

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

March 2, 2009

3:09 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bill Wielechowski, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Co-Chair
Senator Joe Paskvan
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Charlie Huggins
Representative Pete Petersen
Representative Jay Ramras
Representative Charisse Millet
Representative John Harris

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Carl Gatto

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Presentation: Outlook on military construction under the new Obama Administration and continued military expansion in Alaska.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to report.

WITNESS REGISTER

Lt. General Dana Atkins, Commander of Alaskan Command
Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered presentation on the state of the military in Alaska.

Lt. General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General/Commissioner
Alaska National Guard and
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Fort Richardson, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered a presentation on the Alaska National Guard.

ACTION NARRATIVE

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CO-CHAIR NANCY DAHLSTROM called the joint meeting of the Armed Services Committee to order at 3.09 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Wielechowski, Huggins, McGuire and Paskvan, and Representatives Harris, Millet, Petersen, Ramras, and Dahlstrom. Retired Lt. General Tom Case was also at the table. Participating via teleconference were public members retired Brigadier General George Cannelos, retired Colonel Dean Owen and civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, Chick Wallace.

CO-CHAIR BILL WIELECHOWSKI moved and asked unanimous consent that the Joint Armed Services Committee appoint Representative Dahlstrom as Co-Chair for the 26th Alaska Legislature. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

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Presentation: Outlook on military construction under the new Obama Administration and continued military expansion in Alaska

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM announced the business before the committee is to receive briefings from Lt. General Atkins and Lt. General Campbell.

DANA T. ATKINS, Lieutenant General, Commander of Alaskan Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region (Alaskan NORAD), Joint Task Force Alaska and 11th Air Force, said his many bosses make his job in Alaska fairly easy. He introduced Major Allen Heritage, public affairs officer in Alaska Command; Lt. Colonel Catherine O'Brien, legislative liaison; and Tom Wolfe, aide-de-camp.

He thanked the members for taking time to meet earlier to discuss informally the active duty military in Alaska and the issues they face. Those issues aren't very deep because the support the military receives from Alaskans is something he's never seen before. Many legislators have asked what they can do to help and he hates to say it, but the answer is, "Not much

more because you seem to out-lead and out-turn every initiative that we need help with. And you're there beside us." He related that he recently told Lt. Governor Parnell that before he came to Alaska he'd never had access to the governor, lt. governor, state senators and state representatives. Someone asked why that would be and he can only think that it's because folks in Alaska view the military as family and most people open their doors to family. "Thank you very much for that," he said.

GENERAL ATKINS expressed pleasure being here with Lt. General Campbell, Adjutant General for the State of Alaska, and stated that they have forged a personal and professional partnership. Whether it's the Alaska National Guard or the active duty Title 10 force stationed in Alaska, it's important to the success of the military to have a relationship that is complimentary rather than competitive. Lt. General Campbell makes that environment for us, he said.

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GENERAL ATKINS said his intention today is to cover a number of topics that are of interest to Alaskans. He welcomes questions as they arise. The first topic is Arctic awareness because it seems to be on the front page in the news. This is a contested area with eight Arctic nations competing for an estimated 25 percent of the world's untapped mineral and oil resources. Some have valued those untapped resources at nearly \$30 trillion, but whatever the actual figure, there will clearly be a lot of competition.

The permanent ice in the Arctic is receding, and some models estimate continuous maritime access as early as 2012. Other models show it will be closer to the 2020s. Regardless of the model you ascribe to, it's clear that unfettered access by maritime vessels is in the near future. That's important to the maritime industry because transiting from Asia to Europe through Arctic waters saves \$2 million each one-way transit. At the same time this brings a plethora of problems including communication and environmental issues. Recently there has been evidence of ecotourism and fisheries activity in the Arctic, and there may be fisheries violations as other nations compete for those resources.

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GENERAL ATKINS said access to the Arctic will be through either the north slope of Russia or the Northwest Passage adjacent to Canada. For the first time both those passages were ice free and open for maritime navigation this past September. There has been

an ongoing effort by the U.S. to establish current policy to address the Arctic, he said. Presidential Directive 26 was policy until this last January and was focused on commercial development and environmental concerns for the Arctic. The new National Security Presidential Directive 66 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 25 now have a homeland defense and a national defense mission that's associated with that policy. With that policy is the long-standing issue of ratifying and signing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Endorsing, signing and ratifying that Law of the Sea Convention is supported by the military even though many in government are still debating whether or not that is what the U.S. should do, he said. The question is whether there is loss of sovereignty because the policy is global. That debate is ongoing. President Clinton signed the Law of the Sea Convention, but Congress has not ratified it. The Alaska Congressional Delegation is working to gain some inertia for ratification.

GENERAL ATKINS said that from a military perspective it's important to ratify that treaty because it's the only internationally recognized legal form for debating and finding resolution for sovereign concerns in the Arctic. As part of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the U.S. recognizes its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends from the coast out 200 nautical miles. But a particular Article of that convention extends the EEZ to 350 nautical miles if it can be proven that the sea floor is contiguous. Clearly it makes sense to gain the additional sovereignty by ratifying that treaty.

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GENERAL ATKINS said homeland security and homeland defense are principle to the new policy that was released this past January and with that comes the obligation to generate additional awareness of the Arctic. He noted that he recently spoke to Secretary of State Clinton as she transited through Alaska and she is aware of the Arctic and understands it is a focal area. In this conversation he tried to relay that if the U.S. were to build any permanent infrastructure to support a military presence in the Arctic, it should have been started yesterday because it will take from three to five years to build.

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GENERAL ATKINS turned next to the topic of Russian long-range aviation and related that the Russians have predominantly done what is called main-operating-base activities. Most of their aviation is in the form of a Tupolev Tu-95 "Bear-H" long-range bomber that has both conventional and nuclear payload

capability. They operate exclusively out of Ukrainka and on occasion will forward deploy and fly routes that go over the Arctic, around Canada's northern border, across the North Slope, down the Bering Sea and often adjacent to the Aleutian Chain before returning to either their forward operating base or Ukrainka. Recently the Russians have started to forward deploy air-refueling "Midas" tankers. They get "feet wet" over the Arctic where they refuel and then fly profiles for 16 to 20 hours before needing to refuel. Late last year for the first time the bombers had mig-29 fighter escorts. This information isn't to build hysteria; it's just that these profiles have not been seen before.

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GENERAL ATKINS said one of the missions he has as commander of the Alaskan NORAD Region is to positively identify unknown aircraft that approach our sovereign border. The military has tried to get the Russians to adhere to international protocols, which includes filing flight plans and talking to air traffic control. They don't do that, but since he's been a commander the Russians haven't violated our sovereignty. He said he only knows of one violation in the 1960s. The crew assessed that as a navigation error and made rapid correction. The U.S. air defense identification zone (ADIZ) extends out 12 nautical miles from the coastline and the Russians have not violated that. The media has reported that the ADIZ has been violated, but it's been the outer ADIZ, which is not an internationally recognized line. That is a line the U.S. has drawn to allow reaction time to scramble and meet aircraft before they get to our sovereign space.

GENERAL ATKINS displayed a map to demonstrate deployment times and distances depending on location. For example, it takes roughly four hours flying time from Anchorage to be in a position to intercept these aircraft. He related that he has aircraft that are on continuous alert posture. Two fighters are on immediate alert and can scramble within 15 minutes and the other two are on three-hour alert. A tanker that's located at Eielson Air Force Base is on a three-hour alert and the Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft are on a six-hour alert. That can be adjusted if there is indication that there will be an encroachment on our airspace, he said.

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GENERAL ATKINS said that in the last several years they've been able to address the increase in this long-range aviation, but if the tempo of operations increases he may need to go through a

formal request-for-forces protocol. In most cases the need is for additional tankers because they leverage the Alaska Air National Guard for tanker resources and three of those tankers are currently supporting operations in the Middle East. He displayed a graph to show the operational tempo of the Russians. During the Cold War years there were between 30 and 50 flights per year, then after the fall of the Soviet Union there was almost no activity. In 2007 there were 15 intercepts and in 2008 there were 9 intercepts. Thus far in 2009 there have been 4 intercepts with the Russians and at that operational tempo the 2007 rate will easily be eclipsed. According to open source reporting it's relatively clear that the Russians intend to continue an upswing in operational activity of their long-range aviation.

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GENERAL ATKINS said the next topic is missile defense. It's important to Alaska because much of the nation's missile defense architecture is resident in this state. That includes ground-based [midcourse] intercept missiles at Fort Greely near Delta Junction, the Cobra Dane Radar Facility at Eareckson Air Station on Shemya Island and the Sea-Based X-Band Radar, which is mobile and is projected to be stationed at Adak. Other parts of the missile defense architecture include the Aegis Cruisers that could position themselves in the Gulf of Alaska if that is determined to be the necessary test-support position to address missile threats to the United States. The forward-based TPY-2 X-Band Radar is transportable and is currently stationed at Shariki in northern Japan. It's like the Sea-Based X-Band Radar but it's more permanent and is more proximate to North Korea, which has been assessed as a near-term threat against ballistic missiles. Finally, there's the Theatre High Altitude Area Defense System that is under research testing and development at the Pacific Missile Range in Hawaii. That system is mobile so it could be positioned to protect fixed-based infrastructure.

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GENERAL ATKINS showed a pictorial of how they identify potential ballistic missile threats to the U.S. and how they would intercept. He explained that when a missile is launched the missile defense satellite system first detects the infrared signature of the missile. With the first indication it starts to queue other sensors. Specifically, the early-warning radar at Beale Air Force Base on the California coast and the Cobra Dane Radar at the Eareckson Air Station on Shemya Island pick up the actual flight profile of the missile. If the missile is determined to be a ballistic launch that will threaten the U.S.,

the information is automated through the Fire Control-Nodes located in Colorado Springs with additional networks at Fort Greely and Eareckson Air Station. The data links are communicated to the intercept vehicles that would conduct a launch. Those intercept vehicles would originate principally from Fort Greely. Currently about 20 are in the missile field at Fort Greeley and a couple are stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Most of those are in test status so they probably wouldn't be used for the intercept, he said.

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GENERAL ATKINS explained that the intercept is a kinetic impact so it has to hit the payload to destroy it. There has been significant testing and the Kodiak facility has been instrumental in developing and maturing the nation's missile defense architecture. We appreciate that, he said. He noted that the media has reported that Alaska is at threat but a missile launched from North Korea could similarly threaten India. As the U.S. developed its missile defense architecture, the Missile Defense Agency used Hawaii and Alaska as examples of threat areas for missiles originating from North Korea and he believes that Alaska just stays in the literature but is not at threat.

He recapped that the missile defenses in Alaska include the Cobra Dane Radar, the ground-based midcourse defense communication, the missile field and fire control capability and underscored that that mission is done by the Army National Guard. The 49th missile brigade is a National Guard entity and conducts the most strategic missions the U.S. has on a day-to-day basis. That's worth bragging about, he said. Finally, the Kodiak Launch Facility has been instrumental in research, development, and technology advance of the missile defense architecture in the state.

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GENERAL ATKINS next turned to the active duty force structure in Alaska. He explained that the army is undertaking an effort called "Grow Army" that has congressional approval to increase in size by roughly 74,000 soldiers. Alaska will get an additional 1,200-soldier maneuver enhancement brigade at Fort Richardson and 800 soldiers will go into the Fort Wainwright area. In both instances family members will accompany the soldiers. The Air Force has also been given congressional approval to grow by roughly 15,000 additional airmen. Principally they will recapitalize the nuclear enterprise, but some will go into the critical maintenance repair fields and the increased intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

capability that is being demanded. Alaska will be fairly status quo with respect to the Air Force, but discussions are ongoing on potentially changing the fighter demographics. Perhaps that will include an F-15 squadron leaving and an enhanced F-16 squadron arriving. No formal decisions have been made.

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GENERAL ATKINS said that a great deal of new-mission infrastructure has been completed and much of it has to do with the Striker Brigade in Alaska as well as the F-22 and C-17 mission. About \$687 million in infrastructure was built up in '03 and ongoing infrastructure accounts for another \$632 million. The future year defense budget, which aggregates all the requirements, has about \$1.9 billion for Alaska. Roughly \$400 million in unprogrammed requirements have been identified and they will work with the Alaska Congressional Delegation to get that inserted into the future year defense plan.

This is a robust year for exercises in Alaska. Northern Edge is a capstone exercise with about 9,000 participants including a carrier strike group that will be positioned in the Gulf of Alaska. It will have an aircraft carrier with an embarked air wing as well as surface combatants. Also, air components will be brought to Alaska with bed down locations in Fairbanks and Anchorage. They are working on instrument ground and maritime ranges. We already have a robust air combat maneuvering instrumentation capability on the Pacific Alaska Range Complex and we're also putting that same capability in the Gulf of Alaska, he said. Then the Navy can do training and see the same presentation that our airmen see flying over land in the Interior. Also they are introducing the second evolution of a live virtual instruction training exercise. This is much less expensive than having live fliers and was very successful last year.

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GENERAL ATKINS said there are three more red flag exercises. Two of those introduce coalition nations beginning with French involvement in April. One is a tier-one red flag exercise, which is a special access program that is U.S. only because it shows behind-the-door type capability. They will also have an Arctic care exercise where medical, dental, optical and veterinary providers go to rural communities to give service. That will occur in March. Arctic SAREX is a tri-lateral exercise with Canada and Russian that hopefully will occur in September. The Vigilant Shield is an exercise that is done every other year partnering with the Alaska National Guard. The scenarios

typically are a disaster response. The training scenario is currently under construction for the following year. With each exercise Red Flag Alaska gets better and his vision is to provide better capability. In the past there has been concern over noise, specifically sonic booms, and in response flight profiles have been adjusted to reduce complaints. It seems to be working.

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GENERAL ATKINS said he had an opportunity to work with the Denali Commission to use Active, Reserve or Guard forces to do things to benefit a community with Innovative Readiness Training. There is an ongoing project to help with the relocation of Utukok. Marine civil engineers will make a base camp and do road construction to allow residents to move to a safer location. Arctic Care is increasing in media attention. Earlier this year he met with tribal leaders in Alaska and he was asked if bands could come to their communities to expand cultural opportunities. He told them absolutely, and now the band will go to villages to do concerts along with the Arctic care that's being provided.

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GENERAL ATKINS said the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex has great potential and will be realized if capital investments are made by the Army, Navy and Marines. Right now only the Air Force and Army are making capital investments in this range complex. Transition to "J" PARC brings joint accreditation from Joint Forces Command and provides resources we didn't have access to before, he said. The evolving range at Delta Junction is a case in point. The battle area complex and the combined arms combat training facility is an \$80 million investment by the Army and has an instrumented range that's sized to accommodate a brigade. Additionally, they have an urban assault training village that provides relevant training for places like Iraq and Afghanistan where combat is in an urban environment. It's impressive and he's trying to focus attention on it so the rest of the services want to train here. A long-term capital investment strategy is vital to make this work and we're trying to show them a road map.

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GENERAL ATKINS said the BRAC mandated bringing Elmendorf and Fort Richardson under a single enterprise for community support. The command elements at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf will stay intact, but community services like civil engineering, morale, welfare, recreation and security forces will be under the Joint

Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The intent is to gain efficiencies. The only emotional issue is that at Fort Richardson about 550 Department of the Army civilians will transfer to the Department of the Air Force. There is some concern related to entitlements and seniority issues, but his promise is that the transition will be transparent to the civilian workforce. This is all to be in place by October of next year. He said we're working hand-in-hand with the Veterans Administration; the veterans' hospital and the outstanding medical hospital at Elmendorf are in partnership and will share medical providers. Also, the Fisher Foundation has given a grant to build a 21 suite Fisher House at Elmendorf. The house will be completed this year. A principal advocate was Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen. Many in the Coast Guard at Kodiak who have to go to Elmendorf for long-term medical care take their families, and there was no place to stay. This will reduce the financial burden on those families.

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GENERAL ATKINS said the interstate compact on education is gaining interest here in Alaska. It is a Department of Defense initiative to gain parity for children of military families who have to change schools frequently. This includes equivalent transfer of grades and core requirements to help students to graduate on time.

In conclusion, he related that about 6,000 Alaska-based soldiers and 3,000 Alaska-based airmen have been deployed and this has cascading affects on host communities.

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM recognized that Representative Gatto had joined the committee.

SENATOR PASKVAN asked what he thinks about the plan to extend the Alaska Railroad across the Tanana River.

GENERAL ATKINS replied we have about \$112 million that can be applied to the Tanana River bridge project. The rough estimate for the road, the rail and an extension to Delta Junction is in the neighborhood of \$140 million. Pat Gamble is working to find \$30 million to complete that project. Major General Steve Layfield will tell you that there is a safety incentive. He would like to safely move large Army brigades to the Donley Training facility at Delta Junction without traveling the main roads. The Tanana River Bridge crossing is a key component to that happening.

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REPRESENTATIVE GATTO said he is surprised that we are still chasing Bear bombers and asked if the interceptor is coming from King Salmon.

GENERAL ATKINS replied if we forward deploy to King Salmon we can scramble to intercept, but if the intercept originates from Elmendorf it's a three and one half hour flight.

REPRESENTATIVE GATTO asked why not use a Learjet.

GENERAL ATKINS explained that the military capability is inherent in the fighter force and they are using that resource to do exactly what it was trained to do. Certainly it's possible to make a visual ID, but locating the threat is inherent in the cockpit of that intercept aircraft. The avionics integration, data link, and ability to pass radar information to the cockpit to effect the intercept is found not on a Learjet.

REPRESENTATIVE RAMRAS said your professionalism is extraordinary; one of his favorite things about the military is that the next person can come in and fill the shoes of his or her predecessor. He said he represents Fort Wainwright and he appreciates that the folks there who don't often enjoy the limelight were referenced in the presentation. He highlighted that many legislative members are interested in incorporating a synthetic gas program into the strategic program of the military. Fairbanks has talked about coal to gas and everyone is engaged in the discussion of an instate gas pipeline and is mindful of how important that is to the Air Force. Once it's clear that the instate line will go forward, it's appropriate to have a conversation on the subject because it will make the Air Force bases here even more valuable resources.

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SENATOR HUGGINS asked him to comment on synthetic fuel from the Air Force perspective.

GENERAL ATKINS replied the Air Force embraces synthetic fuels and have done weapons modifications so they can operate on synthetic fuel. He has an upcoming meeting with Jim Dodson and Mayor Whitaker to discuss the coal to gas proposal and what they are doing. Currently the Air Force has ongoing advance research on the proposal for coal to liquid somewhere in Alaska.

SENATOR HUGGINS observed that there's a small city building up just outside the Muldoon gate with the VA facility, the new shopping center and the high school and asked if he is satisfied with the design of the approach corridor for the military to get through the gate.

GENERAL ATKINS responded he would discuss that with the installation commander and then get back with an answer. He knows that there's been community planning and the access points are part of the installation commander's long-term plan.

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SENATOR HUGGINS asked why it is that the Air Force has a dependent education program and other branches of the service do not.

GENERAL ATKINS replied much of what is authorized by law is left to the services to execute through their appropriations. A lot of what a particular service does and whether they actually execute the law with their own resources has to do with their recruiting and retention goals.

REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS noted that the Ballistic Missile Defense System at Fort Greely is partly in his district and there have been rumblings about no longer funding that system. He asked if that will gather traction in Congress.

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GENERAL ATKINS said he has watched that issue in open source reporting and he doesn't have a lot of other insight. His understanding is that the system is well tested and fairly robust.

REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS asked to be kept abreast if he learns more.

SENATOR PASKVAN asked if he can infer that the U.S. through the Law of the Sea treaty should exercise its presence 350 nautical miles from the Arctic coast.

GENERAL ATKINS replied he believes that the Law of the Sea should be ratified, and he is in favor of extending the economic exclusion zone to 350 miles under the Article provision.

GENERAL CASE thanked all Alaska legislators and reinforced the point about the importance of Alaska's strategic location and the national training center, which results in economic benefit

in the state. It builds a capability that the increasingly important Arctic region is going to need and he appreciates the effort.

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM said Alaska legislators have a genuine interest in the military in Alaska and are grateful for their service and sacrifices. She asked him to follow up on the question about traffic flow.

REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS pointed out that General Atkins is a pilot with the Thunderbirds, which is the Air Force's very prestigious demonstration squadron.

GENERAL ATKINS related that he's been in that capacity since 1988.

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM welcomed General Campbell.

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LIEUTENANT GENERAL CRAIG CAMPBELL, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard, and Commissioner, Department Of Military and Veterans Affairs introduced himself; McHugh Pierre, legislative liaison; John Cramer, deputy commissioner; and General Randy Bañez who is with the Army National Guard and commanding general for the National Guard portion of Space Missile Defense at Fort Greely.

GENERAL CAMPBELL said he wants to bring into clarity several things that General Atkins talked about to show the unity of the active duty Guard and Reserve here in Alaska. General Atkins commands the active duty force as well as the Guard and Reserve when it's federalized. The part that the National Guard brings to the fight is the state militia that is founded in the constitution. It was started in Massachusetts in 1629, and he likes to remind folks that it was started before there was a country that could start the active force. That being said, it has morphed into a National Guard that partners to whatever extent is necessary to provide for the common defense of the nation and the protection of states in response to state missions. He summarized that he will talk about the Alaska Army National Guard, the Alaska Air National Guard, the Alaska State Defense Force, the Alaska Navel Militia, the Alaska Military Youth Academy, and the Alaska State Veterans Office as a reminder that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is more than just the National Guard. This department has a large responsibility for military affairs in the state under the direction of Governor Palin, the commander in chief.

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GENERAL CAMPBELL related that the Alaska National Guard is comprised of just less than 2,000 Army National Guard, just less 2,000 Air National Guard, and a State Defense Force of 295. This is a relatively small number to serve a large geographic area in a lot of complex missions.

He opined that the Army National Guard is the best it has ever been in Alaska. In the last seven years it has gone from a peacetime, weekend force, Army National Guard that rarely deployed overseas to the point where 75 percent of the force has served in Iraq, Kuwait, or Afghanistan. Almost all have had duty outside the state of Alaska. It has transformed from a scout group to a battlefield surveillance brigade. This is significant because the battlefield surveillance brigade is needed for the future fight overseas. Also, it brings critical infrastructure, equipment and training needed to respond to emergencies and homeland security in this state. This transformation has made the Army National Guard the strongest and best that has ever been seen in Alaska. Furthermore, the partnership with missile defense is phenomenal. Missile defense is run by the 225 operators and security forces of the Alaska Army National Guard, working for the governor in the role of administrative support but it is under the operational control of the President of the United States through the active duty force.

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GENERAL CAMPBELL said the governor and I don't have the authority to launch a missile from Fort Greely. The briefing by General Atkins is applicable to the U.S. because it is only Alaska that can protect the rest of the nation from rogue missiles. It takes the president to do that, but it's the National Guard that is operator. While the National Guard works for the governor, it is closely tied to the active duty. Similarly, the active duty while working for the president in service in Alaska, is closely tied to the National Guard, which makes the two a single team. This is a relationship that is unique to Alaska.

GENERAL CAMPBELL related that he has 35 years in the military and several times a year he meets other adjutant generals from the other states and the District of Columbia. In some states the relationship between the Guard and active duty is antagonistic and in most instances it is peaceful coexistence. It is only in Alaska and Hawaii where it is one team working together. He opined that this is the finest relationship you'll

ever see between active duty, Guard and Reserve and much is related to what the legislature has done to ensure that the National Guard is ready to do missions when it deploys with the federal forces. In some state, the governor only pays attention to what happens inside the state and forgets that the National Guard has to be committed to federal response when needed. When there's friction and no partnership, it's not as healthy as what is seen here in Alaska where the operations are seamless between the Guard, Reserve and active duty partners.

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GENERAL CAMPBELL displayed a picture of the C-27J Spartan and told members that 48 of these new aircraft are being purchased for the Army National Guard and another 27 for the Air National Guard. He explained that it like a small, highly maneuverable, C-130 with just two engines. It will replace the old Sherpa C-23 aircraft and will provide tremendous capability to a state that has a large geographic area. It will benefit the Army National Guard and be a plus for Alaska.

The National Guard counter-drug program has a civil support team in Anchorage that is able to quickly mobilize. For example, when there was a white powder incident in Juneau recently, that team flew down on a C-130 to help the police and fire departments secure the site and test the powder to see if it was toxic. I'm very proud of what they do, he said.

GENERAL CAMPBELL displayed a picture of KC-135 Stratotankers demonstrating an elephant walk formation and related that the Air National Guard has eight of these at Eielson Air Force Base. He referenced the previous discussion about responding to the Bear aircraft coming from Russia and explained that the response begins with radar operators at Eielson Air Force Base. The radar operators and the air control squadron are members of the Alaska Air National Guard. He clarified that they don't have the authority to launch without approval from General Atkins because operations are under NORAD, but the day-to-day work is done by the Alaska Air National Guard with the air control squadron.

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When the radar operators identify a target that is coming toward Alaska and General Atkins determines that there will be a fighter launch, Alaska Air National Guard tankers will also launch from Eielson. One of eight tankers is on alert and prepared for the launch at all times, he said. That is another demonstration that the active duty, Guard and Reserve is a single team providing protection for the air sovereignty of

Alaska and the nation. 75 percent of the work those tankers perform is in support of the U.S. Air Force.

GENERAL CAMPBELL directed attention to a picture of the C-17 Globemaster and said this too is a partnership mission. In Alaska the C-17s are owned by the Air Force, and 40 percent of the team will be Air National Guard from Alaska. The team works together so well that if you were to fly a C-17 mission you couldn't tell if the crew was Guard, active duty or a mix. They are seamless.

He indicated a picture of a C-130 belonging to the Alaska Air National Guard taken in Cambodia when it was on a mission to bring back the remains of Americans from the Vietnam War. He noted that that aircraft was one of the first U.S. aircraft to be at that Cambodian airfield in a long time. Also, he said, we have Clear Air Force Station in Anderson doing space surveillance. Five years ago the Air Force operated that station as a remote operation. The National Guard picked it up at the request of the Air Force and it now has 96 Air National Guard families living there. Two Air Force personnel are still on that team providing for facility support and operational interaction. Again he said this is another example of great team work between the active duty and the Guard.

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GENERAL CAMPBELL said the Air Force and the Guard are interested in putting additional C-130s in the Pacific and four might be put in Guam. It's likely that they will be rotated through Guam on a temporary basis, but airmen from Alaska and Guam will be recruited as a maintenance and ground support team. This will be a unique Guam/Alaska relationship.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) that is ongoing with Kulis Alaska National Guard Base and Elmendorf Air Force Base is going well. Kulis will close by October 1, 2011. Construction at Elmendorf has begun and the total bill is roughly \$145 million. Support aspects of the move will start this summer and within 24 months Kulis will be turned back to the state with the exception of 28 acres that still belongs to DMVA. He said he will retain that for military use so there will continue to be a small National Guard footprint at Kulis. It will be Army National Guard, not Air National Guard. As part of the move to Elmendorf, the Alaska Air National Guard will get four additional C-130s. That will be an associate unit so the Air Force will be sending about 200 airmen to be part of the 176 Wing working on the C-130 mission. This is the future, he said. The Air National Guard,

the Reserves and the Air Force can no longer survive separately because money is too tight and there are too many needs worldwide. In Alaska, virtually the entire Air National Guard will be an associate. Sometimes the Air Force will be the lead and at other times we will be the lead, he said. That will be a dynamic change that is very positive.

4:21:55 PM

GENERAL CAMPBELL said the Alaska State Defense Force is tremendous for emergency response. There will be a new commander soon, but the mission will be essential to the state in emergency response. Alaska is one of the few states to have a Naval Militia and technically it is members of the Naval Reserve who agree to sign on for state active duty if needed. At present it has 60 members. The Alaska Military Youth Academy just received a national award for innovation. It's a good academy and he asked legislators to keep it going strong. The largest class ever graduated this year. The Alaska State Veterans Office has VA service officers who are essential for making connections between veterans and the VA. For returning deployers, health is an issue. He added that there are a number of other issues, particularly in rural Alaska, but nothing is catastrophic. Soldiers who have gone to war and are coming home are doing very well - probably better than most soldiers elsewhere in the country. Governor Palin supports a state veterans' cemetery and one will probably be constructed in Interior in the near future. That will be in the capital budget initially and after that in the operating budget. Finally, he said the benefit program for the Alaska Territorial Guard was reactivated. This was in large part due to Secretary of the Army Pete Geren. He will be leaving that job soon and has pointed out that a change in law is needed to put this issue to rest. The congressional delegation has been informed and they have given assurance that it will be done in the appropriation act. Keep tracking that so the law is changed at the federal level so the benefits continue, he said.

4:24:22 PM

GENERAL CAMPBELL said the National Guard has a partnership program with Mongolia; the intention is to develop a national guard program in Mongolia based on the Alaska model. In conclusion he said that team Alaska active, Guard, and Reserves is the best in America.

REPRESENTATIVE RAMRAS said every year I ask for a military academy in Fairbanks and every year I hope you scour Fort Wainwright looking for one. He asked General Campbell to cite

some of the unique achievements and national awards the academy has received.

GENERAL CAMPBELL said we too want a military academy in Interior, but federal law says that one can only be started in excess federal military facilities. With the growth at Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base there isn't excess capacity. Should there be change in the future we'll talk about it because it would work, he said. Only 22 states have youth academies and the one in Anchorage is among the best. It receives national awards almost every year. 95 percent of the graduates continue to a high school degree, a GED, they go into the military and or they go on to college. This is one of the highest success rates in the nation. It's a boot-camp-type environment that is accredited as an education program and funded through the state's foundation formula for education. That being said, the program should not be placed under education; it should stay under the DMVA because the military aspect of getting someone up at 4:00 am to do pushups isn't the kind of requirement and discipline that public schools do today. That sort of discipline and requirements to achieve under strict guidance and supervision is what makes it successful. This is a volunteer program so it's important to understand that the program graduates have stayed through their own volition. Only those who want to change their lives go on to graduate. They see the value of what they will get at the end.

REPRESENTATIVE RAMRAS asked him to provide a letter listing the qualifying requirements to open a military academy and asked if a military academy could be put at Eielson.

GENERAL CAMPBELL said he would provide the information; they have looked at Eielson had have statistics.

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM thanked General Campbell.

[4:28:58 PM](#)

There being nothing further to come before the committee, Co-Chair Dahlstrom adjourned the meeting at 4:28 pm.