

Context Statement

Lieutenant Colonel William Mangano Interview: November 9, 2001

Interviewer: Stacy Rasmus

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 Lieutenant Colonel Bill Mangano of the U.S. Army, for inclusion in the course project. LTC Mangano is head of the ROTC program of the division of Military Science at University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He has served in this position for over a year and half and previously toured in Alaska at Fort Greeley. LTC Mangano speaks about the strategic importance of the construction efforts led by the military during WWII. He speaks about the effect of the intensification of a military presence in Alaska on population and economy. He speaks about the central location of Alaska globally as militarily significant. LTC Mangano speaks about the impacts of military installations socially on communities. He then describes in great detail the structure and organization of the military in terms of administration and ranking. He talks specifically about the differences between enlisted people and officers. LTC Mangano speaks about cold weather indoctrination and how this training may factor into the current military conflicts taking place in Afghanistan. He speaks about how Alaska today remains an important strategic military location.