

**Interview with Scott Belyea, Anchorage AK August 2009. Interviewed by Dan Hart and Kathryn Plimpton of HDR|e2M, Inc.**

Father was base commander at Kulis for six years 1981-1986(?). Wife, Robin works at Kulis as well.

Scott Belyea started in 1978. Worked in CE and structure shop during his time (still a member of Kulis AKANG)

Contract manager on a lot of construction that goes on. When a new building is built, Scott Belyea is involved.

When he first started only approximately 350 people, now approximately 1400.

Tremendous development on base. At least half constructed since Belyea was here. 8 130s to 14 130s means additional hangars. Addition of 210<sup>th</sup> means helicopters so hangar 2 had to be modified to deal with the new aircraft.

Main road into the base had changed. Previously, had to enter base off of Jewel road. Later built Raspberry Road and punched in access off of it.

North ramp was the only ramp built in 1967. The west ramp was constructed by 1978 when Belyea joined, but not when his father started at Kulis.

Building 13 was designed as two story dorm building for Vietnam. Never erected before the end of the conflict so it was flown back to Kulis and erected there. Three layers of plywood fiberglass laminated. No insulation. Used for weekenders. The 210<sup>th</sup> converted it into an office. Near Building 7.

Ammo storage was also torn down to make way for CE building. It was a three bay concrete structure.

MAC to Alaska Air Command then back to MAC and now PACAF.

Started when C130Es were flying. Got the C130Hs in the 1980s. The H's had a bigger engine and were faster. Could haul more load. Also, they were brand new.

Gen. Belyea went to Lockheed to pick up the first C130H. They rolled it out of the construction hangar; he took it for a test flight. Before the Air Force had accepted it. He was flying a plane the Air Force didn't own yet.

Gen. Belyea was involved with the transport of musk oxen. Tranquilized and put them on the plane. They wore off. And six people ended up on the flight bridge of a C130. There are only two seats and so three people sat on the navigator swing seat. The ox were ramming the side of the plane. 7-8 flight to North Slope. Re-establishing herds of the oxen on the North Slope because they had been killed over time.

Gen Belyea flew surveyors when they were surveying the WWII runways on the Aleutian Islands. Many where you could land but not take off. So they had equip op and engineer who were there to make

usable runways. After WWII, the US Military dug trenches across the runways so that others couldn't land and use them.

“With a fighter you go from one Air Force base to another. You can take a little bag with you. With the Trash Haulers (C123 and C130) you go on these missions and you may go for a week and you're not always landing at an Air Force base. It's more of an adventure. “

Building 3, the original part of the hangar is the aerial port now. It was one of the few buildings around in 1967. Not many modifications to the outside, but more mods to the inside. The parachute tower was added to the outside of the aerial port.

Only building 9, the old fire department, building 3 and building 4 had been constructed in 1967. There were Quonset huts and a sewage lagoon at the same time as well.

Operation Santa Claus. Originally it was bigger in scope (more visits) in the 70s and 80s. Now, it is just the main villages and more PR but still a big deal.

210<sup>th</sup> started in 1986, 1987. Didn't have helicopters yet. The unit came to Kulis from Elmendorf but didn't have whirlybirds, they were flying C130s. They received brand new aircraft after “awhile.” The mission went from active duty Air Force to Air Guard so they moved over. Now, nearly all rescue missions are in Air Guard hands.

Three plane crashes in the week before Christmas; Korean, Japan, China Air. Kulis crew helped out on the fires. The Japan Air crash lasted 24 hours. Ice fog.

Scott Belyea was cross country skier for National Guard biathlon. Read that Alaska took last in Guard Championships for biathlon. He was on scholarship at UAA at the time for cross country. He signed up and took second in State Military and went to National where he took fifth overall. Wrangled Guard members to join the team.