

Interior Alaska faces housing need for incoming military personnel

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FAIRBANKS, Alaska (KTVF) - Interior Alaska currently faces a housing shortage, and military personnel arriving in the region are not exempt.

At a press conference on Tuesday, July 6, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Bryce Ward called on the community to help alleviate the crisis.

Since 2017, the F-35 program on Eielson Air Force Base, referred to as “bed-down,” has brought around 1,200 personnel to the area.

Most have housed near North Pole, in the 99705 zip code area.

According to Ward, the next six to eight months are expected to see an additional 283 personnel arrive in the area. “We need to have a place for these folks to live. Rental property owners, especially those in the 99705 area, if you do have quality product, we ask that you would reach out to Eielson family base housing and let them know of your availability.”

He went on to call for “Builders and developers, as lumber prices come down, what are you anticipating to build for the 2021 season and for the 2022 season? Are you willing to share this with borough leadership, and/or Eielson leadership, on what you’re projecting to build for this upcoming year, and for this year? We need houses this summer as well. Realtors, what do you know about existing supply and potential anticipated construction of new units, especially in the 99705 area?”

The Mayor explained that future military growth in the Interior may be impacted by a lack of housing going forward.

More information can be found at the borough’s [website](#).

Eielson Air Force Base housing can be reached by phone at (907) 377-1840 or emailed at 354CES.familyhousing@us.af.mil.

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