

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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Alaska State Legislature:

The United States of America was founded on the ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One cannot achieve these dreams without freedom. A strong military is part of the solution to ensure we maintain our sovereignty and reach the lofty goals of our forefathers.

To make sure this military remains under the control of the people, and not controlling the people, our United States Constitution gives the job of direction and oversight to civilian leaders. The Congress provides the critical duty of oversight, by serving as a civilian check to the potent power held by any military force in the world.

This is where the Alaska Legislature can play a significant role and provide oversight of the military activities within our state with the Joint Armed Services Committee.

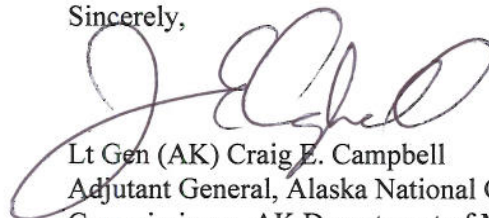
The JASC is made up of members who have military installations within their districts, and feel the impacts of this activity on a personal level. There are many benefits from having the military as a close neighbor, but there can be complications as well.

The JASC has played a critical role during the past 10 years to help keep Eielson Air Force Base open, and add the missile defense system to once-closed Fort Greely. Working with the JASC has become one of the hallmarks of success for the top active-duty officer in Alaska.

JASC members have received tours and detailed reports on employment opportunities that have impacted future planning by communities and led to specific questions by local reporters when the Secretary of Defense visited Fort Greely in August 2006.

The Joint Armed Services Committee provides valuable opportunities for insight and oversight by the civilian community in Alaska, and I fully support making this a permanent committee in statute.

Sincerely,



Lt Gen (AK) Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
Commissioner, AK Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

cc: Governor Sarah Palin
Mike Nizich, Governor's Chief of Staff