

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2012

Source
HR 12

**House
Resolve No.**
11



Supporting the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center in the North Slope region.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS the unique characteristics of the Alaska Native villages, including the culture, linguistics, tribal organization, disposition, varied geography, extensive land area, lengthy periods of limited visibility, and approaches from land, air, and sea, provide a unique opportunity for special operations forces training and exercises that accurately replicate real-world missions; and

WHEREAS the training capacity in cold weather survival and operations of the armed forces of the United States has significantly diminished because of contingency deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS the cold weather expertise of Alaska Natives provides the capability to train special operations forces in cold weather survival and operations; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center will provide seasonal employment opportunities for Alaska Natives in and around Native villages; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center will engage at least eight villages for up to 90 days each year, creating hundreds of part-time seasonal positions; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center will create new village revenue not associated with state or local government or the petroleum industry; and

WHEREAS special operations forces training with village residents would expand the ability of the state and the nation to respond to search and rescue calls, incident response and consequence management, and the national, state, and local security requirements; and

WHEREAS special operations are conducted with highly mature, experienced, elite, small units that will have a negligible effect on regional, local, cultural, and industrial interests; and

WHEREAS the armed forces of the United States in the state fully support the special operations extreme environmental testing and training center concept and make available United States military facilities, including the Donnelly Training Area and the Northern Warfare Training Center, to support special operations forces training; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center would support the efforts of the armed forces of the United States in the state to increase the visibility of training opportunities, facilities, and cold weather equipment that are unique to the state; and

WHEREAS the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center would support Alaska National Guard training and recruitment efforts;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives supports the establishment of the special operations extreme environmental testing and training center in the North Slope region of the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully requests the Governor to encourage the United States Special Operations Command to consider the unique training opportunity for special operations forces and the mutual benefits to the nation and state that a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center in the North Slope region would provide.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Major General Thomas H. Katkus, General

Patrick Gamble, General Joseph Ralston, Major General Mark Hamilton, Rear Admiral James Underwood, Loren Lounsbury, Jim Dodson, and John Katz, members of the Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team; Lieutenant General Stephen L. Hoog, Commander, Alaska Command; Major General Raymond Palumbo, Commander, United States Army Alaska; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.