

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 2/7/14

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ISAACSON, Pruitt, Thompson, Lynn, Saddler, LeDoux, Muñoz, Reinbold, Peggy Wilson, Gruenberg, Hughes, Foster, Feige, Johnson, Guttenger, Tarr, Costello, Tammie Wilson, Kawasaki, Keller, Josephson, Tuck

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Secretary of the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United**
2 **States Air Force, and the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to base F-35 aircraft**
3 **assigned to the Pacific Air Forces at Eielson Air Force Base.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the United States Air Force, as a matter of critical importance, will soon
6 decide where to base its F-35 aircraft within the Asia-Pacific theater of operations; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Air Force recently, based on the best interests of the
8 United States National Security Strategy, decided to forego the proposed relocation of the
9 18th Aggressor Squadron's F-16 aircraft from Eielson Air Force Base; and

10 **WHEREAS** the citizens of Alaska commend the United States Air Force's leadership
11 on the decision not to relocate the 18th Aggressor Squadron; and

12 **WHEREAS** the strengths of Eielson Air Force Base are consistently recognized by
13 the Pacific Air Forces, the United States Pacific Command, and the United States Air Force's
14 joint and coalition partners around the world; and

15 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base plays an essential role in the successful execution

1 of the United States national security strategy by enabling United States military assets to
2 reach 95 percent of the industrial world within nine hours; and

3 **WHEREAS** aircraft placed at Eielson Air Force Base are a substantial asset to the
4 Pacific Air Forces and the United States Pacific Command; and

5 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base serves a critical function in reinforcing the
6 Pacific region and defending the Asia-Pacific theater; and

7 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base, as the guarantor of the North-Pacific air
8 refueling bridge through the KC-135 aerial tankers of the 168th Air Refueling Wing, is at the
9 forefront of protecting the United States' interests in the event of conflict in the Pacific region;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base is the ideal installation at which to base F-35
12 aircraft in the Asia-Pacific theater; and

13 **WHEREAS** F-35 aircraft are planned to replace A-10 aircraft in providing air-to-
14 ground mission support for ground forces; and

15 **WHEREAS** Fort Wainwright is home to significant Army combat maneuver forces,
16 which require joint, air-to-ground support training; and

17 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base provides a gateway to the Joint Pacific Alaska
18 Range Complex; and

19 **WHEREAS** basing F-35 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base would further benefit
20 military service members from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright, and our
21 allies around the world who train at the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex; and

22 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base has unfettered access to an unparalleled training
23 environment and the largest restricted training airspace in the United States; and

24 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base anchors the world's largest joint air, land, sea,
25 subsea, space, and electromagnetic training assets; enjoys minimal airspace congestion
26 throughout Alaska; and enables joint training venues that support large Army-Navy-Air Force
27 live-fire exercises, force-on-force training, unmanned aerial vehicle operations, and
28 supersonic flights; and

29 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base has a storage capacity for 24,000,000 gallons of
30 jet fuel and its runway can provide year-round handling for the largest aircraft of the United
31 States, its military allies and strategic partners; and

1 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base helps to secure important oil infrastructure,
 2 including the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, which supplies a significant portion of the
 3 nation's energy needs; and

4 **WHEREAS**, as a self-contained base, Eielson Air Force Base produces its own heat
 5 and electricity from locally mined coal, uses its own water supply and water treatment
 6 facility, and obtains jet fuel directly from a dedicated refinery; and

7 **WHEREAS**, as compared to overseas Pacific installations, Eielson Air Force Base is
 8 more cost-effective to maintain; and

9 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base employs approximately 2,500 military personnel
 10 and has an annual economic effect of approximately \$252,000,000, making it a critical
 11 component of the local and regional economies of Interior Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** Alaska citizens have continually proven their support of all military
 13 service members and all bases in Alaska; and

14 **WHEREAS** Alaskans salute and respect all military service members on all bases in
 15 Alaska;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the Secretary of
 17 the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and the
 18 Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to base F-35 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Deborah Lee James,
 20 Secretary of the United States Air Force; General Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the
 21 United States Air Force; General Herbert J. Carlisle, Commander of the Pacific Air Forces;
 22 and Lieutenant General Russell J. Handy, Commander, Alaska Command, U.S. Pacific
 23 Command; Commander, Eleventh Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and Commander, Alaskan
 24 North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.