

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19(MLV) am S**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Amended: 2/28/14

Offered: 2/7/14

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

SENATORS Wielechowski, Coghill, Bishop, Fairclough, Gardner, Giessel, Egan, Meyer, Stedman, French, Dunleavy, Micciche, Dyson, Kelly

**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 or Joint Base Elmendorf-**  
4 **Richardson.**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2014, the United States Air Force, as a matter of critical  
7 importance, announced five contesting locations in the Asia-Pacific theater for basing F-35  
8 aircraft; and

9 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are the  
10 only candidates for basing F-35 aircraft on United States soil; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Air Force recently, based on the best interests of the  
12 United States National Security Strategy, decided to forego the proposed relocation of the  
13 18th Aggressor Squadron's F-16 aircraft from Eielson Air Force Base; and

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

1           **WHEREAS** the strengths of Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-  
2 Richardson are consistently recognized by the Pacific Air Forces, the United States Pacific  
3 Command, and the United States Air Force's joint and coalition partners around the world;  
4 and

5           **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson play an  
6 essential role in the successful execution of the United States national security strategy by  
7 enabling United States military assets to reach 95 percent of the industrial world within nine  
8 hours; and

9           **WHEREAS** aircraft placed at Eielson Air Force Base or Joint Base Elmendorf-  
10 Richardson are a substantial asset to the Pacific Air Forces and the United States Pacific  
11 Command; and

12           **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson serve a  
13 critical function in reinforcing the Pacific region and defending the Asia-Pacific theater; and

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

18           **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base is a highly rated installation for basing F-35  
19 aircraft in the Asia-Pacific theater; and

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

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

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

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

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

31           **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base has a storage capacity for 24,000,000 gallons of

1 jet fuel and its runway can provide year-round handling for the largest aircraft of the United  
2 States, its military allies and strategic partners; and

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

6 **WHEREAS**, as a self-contained base, Eielson Air Force Base produces its own heat  
7 and electricity from locally mined coal, uses its own water supply and water treatment  
8 facility, and obtains jet fuel directly from a dedicated refinery; 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** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is the largest military installation in  
13 Alaska and is home to the Alaskan Command, Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense  
14 Command Region, 11th Air Force Third Wing, United States Army Alaska headquarters, 4th  
15 Brigade Combat Team's 25th Infantry Division, Third Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 477th  
16 Fighter Group, Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Air National Guard, and more than 60  
17 other organizations; and

18 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson covers 84,530 acres; and

19 **WHEREAS** members of the United States Army stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-  
20 Richardson are at the forefront of protecting the nation's interest in the volatile regions of the  
21 Asian-Pacific and provide ready and relevant forces to overseas contingency operations; and

22 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson continues to grow in size and  
23 importance because of its strategic location near the Pacific and the Arctic; and

24 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has access to world-class training  
25 facilities; and

26 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has proved to be a suitable host for  
27 many other military aircraft including the C-17 Globemaster III, F-22 Raptor, C12F Huron, E-  
28 3 Sentry, C-130 Hercules, UH 60 A/I Black Hawk, and the HH 60 Pave Hawk; and

29 **WHEREAS** the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region  
30 safeguards the air sovereignty of North America, responds to all air sovereignty threats, trains  
31 to meet all response options on a no-notice basis, maintains infrastructure to support the air

1 defense mission, and integrates space and new technologies to support those missions; and

2 **WHEREAS** the 11th Air Force provides mission-ready and deployable forces,  
3 provides secure and efficient air base operations, improves the premier joint training  
4 environment of the state, and modernizes Air Force facilities and support; and

5 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is home to the Alaskan Command, an  
6 organization that integrates military activities in the state, maximizes readiness, and supports  
7 worldwide contingency force deployments; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Joint Task Force Alaska, an organization that deters, prevents, and  
9 defeats terrorist threats within the Alaska Joint Operations Area and that executes Defense  
10 Support of Civil Authorities, is located at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; and

11 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is an important part of the Anchorage  
12 community, hosting approximately 12,000 Arctic warriors, approximately 20,000 family  
13 members, and more than 2,000 civilian employees; and

14 **WHEREAS** Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson anchor the  
15 world's largest joint air, land, sea, subsea, space, and electromagnetic training assets; enjoy  
16 minimal airspace congestion throughout Alaska; and enable joint training venues that support  
17 large military live-fire exercises, force-on-force training, unmanned aerial vehicle operations,  
18 and supersonic flights; and

19 **WHEREAS**, as compared to overseas Pacific installations, Eielson Air Force Base  
20 and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson are more cost-effective to maintain; and

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

23 **WHEREAS** Alaskans salute and respect all military service members on all bases in  
24 Alaska;

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the Secretary of  
26 the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and the  
27 Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to base F-35 aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base or Joint  
28 Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Deborah Lee James,  
30 Secretary of the United States Air Force; General Mark A. Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the  
31 United States Air Force; General Herbert J. Carlisle, Commander of the Pacific Air Forces;

1 and Lieutenant General Russell J. Handy, Commander, Alaska Command, U.S. Pacific  
2 Command; Commander, Eleventh Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and Commander, Alaskan  
3 North American Aerospace Defense Command Region.