

1226

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Context Statement

President Mark Hamilton Interview: November 16, 2001
Interviewer: Stacy Rasmus

[Mark R. Hamilton]

This interview was undertaken and completed as part of a course project for an Oral Sources course (Anthropology 670) directed by Dr. William Schneider. I, the interviewer, have chosen to explore issues concerning the military in Alaska. I interviewed Mark Hamilton, a retired Major General of the U.S. Army for inclusion in the course project. On Side A of Tape 1, President Hamilton discusses his early military education and training at Westpoint and why he chose a career in the Armed Forces. He discusses his two tours in Alaska, and speaks about the compatibility of Alaska with the mindset of service men and women. President Hamilton then discusses the social impact of the military on Alaskan society, pointing out both the negative and positive aspects that local military installments have upon the rest of the population. He then speaks about the economic importance of the military in terms of the development of Alaska. He speaks about the role of the military in the communications boom in Alaska. President Hamilton speaks about going through cold weather training.

On Side A of Tape 2, President Hamilton discusses the idea of Alaska as a strategic military resource. Included under this topic are such themes as; the ballistic missile defense system, Russian Bear Bombers and Alaska during the Cold War, the strategic importance of oil, and the importance of Alaska in terms of its location as the central point to deploy and supply cargo to the rest of the world.