

**Alaska Military History Museum Advisory Task Force
Meeting Notes
August 22, 2018 – Anchorage**

Meeting held at Anchorage Airport

Meeting called to order by Chair Paul Dunscomb at 2:02 p.m.

Task Force Members Present: Ric Davidge, Mike Haller, Dennis Parrish, Kaleigh Wotring, Angela Linn, Jean Pollard, Rob Stapleton

Participating via Phone: Craig Fleener, Russell Vanderlugt, James Renkert

DOT&PF: John Binder, Linda Bustamante

Others in Attendance: Carole Anderson, Russ Howell, Ellen Lawson, Rick Schmidt

On the Phone: Ted Spencer, Della Hall, Bianca Carpeneti

Chair Dunscomb – reviewed Governor’s charge to task force – is the State of Alaska doing all we can do capturing and preserving Alaska’s rich military history and if not where should we start to ensure this history is preserved.

Discussion Items: Task Force discussed universal issues facing most museums today – space and time. Consensus of group is everyone needs more space either in the form of more land, additional buildings, space for aircraft initial repository, and display purposes. Other ideas/comments:

- It was pointed out that if the state has funding to hire someone, they could be utilized to investigate and inventory aircraft, ships, existing holdings, Quonset huts, and artifacts around the state. Several members contributed ways that a paid position could benefit existing and future organizations – for example, building a statewide database allowing organizations to submit their collections for referral, offering workshops to educate those with primarily volunteer organizations, etc.
- Look at what other states have done since 1867 – work together with federal organizations.
- State could help build data bases. There are 68 historical societies and museums that could be contacted.
- State could help museums offer workshops
- The Alaska Military Heritage Museum supports using the former Kulis Air National Guard Base located at the Anchorage Airport as a future museum campus and adding it to the National Register of Historical Places.
- Ted Spencer has a 40 year background with museums and is currently involved with the Prince William Sound Museum. His advice to people wanting to create a museum is to include history prior to WWII, define history, and create prospectus for museum to include staffing and marketing.
- Important to curate what you have (caring for a collection, improving it, finding ways to educate people about it)
- State should not single out any individual entity
- State should not assume they should be creating a museum

- The Alaska Army National Guard is turning over ownership of armories that might be available for museum purposes. Bianca will share divestiture information with group.

Chair Dunscomb advised that an interim report is due to the Governor by October 1st. The report will include issues the group is wrestling with and the need for more space. UAF has a contact list for the state's 68 historical societies and museums. Angela and Kaleigh will work with Della Hall from Museums Alaska to develop a survey to send out to Alaska Museums to solicit info regarding military-related holdings. Craig Fleener will help write report.

Next Meeting will be held in September 26th at the Anchorage Airport.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.