

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT ARMED SERVICES MEETING**

February 15, 2006

1:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative John Coghill, Co-Chair
Senator Gary Wilken, Co-Chair
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Betty Davis
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Eric Croft
Representative John Harris
Representative Richard Foster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Gene Therriault
Representative Jay Ramras

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Senator Ben Stevens

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Briefing: Alaska Joint Armed Services Committee
Briefing: Alaska-Siberia Lend-Lease Program during WWII

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

None to report

WITNESS REGISTER

Lieutenant General Douglas M. Fraser
Commander, Alaska Command
Alaska National Guard

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered PowerPoint Briefing on the Alaska National Guard

Brigadier General Craig Christensen
Assistant Adjutant General
Alaska Army National Guard

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered PowerPoint Briefing on the Alaska National Guard

Brigadier General Timothy Scott
Assistant Adjutant General
Alaska Air National Guard

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered PowerPoint Briefing on Alaska National Guard

Alexander Dolitsky, Chairman
Alaska-Siberia Research Center
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered Presentation on the Alaska-Siberia Lend-Lease Program during WWII

ACTION NARRATIVE

CO-CHAIR GARY WILKEN called the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting to order at [1:37:18 PM](#). Present were Representatives Eric Croft, Bob Lynn, John Harris, Richard Foster, and Co-Chair John Coghill. Also present were Senators Charlie Huggins, Bettye Davis, Gary Stevens, Fred Dyson, and Co-Chair Gary Wilken. Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman also attended the briefing.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LOREN LEMAN welcomed the guest speakers and spoke in appreciation of the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces.

Briefing: Alaska Joint Armed Services Committee

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CO-CHAIR GARY WILKEN announced Lieutenant General Douglas M. Fraser, Commander of Alaska Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command, 11th Air Force, and Joint Task Force Alaska. He is the senior military officer in Alaska, responsible for the integration of all military activities in the Alaska theatre of operations.

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LT. GENERAL FRASER expressed his pleasure to be at the meeting and to deliver the presentation. He introduced his wife and several members of his staff.

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Presentation Overview:

Military Structure and Roles

Transformation Initiatives

- Base Realignment and Closure
- C-17 and F-22
- Stryker and Airborne Brigades and Aviation Task Force
- MSST and Automated Identification System
- Missile Defense
- Airspace and Ranges
- Joint Training

NORTHERN EDGE

- Alaska Land Mobile Radio Status
- Operation Alaskan Road
- Deployments
- Community Support to Military

Slide 3 - Military Structure

- USPACOM
- PACAF
- NORAD
- USNORTHCOM

Army - MG Jacoby

National Guard - Maj. Gen. Campbell

Coast Guard - RADM Olson

Slide 4 - PACOM Roles

- US Pacific Command
- Enhance security and stability of the Pacific-Asian region
- Sustain readiness to fight, if required
- Train forces for joint operations
- Support relevant combined training activities

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Slide 5 - NORTHCOM Roles

US Northern Command

- Deter, prevent, defeat threats to homeland/US territories
- Respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive events with unique military assets
- Support lead federal agencies IAW National Response Plan
- Provide immediate emergency support to civil authorities

Slide 6 - NORAD Roles

North American Aerospace Defense Command

- Safeguard air sovereignty of North America
- Respond to all air breathing threats
- Train to meet all response options on a no-notice basis
- Maintain infrastructure to support air defense mission
- Integrate space and new technologies to support mission
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Slide 7 - PACAF Roles

Pacific Air Forces

- Provide mission-ready, deployable forces
- Provide secure and efficient air base operations
- Improve Alaska's premier joint training environment
- Modernize Air Force facilities and support
- Improve quality of life

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Slide 8 - Military in Alaska

Long History of Cooperation

- 20,000 Active duty & Coast Guard
- 5,000 Civil Service
- 4,000 Guard & Reserve
- 25,000 Family Members
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Slide 9 - Military Infrastructure

- Army - 3 bases
- Air Force 7 bases
- Coast Guard - 3 bases
- Radar sites - 18

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Slide 10 - BRAC

Elmendorf Air Force Base

- Relocate installation management from Fort Richardson to Elmendorf and establish joint base Elmendorf-Richardson by 30 Sept 2011
- Send 18 F-15E from Elmendorf AFB to Mountain Home AFB, ID by 30 Sept 2007
- Send 18 F-15C/D from Elmendorf to Langley AFB, VA by 30 Sept 2008
- Send 6 F-15C/D from Elmendorf to an Air Nat'l Guard unit by 30 Sept 2010
- Receive 176th Wind and its aircraft from Kulis ANG by 15 Sept 2011

- Establish an ANG/active duty association in the 176th Wing at Elmendorf with 12 C-130H aircraft, no later than 15 Sept 2011

Slide 11 - BRAC

Eielson Air Force Base - Send A-10 aircraft to:

- 3 aircraft to backup inventory by 30 Sept 2007
- 3 aircraft to Barksdale, AFB, LA by 30 Sept 2007
- 12 aircraft to Moody AFB, GA, by 30 Sept 2009

Galena Forward Operating Location

- Close no later than 30 Sept 2008
- Transfer alert mission to Eielson AFB

Kulis Air National Guard Base

- Close no later than 15 Sept 2011

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Slide 12 - BRAC

Fort Greely

- Accept relocation of Cold Regions Test Center
- Move CRTC headquarters to Fort Greely from Fort Wainwright by Sept 2008

Fort Richardson

- Realign installation Management Agency functions to Elmendorf AFB by Sept 2011
- Move Civilian Personnel Operations Center function to Fort Huachuca, AZ by Sept 2009

Slide 13 - Joint Interservice Regional Support Group (JIRCG)

Department of Defense program designed to eliminate duplication of effort within government agencies, without degrading mission effectiveness. The Alaskan JIRSG board may include other federal, state, and local government agencies

Past JIRSG studies include:

- Ft. Richardson Quartermaster Laundry
- 3rd Wing Fire and Emergency Services Joint Mobility Centers
- Proposed Joint Professional Military Education center
- Elmendorf Live Fire Training Facility

Slide 14 - C-17

Supports worldwide USTRANSCOM requirements
Transitions to C-17

- Active Duty and Air Force Reserve associate unit
- 8 C-17s replace 16 517th Airlift Squadron C-130s
- Begin arriving third quarter of FY07
- Manpower: Net gain of 23 positions, AD and Reserve, to Elmendorf

Construction: \$150 million

- Maintenance Complex
- Survival Equipment Shop upgrades
- Squadron Operations Hangar upgrades
- Assault Runway

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Slide 15 - F-22

Provides unmatched capability to conduct air operations

- Increased "first-look, first-shot, first-kill" capability
- Worldwide deployable
- Capability no other nation possesses

Transition to F-22s

- 2 Active Duty squadrons
- 36 F-22s
- Begin arriving in FY09

Construction: \$250-300 million

- Low Observable Composite Repair
- Squadron Operations/Maintenance Unit modify/build
- Aircraft Shelters
- Training Facilities

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Slide 16 - F-22 & C-17 Bed down

- Simulator complex breakdown
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Slide 17 - Stryker Brigade

A quick strike capability with greater staying power

- Reduced footprint, dynamic re-supply & anticipatory logistics
- 100% tactical and operational mobility
- C-130 deployable
- Combat capable upon arrival
- Superior situational awareness

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Slide 18 - Airborne Brigade

Pacific Command's early-entry force

- Very light, transportable lethality
- Self-supporting, plug-and-play design
- Located at Ft. Richardson

Digital technology - provides situational awareness

- Friendly & enemy locations continuously plotted and tracked

Standing up from scratch

- Currently at 88% strength
- Ready for combat Sept 2006

Slide 19 - Aviation Task Force

A diverse aviation package

- 30 OH-58D KIOWA WARRIER
- 18 UH-60 Blackhawk
- 12 CH-47 Chinook
- 12 HH-60 MEDEVAC

Modular design

- Critical piece in training for GWOT

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Slide 20 - Coast Guard Forces

Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST)

- Dive Team - U/W Explosion Detection
- Underwater ROV

USCGC MUNRO (WHEC 724 Deepwater)

- Home changed to Kodiak
- Enhances SAR, Law Enforcement, & Military Ops

Automated Identification System

- Provides ID & Tracking of vessels
- Provides ID & info on ships transiting the Great Circle Route
- Additional sites will provide enhanced identification

Slide 21 - Missile Defense

- Eareckson - Early Warning System
- Fort Greely - Missile Field & Fire Control
- Kodiak - Target Launches and Test Silos
- Adak - Early Warning System

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Slide 22 - Sea Based X-Band Radar

- Same ship that brought the USS Cole back.

Slide 23 - Central Location

- Elmendorf AFB

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Airspace Training & Ranges

- A national treasure
- Land, sea, air, and space access
- 62,000 square miles of airspace
- 1.5 million-acre ground maneuver area

Slide 25 - Joint Training

- Build on a solid foundation
- Coordinate investment in our unique ranges and airspace
- Aggressively pursue joint staff processes to enable joint training at all levels - unit level tasks through Joint Task Force command

ALCOM vision: "World's finest joint training environment"

Slide 26 - Northern Edge

Even years

Execute under US Pacific Command

- Existing war plans
- Joint field training
- Personnel recovery operations

Odd years

Execute under US Northern Command

- Homeland Defense
- Disaster Response
- Reserve component integration
- TEAM ALASKA integration

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Slide 27 - Alaska Land Mobile Radio

- FY03-05 - 64 sites
- FY05-07 - 33 sites

Will support the Arctic Winter Games in March 2006.

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Slide 28 - Operation Alaskan Road
Innovative Readiness Training project

- Joint training supporting construction of a 14-mile road on Annette Island
- 12.3 miles in various stages of construction of which 6 miles are currently at grade
- Construction began in 1997 and will end in 2007
- Federal Highways to complete in 2009

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Slide 29 - Deployments

Lt. Gen Fraser updated the committee on the number of armed forces personnel deployed.

Slide 30 - Deployments - 3rd Wing

Lt. Gen Fraser updated the committee on the number of armed forces personnel deployed with the 3rd Wing

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Slide 31 - Deployments UASRAK

Lt. Gen Fraser updated the committee on the number of armed forces personnel deployed with UASRAK.

Slide 32 - Deployments Alaska Air National Guard

Lt. Gen Fraser updated the committee on the number of armed forces personnel deployed with Alaska Air National Guard.

Slide 33 - Deployments Alaska Army National Guard

Lt. Gen Fraser updated the committee on the number of armed forces personnel deployed with Alaska Army National Guard.

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Slide 34 - In Memoriam

- USARAK
- USAF
- B Co 1-207 AVN, Alaska Army National Guard

Slide 35 - Community Support

- Military and Family Support
- Reports from Iraq

Slide 36 - Summary

Alaska forces are:

- Responsive across a spectrum of mission areas
- Building joint training opportunities
- Working together as a Total Force

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SENATOR WILKEN thanked Lt. General Fraser for the briefing and recognized Representative Richard Foster, Senator Fred Dyson, and Dennis DeWitt, Special Staff Assistant to Governor Frank Murkowski.

SPEAKER JOHN HARRIS asked Lt. General Fraser his opinion of the possibility of encroachment with the people who live in areas close to the flight pattern of Elmendorf AFB.

LT. GENERAL FRASER responded that the flight pattern comes fairly close to the western shore and there will be a noise affect for the people who decide to build in the area. An additional concern is the number of aviation enthusiasts that live and fly in the Anchorage area and the number of airfields that are supported there.

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SENATOR CHARLIE HUGGINS asked Lt. General Fraser whether fly bys would be reinstited.

LT. GENERAL FRASER said it has to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL commented that many families decided to stay at Fort Wainwright after the deployment and said there was not a huge economic impact, as was speculated there would be. He asked whether that was true for all deployments in Alaska.

LT. GENERAL FRASER said he did not have a good answer since it was hard to make that comparison. He offered to research that and get back to the committee.

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SENATOR GARY STEVENS said it seemed strange that all of the expendable ranges are around Fairbanks.

LT. GENERAL FRASER said there was one near Anchorage. The primary ranges they support are "A-Spectrum" or active impact ranges.

CO-CHAIR WILKEN thanked Lt. General Fraser for his time and effort delivering the update on the Alaska military presence.

Alaska National Guard

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SENATOR GARY WILKEN welcomed Brigadier General Craig Christensen. He serves as the fulltime director of the Alaska Army National Guard and also serves as the Adjutant General of the Alaska Army National Guard.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CRAIG CHRISTENSEN introduced his presentation on the Alaska National Guard.

Slide 2 - Agenda

- AKARNG issues
- AKANG issues
- Summary
- Questions

Slide 3 - Alaska Army National Guard Mission

Organize, man, equip, and train quality units to conduct tactical operations and stability support operations in support of worldwide United States Army requirements and State of Alaska emergency missions.

FEDERAL

- Provide Missile Defense for North America
- Security and protection
- Long range communications
- Rotary and fixed wing aviation support
- Stability support operations

STATE

- Conduct search and rescue missions
- Assist in community affairs projects
- Provide disaster relief assistance
- Be responsive to State programs which benefit quality of life

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Slide 4 - AKARNG Deployments

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN reported to the committee the current status of deployed troops and their positions around the world. He advised the committee of the intended future deployments. In summer of 2006 a brigade will be sent to Iraq.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN said the unit that just came home has no obligation to reenlist but several of them are. He said

Alaska is well capable to respond to any disaster that may befall the state.

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Slide 5 - Army Transformation

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN provided the committee of the history of the Alaska Army National Guard and the upcoming transformations.

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On Sept 1, 2008 the Army National Guard signed up to be the 23rd brigade combat team unit. It will provide money, resources, and a future.

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Slide 6 - 207th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN showed a schematic of the team with Alaska being the lead.

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REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD FOSTER asked the Brigadier General how they maintain cohesiveness when the teams are so scattered.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN said the plan is to never take the entire unit to war. He said the current thought is the Alaska Army National Guard will never be fully deployed.

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Slide 7 - CSAB to Air Assault

- Reduction of Blackhawks
- Replace the Sherpas
- Pursue the newest Blackhawk

Slide 8 - AKARNG Initiatives

- Rural Recruiting/IBCT Stationing Brief
- MILCON: Juneau, Bethel, Nome Readiness Center, Kodiak Ad/Alt, Bryant heliport to Airfield status
- FCA: Joint Light Cargo Aircraft concept submitted to NGB
- HQ in Alaska, responsible for Hawaii and Guam
- Mission will include both Army and Air assets

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN promised to visit all locations to communicate to them about the coming transformation.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN advised Nenana contacted him about the possibility of having a National Guard presence stationed there. He spoke of a partnership with the University of Southeast Alaska at Auke Bay. This partnership resulted in a beautiful multi-use facility.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN offered to answer questions.

REPRESENTATIVE FOSTER asked the Brigadier General to speak about the Bethel ROTC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN said the Bethel ROTC was the model unit for Alaska. Seventy students joined and they won a national drill competition two years in a row. A program was installed in Nome where close to 90 percent of the juniors and seniors are involved.

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GENERAL JAKE LESTENKOF asked the Brigadier General whether there was a planned personnel reduction in the Air and Army National Guard in Alaska.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTENSEN responded there was no reduction planned for Alaska. He thanked the Legislature for their support of the Alaska National Guard.

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CO-CHAIR WILKEN welcomed Brigadier General Timothy Scott. A master navigator with over 4500 flying hours, he serves as commander of the 168th Wing at Eielson AFB.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL TIMOTHY SCOTT advised the committee of the recent rescue of nine mushers and their dog teams off the Eagle Summit on the second day of the Yukon Quest. The Alaska Air National Guard performed the rescue.

Slide 10 - AKANG's PACOM Assets

- 100% HC-130 tankers
- 24% of C-130 transports
- 43% of HH-60 helicopters
- 32% of KC-135 tankers

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Slide 11 - AKANG Deployments

FY 05-06

- In total, over 400 Alaska Air Guard members are currently or have been deployed in combat or combat support missions.

BRIGADIER GENERAL SCOTT advised the committee of the current troop deployment plans.

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Slide 12 - AKANG Transformation

168 ARW - Eielson AFB

- Add 4 ANG KC-135R, AF associate

174 WG - Kulis ANGB

- Move to Elmendorf AFB
- Utilize some Joint workspace/facilities
- Retain 8C-130 + 4HC-130
- Add 4 ANG C-130 with AF associate manpower
- Convert to 10 CSAR-X helicopters

BRIGADIER GENERAL SCOTT gave an overview of the intended transformations in Alaska including changes to Eielson AFB, Kulis ANGB, Elmendorf AFB. Some problems are that the aircraft are getting old.

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Slide 13 - AKANG Transformation BRAC

176 WG (Kulis) ANGB relocation

- BRAC estimate \$76 million; \$56 million in MILCON

Under funding Kulis relocation will significantly impact ANG ability to operate and support PACAF/PACOM requirements

- Moving Kulis is dependent on federal funding.

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Slide 14 - AKANG Transformation BRAC cont'd

176 WG Aircraft upgrades

- BRAC does not address improved C-130 capabilities
- BRAC does not address new AFSOC CSAR-X

BRIGADIER GENERAL SCOTT explained the aircraft upgrades. He expressed concern about the length of time it takes to purchase replacement aircraft.

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Slide 15 - Summary

Alaska's National Guard is:

- Ready, Relevant, Accessible
- Transforming as part of the Total Force

He offered to answer questions.

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LT. GOVERNOR LOREN LEHMAN thanked the Brigadier General Scott for the presentation.

#

Co-Chair Wilken announced there would be another presentation.

Alaska - Siberia Lend-Lease Program during WWII

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY, Chairman and Director of the Alaska-Siberia Research Center, introduced himself. He advised the committee of the WWII memorial about to be unveiled in Fairbanks. The lend-lease was a remarkable chapter in American history. During WWII, 8,000 airplanes were delivered to Russia at a very critical time. The transportation route was very dangerous.

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY explained the process of the aircraft delivery system. Fairbanks was a strategic point in the air transport route. 600 Russians were stationed in the US and they worked with US forces to defeat Nazi Germany.

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY displayed several photographs of Russians and Americans working together.

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY displayed several photographs of WASP pilots. Female pilots ferried planes from Great Falls, Montana to Fairbanks and beyond. In the Soviet Union women were allowed to serve in combat.

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Five years ago Mr. Dolitsky started creation of the Lend-Lease Memorial in Fairbanks, which is nearly completed. It will be the largest outdoor artwork in Alaska.

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY displayed several photographs of the sculptures to be displayed in Fairbanks as well as some artwork of women in wartime and the Alaska-Siberia lend-lease airway. He reminded the committee that war affects everyone.

MR. DOLITSKY showed slides of WWII pilots working and living together. He showed photos of the sculptures being made and also of different artwork that will be displayed at the Memorial. He anticipates there will be many international visitors to the Memorial.

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY presented the Alaska-Siberia Lend-Lease Award to WASP pilot Ellen Campbell.

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ELLEN CAMPBELL, pilot, spoke. She accepted the award on behalf of the many people who have served the nation. She asked that people be deeply aware of humanity and to unite over common differences as much as possible to uphold the integrity and good of all. She said eventually we must come to the peace table and expressed hope that peace would come soon.

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ALEXANDER DOLITSKY concluded by presenting the models of the sculpture to the 24th Alaska State Legislature.

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CO-CHAIR WILKEN informed the committee of the history of the Armed Services Committee. He reminded the Generals that they have the full support of the Legislature. He offered prayers to the families of Alaska's fallen soldiers.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Co-Chair Wilken adjourned the meeting at [3:49:26 PM](#).