

# Alaska Procurement Connection

A Monthly Newsletter From Your Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

## Spending for Defense and Homeland Security Passed

Contributed by K. Anderson (anksa@uaa.alaska.edu)

The U.S. Senate passed the House-Senate Conference Committee Report for the Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Appropriations bill, which will now go to the President for signature according to a press release issued by U.S. Senator Ted Stevens September 29, 2006.

The \$436.6 billion Defense Appropriations bill contains provisions that will provide several training and infrastructure improvements for military units stationed in Alaska. To help Elmendorf Air Force Base prepare for the arrival of F-22 aircraft, the bill includes \$16.5 million for simulation training and \$12.7 million for the activities that will transition existing infrastructure to accommodate the new aircraft.

The bill also includes approximately \$68.9 million for continued upgrades to critical ranges that support Red Flag Alaska, a series of premier training exercises. These exercises replace COPE Thunder and use ground and air space for real-time training. Red Flag Alaska will provide training for home units in Alaska, visiting U.S. units, and international allies. Additionally, the bill provides \$16.8 million to enhance, integrate, and support year-round Army brigade training within the Alaska ranges.

Other funding in the bill will support ongoing projects, including \$10 million for Port of Anchorage enhancements and \$12 million to realign railroad track through Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. The bill also includes a total of \$9.5 million for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio, a system that will help correct shortfalls in communications interoperability between federal, state, and municipal agencies during emergencies.

Other projects included in the bill are: Fire Suppression System at Fort Greely — \$1,200,000; Improvements to Fort Greely Air Field to create an Expeditionary Capability — \$16,500,000; Eielson Air Force Base Utilidor Repair — \$8,000,000; ALCOM HQ Building Upgrades — \$10,000,000; and Upgrade Communications Infrastructure — \$18,500,000.

### Department of Homeland Security

An additional press release announced the Senate passed the House-Senate Conference Committee Report for the \$34.8 billion Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill as well. The conference report, which included several provisions that benefit Alaska, passed by voice vote and will now go to the President for his signature.

“This bill funds a variety of essential programs that keep Americans safe and our homeland secure,” said Senator Stevens. “Several of this bill’s provi-

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Check out the PTAC Calendar of Events for Upcoming Opportunities!

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## *Continued from front*

sions directly impact our state. Funding for the Transportation Security Administration and the United States Coast Guard will help ensure Alaska's airports, railroads, and waterways are secure. This bill will also help our state prepare for natural disasters such as typhoons, severe storms, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions."

Senator Stevens also worked on a provision in the bill that ensures the Coast Guard's Long Range Navigation (LORAN-C) system will continue. The LORAN-C system provides civil and military air, land, and marine users with navigation, location, and timing services in Alaska and other states.

Originally, the President's budget directed the Coast Guard to terminate the LORAN-C program. However, at Senator Stevens' request, the Senate bill included language to continue the program. The 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill now specifies that the LORAN-C program cannot be terminated unless all relevant agencies agree to eliminate it. The public must also be notified of any plans to terminate the program, and the Senate Appropriations Committee must receive a report within 15 days of the decision to terminate.

"The LORAN-C system provides navigational capabilities in areas where GPS does not work. This system is a vital tool for our mariners and pilots in Alaska and other coastal states," said Senator Stevens. "This provision ensures the LORAN-C system will not be terminated unless navigational systems are in place that can fully replace its current capabilities."

The following Alaska related-items are also included in the 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill:

- \$15 million to rebuild and repair a Navy HH-60H Coast Guard helicopter, which will replace the HH-60J helicopter that was lost on December 8, 2004 during a rescue mission off the coast of Unalaska Island.

- \$3 million for the Rural Fire Initiative, which will fund fire equipment for remote locations without running water. Alaskan villages and Alaska Villages Initiatives, a non-profit, membership-based company, can apply for this funding.

For full text of both press releases, access: <http://stevens.senate.gov/>

## UAF Offers Associate's Degree in Construction Management

Contributed by Mary H. Sheehan (fnmhs@uaf.edu)

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Tanana Valley College (TVC) has launched a Construction Management Program which mirrors a similar program offered at the University's Anchorage campus and was developed with input from local contractors and professional organizations. The degree requires four to five semesters to complete.

The goal of the program is to provide students with a broad knowledge of building systems and construction techniques. Students will learn both the basic principles of business and the technical aspects of the construction industry. The new program is aligned with the University of Alaska's mission to help meet state and local workforce needs.

The first class began in October (CM102 Methods of Building Construction) and TVC plans a full compliment of classes starting in the spring. Galen Johnson, P.E., is the new Assistant Professor of Construction Management at TVC. Galen has more than 30 years of construction contracting and project management experience learned throughout Alaska. He previously worked as a Partner, Vice President, and Construction Project Manager with GHEMM Company. If you would like more information about the program, call Galen at 455-2846.

## CVE Assists Veterans

Contributed by K. Anderson (anksa@uaa.alaska.edu)

The Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE) has a mission to promote business opportunities for veterans with a primary goal of supporting economic empowerment for every veteran entrepreneur and providing resource assistance for veterans and service-disabled veterans who are considering business ownership.

At a recent conference, Gail Wegner, Deputy Director for the CVE, outlined the direction for CVE over the next year and encouraged involvement of veteran business owners. Specifically, CVE seeks input as they revise their strategic plan covering activities for the next five years; revamp their website; and institute a verification process for businesses identified as veteran or service-disabled veteran owned. Ms. Wegner can be reached at [gail.wegner@va.gov](mailto:gail.wegner@va.gov). The CVE website can be accessed at <http://www.vetbiz.gov>.

## Navigating the FAR

Contributed by Mary H. Sheehan (fnmhs@uaf.edu)

The good news is that the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FARs) are online. In the old days they were hard copy and lined the walls of offices much like a law library in an attorney's office. In those days changes to FAR were sent in hard copy and everyone fought over who had to file the changes (with the FAR numbering system, it wasn't always easy).

The FAR was established to codify uniform policies for acquisition of supplies and services by the executive agencies. Anyone interested in bidding on federal solicitations should also have an interest in learning how to navigate the FAR, which are the legally binding terms and conditions in the solicitation and in any subsequent contract. FARs are now frequently incorporated by reference, which means that when you read through the bid documents only the FAR clause or provision number, the title of the clause or provision, and the date is listed. Anyone submitting an offer should look up the clause or provision and read the full text to really know what is being agreed to.

Following are two good websites for researching the FAR:

- Acquisition Central: <http://www.acquisition.gov/far/index.html>
- Hill Air Force Base FARSite: <http://farsite.hill.af.mil/>

The first thing to do when accessing Acquisition Central is to subscribe to "Acquisition News" under the "Other Information" link. Updates and changes to the FAR will then be sent to you via email. It's really the best way to stay on top of any big changes, and also know when public comments are being accepted for proposed changes. Additionally, after August 2006, anything relating to public comment or Interim and Proposed Rules that are published in the Federal Register is now available at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

If you would like a demonstration on how to navigate the FARs, please don't hesitate to phone your local PTAC office for an appointment. Next month we'll cover Federal Acquisition Circulars and FAR supplements.

***Congratulations to Carolyn Pratt, the Small Business Development State Star for 2006!***

## ADOL Highlights Wage and Hour Administration Services

Contributed by Megan Luna (anmcl1@uaa.alaska.edu)

In their September 2006 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*, the Alaska Department of Labor highlighted the Wage and Hour Administration, which is housed by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Standards and Safety Division. The Wage and Hour Administration provides educational services to employers and employees about labor laws relating to wage issues, youth employment conditions and Alaska resident hire.

The Wage and Hour Administration also investigates companies and enforces labor laws. They monitor minimum wage and overtime pay claims made by employees and Little Davis Bacon wage requirements on public construction projects. Wage and Hour also ensures that the required number of Alaska residents are working on the project. Child labor laws and the Alaska Family Leave Act are also monitored by the Wage and Hour Administration.

For more information, go to <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/lss/whhome.htm>. The Wage and Hour Administration has offices in Anchorage (269-4900), Fairbanks (451-2886) and Juneau (465-4842).

## EC/EDI Corner

Contributed by Mary Wheeler (fnmaw@uaf.edu)

### Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day is a day set aside by our federal government for honoring all who have served our nation honorably, and is celebrated on November 11 each year. To learn more about our country's veterans, and America's freedoms, go to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. To learn more about the history of Veterans Day, and to download and print a Veteran's Day poster, click on "FAQ".

—<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday>

### American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

November is also the month for recognizing American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage. Go to the U.S. Census Bureau Product Update for September 21, 2006 and click on the link "Facts for Features: American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)" for facts the U.S. Census Bureau has collected on American Indian and Alaska Native populations, as well as the history of American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

—[http://www.census.gov/mp/www/cpu/2006\\_09.html](http://www.census.gov/mp/www/cpu/2006_09.html)



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## The Basics of Trademark

Contributed by Carolyn Pratt (ancap1@uaa.alaska.edu)

Trademark is usually mentioned in the company of copyright, patent and intellectual property, yet each is unique. A copyright protects an original artistic or literary work; a patent protects an invention; and a trademark is a word, phrase, symbol, or design, or combination of words, phrases, symbols, or designs, which identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods or services of one party from those of others.

Thousands of trademarks are encountered each day: Birch Bark, Kleenex, Coca-Cola, Alaskan Pale Ale, amazon.com, Nike, Excellence in Energy. The primary purpose of a trademark is to prevent consumers from becoming confused about the source or origin of a product or service. Marks help consumers answer the questions: “Who makes this product?” or, “Who provides this service?” As consumers become familiar with particular marks, and the goods or services they represent, marks can become indicators of quality. Established marks help consumers answer another

**Patent, Copyright, and Trademark Workshop**  
**November 9, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Fairbanks, AK**  
**Call TREND for more information**  
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question: “Is this product or service a good one to purchase?” Trademarks can be valuable business assets.

There are basic rules of the road to determine that a trademark is what you need. It is not essential to register a trademark since rights can be acquired in a trademark merely by commercial use of the mark. There are however significant and important advantages to be obtained by registering a trademark.

Any time you claim rights in a mark, you may use the “TM” (trademark) or “SM” (service mark) designation to alert the public to your claim, regardless of whether you have filed an application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

However, you may use the federal registration symbol “®” only after the USPTO actually registers a mark, and not while an application is pending. Also, you may use the registration symbol with the mark only on, or in connection with, the goods and/or services listed in the federal trademark registration.

More information about trademark, such as what it protects, can be found at the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov>. It also provides online capabilities for every stage of the registration process.