 November 1951, NPDVI, subject: History of the Corps of Engineers Activities Relating to the Current Mobilization Period. Reference is made to letter, office of the Chief of Engineers, dated 26 September 1951, KHIAP 314.7

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FOREWARD

The accompanying narrative report records significant activity occurring in the offices of the Alaska District Engineer and its residences during the quarter July 1953 through September 1953 as derived from synopses presented monthly by these various segments of the Corps of Engineers organization in Alaska.

December
compiled from

October

information

The subject matter here precedes and is related to current historical records being maintained from 30 June 1953 for future submission for review. The report is in continuity with previously submitted narratives covering the periods June 1950 to 8 September 1951, 9 September 1951 to 31 December 1951, 1 January 1952 to 30 April 1952, 1 May 1952 through 31 December 1952, 1 January 1953 through 31 March 1953, and 1 April 1953 through 30 June 1953, and 7 July through 30 September 1953.

September

REPORT OF HISTORY OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS RELATING TO CURRENT MOBILIZATION, Alaska District is prepared under the direction of L. H. Foote, Colonel, Corps of Engineers, who has been District Engineer, Alaska District, since 27 June 1952.

During the period of this report, 1 July through 30 September, an overall condition of ahead-of-schedule construction, (reported in the previous report), continued. One important reason for this condition is the near-perfect weather experienced in Alaska during the construction season. Ideal weather permitted contractors full go-ahead permitting full use of the normally short Alaskan construction season. However, a far more important reason is also evident. Contractors have become experienced to the peculiarities of Alaskan construction. By careful planning their projects are scheduled to take full advantage of the construction season. Today in Alaska, contractors are using the winter months to stockpile materials and equipment in preparation for full-scale construction activities with pleasant weather. Another result of this modern approach to Alaskan construction is the increasing percentage of construction in progress during winter months. Because of the severity of the winters, outside construction is at a standstill from early November until early April. However contractors are getting more projects closed-in to a point where each year more winter construction is accomplished. A new high in defense construction activity is anticipated this winter when interior work will be in progress on over 40% of the projects now in the process of construction.

The Alaska District was given authority to proceed with the administration of the Haines-Fairbanks POL pipeline on 12 August. The project was advertised for bids on 29 August and a bid opening was scheduled for 14 October. A pre-bid conference was scheduled to be held on 1 October in Seattle. A great deal of pre-bid interest was noted in the project, but due to its size it was believed that no more than six bids were anticipated.

Significant administrative progress during the period included the initiation of a program whereby monthly field office cost reports are being sent to field offices of the District. It was determined that by sending these reports on a monthly basis the Resident Engineers can keep a more frequent and closer check on their costs resulting in better control and lower costs in field office operation. The quarterly report of field office costs presented to HHD reflects extensive decrease in operating costs and personnel in relation to construction placement value.

Bidders interest in Alaskan defense construction remained constant during their period. Bid openings were conducted for twenty-five (25) proposals for construction and an average of six (6) bids was maintained for the period. Bid action on the twenty-five (25) constructions proposals ranged from two (2) to ten (10).

Significant Progress

Sixteen contracts were awarded, totaling.....	\$16,811,090.39
Added to contracts by modifications.....	\$ 654,134.40
Total of Awards and Modifications.....	\$17,465,224.79
Total of ten contracts reported completed.....	\$38,161,992.59
Total of contract in force <u>decreased</u> by.....	\$20,696,767.80

Planning and Report Branch attended 42 conferences on AG&W Stations, planning of reconstruction of Whittier Dock facilities, Naval facilities, 1954-55 Army and Air Force programs, and Master Planning Board. During this period engineering revisions were made to location plans at several stations. Location plans were prepared for Seward and the Port of Whittier.

Estimates were prepared for Big Delta current and future work, POL dock at Haines, frame construction versus concrete block or reinforced

concrete construction on various structures at Ladd Air Force Base. Thirty surveys were completed at various ACON Stations with approximately 30 surveys completed and reduced to reports and/or working drawings. Dredging of Ocean Dock at Anchorage was accomplished. Approximately 85 plates were traced from hardboards and furnished to Architect-Engineers or Design Branch. In addition 45 charts, logs and definitives were prepared and traced. Also, 52 revisions were made on various design drawings and survey control charts.

Routine tests were made on construction materials, and aggregate soil samples. Exploration operations were continued at various stations, including microwaves and ACON Stations. Design analysis and criteria were prepared for foundation and road design. Further investigation continues on ammo storage facilities at Ladd and Eielson Air Force Bases.

New instruction for the preparation of Form 2125, Military Construction Progress Report were received and first submission under new instructions was made. Twenty-one cost reports were submitted to higher authority. Revised instructions were received for the preparation of Form 141.

During the period, 2310 submittals or 14305 shop drawings were reviewed and forwarded to the Construction Division.

Studies of navigation, flood control and hydro-electric power developments in the Bristol Bay, Seward Peninsula were continued. The Neke harbor dredging continued. Dredging of Anchorage Harbor at Ocean Dock completed on 17 September. Condition survey of Harbor of Refuge at Seward completed.

Significant Problems

1. Reorganization of the Engineering Division activities in which the Seattle Branch Office is assuming the burden of design formerly done

by Architect Engineers, with resultant adjustment of personnel ceilings to conform with work load as now envisioned.

2. Unsatisfactory sub-soil conditions at Iadi and Eialeca ammunition storage areas require further exploration and re-tiling of igloos.

3. The Fort Richardson-Eliassierf Residence reported that failure of insulation, especially in warm storage facilities has not been resolved conclusively. It is believed that the combination of design improvement and rigid inspection will overcome this problem.

4. The subject of government furnished equipment has been considered for the past four years because assurance can not be given that all equipment will meet structural and mechanical design resulting in added expense and loss of time.

5. Inability to make true management studies because of backlog of incompleted projects due to an increased workload occasioned by: (a) Re-organization of Engineering Division and other organizational changes within the District; (b) Analyses and preparation of government costs for military projects peculiar to the Alaska District.

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