

JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

29TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



**JANUARY 19, 2016
JUNEAU, ALASKA**

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF JASC COMMITTEE

The Joint Armed Services Committee (JASC) was enacted in 1999 with the passage of HB 77 sponsored by then-State Representative Lisa Murkowski. The bill was passed just 49 days after it was introduced indicating the urgency the Legislature felt to protect Alaska's military installations from two new rounds of military base closures anticipated when the Base Realignment and Defense Reform Initiative was reestablished by Defense Secretary William Cohen.

JASC's effective date was July 1, 1999 and the committee was established as a "*permanent interim committee of the legislature*." Article 2, Section 11 of the Alaska State Constitution established a legislative council as an interim committee and gave the legislature the authority to establish other interim committees. The constitution provides interim committees can meet between legislative sessions and perform duties and employ staff as enacted by the legislature. In other words, the interim committee exists longer than standing and special committees which expire at the end of a legislature.

JASC MEMBERSHIP, AS OF JANUARY 2016

The law directed the membership to be composed of **five members of the State Senate** appointed by Senate President, **five members of the State House of Representatives** appointed by the Speaker of the House:

Chair: Senator John Coghill
Co-Chair: Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

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| Senator Pete Kelly | Representative Dan Saddler |
| Senator Anna MacKinnon | Representative Bob Lynn |
| Senator Click Bishop | Representative Wes Keller |
| Senator Bill Wielechowski | Representative Geran Tarr |

AND **six public members** appointed jointly by the presiding officers recommended by:

- The Alaska chapters of the major military service organizations; the Association of the United States Army, the Air Force Association, the Navy League of the United States, and the Marine Corps Association.
 - Chick Wallace, Civ. Aide to Army Secretary
- United States Coast Guard representatives

- All attempts to contact Chief Warrant Officer Kurt Brownlow, 17th Division, U.S. Coast Guard (retired) have been unsuccessful. JASC co-chairs Representative LeDoux and Senator John Coghill have sent a letter to Admiral Abel requesting he appoint a new representative of the U.S. Coast Guard for JASC.
- The Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage
 - George Vakalis, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
- The Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough
 - Tim Jones, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
- The Adjutant General
 - Tom Case, Lt. Gen, Air Force, Retired
- The Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alaska Municipal League –
 - Jake Lestenkof, Maj. Gen, AK Guard, Retired

(BIOGRAPHIES OF PUBLIC MEMBERS OF JASC ARE IN THE APPENDIX.)

ACTIVITIES OF JASC DURING 2014 and 2015

During 2014 the activities of the JASC were under the leadership of the Co-Chairs Representative Dan Saddler and Senator Pete Kelly. Co-chair Saddler and his staff were the point of contact for the committee in 2014.

During 2015 the activities of the JASC from January through March were under the leadership of the Co-Chairs Representative Lora Reinbold and Senator John Coghill; and from April through December of 2015 JASC was under the leadership of Co-Chairs Representative Gabrielle LeDoux and Senator John Coghill.



JASC Meeting February, 2015. (From Left to Right): Brigadier General Mike Bridges; Senator John Coghill, Adj. Gen. Laurie Hummel, Lt. General Russell Handy, Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan, Representative Lora Reinbold, JASC Staffer Elijah Verhagen, Bob Doehl, Lt. Col. Henry Schantz, Senator Bill Wielechowski, FNSB Mayor Luke Hopkins, Lt. Gen. Tom Case.

JASC REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014

JASC MEETING – FEBRUARY 13, 2014

Co-chair Representative Dan Saddler convened the meeting by explaining the Joint Armed Services Committee (JASC) was established in the 1990s and its mission is to monitor and address potential realignments of military facilities in the state, to advocate for the missile defense system, to seek out ways to attract new missions to Alaska bases, and to support increased joint military training in Alaska's facilities. The mission is especially important as the nation faces tremendous budget pressures. Alaska's military services and agencies are essential to the national defense, our joint training and preparedness, our force projection, the safety of our people and the state's economy.

He said the committee would get an update from three of Alaska's military leaders: Lt. General Russell Handy, Commander of the Alaskan Air Command (and others), Maj. General Michael Shields, General of the U.S. Army Alaska, and Deputy Commander of the United States Alaska Command, and Maj. General Thomas Katkus, Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

SUMMER 2014 – FIELD TRIP TO FORT GREELY MISSILE DEFENSE SITE



Legislative members of JASC and staff visited Fort Greely Missile Defense Site on September 3, 2014. Ft. Greely currently has 26 interceptor missiles.

JASC members on the tour were Sen. Pete Kelly, Sen. John Coghill, Rep. Doug Isaacson, Rep. Dan Saddler, Rep. Eric Feige, Rep. Geran Tarr, Major General Jake Lestenkof, Retired, and Col. Timothy Jones, retired.

Heather Shadduck, staff to Senator Pete Kelly also attended the tour.

In 2002, after the United States withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the U.S. Army relinquished direct Army control of Fort Greely and the Missile Defense Command took control of Fort Greely. In the summer of 2002 MDC began installing anti-ballistic missiles at Fort Greely. In December 2014, \$50 million was approved by Congress as an installment to a \$1.1 trillion spending plan to increase the number of interceptor missiles to 40 as part of a missile defense expansion plan.

**AUGUST 24, 2014 – JASC LETTER TO U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMAND:**

JASC Co-Chairs Representative Dan Saddler and Senator Pete Kelly submitted a letter to the U.S. Army Environmental Command with comments on the U.S. Army's 2020 Force Structure Realignment Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) specifying concerns about the Army's proposed Alternative I which would have significant negative impacts in Alaska and encouraging the Army to conduct a site-specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to "thoroughly assess the significant negative impacts that would be created in the surrounding these installations, and the entire State of Alaska." The co-chairs offered the full cooperation assistance of the JASC in such an evaluation.

JASC REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

FEBRUARY 12, 2015 - GENERAL MIKE SHIELDS' MEET AND GREET

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Representative Saddler:

1. Is there a website where people can post comments or provide information in support of the upcoming listening sessions?

No, there isn't. The Army is asking for comments at the listening session and not through a website or e-mail.

2. What is the split between the Active Duty and Army National Guard when it came to reductions? What is the percentage of reductions that the Army National Guard is looking at?

This addresses only Active Duty forces. For any information about the National Guard, please contact them.

3. Are these reductions linked to continued sequestration? What is the long-term outlook?

Without relief from sequestration within the Budget Control Act of 2011 and sequestration-level caps in FY 16 and beyond, the Army will be required to further reduce Army end strength below 450,000 and likely to 420,000. If sequestration is lifted, reductions to 420,000 would not be required.

Senator Bishop:

1. Has the Army experience in Alaska benefited our operations in Afghanistan?

Yes. In particular, the Northern Warfare Training Center offers many training opportunities that are directly applicable to operations in other mountainous areas.

2. Senator Bishop requested some bullet points of the Army significance in Alaska so he could prepare comments for the listening sessions.

Alaska has a lot to offer the Army: strategic location; unparalleled training opportunities; community integration with military. However, the Army has to make difficult decisions about where to cut forces.

Senator Coghill:

1. What other things are important for the state to address on the importance of the Army in Alaska.

Alaska has a lot to offer the Army: strategic location; unparalleled training opportunities; community integration with military. However, the Army has to make difficult decisions about where to cut forces.

2. After thanking Maj. Gen. Shields on reduced road congestion from maneuvers, he asked, if the state can assist in any other ways to improve access to training lands? He commented on road access to bridge across to Delta.

We appreciate our great partnership with the state and are always willing to work on mutually beneficial initiatives.

3. Senator Coghill asked if our bases were responsible for the entire northern hemisphere relating to intelligence.

The collection of intelligence is achieved by many organizations, both joint and multinational. Our Army forces in Alaska do not have intelligence gathering as a primary focus.

Representative Reinbold:

1. Requested a flyer on listening session times and locations that can be provided to JASC members prior to February 17.

Flyer was provided on February 13. (Flyer is located in the Appendix of this report).

FEBRUARY 17, 2015 – JASC MEETING:

Representative Lora Reinbold chaired the meeting. JASC met and heard briefings from **Lieutenant General Russell J. Handy**, Commander of Eleventh Air Force, AK NORAD, and JBER; and **Adjutant General Laurie Hummel**, newly appointed Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Lt. General Handy noted that in 1941 there were six mission-ready military aircraft in Alaska with 22,000 military men and women with “very poor command and control and no infrastructure.” With the recognition of Alaska’s strategic global position, the Alaska Highway was built in 1942.

There are now 32 military installations, 12 major installations, and about 72,000 active-duty, guard, reserve, and families in the state, along with 80,000 to 100,000 veterans. Lt. General Handy stated that one in five Alaskans have direct military involvement. The Department of Defense injects about \$1.5 billion a year into the Alaska economy, about 18 percent of the state’s economy.

Lt. General Handy noted NORAD is responsible for surveillance warning and aerospace control and said that Russian activity in the Arctic has increased and the Russians are building infrastructure and are considering ports and bases along the Arctic front to support

economic interests in oil and gas. While Russia is trying to demonstrate its global presence, Lt. General Handy said “the number of bombers and aerial refueling tankers is dwarfed by the capability of the United States Air Force.”

He said all the Air Force assets that are now “assigned on U.S. soil are under the Eleventh Air Force.” He said the Eleventh Air Force manages a number of facilities that contribute to readiness with two large operations and maintenance contracts managed by the Pacific Regional Support Center and run by Alaska Native corporations. He said the Air Force has a 10 year contract with ARCTEC to support the 15 long-range radar sites across the borders of Alaska for \$422 million. Chugach Federal Solutions manages a \$184 million contract for installation support at King Salmon Air Base, Eareckson Air Station, and Wake Island.

Lt. Gen. Handy discussed the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) and the vastness of the training space in Alaska with its nearest competitor in the Lower 48 being one-sixth the size of JPARC.

He discussed Eielson Air Force Base and its 63-year-old coal-fired combination heat and power plant. He said funding is in place to replace two of the boilers that need to be replaced. He said the good news for Fairbanks is that the U.S. Air Force announced that Eielson is the preferred alternative for the first overseas base for F-35. He said the record of decision on the environmental impact statement for the F-35 is planned for the summer of 2016 “to keep us on track for a first aircraft in 2019.”

Lt. General Handy also announced the Army is bringing a Gray Eagle UAV company to Alaska. He said the Gray Eagle is not just for readiness for combat, but is a powerful weapon system and can be used for disaster response.



Handy said there is a \$138 million earmark for the missile defense system in Alaska which is a partnership between the Missile Defense Agency, Space and Missile Defense, and the

Alaska National Guard. Part of that program includes decommissioning the Clear Air Force Station heat and power plant in October 2015.

Handy said the Alaska delegation does not want sequestration and that national security could use more money and predictability, but that the Budget Control Act of 2011 reemerges in 2016. He said from a military perspective he wants everyone to understand that there will be significant implications, because “most of what we’re looking at in 2016 assumes that we are not in sequestration.” Handy said the legislature could stress to Congress how big of an impact sequestration would have.

Senator Coghill asked how the Legislature could help with personal issues, like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and family problems when military personnel return home. Handy said one of the best ways to take care of these men and women is to ensure their families are cared for while they are deployed, including quality public school education for the children and helping teachers understand the needs of military kids.

Chairwoman Reinbold introduced newly appointed **Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Colonel Laurie Hummel**. Hummel noted that Alaska has a Dual Mission Force, with a state mission under Title 32 and they are sometimes called to federal status under Title 10. She said most Alaska guardsmen have been called to Title 10 missions “*time and time again.*”

She said the Air Guard is led by Brig. Gen. Tim O’Brien and the inbound Air Guard commander will be Col. Karen Mansfield. Alaska has two Air Guard wings: the 168th air refueling wing at Eielson runs the KC-135 tanker fleet and the Space Warning and Surveillance Squadron at Clear Air Station. The Air National Guard also has the 176th Wing at JBER which has broad responsibilities such as combat search and rescue, tactical and strategic airlift, air control, and rescue coordination.

Commissioner Hummel said the Alaska Military Youth Academy is partnered with the National Guard, and it is consistently in the top five Challenge programs in the country. She said a study conducted found that every dollar invested in these programs yields considerable savings in societal costs.

The commissioner said she hopes to increase rural outreach by bringing division representatives to rural exercise missions, improving public relations, and connecting better to veteran service organizations, including national offices. She said many female veterans do not think of themselves as veterans and or having access to those services.

Commissioner Hummel addressed the timeline for investigating potential misconduct and malfeasance with the Alaska National Guard by the federal Office of Complex Investigations (OCI).

Hummel guaranteed that leadership will take the OCI report and Judge Patricia Collins’ special investigation and use them “in every possible manner to increase the capacity of the National Guard and to build and/or rebuild an effective command climate.” There were five areas noted in the OCI report that were turned over to internal teams, and the sixth issue was a finding of fraud and was addressed in an external federal audit.

She said there is a new special victim counsel on staff, loaned from the National Guard Bureau, and she deals exclusively with sexual assault victims. She stated although all of the results are not in, no illegal activity was found, but there were administrative mistakes in accounting.

Hummel identified the need for additional legal assistance within the guard. The Judge Advocate General (JAG) officers and attorneys are overworked in a stressful environment. She said she has requested help from the National Guard Bureau with temporary help or preference at paralegal schools to fill empty slots. The bureau is very receptive, she added.

In conclusion, the commissioner said she is also focused on getting the state code of military justice into statute and hiring someone to coordinate that effort with the legislature.

Co-Chair Reinbold invited Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins to address JASC and explain to them the “Tiger Team”. Mayor Hopkins said when the downsizing issues came around, which included moving F-16s, the Tiger Team was created to include members of Congress, the assembly, the Alaska State Legislature, and non-elected officials to meet every week. The assembly provided funds for studies and consultants.

He said while there is a level of comfort the F-35s will be stationed at Eielson AFB, there is still work to be done so the Tiger Team will continue meeting. He reminded the committee Alaska is in competition with other states for forces and expenditures and the Tiger Team is continually bringing up issues of how to respond to the needs that they think the Fairbanks North Star Borough should have and serve the military.

FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 2015 – U.S. ARMY COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

In January, the U.S. Army announced it was continuing to reduce its active-duty end-strength from a war-time peak of 570,000 to 450,000 by the end of FY2017, a cumulative reduction of 120,000 Soldiers. If sequestration level cuts are imposed in FY2016 and beyond, end-strength would be further reduced to 420,000 Soldiers by FY19, a cumulative loss of 150,000 Soldiers. Thirty installations across the United States were being evaluated for potential reductions.

The loss of a brigade at JBER could total 5,000 troops and 9,000 dependents – a total of 14,000 in population, as well as Department of Army civilians at JBER. That’s 4.5 percent of Anchorage’s total population. Army payroll in Anchorage is \$500 million, not including the civilian payroll. Source: Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC)

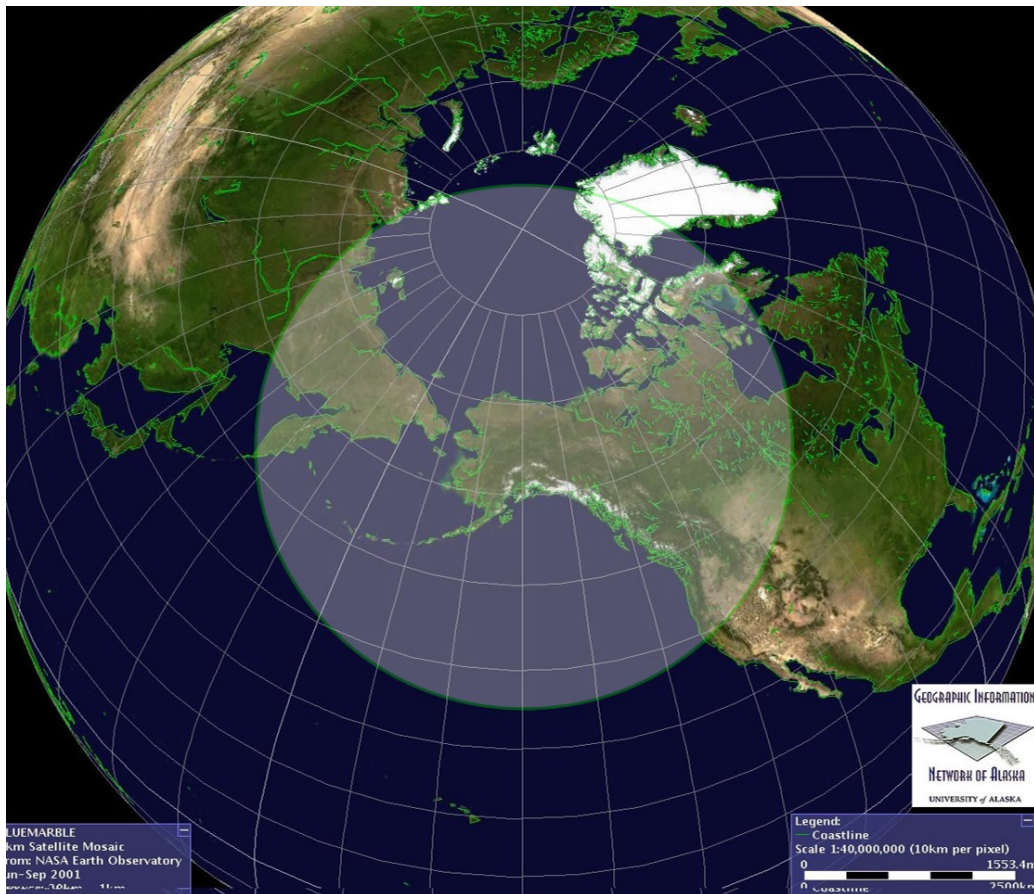
Fort Wainwright was facing a potential loss of up to 5,800 Soldiers and Department of Army civilians. Such a cut would leave the base’s workforce at 1,600. Almost twenty-five percent of the population is military or military dependent in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. (Source: “Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment” by the U.S. Army released July 2014)

In a worst-case scenario, the main Army units of both JBER and Fort Wainwright could be cut, forcing the departure of as many as 10,800 troops and 19,000 dependents within a year and a half. That would amount to a loss of about 4 percent of the state's total population.

Twenty-eight out of 40 members of Alaska's House of Representatives and fourteen of 20 members of the Alaska State Senate will potentially see their districts be directly affected by Army force structure reductions.

At the listening sessions, the Department of Army provided a brief overview of the stationing decision process; however, the primary purpose was to give members of the communities an opportunity to provide comments and input.

Representative Reinbold attended the Anchorage listening session. Senator Coghill, Senator Bishop, and Reinbold staffer Elijah Verhagen attended the listening session in Fairbanks. Senator Coghill submitted written testimony and testified at the Fairbanks listening session.



The theme of the written and oral testimony submitted by members of JASC was that ***“ALASKA IS VERY IMPORTANT STRATEGICALLY TO AMERICA’S MILITARY.”***

Alaska, using northern routes, connects three continents. Army personnel in this state can get to many places around the globe very quickly. That means our soldiers can either “make

things happen” or “prevent bad things from happening” in very quick order. Alaska gives the U.S. military a big advantage, especially in the Pacific.

Recent geopolitical issues like emerging military power of China, Russia’s reestablishment of Arctic military bases and the growing importance of the Arctic as a military arena continue to make Alaska bases strategically important.

The proximity of infrastructure to Alaska’s bases, such as the Alaska Railroad and the Port of Anchorage, provide for easy transportation of heavy equipment. Major airfield runways provide for quick deployment.

Eielson AFB is strategically superior considering that aircraft deployed from the base can reach 95 percent of the world’s industrialized nations within 9 hours. The Eielson-based KC-135’s are continually on short-notice alert in support of interceptors defending our airspace.

The State of Alaska is a strong partner with the Department of Defense. The State built the bridge over the Tanana River, expanded access to Point MacKenzie and eventually to JPARC, and share valuable air space for additional training.

Alaska is a premiere training ground for U.S forces and our allies

The Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC), which is the largest military training area in the United States, consists of all the land, air, sea, space and cyberspace used for military training in Alaska, providing unmatched opportunities for present and future Service, joint, interagency and multinational training.

Today, the JPARC is comprised of approximately 65,000 square miles of available airspace; 2,490 square miles of land space with 1.5 million acres of maneuver land; and 42,000 square nautical miles of sea and airspace in the Gulf of Alaska. The JPARC provides a realistic training environment and allows commanders to train for full spectrum engagements, ranging from individual skills to complex, large-scale joint engagements.



Each year, thousands from the U.S. military services, federal, state and local agencies, allied nations and nongovernmental organizations receive training in JPARC. In addition to home-station training for Alaska-based units and smaller unit training events, JPARC hosts three to four large-scale exercises annually.

The total approximate acreage for maneuverable training grounds of JPARC is more than 1.5 million acres, which is bigger than the state of Delaware. Our training areas have multiple advantages include: year-round accessibility; joint-live fire; live-virtual-construction instrumented architecture for brigade-level training; and support for all conventional weapons systems

Fort Wainwright has been ranked the Army's No. 1 Post for maneuverability (Source: BRAC reports). The State helped pay to build the Tanana Bridge, finished in 2014, which provides dependable, year-round access to the JPARC.

As the military focuses on the Pacific (and increasingly the Arctic), Alaska can provide training opportunities for valuable allies. Expanding Arctic partnerships include those with Norway, Finland, Sweden and Denmark. Other partnerships include those with Japan, Canada, India, Nepal, Mongolia, and Bangladesh. (Source: Letter from Senator Coghill to General Odierno)

Alaska has a strong system of benefits and rewards for military personnel.

There are special, state-funded veterans' benefits in education, home loans, land purchases, and municipal property tax exemptions. The legislature has passed legislation providing special tax credits for employers who hire veterans and for free hunting and fishing licenses for resident veterans with service-related disabilities along with free camping in state parks and one-year free passes on state ferries. The Alaska Railroad offers a 20 percent discount to veterans and active military. A large sector of private businesses in the Southcentral and Interior Alaska offers discounts and special services to military members and veterans.

APRIL 9, 2015 – COAST GUARD FIELD TRIP - JUNEAU

Legislative members of JASC and their staff were invited on a two-hour tour of the Coast Guard command center. Participants were allowed to wear Mustang suits and to board the patrol boat for a short ride and explanation of how the Coast Guard boards smaller boats from the patrol boat. They received a demonstration on the firearms equipped on the boat necessary for drug interdictions.



Legislators and staff get tour of Juneau U.S. Coast Guard facilities and try out the mustang suits. 3rd from the left to the right: Joe Byrnes; German Baquero; Representative Gabrielle LeDoux; Chad Hutchison; Representative Bob Lynn; Lisa Vaught.

2015 TIGER TEAM MEETINGS

Chad Hutchison from Senator John Coghill's office regularly attended the Tiger team meetings. Brittany Hutchison of Senator Click Bishop's office intermittently attended Tiger Team meetings, as well. The Tiger Team is a group of interested parties including local city councils, mayors, borough assembly, legislators and staff, Congressional delegation staff, military representatives, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, and interested private citizens who meet on a regular basis to discuss issues and events that impact military activities in Interior Alaska. They also discuss ways to improve the infrastructure and enhance communications with the military in the Interior and statewide.

Tiger Team helped organize testimony for the two listening session held by the Department of Army in Fairbanks on February 23rd and 24th of 2015. The Tiger Team has previously been involved in providing input and public testimony for relocation of the Stryker Brigade, the F-16's, the F-35's, the Eielson BRAC proceedings, JBER's restructuring, and placement of the Gray Eagles at Fort Wainwright.

Meetings attended by Chad Hutchison occurred on Feb 6th, 20th, & 27th; March 20th; April 3; May 29th; June 12th; July 10th & 24th; August 7th & 21st; September 18th; October 16th; and December 4th.

JUNE 8, 2015 – COAST GUARD FACILITY TOUR – CORDOVA



On June 8th, Representative LeDoux and chief-of-staff Lisa Vaught were invited to tour the seasonally-open U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Support Facility in Cordova.

They learned about the essential search and rescue services that the Coast Guard provides to Alaska's fishing fleet between April and September. They also learned that the U.S. Coast

Guard is not funded by the Department of Defense and therefore not threatened by the same types of cuts proposed at JBER and Fort Wainwright.

JUNE 15 - 26, 2015 – NORTHERN EDGE 2015 – ANCHORAGE

Northern Edge is a joint training exercise between all of the services, designed to increase force preparedness in crises in the Asia Pacific region. The training included large force exercises, joint live fires, and search and rescues missions. On the final day of Northern Edge, JASC members Representative LeDoux and Representative Saddler observed a mass aircraft launch of various aircraft types departing for the JPARC. They also observed flight operations through air combat maneuvering instrumentation and toured the USS Shoup, a Navy destroyer in Alaska for Northern Edge.

JULY - DECEMBER, 2015 – BEAR WORKING GROUP – ANCHORAGE

In response to the proposed force reduction at JBER, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz of Anchorage organized the Base Economic Analysis Review Group (BEAR). The BEAR working group was formed in July to identify the economic challenges and adverse impacts faced by the Municipality of Anchorage, as a result of losing 2,600 soldiers and their families.

Mayor Berkowitz appointed Representative LeDoux to this task force, recognizing her experience with military issues as co-chair of JASC and as a representative of a military district. Representative LeDoux and staff attend monthly.

Since the decision to reduce JBER troops was put on hold, the BEAR group has continued to meet and aims to strengthen ties between the military and civilian residents of Alaska. It also recognizes the future threat of Defense drawdowns in Alaska and continues to work with our federal delegation to avoid these potential cuts.

AUGUST 3 - 6, 2015 – NCSL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT – SEATTLE, WA

Members of JASC Representative LeDoux and Representative Saddler, along with their staff, attended a half-day meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures military and veterans' affairs task force. The topics covered included military suicide prevention, veteran employment in the private sector, and state support of female veterans. Particularly



relevant to Alaska was a discussion on defense budget cuts and available resources for states and communities facing cuts to their local military installations.

FINANCIAL REPORT for 2014 and 2015

With recent reductions in general fund income, the legislature is exercising budget restraints that affect all areas of the legislature's budget. This has resulted in a change in the funding of the Joint Armed Services Committee which puts at risk the ability for the committee to pay for per diem for the public members of the committee.

FY '13 was funded at a rate of \$92,900 and the total expenditures were \$20,010.96.

FY '14 was funded at a rate of \$94,700 and the total expenditures were \$33,889.90.

FY '15 was funded at a rate of \$95,000 with total expenditures of \$17,480.

FY '16 was funded at a rate of \$12,700 and total expenditures to date are \$12,197.82. There is a current balance of \$502.18.

CURRENT STATUS OF MILITARY INSTALLATION REVIEWS IN ALASKA

Chad Hutchison, staff to Senator Coghill, communicates with Jason Suslavich in Senator Sullivan's office and Nate Bergerbest in Senator Murkowski's office concerning the status of military operations in Alaska through Tiger Team meetings.

Military personnel at Fort Wainwright are anticipated to be reduced from 6,755 to 6,708. The reduction was mitigated with the anticipated arrival of the Gray Eagle drones and the AH-64 Apache attack helicopters starting in July 2015.

In April of 2015, General Mark Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army, agreed that there's a lot of work that needs to be done, before a decision can be made on whether or not to reduce U.S. Army forces in Alaska. An Operational/Operations Plan (OPLAN) focusing Arctic activities is being produced and force reductions have been put on hold at JBER until a thorough review is completed.

APPENDIX

Biography of Public Members of JASC

Correspondence of JASC:

JASC letter Comments on U.S. Army's 2020 Force Structure Realignment
Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA)
Memo to Presiding Officers Appointing George Vakalis
U.S. Army Listening Session Flyer
Letter from Sen. Lisa Murkowski to Gen. Odierno
Letter from Senator Coghill to John McLaurin, Deputy Director
Force Management
Letter from Mat Su Delegation to Gen. Odierno, John McLaurin, and
U.S. Army Environmental Command
Letter from Sen. Dan Sullivan to Gen. Odierno
Letter from AK Delegation to Sec. John McHugh and Gen. Odierno
Letter to Sen. Murkowski from Lt. Gen. Huggins, Jr.
Letter from Senator Coghill to Dept. of Army – Request under the Freedom
of Information Act - Army
Letter from Representative LeDoux to F-35A Pacific Operational Basing
EIS

BIOGRAPHY OF PUBLIC MEMBERS OF JASC

LIEUTENANT GENERAL TOM CASE – RETIRED

Tom Case, a retired 3-star Air Force Lt. General, has spent more than 16 years in Alaska. His work history in Alaska includes two Air Force tours of duty, five years as dean of UAA's College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP) and three years as president and chief operating officer of a state-owned, independently operated Aerospace Corporation.

A 1969 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Tom began his 33-year military career flying in Vietnam. Later, Tom served at the Pentagon, was selected as the first Air Force Chief of Staff Chair on the faculty of the National War College, and eventually went on to command two fighter wings force and the Alaskan Command. He also served as deputy commander and chief of staff for the United States' two largest geographic joint combatant commands.

Tom has a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as additional education from the National War College, the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, the Air War College, and Emory University's Advanced Management Program.

COLONEL TIMOTHY A. JONES – U.S. Army Retired

Colonel Tim Jones, retired, was appointed to JASC in Feb, 17, 2012, replacing Bill Brophy as the committee member serving on behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. He is Director of Administration for Doyon Utilities, LLC, a position he has held since November 2011. He took his position with Doyon Utilities after serving 27 years with the U.S. Army.

Colonel Jones is a 1984 graduate of the United States Military Academy and holds post-graduate degrees in Administration and National Strategy. He served in a variety of assignments in both conventional and special operations forces, including combat commands in Panama, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for valor, the Air Medal, Master Army Aviator badge, and the Purple Heart.

Colonel Jones' final assignment in his military career was serving as garrison commander at Fort Wainwright from where he retired as a colonel.

MAJOR GENERAL JAKE LESTENKOF – RETIRED

Major General Lestenkof served in the Army National Guard, as Adjutant General of Alaska. He was also the Federal Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Alaska, in addition to the Deputy Commissioner of Alaska's Department of Regional and Community Affairs.

Major General Lestenkof is noted as highest ranking military officer of Native heritage and is a retired member of the Federal Senior Executive Service.

Major General Lestenkof graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1959 through 1974 and achieved the rank of Colonel. His service includes posting as Staff Assistant for the Alaska Department of Military Affairs, and 2-1/2 years as Alaska Representative for the Alaska Command/Joint Chiefs of Staff worldwide exercises. His training included U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He was awarded Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Alaska State Commendation Medal, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

COLONEL GEORGE VAKALIS – RETIRED

Colonel Vakalis, retired, joined the U.S. Army in August 1966 as an enlisted soldier. After attending Infantry Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in July 1967. He served tours in Germany; Republic of South Vietnam; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Dix, New Jersey; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Ord, California; Presidio of San Francisco, California; Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas; and two tours at Fort Richardson.

Colonel Vakalis concluded his 28-year Army career as a Colonel with assignment as the Garrison Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska, where he was in charge of the three Army posts in Alaska and all aspects of their operations.

After retirement from the Army, Colonel Vakalis served as the Operations Manager for the Municipality of Anchorage; Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, Anchorage School District; and Municipal Manager of Anchorage.

COL. Vakalis has served as a member of the Armed Services YMCA Board and Senator Ted Stevens' task force on Housing for Military Members in Alaska. In addition, he is currently a member of the Association of the United States Army. He has chaired the Military Committee for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce since 1993, and is a member of their Executive Committee.

COL. Vakalis is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and holds Masters Degrees in Personnel Management, and Public Administration from Central Michigan University. He is a 1992 Inductee in the

U.S. Army's Infantry Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame, and has been a resident of Anchorage for nearly 31 years.

CHARLES "CHICK" WALLACE

Charles (Chick) Wallace and his wife, Carolyne, left Texas in 1972 to accept a 3-year stint with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Forty-three years they still make Fairbanks their home. In addition to being a long-time Fairbanks realtor, Chick Wallace is the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army (CASA) in Interior Alaska, serving as a liaison between the community and the Department of the Army. Chick Wallace was selected as CASA in 1997, after being the president of the Polar Bear chapter of the Association of the United States Army. His official role is to "provide individual advice to the secretary of the Army, the chief of staff, Army and commanders at all levels on public sentiment toward the Army," and to "disseminate information about the Army's objectives, roles, requirements and major programs to the public through public speeches, personal contact and other means." (Army Regulation 1-15)

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Co-Chair
Representative Dan Saddler
State Capitol, Rm. 104
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-3783
Fax: (907) 465-2293
Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov



Co-Chair
Senator Pete Kelly
State Capitol, Rm. 516
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-3709
Fax: (907) 465-4714
Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov

August 24, 2014

U.S. Army Environmental Command
ATTN: SPEA Public Comments
2450 Connell Road (Building 2264)
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664

Dear Sirs;

The Joint Armed Services Committee (JASC) of the Alaska State Legislature appreciates the opportunity to submit its comments on the U.S. Army's 2020 Force Structure Realignment Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA).

JASC is the legislative authority in Alaska responsible for, among other things, addressing potential realignments of military facilities and missions in our state. As such, we have tremendous concerns with the SPEA and the potential it holds for reductions or restructuring of U.S. Army facilities in Alaska, specifically Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and Fort Wainwright (FTW).

We expressed our concerns with the original PEA in comments submitted to Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno on March 20, 2013 and stand by those comments. The Army's decision to supplement that document in light of new national fiscal constraints offers the opportunity to restate our concerns, and to expand on them in a few regards.

We continue to believe that JBER and FTW are uniquely valuable Army assets that should be retained, if not enhanced, given the advantages they offer in terms of geopolitical positioning, training opportunities, and civilian support. We also have grave concerns about the potentially devastating impacts on our state, our people and our economy, should the more drastic force realignments contemplated in Alternative 1 come to pass.

Alaska's position on the globe make JBER and FTW tremendously valuable installations to the Army, safely located in North America, yet optimally located to position forces for a quick and flexible response anywhere in the world. The 4-25th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) at JBER

is a high-value asset that is ideally positioned to meet contingencies on the Pacific Rim. Similarly, FTW is thousands of miles closer to Beijing, Honolulu and Pyongyang than military facilities on the U.S. West Coast. With the political and military uncertainty in the Asian region, it is important that the Army maintain these forward-positioned assets.

JBER and FTW also offer unparalleled training and maneuver opportunities. FTW possesses almost 20 percent of the Army's U.S. maneuver training lands capacity. Of these 1.6 million acres of range and training land, Alaska's Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) is a national treasure, providing more than 60,000 square miles of unencumbered land, air, and sea military training space. JPARC remains the only place in the U.S. where all four branches of the military can simulate the most complex joint maneuvers that prepare our Total Force to fight and win the battles of the future. The value of Alaska for military training was highlighted again recently when the Air Force announced its preliminary decision to base two squadrons of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Eielson Air Force Base in Interior Alaska, in no small part because of the advantages of Alaska as a premier military training region.

JBER and FTW also enjoy a long history of unsurpassed support and cooperation from civilian and government authorities in Alaska. This includes support on quality of life issues in the form of easy access to outdoor recreational opportunities for active duty soldiers and airmen, as well as laws improving employment and education opportunities for military members and their families, plus numerous programs supporting veterans.

Alaska also understands the military's need to operate bases economically and efficiently. The State Legislature has recently created military facilities zones to boost the economics of Alaska communities "outside the fence," is creating a natural gas supply and distribution system in Fairbanks to lower energy costs for residents, and is advancing a large-scale natural gas pipeline project that would deliver secure supplies of lower-cost fuel to both bases for decades. Most recently, the state completed a bridge across the Tanana River -- a project to which the state contributed almost \$90 million -- to help provide safe and reliable access for soldiers and their equipment for training on Army maneuver areas in Interior Alaska.

We strongly encourage the Army to consider the new training elements that can be utilized at JBER and FTW. The addition of a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) range at JBER, for example, would provide live, virtual, and constructive training for environments the 4th BCT would likely face when deployed. Recent national homeland security directives and strategic military planning have focused on the importance of the Arctic Ocean and bordering land. FTW is the only location where Army troops and supporting forces can train in realistic conditions for operations in Arctic regions around the world, and creation of a National Training Center for Arctic Conditioning at FTW would address a key homeland security training need. As force structure adjustments are studied and approved, we are confident the unique and strategic offerings of the Army's Alaska forces and installations will be seen as integral to the Army's future training needs and missions.

As the SPEA documentation implies, the Army's proposed Alternative 1 would have significant negative economic impact in the region in all categories of support, including housing, education, health care, and would reduce the State's ability to sustain capital investments and improvements like the Tanana Bridge and natural gas financing packages.

The Joint Armed Services Committee requests that, if the Army considers actions at either JBER or FTW that would result in the loss of soldiers and family members, it conduct a site-specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to thoroughly assess the significant negative impacts that would be created in the area surrounding these installations, and the entire State of Alaska. The Committee will be glad to offer its full cooperation and assistance in this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Saddler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Dan Saddler, House Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sen. Pete Kelly, Senate Co-Chair

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Rep. Reinbold
State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone - (907) 465-3822



Official Business

Senator Coghill
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone - (907) 465-3719

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate President Kevin Meyer
Speaker of the House Mike Chenault

FROM: Rep. Lora Reinbold, Co-Chair *LHR*
Senator John Coghill, Co-Chair *JBC*
Joint Armed Services Committee

DATE: January 22, 2015

RE: Appointment of JASC public members

In accordance with AS 24.20.650, the Joint Armed Services Committee of the 29th Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that George Vakalis be appointed as a new public member representing the Municipality of Anchorage.

If you have any questions, please contact the office of Representative Reinbold at (907)465-3822.



U.S. Army Community Listening Sessions

Anchorage

Monday February 23, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dena'ina Conference Center, Third Floor
600 West 7th Avenue

Fairbanks

Tuesday February 24, 2015

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Carlson Center
2010 2nd Avenue



U.S. Army Community Listening Sessions

Major General Michael Shields, U.S. Army Alaska Commanding General, and Headquarters, Department of the Army staff members invite everyone to the Anchorage and Fairbanks listening sessions, as part of the Army's overall analysis and community outreach program before force structure and stationing decisions are made. Army staff representatives will provide an overview of the Army's stationing decision process. However, the main focus is to provide community members, leaders and partners a chance to provide direct input and key, community-unique facts you believe the Army should consider before decisions are made.

UNITED STATES ARMY, ALASKA

Information is available by calling 907.384.9005

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN

**HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR
AND PENSIONS**

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665

(202) 224-5301 FAX

510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6279
(907) 456-0233

800 GRACIE AVENUE, SUITE 101
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-7277

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-9104
(907) 283-5808

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6059
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTMONT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

February 18, 2015

General Raymond T. Odierno
Chief of Staff of the United States Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear General Odierno:

On February 23 and 24, the Army will conduct listening sessions in Anchorage and Fairbanks related to the possible loss of one or both of the active duty Army brigades sited in Alaska. These listening sessions have drawn great interest from the affected communities as well as member of the Alaska Legislature who represent those communities.

Some 28 members of the 40 member Alaska House of Representatives and 14 of the 20 members of the Alaska Senate represent districts that will potentially be directly affected by Army force structure reductions. Unfortunately it is not practical for the Alaska Legislature to recess its 90 day regular session in order that all of these members can attend the listening sessions personally.

Although the Army has not solicited written comments as part of its listening session process I hope you will find it appropriate to consider the written comments of legislators whose duties in Juneau keep them away from their home districts. As I receive copies of these letters I intend to forward them on to you and to the Deputy Chief of Staff G-3/5/7 for consideration.

This letter transmits the comments of the Honorable John Coghill, Majority Leader of the Alaska Senate and Co-Chair of the Alaska Legislature's Joint Armed Services Committee. Senator Coghill represents the Fairbanks and North Pole communities of Interior Alaska near Fort Wainwright.

Thank you for considering the comments of Senator Coghill's comments, and those of other legislators whose choose to submit them. An acknowledgement from the Army that these comments have been considered will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Leader

Joint Armed Services Committee

Co-Chairman

Judiciary Committee

Vice-Chairman

Resources Committee

State Affairs Committee

Legislative Council

Rules Committee



Senator John Coghill

Session Address:
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3719
Fax (907) 465-3258

Interim Address:
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 340
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 451-2997
Fax (907) 451-3526
877-465-3719

www.aksenate.org

February 18, 2015

John P. McLaurin, III
Deputy Director of Force Management
Office of Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7
Washington, DC 20310

U.S. Army Environmental Command
ATTN: SPEA Public Comments,
2450 Connell Road (Building 2264)
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664
usarmy.jbsa.aec.nepa@mail.mil

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

This is State Senator John Coghill. I represent Senate District B. My office has reviewed the June 2014 *Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment* and supports the "no action alternative" for Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Fort Wainwright's strategic location (a mere 120 miles from the Arctic Circle, in the "heart of Alaska") makes it a very important post for America.

Alaska, using northern routes, connects three continents. Army personnel located in this state can get to many places around the globe, quickly. In those instances, the military can "make things happen." Or, importantly, "prevent bad things from happening." Having a presence in Alaska, especially at places like Fort Wainwright, can help shape events.

In addition to strategic location, Fort Wainwright is surrounded by major training areas (found in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, "JPARC") including:

1. The Tanana Flats Training Area (642,215 acres);
2. The Yukon Training Area (259,353 acres); and
3. The Donnelly Training Area (654,641 acres)

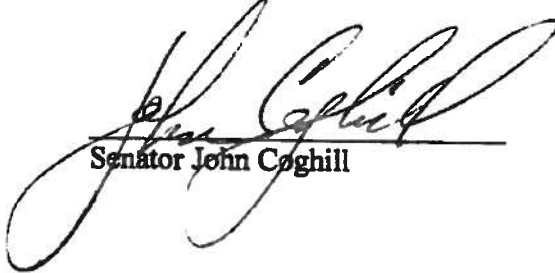
The approximate total acreage is 1,577,096. The unparalleled integrated training environment has multiple advantages. Those advantages include: Year-round accessibility; joint-live fire; live-virtual-construction instrumented architecture for brigade-level training; and support for all conventional weapon systems.

Additionally, as the military focuses on the Pacific (and, increasingly, the Arctic), Alaska can provide training opportunities for valuable allies. Regional partnerships include: Japan, Canada, India, Nepal, Mongolia, and Bangladesh. Expanding Arctic partnerships include: Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark.

Alaska communities, and out state legislature, have continued to support our military friends. There is a proven history: from the 2005 BRAC proceedings, to the proposed F-16 movement from Eielson Air Force base, to the F-35 campaign, to now. The military can count on support from Alaska, especially in the interior.

Going through budget reductions is something we understand in this state. We also must prioritize based on effective life and safety needs. In the view of many, Fort Wainwright is a high priority. Considering the post's strategic value to America, the "no action alternative" is the overwhelming recommendation.

Sincerely,



Senator John Coghill

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Mike Dunleavy
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Bill Stoltze
Representative Jim Colver
Representative Lynn Gattis



Representative Shelley Hughes
Representative Wes Keller
Representative Mark Neuman
Representative Lora Reinbold
Representative Cathy Tilton

Mat-Su Delegation

Capitol Building - Juneau, Alaska

February 27, 2015

General Raymond Odierno
Chief of Staff of the United States Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

John P. McLaurin, III
Deputy Director of Force Management
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7
Washington, DC 20310

U.S. Army Environmental Command
ATTN: SPEA Public Comments
2450 Connell Road, Building 2264
Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-7664
Email: usarmy.ibsa-aec.nepa@mail.mil

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mat-Su Valley Delegation stands united in its opposition to reducing military personnel in Alaska, due to the increasing strategic importance of the Arctic to the defense of the United States and the region's uniquely situated training areas. The importance of armed forces in Alaska has been recognized by some of the greatest military minds, including Army Major General William "Billy" Mitchell, credited for being "the father of the Air Force, who famously said:

"I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world."

With a belligerent North Korea, an aggressive shift by Russia, and a rising China, those words certainly ring truer today than they did when he first uttered them before Congress in 1935. Alaska is at the tip of the nation's spear, with Fort Wainwright a mere 120 miles from the Arctic Circle. In contrast to military

Installations in other parts of the country, military forces in Alaska can act quickly and decisively on three continents. As the Arctic opens up to global commerce, Alaska becomes even more strategically critical than any other time in history. As our nation's only Arctic state, Alaska also boasts uniquely situated training areas unlike any other in our country, including the Tanana Flats, the Yukon, and the Donnelly training areas, with a combined acreage of 1,577,096. These training areas are accessible year-round, support all conventional weapon systems, have joint air and ground live fire as well as live virtual construction instrumented architecture for brigade level training, and are utilized by military personnel from all over the country.

Due to Alaska's strategic importance and its unparalleled training areas, we urge the Department of the Army to do what's in the best interest of the United States and preserve the nation's strength in the Arctic to meet the growing challenges of this new century.

Sincerely,


Senator Charlie Huggins


Representative Shelley Hughes


Senator Mike Dunleavy


Representative Wes Keller


Senator Bill Stoltz


Representative Mark Neuman


Representative Jim Colver


Representative Lora Reinbold


Representative Lynn Gattis


Representative Cathy Tilton

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Daniel Sullivan, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Don Young, U.S. House of Representatives

DAN SULLIVAN
ALASKA

SUITE SD-B40A
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

March 5, 2015

General Raymond Odierno
Chief of Staff of the United States Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear General Odierno,

Last week the Army conducted two public listening sessions in Alaska, one at Fort Richardson and the other at Fort Wainwright. In each of these sessions, your representatives, John P. McLaurin, the Deputy Director for Force Management, and Colonel Thomas M. O'Donoghue, heard from hundreds of passionate Alaskans. In fact, if there was ever a doubt of Alaska's passion for our servicemembers, Mr. McLaurin was able to witness firsthand how much Alaska really does love its troops. He later remarked at the Fort Richardson listening session, "That assemblage outside before coming in [the listening session] is something I've never seen before. You should be very proud of yourself because I am flat out impressed."

Like both Mr. McLaurin and Col. O'Donoghue, I too have heard from hundreds – and even thousands – of Alaskans from all across my great state who are concerned about this force structure issue. As a matter of fact, many of the Alaskans at the Fort Richardson listening session hail from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley (Mat-Su Valley), a rapidly growing community just north of Anchorage.

In a letter to you, which I have enclosed, the elected legislators of the Mat-Su Valley share some important local perspectives and raise several important strategic concerns. Their perspectives and concerns – many of which I share – are critically important in your upcoming force structure decisions. I ask that you weigh their perspectives and concerns, along with my own, as you make the difficult decisions that will affect the future of our Army.

Alaska is many things to the Army. We are strategic, our soldiers are rigorously trained, and these soldiers, like most Alaskans, are truly "Arctic Tough." Yet, underneath this arctic toughness, is community that really treasures all of its military force structure and especially its Army forces. Thank you for taking the time to both hear and read our concerns.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 6, 2015

Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

General Raymond T. Odierno
Chief of Staff, US Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Gentlemen:

We write today with respect to the Army's ongoing process to determine how it will implement force structure reductions in accordance with the administration's Fiscal Year 2016 budget and the Budget Control Act. Last week, Army listening teams were in Alaska to receive comments from our constituents on Army downsizing. The listening teams played to packed houses in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Support for our soldiers and their families runs deep in Alaska's DNA. It has for many generations. Today Alaska is home to more veterans per capita than any other State in the country. It gives us great pride to see veterans of conflicts past turn out to support the current generation of fighting men and women. Many of the speakers last week were veterans who came to Alaska to serve but decided to stay because of the high quality of life enjoyed by our military families.

Ultimately though, the difficult force structure decisions which may be ahead should not rely on the popularity of the Army presence in a particular community or the number of people who attended a particular listening session. Military strategy remains the key determinant of where the Army should base. Alaska's geographic proximity, over the pole from most of the world's conflict zones, is the principal reason military planners have long regarded Alaska as a highly desirable – if not necessary – forward base for US power projection. Recent developments in Asia, the Pacific and Russia have done nothing to weaken that argument.

On March 3, 2015, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the Russians have just taken a decision to activate six new brigades and four of them will be in the Arctic." The Secretary of Defense observed, "The Arctic is going to be a place of growing strategic importance... The Russians are active there." The Secretary of Defense observed, "The Arctic is going to be a place of growing strategic importance... The Russians are active there."

These recent developments represent significantly changed circumstances from those that existed when the Army first considered a list of Brigade Combat Teams for possible elimination in force structure reductions. Instead of reducing the Army presence, in Alaska we would suggest that the Army should consider increasing that presence in the coming years. Sound military strategy demands no less.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Respectfully,

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Lisa Murkowski United States Senator | Dan Sullivan United States Senator | Don Young Congressman for Alaska |



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3/5/7
400 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0400

23 MAR 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Chief of Staff, Army to your March 5, 2015 letter concerning the Army's listening sessions held in Anchorage and Fairbanks in late February, and to the written comments provided by Members of the Alaska Legislature. More specifically, I would like to thank you for forwarding the letters from Senator John Coghill, Majority Leader of the Alaska Senate, Senator Pete Kelly of Fairbanks, and Senator Anna MacKinnon of Eagle River.

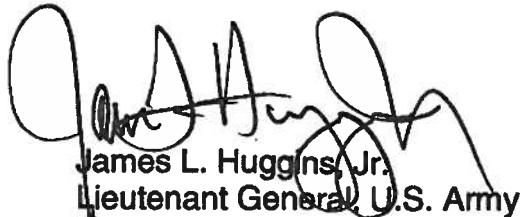
As you know, the Army must meet the Nation's strategic and defense objectives while preparing to operate under the severe fiscal constraints caused by current law budget caps. The 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) states that the Army Active Component will reduce from its wartime high force of 570,000 to 450,000 Soldiers. The QDR also states if sequestration cuts are again imposed in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond, Active Component end-strength must be reduced to 420,000.

As the Army reduces its end-strength, it must maintain the appropriate balance between mission, Army force structure, and capabilities, sustaining force readiness, preserving Soldier and Family quality of life, the all-volunteer force, and adapting the force to reduce Army expenditures. The Army is currently analyzing its available options to achieve these objectives. The comments you forwarded, along with the comments from the listening sessions in Anchorage and Fairbanks, will be considered as part of the Army's decision process. At this point, however, no final decisions have been made.

The Army recognizes that Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Fort Wainwright provide tremendous capabilities to our Army, and that the local communities enthusiastically support our Soldiers and their Families. The Army will fully consider all the benefits that Alaska offers to train Soldiers, support Families, and contribute to the defense of the Nation as our analysis proceeds.

Again, thank you for forwarding the comments from the Alaska legislators and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,



James L. Huggins, Jr.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Leader

Joint Armed Services Committee

Co-Chairman

Judiciary Committee

Vice-Chairman

Resources Committee

State Affairs Committee

Legislative Council

Rules Committee



Senator John Coghill

Session Address:
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(907) 465-3719
Fax (907) 465-3258

Interim Address:
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 340
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 451-2997
Fax (907) 451-3526
877-465-3719
www.aksenate.org

August 7, 2015

Department of the Army
Freedom of Information and Privacy Office
7701 Telegraph Road, Suite 144
Alexandria, VA 22315-3905
e-FOIA: DAFOIA@conus.army.mil

Deputy Chief of Staff G-3
Attn: DAMO-ZA
600 Army Pentagon, 8605 NC1
Washington, DC 20310-0600

Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management
Attn: DAIM-ZS
600 Army Pentagon, 8605 NC1
Washington, DC 20310-0600

Re: Request under the Freedom of Information Act - Army

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552 et al.

I request that a copy of the following record(s) be provided:

1. Any and all material related to the proposed force restructure decisions at Fort Wainwright, AK and Fort Richardson, AK (otherwise known as "Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson" or "JBER") announced on July 9, 2015, and relevant to the following areas:
 - a. Military Value Analysis ("MVA") Model and Inputs
 - i. Training
 - ii. Power Projection
 - iii. Well-Being
 - iv. Mission Expansion
 - b. Strategic Considerations
 - c. Military Judgment
 - d. Cost and Efficiencies

- e. Readiness Impact
- f. Mission Command
- g. Statutory Requirements
- h. Feasibility
- i. Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts
- j. Community Input

The form of the records should include, but not be limited to items of any kind, including:

papers, books, accounts, letters, photographs, objects, tangible things, correspondence, telegrams, cable telex messages, memorandum, notes, desk calendars, diaries, notations, work papers, intra and inter-office communications, intra and inter-departmental communications, communications to, between and among officers, agents, partners, secretaries, or any other employees, transcripts, minutes, reports, and/or recording of telephone or other conversations, or interviews, or of committee meetings or of other meetings, affidavits, statements, summaries, opinions, reports, preliminary reports, studies, analogies, evaluations, insurance policies, contracts, licenses, agreements, balance sheets, income statements, questionnaires, answers to questionnaires, statistical records, appointment books, telephone logs, lists, tabulations, charts, graphs, maps, surveys, sound recordings, data sheets, computer tapes, discs, magnetic tapes, punch cards, computer printouts, data processing input and output (including all materials for Army installations considered), all computer programs and calculation models, computer program coding sheets, microfilms, e-communications, e-mail, text, all records kept by electronic photographic or mechanical means, and things similar to any of the foregoing, regardless of their author or origin, however denominated by it.

For the purposes of "fee assessment," please be aware that I'm an individual seeking information for public use. There is no commercial use.

I request a waiver of fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest (particularly in the communities of Fairbanks, AK and Anchorage, AK) because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Army.

I serve in the Alaska State Senate and am Co-Chair Joint Armed Services Committee. The information obtained will be disseminated to the general public through the Joint Armed Services Committee.

Please contact my office at 907-451-2941 (from May to December) or 907-465-3719 (from January to April) if you need further information. Chad Hutchison (chad.hutchison@akleg.gov), from my office, will assist and answer questions.

Your efforts on this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Coghill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Coghill" clearly distinguishable.

Alaska State Senator John Coghill

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

Representative.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov

Alaska State Capitol, Room 416

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-4998

Fax: (907) 465-4419

Toll-Free: (800) 689-4998

October 20, 2015

F-35A Pacific Operational Basing EIS
354 Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office
354 Broadway Avenue, Suite 15A
Eielson AFB, AK 99702

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the placement of two F-35 squadrons at Eielson Air Force Base, which would be an economic and strategic asset to Alaska and our nation.

Nearly 2,800 military and civilian personnel and their families will relocate to the Fairbanks area with the placement of these two squadrons. This represents a 49% increase in Eielson Air Force Base's population and an appreciable amount of growth to the Fairbanks North Star Borough population of less than 100,000 people. The community would thus benefit from more students in borough schools with existing excess capacity, greater demand for housing and services off the base, and an additional \$177 million in labor income spent locally.

In addition, locating the F-35s at Eielson satisfies the aircraft's placement priorities outlined by the Secretary of the Air Force: complementing the Pacific rebalance articulated by the President and Defense Secretary; providing the capability to address threats and conflicts quickly; and supporting future peace-keeping missions. Interior Alaska also offers unparalleled training space for pilots at the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex.

The economic benefit of the additional airmen and families in Fairbanks, as well as the strategic advantage of basing these aircraft in Alaska dwarfs the handful of challenges identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I continue to support the placement of the F-35s at Eielson Air Force Base and urge you to ensure that this occurs. Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabrielle LeDoux".

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Co-Chair, Joint Armed Services Committee