

Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen. My name Haraldur Stefansson known by most as Halli. My origin is here in Reykjavik since 1937. Have a clear remembrance of world war two of both British and US soldiers. My involvement with the IDF at Keflavik began in 1955 and I retired in May of 2005 completing 50 years of US Government service. Since 1968 as a chief officer and the last 20 years as the Fire Chief of NASKEF and Intern.Airp.Keflavik.

## Base History

The first U.S. Military involvement in Iceland dates back to 1941, when Marines arrived after an agreement between the governments of Iceland, Great Britain and the United States. The forces ere replacements for the British garrison that was stationed in Iceland after the British occupation in May of the previous year.

In addition to their defense role, U.S. forces constructed the Keflavik Airport as a refueling point for aircraft deliveries and cargo flights to Europe.

Following World War II, all military personnel were withdrawn from the country as specified in the original agreement.

Another agreement signed between the United States and Iceland in 1946 permitted continued use of occupation forces in Europe. The United States provided all the maintenance and operation of the airport through an American civilian contractor.

Iceland's charter membership in NATO in 1949 required neither the establishment of an Icelandic armed force, nor the stationing of foreign troops in the country during peace time. However, the Cold War with the Soviet Union and growing world tensions caused Iceland's leaders to think otherwise.

Icelandic officials decided that membership in the NATO alliance was not a sufficient defense and, at the request of NATO, in 1951 entered into a bi-lateral defense agreement with the United States. This was the beginning of the Iceland Defense

Force.

During the past +five decades, the Defense Force was "at the front" of the Cold War and was credited with playing a significant role in deterrence. IDF Iceland Defense Force it began in 1941 when the first US Marines arrived in Iceland.

At first the forces were in Reykjavík later they moved to Keflavik establishing Patterson Field until about 1947 Meeks field was established.

Meeks field was operated between 47 and 51 by civilian contractors the most significant Lockheed company.

Bi-lateral agreement US Iceland IDF in 1951 and the field became a US Air Force Base.

US army and Navy were present with Army ground forces and Navy rescue and ASW

1961 became Naval Station and 1986 Naval Air Station.

USAF and Marines coast guard. Fighters T-33 F89.F102 F-4 last F-15, 18 when most. E3as and 135 tankers for a period C121 patrols replaced by NAVFAC listening ASW.

IDF Northern Viking exercises,PFP training.

Icelanders worked as constant capability in support of the Defense Force.

Housing small town US FPW.

My first employment in 1955 was in the 1400th. US Air Force Hospital as an ambulance driver, then a fire fighter for 50 years continuously the last 19 years as Fire chief.

As you probably know the IDF. Has left Iceland on 30 Sept the last of the military left. Actually the decommissioning ceremony took place on 8 September 2006. The US and Ice. Gov have made an agreement for continued defenses but how that will be accomplished has not been made public. However it is likely that deployment of submarines in the North Atlantic is part of the program in connection with a Communications establishment which the US military will continue to operate in the town of Grindavík as it has for centuries.

How was the IDF organized and what did they do in order to safeguard the freedom of the western world including Iceland. I have a few slides to show you and possibly provide some insight into what went on.

1. The Flags always flew together.
2. Naval air station Keflavik was the host activity for the agreed areas of IDF. To accomplish the mission we had many commands with different duties such as navfac naval facilities and ASW patrol and USAF interceptors.
3. With me is Captain Mark Laughton and our wives. Mark had the unpleasant duty of closing NASKEF.
4. Preston CO. USNAVEUR was here to roll up the NASKEF flag on 8 September 2006
5. Like any little town we needed a bean counter , important to be on the right side of him to get the funds you need.
6. Iceland was out of the ordinary for the only bi-lateral agreement and the way we handle wages and monopolized contracts consequently infrastructure was costly.
7. Here we see the cost of a typical year for the host. Some of the cost was reimbursed. For example I received up to a million dollars per year from the Air Force for runway and arresting gear operations.
8. 20 different departments to run the many functions and showing the cost involved.
9. Up to 1961 Kef. Was an Air Force base, with Navy ASW, Army and Marines.
10. Here we see the organizations of the base its values and divert field duties later fro the space shuttle as well.
11. NASKEF many activities.
12. And the Air Force activities.
13. Other Department of defense activities.
14. Typical numbers of population on the base through the years.
15. The total of each branch of service.

16. Trend and variation of strength.
17. The next three slides show distributions of funding etc.
18. NAS IDF the only DOD with Geo heat. Lower cost and less need for Oil.
19. The following slides show the work of each department of NASKEF.
20. Public Works.
21. PWD keeps the base in shape and it is an endless cycle.
22. Security is a must that has become even more important in the latter years. It is ironic however that during my 50 year career arson etc .was always the work of the military even security personnel.
23. Weapons and personnel in training.
24. Most of vehicle inspections were directed to smuggling until 2001 it became serious.
25. Explains itself.
26. Explains itself.
27. These are the sonar buoys for ASW. Which were carried by our squadrons of P-3 aircraft.
28. We later bought a life fire trainer aircraft operated with propane gas.
29. Like in the home town school we tried to have it as much as at home especially with the kids and it paid off in less mishaps.
30. We were the first in Iceland to hire women into the Fire department. Smoke detectors are a must fir every home.
31. We are the only department accredited to International standards outside the continent of America and were first to be accredited in the Navy NAS Jacksonville.
32. We received recognition for our work from all concerned.
33. We took this old chapel and rebuilt it from ruins. Moved itetc.
34. Dedication ceremony 15 Dec. 2000 by the Bishop of Iceland.

35. ICE etc one many duties of Fire. Gears, cargo, birds, T-line and maintenance.
36. Our safety department the best in the Navy.
37. Many safety awards through the years.
38. Young sailors on their first tour of duty in the Navy working with computers in Iceland.
39. NATO satellite communications station.
40. The station aircraft as we called it. Valkyrja the name taken from the sagas goddess of battle.
41. Some of the functions of Air Ops.
42. Next five slides explain themselves.
43. We found it odd to see soviet aircraft on our ramps, but all kinds used our airfield.
44. All traffic by air was handled by Icelanders in fact the constant defense manpower was comprised of Icelanders who were the corporate knowledge throughout the years.
45. Sailors at the post office. All the cargo was processed and manhandled by Fir dept personnel in snow and Ice.
46. The Galley employed mostly Icelanders for the cooking and serving.
47. Helguvík just off the Airport an asset that will support the future aviation in Iceland.
48. Some of the classiest and best in the world.
49. Very nice enlisted quarters.
50. Wer taught families to help themselves.
51. Self explanatory.
52. Self explanatory.
53. Self explanatory.
54. Self explanatory.
55. Self explanatory.
56. Self explanatory.
  
57. MWR had many programs available to the inhabitants at IDF NASKEF.

58. Indoor sports are popular in Iceland with bowling very well liked.
59. Good child care programs were always regarded important.
60. Carnival was held 4July and also in the fall.
61. Art and auto repair.
62. Library and computers.
63. One of the benefits most people miss most is the plentiful hot water and excellent cold water.
64. Shopping was very important. They had a program where the NX was off limits to men a few times a year.
65. NX clothing and Icelandic products.
66. Very popular store.
67. The Chapel was applicable to most religions and the Fire House Chapel was also available to everyone.
68. Family support had a very important role in helping the family in crisis as well as the bachelor military.
69. In closing you see a symbolic finish of service .