

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

February 14, 2007

10:06 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Co-Chair
Representative John Coghill
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Bob Roses
Representative Andrea Doll
Representative John Harris (alternate)

Senator Bill Wielechowski, Co-Chair
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Bettye Davis
Senator Gary Wilken

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Albert Kookesh

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Craig Johnson
Representative Carl Gatto
Representative Anna Fairclough
Senator Joe Thomas
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Gene Therriault

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

OVERVIEW(S): MISSILE DEFENSE OVERVIEW; TRANSFORMING ALASKA'S
MILITARY; TRANSFORMATION OF ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD

- HEARD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HENRY A. OBERING III, United States Air Force
Director

Missile Defense Agency
Washington, D.C.

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented an overview of the Missile Defense Agency's program and responded to questions.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUGLAS M. FRASER, Commander
Alaskan Command
Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region
11th Air Force and Joint Task Force
Elmendorf Air Force Base

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented an overview of military operations in Alaska and responded to questions.

MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG CAMPBELL, Adjutant General
Alaska National Guard Army and Air
Commissioner

Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs
Fort Richardson, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented an overview of National Guard Operations in Alaska and responded to questions.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CO-CHAIR NANCY DAHLSTROM called the meeting of the Joint Armed Services Committee to order at [10:06:13 AM](#). Representatives Dahlstrom, Coghill, Doll, Roses, Lynn, and Harris (alternate), and Senators Wielechowski, Wilken, Huggins, and Davis were present at the call to order. Also in attendance were Representatives Johnson, Harris, Gatto, and Fairclough, and Senators Thomas, Ellis, and Therriault.

OVERVIEW(S)

MISSILE DEFENSE OVERVIEW

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM announced that the first order of business would be the missile defense overview.

[10:07:12 AM](#)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HENRY A. OBERING III, United States Air Force, Director, Missile Defense Agency, provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation titled "Missile Defense Program Overview," and directed attention to Slide 2 entitled, "Challenges and Uncertainties." He stated that rogue states view development and ownership of ballistic missiles as a means to coerce or intimidate other nations. Furthermore, there is concern over emerging threats as several nations are pursuing

development of ballistic missiles, he explained. Currently ballistic missiles are being used by terrorist organizations, as demonstrated by recent conflict in Lebanon. He stated that ballistic missile use is a cause for concern, referring to Slide 3 entitled, "Real World Events - Cause for Concern," which reviews the missile activities in China, North Korea, Lebanon, and Iran. He opined that missile deployment could cause great damage, especially if "married with a weapon of mass destruction." He explained that North Korea has recently tested short, medium, and long-range missiles, and stated that it is "widely believed" that North Korea detonated a nuclear device in October 2006. Iran, China, and Lebanon are also engaged in missile testing, and Lebanon recently launched missiles towards Israel, which resulted in the death of many civilians, he explained.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING indicated that the ability to defend against missiles once they are launched is critical as it is difficult to pinpoint missile launch sites or predict when missiles will be launched. North Korea is very active in testing and has many types of missiles, he explained, referring to Slide 4 entitled "North Korea Ballistic Missile Capabilities." Due to concerns over the proliferation and improvement of missile technology, the United States decided to institute a Missile Defense Agency to defend against possible missile attacks, he said, referring to Slide 7 entitled, "Ballistic Missile Defense Policy and Mission." He indicated that Alaska has a significant role in all aspects of missile defense. The program strategy for the Missile Defense Program is to strengthen the missile defense capabilities and coverage of the United States in biennial increments. This strategy is further detailed in Slide 8 entitled "Missile Defense Program Strategy."

[10:16:03 AM](#)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING continued with Slide 9 entitled, "Integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System," which details the boost, midcourse, and terminal defense stages of the missile defense strategy. The goal is to have defense capabilities at all stages, he explained. He said that ground-based midcourse interceptors have been loaded at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. He explained that future technology may provide the ability to track or engage missiles in space. Slide 10 entitled "An Integrated Approach to Ballistic Missile Defense" depicts the extent to which a missile defense system will be integrated between various sites. The

design anticipates that interceptor missiles will be launched from Alaska at an earlier stage than planned in prior missile defense systems. The planned system will expand interceptor and engagement abilities, he explained.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING said much of the missile defense is based on ships, or on land or sea based radar systems, he explained. Alaska has radar sites at Cobra Dane in the Aleutian Islands, a Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SBX) at Adak, and control modes at Fort Greely. There are plans to have 21 long-range interceptors in place at Fort Greely in the near future [because] Fort Greely is a centerpiece of the interceptor fleet. He said that the "kill vehicles" which are placed in interceptors do not carry any explosives, but work by "physically running into" missiles, and explained that this process was more effective due to the great speed involved, which is anywhere from 4 to 10 miles a second. He explained that the enormous SBX system is currently being tested; its journey to Adak is shown on Slide 17 entitled "SBX-1 Completes Journey to Adak, AK." The SBX system will be in Adak for the winter, he indicated. This powerful radar system, if placed in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, could track and detect a baseball-sized object over San Francisco.

[10:26:17 AM](#)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING pointed out that currently none of the systems shown on Slide 11 entitled "System Configuration" were in place two and one-half years ago. There were 14 successful missile tests in the last 15 flights which are explained in Slide 19 entitled "Missile Defense Tests." These tests include successful intercept tests in both the lower and upper atmosphere, and in space, he said. He then showed short movie clips of Patriot PAC-3, Aegis Ballistic, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), and Ground-Based Midcourse Defense missile intercept tests, and relayed that a still photo of the Patriot PAC-3 launch is shown Slide 20.

[10:34:37 AM](#)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING explained that strategic objectives for the program are to maintain and sustain defense capacities, close gaps, improve capabilities, and develop options to meet and dissuade future threats. He explained that future plans are described in Slide 25 entitled "Capabilities Through 2013." These plans include an eventual total of 40 interceptors in Fort Greely, and 4 in California. Other potential developments

include airborne laser systems as set forth in slide 26 entitled "Baseline Development Program."

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LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING explained that Slide 28 provides a more detailed aerial view of Fort Greely, which has a fairly complex layout that includes facilities for missile staging, storage, and control, as well as communications capability. Alaska also has facilities that are part of the missile defense program at Eareckson Air Station and Adak. He said that Adak was chosen as a site as it is a very strategic location from which to monitor North Korea. The current test plan for the SBX system includes testing radar tracking of targets launched from California and Kodiak, he explained, referring to Slides 31-32. Kodiak has been selected as a target launch location due to its key geographic location as a missile intercept site.

10:43:19 AM

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING said that from 2000 to 2005, the Missile Defense Agency has spent approximately \$625 million in Alaska. The Fort Greely workforce has had a significant positive impact on the local economy and has demonstrated a good work ethic and productivity, despite weather conditions in the winter. He noted that Alaska plays a central role in the U.S. ballistic missile defense system.

10:44:53 AM

REPRESENTATIVE DOLL asked what determines the number of interceptors in Alaska.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING answered that one component considered when determining the number and placement of interceptors is "the threat and where we see the threat heading." The second consideration is how to best allocate resources in a timely manner. However, he reminded the committee, missile defense is a technically challenging business and it takes time and effort to complete and test a design.

10:47:14 AM

SENATOR WILKEN asked what part Clear Air Station (Clear AS) plays in this defense plan.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING replied that currently Clear AS does not play a part because the predicted missile trajectories from North Korea are covered by installations at Cobra Dane and the SBX. However, Clear AS could come into play for closer range missiles, such as those launched from ships. He said that his agency is working with the United States Air Force (USAF) to possibly upgrade the radar at Clear AS.

SENATOR WILKEN sought further information about China's shooting down a satellite in January 2007.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING offered his personal belief that the action was significant in part because China did not follow the generally accepted rules regarding space intercept activities. Those rules include planning tests so that any debris does not pose a threat to satellites, and China did not follow those rules, he stated. Additionally, although some press reports proffered that China's actions were a result of the Missile Defense Program, he pointed out that China has been working on its program much longer than the United States has been working on deployment of any missile defense capability. Last, he assured the committee that China's actions do "not pose an immediate threat" to the United States because the U.S. has the capability of tracking and then targeting interceptors "to those warheads."

SENATOR THERRIAULT asked about recent activities regarding silo placement at Fort Greely.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL OBERING indicated that it is a matter of space and timing. When missiles are upgraded, efforts are made to make sure no missiles are offline during the work.

TRANSFORMING ALASKA'S MILITARY

[10:52:20 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM announced that the next order of business would be a presentation titled "Transforming Alaska's Military."

[10:52:59 AM](#)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUGLAS M. FRASER, Commander, Alaskan Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, 11th Air Force and Joint Task Force, provided the committee with a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Transforming Alaska's Military," dated February 14, 2007. He reminded the

committee that Alaska's central location in the northern hemisphere allows for ease of troop transfer from Alaska to places in the northern hemisphere. It is also easy to transfer service personnel to Alaska for training, he explained, adding that the military structure in Alaska is somewhat unique and relatively complex. Under the Alaskan Command, he reports to the four military groups described in the slide entitled "Military Structure," on page 2.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER said he reports to the U.S. Pacific Command, and as 11th Air Force Commander, and is responsible for the United States Air Force (USAF) component and stations in Alaska. All the forces in Alaska are assigned to the U.S. Pacific command. He indicated that he is also Alaska's North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) region commander, which is a bi-lateral command with Canada. The Joint Task Force Alaska reports to the U.S. Northern Command, which covers Alaska, Canada, the Lower 48, and Mexico, he said. He explained that the Alaska Command office has 61 persons assigned to headquarters, and is responsible for ensuring that Alaska's forces are trained and ready for deployment. The Joint Task Force Alaska provides support for homeland security and natural disaster situations, he explained, adding that it is authorized to provide emergency support to civil authorities and to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear events.

11:00:28 AM

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER referred to the slides entitled "Military in Alaska," and "Military Growth in Alaska," page 5. He opined that between active and retired service members and their families, approximately one in every five Alaskans has some type of personal tie to the military. He said that in 2006 the military had an economic impact to the state of about \$1.5 billion. He explained that USAF growth in the state has remained relatively stable since 2003, but that U.S. Army forces have grown steadily since that time. Additional troops have been stationed at Fort Richardson and Fort Wainwright, and the military infrastructure in the state has not changed dramatically although due to realignment activities all operations at Galena will be closed by September 2008. All radar installations and facilities at King Salmon and Eareckson Air Station will be maintained, he said. There are also primary U.S. Coast Guard installations at Kodiak, Juneau, and Ketchikan. He told members that military construction spending in the state will be around \$600 million in fiscal year (FY) 2007; that construction includes housing, child care facilities, a chapel,

as well as construction related to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities.

11:04:40 AM

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER explained that major changes are occurring at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf related to BRAC. He opined that when complete, Fort Richardson will be a "poster child" for what it means to be a "total force joint installation." He said that Kulis Air National Guard Base would be transferred to Elmendorf, and that there have been discussions with the City of Galena and tribal organizations regarding closure activities in that area. There is the possibility that some facilities, such as the former dining facility, will be moved and transferred to the city of Galena.

11:09:19 AM

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER explained that there has also been a great deal of activity at Eielson Air Force Base similar to that occurring at Elmendorf. Both the "C-17 Globemaster" and "F-22 Raptor" aircraft will be coming to Alaska, and are shown on the slides on page 8. There will ultimately be 36 of these aircraft in Alaska, which will require construction of additional facilities, he explained.

11:14:15 AM

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER referred to the slide entitled "1-25 Stryker Brigade," and reminded the committee that this brigade has served very successfully in Iraq. He characterized the recent re-deployment of this brigade to Iraq as a big commitment by the soldiers and their families, but opined that they have done exceedingly well in their operations. He said that troops and equipment for this brigade have recently returned to Alaska. The Interior will benefit from a diverse aviation package that includes the Kiowa Warrior, and the Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters. The U.S. Coast Guard team in Anchorage provides protection for the port and "military off-load and on-load," he explained, adding that the Coast Guard cutter Munro will be home-ported in Kodiak beginning in summer 2007 and will enhance search and rescue capabilities in Alaska waters.

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LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER emphasized that the overland and oversea range space for USAF training in Alaska is much larger

than any other range space available in the Lower 48, as shown in the slide entitled "Pacific Area Range Complex," page 11. The air training mission name is Red Flag Alaska and it is viewed as the premier air training exercise worldwide. He explained that future training plans require additional on-ground infrastructure, such as a vehicle bridge across the Tanana River to provide access to the training area. The bridge's location will likely be determined by the Alaska Railroad Corporation after completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), he explained. There will be consideration of whether the railroad line should be extended to the bridge. The likely bridge location is about half-way between Fairbanks and Delta Junction. Alaska is included in readiness exercises to assess command efficiency and deployment abilities. In May 2007 there will be a large scale exercise to assess readiness to defend against terrorist threats against Alaska's energy sector, he said.

[11:28:19 AM](#)

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER told the committee that other training missions, such as "Arctic Care" provide medical and veterinary care for local villages around the Kotzebue area. Furthermore, road building efforts are continuing in various locations throughout the state, he explained. The state will construct ferry terminals and the federal government will assist with road building in areas such as Annette Island. He said that community support for the military in Alaska has been tremendous.

[A short movie tribute honoring troops and their families was then shown to the committee.]

[11:38:35 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE DOLL asked about the process of procuring on-base construction contracts.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER described the procurement process as a fair and open competition. Once the project is designed, a request for proposal (RFP) is issued requesting bids on the work. He said the percentage of Alaska-based contractors on a project varies depending on the scope of the project. Due to increased construction activities statewide, costs have increased and some construction resources, such as concrete and steel, are scarce, he explained.

REPRESENTATIVE DOLL asked about military schools in Alaska.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRASER said that there are professional military education opportunities in Alaska for airmen and some officer training.

TRANSFORMATION OF ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD

[11:41:53 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM announced that the final order of business would be a presentation regarding the Alaska National Guard.

[11:42:18 AM](#)

MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG CAMPBELL, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard Army and Air, Commissioner, Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), stated that Alaska has a unique configuration of active duty reserve and national guard teams that work with various service branches both on land and in the air. He opined that BRAC activities moving Kulis base to Elmendorf will be good for Alaska and the country. The transfer of Kulis' activities to Elmendorf will provide Alaska with the resources of the Air National Guard and the USAF in an integrated operation. He explained that this BRAC move will provide Alaska with additional C-130 aircraft, which are used to transport heavy items, such as generators, to remote areas in emergency situations. He said that the move of Kulis to Elmendorf is estimated to cost approximately \$160 million, and he indicated that when the funding comes forward, it will provide Alaska with a stronger Air National Guard to meet state and federal needs.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL explained that recently the Alaska Army National Guard has deployed over 1,400 members from Alaska, which is about 70-75 percent of Alaska's National Guard personnel. He opined that these deployments have increased training and funding for soldiers stationed in Alaska. He said that the existence of trained, well-equipped personnel provides essential in-state resources for any crisis that might occur in Alaska. He suggested that the number of persons deployed from the state has made Alaska a more relevant component in the U.S. military, which will result in more resources being directed towards the military in this state. He explained that the Alaska Air National Guard has been very active lately, with deployments worldwide. These are the same individuals that provide in-state wilderness rescue services, he said.

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MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL opined that as the world political scene changes, military forces must also adjust. He explained that the USAF will be reducing personnel by about 40,000 persons; however the Air and Army National Guard are planning to maintain their current force numbers. He said that the Army National Guard is transforming into an infantry brigade combat team that would include troops, vehicles, support, and medical teams. These are the same type of resources needed to address in-state emergencies, he said. He opined that it is very helpful to have military personnel who have been trained by the federal government available for state emergency situations. Under BRAC activities, the Air National Guard will become an associate unit with the USAF, which will result in better training and education opportunities, he opined. This will also allow the Air National Guard to train on C-17 aircraft, which is likely to be an important aircraft in the future.

11:53:33 AM

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL relayed that the Alaska Air National Guard accounts for a significant number of aircraft to the air force inventory in the Pacific theater. He emphasized that many of the personnel that work in the Missile Defense Program are part of the Alaska Army National Guard. He explained that Clear Air Station (Clear AS) is changing from a remote site where personnel only spent 12 months, usually without their families, to a base with more facilities and families. He opined that the state will likely have to contribute to the infrastructure of the area to provide for the increased population. Contrary to the national trend, recruitment and retention of Alaska National Guard members is not an issue in Alaska, he said. He relayed that the Alaska Air National Guard never been at 100 percent of allocated positions, and that those positions are being taken away from Alaska and re-allocated to states that have had Air National Guard recruitment of 100 percent. He explained that federal changes to mobilization rules allow for a total mobilization time of 365 days from beginning to end and limit mobilization to one year out of every five.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL said that this change provides predictability to families, that mobilization would be non-voluntary and by units rather than by individuals, and that extensions would be reduced in number and be standardized to no more than 90 days, with an occasional extension of up to 120

days. In the latter case, there would be additional compensation for the extended period of time. In the fall of 2006, federal law was changed to allow the President to mobilize state National Guard personnel without consent of the state's governor in extraordinary situations that are still to be defined, he explained. He said this is a major change from prior law, and suggested that it was likely brought about by situations such as Hurricane Katrina. While this federal law is problematic nationally, he offered that in Alaska the federal and state governments work together closely with good communications. Other state governors oppose this change and are lobbying for a [repeal] of this law. He noted that almost 72 percent of Alaska's National Guard are citizen members who are employed in civilian jobs throughout the state.

[12:04:04 PM](#)

MAJOR GENERAL CAMPBELL responded to a question by explaining that Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) activities have been transferred to the Department of Administration (DOA). To sustain the program, Alaska will have to continue to budget for system maintenance and operations, he said.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.