

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

2001

Source

HCS SJR 3(MLV)

Legislative
Resolve No.

6



Relating to the deployment of F-22 Raptor aircraft at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

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

WHEREAS the United States Air Force is developing the F-22 Raptor to replace many of the United States Air Force's aging F-15 aircraft as the United States' front-line air superiority fighter; and

WHEREAS the F-22 Raptor combines the capability for low-range observation, supercruise capability, increased range, and enhanced offensive and defensive avionics to give its pilots first-look, first-shot, and first-kill capability against the aircraft of a potential enemy; and

WHEREAS the F-22 Raptor is being developed to counter lethal threats posed by advanced surface-to-air missile systems and next-generation fighters equipped with launch-and-leave missiles; and

WHEREAS the F-22 Raptor is widely regarded as the most advanced fighter in the world, and has reduced support requirements and maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS the United States Air Force plans to begin deploying the F-22 Raptor in 2005 and to procure 339 F-22 Raptor aircraft by the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS military aircraft in Alaska deploy anywhere on the globe on short notice to deliver whatever ordnance or capability is required; and

WHEREAS the United States Air Force is in the process of completing the environmental analysis necessary to deploy the F-22 Raptor in an area, and this analysis will cover the use of land in the area, the air space available above the area, the ability to train in the area, the safety of deploying in the area, the socioeconomic effects of deployment on the area, the biological and cultural resources of the area, the effects of noise on the area, the effects of deployment on the quality of air and water in the area, and the cumulative effects of deployment on the area; and

WHEREAS impact ranges and areas for military land training maneuvers are located, for the most part, directly underneath Alaska air space and provide excellent opportunities for joint military training; and

WHEREAS Elmendorf Air Force Base has an excellent record of environmental compliance and cooperation with its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS Alaska's strategic location for the defense of North America and for joint training and experimentation opportunities together with unmatched community support, have been frequently noted by senior military leaders in Alaska, as well as civilian and military leaders at the highest levels;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States Air Force to select Elmendorf Air Force Base for deployment of the F-22 Raptor to complement existing defense capabilities.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, United States Secretary of Defense; the Honorable F. Whitten Peters, Secretary of the Air Force; Lieutenant General Norton A. Schwartz, Commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Air Force; Admiral Dennis C. Blair, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Navy; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.