

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 4/13/12

Referred: Rules

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing and**
2 **training center in the North Slope region.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

4 **WHEREAS** the unique characteristics of the Alaska Native villages, including the
5 culture, linguistics, tribal organization, disposition, varied geography, extensive land area,
6 lengthy periods of limited visibility, and approaches from land, air, and sea, provide a unique
7 opportunity for special operations forces training and exercises that accurately replicates real-
8 world missions; and

9 **WHEREAS** the training capacity in cold weather survival and operations of the
10 armed forces of the United States has significantly diminished because of contingency
11 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 10 years; and

12 **WHEREAS** the cold weather expertise of Alaska Natives provides the capability to
13 train special operations forces in cold weather survival and operations; and

14 **WHEREAS** the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing
15 and training center will provide seasonal employment opportunities for Alaska Natives in and
16 around Native villages; and

1 **WHEREAS** the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing
2 and training center will engage at least eight villages for up to 90 days each year, creating
3 hundreds of part-time seasonal positions; and

4 **WHEREAS** the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing
5 and training center will create new village revenue not associated with state or local
6 government or the petroleum industry; and

7 **WHEREAS** special operations forces training with village residents would expand the
8 ability of the state and the nation to respond to search and rescue calls, incident response and
9 consequence management, and the national, state, and local security requirements; and

10 **WHEREAS** special operations are conducted with highly mature, experienced, elite,
11 small units that will have a negligible effect on regional, local, cultural, and industrial
12 interests; and

13 **WHEREAS** the armed forces of the United States in the state fully support the special
14 operations extreme environmental testing and training center concept and make available
15 United States military facilities, including the Donnelly Training Area and the Northern
16 Warfare Training Center, to support special operations forces training; and

17 **WHEREAS** the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing
18 and training center would support the efforts of the armed forces of the United States in the
19 state to increase the visibility of training opportunities, facilities, and cold weather equipment
20 that are unique to the state; and

21 **WHEREAS** the establishment of a special operations extreme environmental testing
22 and training center would support Alaska National Guard training and recruitment efforts;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives supports the establishment of
24 the special operations extreme environmental testing and training center in the North Slope
25 region of the state; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives respectfully requests the
27 Governor to encourage the United States Special Operations Command to consider the unique
28 training opportunity for special operations forces and the mutual benefits to the nation and
29 state that a special operations extreme environmental testing and training center in the North
30 Slope region would provide.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Major General Thomas H. Katkus, General

1 Patrick Gamble, General Joseph Ralston, Major General Mark Hamilton, Rear Admiral James
2 Underwood, Loren Lounsbury, Jim Dodson, and John Katz, members of the Alaska Military
3 Force Advocacy and Structure Team; Lieutenant General Stephen L. Hoog, Commander,
4 Alaska Command; Major General Raymond Palumbo, Commander, United States Army
5 Alaska; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski
6 and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
7 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.