

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HJR 19

House Joint Resolution No. 19: “Urging the Secretary of the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to base F-35 aircraft assigned to the Pacific Air Forces at Eielson Air Force Base.”

House Joint Resolution No. 19 encourages the Secretary of the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to base F-35 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base (“EAFB”).

By spring 2014, Pacific Air Forces (“PACAF”) site survey teams are expected to assess candidate locations in the Asia-Pacific Theater for potential placement of F-35 aircraft. Eielson Air Force Base, along with other bases world-wide (including international bases in Korea and Japan), are among the expected candidate bases.

PACAF criteria will assess installations based on mission, cost factors, capacity and environmental considerations. Bases will be analyzed against potential impacts to existing missions, housing, operational and training requirements, infrastructure and manpower. The PACAF site survey teams develop cost estimates to bed-down F-35s at each location.

Eielson Air Force Base, which previously housed the A-10 air-to-ground mission support aircraft, would be an ideal location for the F-35s. The F-35s could complement the F-22s already stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (“JBER”).

Supporters of our Air Force, including residents from all around Alaska, can expect aggressive national and international competition in order to entice the F-35s. This resolution seeks to honor the historic, strong connection Alaska has with the Air Force, as well as reaffirming Alaska’s commitment to new missions and platforms, and be an aggressive voice in seeking F-35 placement at Eielson Air Force Base.

Please join Representative Isaacson in supporting this Resolution.

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