

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2014**

**Source**

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**Legislative  
Resolve No.**

29



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 or Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2014, the United States Air Force, as a matter of critical importance, announced five contesting locations in the Asia-Pacific theater for basing F-35 aircraft; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are the only candidates for basing F-35 aircraft on United States soil; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Air Force recently, based on the best interests of the United States National Security Strategy, decided to forego the proposed relocation of the 18th Aggressor Squadron's F-16 aircraft from Eielson Air Force Base; and

**WHEREAS** the citizens of Alaska commend the United States Air Force's leadership on the decision not to relocate the 18th Aggressor Squadron; and

**WHEREAS** the strengths of Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are consistently recognized by the Pacific Air Forces, the United States Pacific Command, and the United States Air Force's joint and coalition partners around the world; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson play an essential role in the successful execution of the United States national security strategy by enabling United States military assets to reach 95 percent of the industrial world within nine hours; and

**WHEREAS** aircraft placed at Eielson Air Force Base or Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are a substantial asset to the Pacific Air Forces and the United States Pacific Command; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson serve a critical function in reinforcing the Pacific region and defending the Asia-Pacific theater; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base, as the guarantor of the North-Pacific air refueling bridge through the KC-135 aerial tankers of the 168th Air Refueling Wing, is at the forefront of protecting the United States' interests in the event of conflict in the Pacific region; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base is a highly rated installation for basing F-35 aircraft in the Asia-Pacific theater; and

**WHEREAS** F-35 aircraft are planned to replace A-10 aircraft in providing air-to-ground mission support for ground forces; and

**WHEREAS** Fort Wainwright is home to significant Army combat maneuver forces, which require joint, air-to-ground support training; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base provides a gateway to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex; and

**WHEREAS** basing F-35 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base would further benefit military service members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright, and our allies around the world who train at the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base has unfettered access to an unparalleled training environment and the largest restricted training airspace in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base has a storage capacity for 24,000,000 gallons of

jet fuel, and its runway can provide year-round handling for the largest aircraft of the United States, its military allies, and strategic partners; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base helps to secure important oil infrastructure, including the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, which supplies a significant portion of the nation's energy needs; and

**WHEREAS**, as a self-contained base, Eielson Air Force Base produces its own heat and electricity from locally mined coal, uses its own water supply and water treatment facility, and obtains jet fuel directly from a dedicated refinery; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base employs approximately 2,500 military personnel and has an annual economic effect of approximately \$252,000,000, making it a critical component of the local and regional economies of Interior Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is the largest military installation in Alaska and is home to the Alaskan Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, 11th Air Force Third Wing, United States Army Alaska headquarters, 4th Brigade Combat Team's 25th Infantry Division, Third Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 477th Fighter Group, Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Air National Guard, and more than 60 other organizations; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson covers 84,530 acres; and

**WHEREAS** members of the United States Army stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are at the forefront of protecting the nation's interest in the volatile regions of the Asian-Pacific and provide ready and relevant forces to overseas contingency operations; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson continues to grow in size and importance because of its strategic location near the Pacific and the Arctic; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has access to world-class training facilities; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has proved to be a suitable host for many other military aircraft including the C-17 Globemaster III, F-22 Raptor, C12F Huron, E-3 Sentry, C-130 Hercules, UH 60 A/I Black Hawk, and the HH 60 Pave Hawk; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region safeguards the air sovereignty of North America, responds to all air sovereignty threats, trains to meet all response options on a no-notice basis, maintains infrastructure to support the air

defense mission, and integrates space and new technologies to support those missions; and

**WHEREAS** the 11th Air Force provides mission-ready and deployable forces, provides secure and efficient air base operations, improves the premier joint training environment of the state, and modernizes Air Force facilities and support; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is home to the Alaskan Command, an organization that integrates military activities in the state, maximizes readiness, and supports worldwide contingency force deployments; and

**WHEREAS** the Joint Task Force Alaska, an organization that deters, prevents, and defeats terrorist threats within the Alaska Joint Operations Area and that executes Defense Support of Civil Authorities, is located at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; and

**WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is an important part of the Anchorage community, hosting approximately 12,000 Arctic warriors, approximately 20,000 family members, and more than 2,000 civilian employees; and

**WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson anchor the world's largest joint air, land, sea, subsea, space, and electromagnetic training assets; enjoy minimal airspace congestion throughout Alaska; and enable joint training venues that support large military live-fire exercises, force-on-force training, unmanned aerial vehicle operations, and supersonic flights; and

**WHEREAS**, as compared to overseas Pacific installations, Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are more cost-effective to maintain; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska citizens have continually proven their support of all military service members and all bases in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** Alaskans salute and respect all military service members on all bases in Alaska;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges 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 or Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the United States Air Force; General Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force; General Herbert J. Carlisle, Commander of the Pacific Air Forces;

Lieutenant General Russell J. Handy, Commander, Alaska Command, U.S. Pacific Command; Commander, Eleventh Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and Commander, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.