

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

June 25, 2013

1:08 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Dan Saddler, Co-Chair  
Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair  
Representative Eric Feige  
Representative Doug Isaacson  
Representative Bob Lynn  
Representative Geran Tarr  
Senator Fred Dyson  
Senator Anna Fairclough  
Senator John Coghill  
Senator Bill Wielechowski

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brigadier General George Cannelos  
Tim Jones - via teleconference  
Major General Jake Lestenkof

**OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT**

Representative Hughs - via teleconference

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

Alaska Military Industry Strategic Plan, Summary Briefing of Findings and Recommendations

**Presentations:**

Steve Hyjek, Hyjek & Fix

McHugh Pierre for Major General Thomas Katkus, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard, and Commissioner, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to record

## WITNESS REGISTER

### ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:08:07 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DAN SADDLER called the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Dyson, Fairclough, Coghill, Wielechowski and Co-Chair Kelly; Representatives Isaacson, Lynn, Tarr, Feige (via teleconference) and Co-Chair Saddler.

CO-CHAIR SADDLER reviewed their agenda.

[1:10:35 PM](#)

}MCHUGH PIERRE, said DOD was going through a draw down as others were.

[1:13:12 PM](#)

}STEVE HYJEK, understand Washington environment and the DOD budget. Reviewed budget control act.

Most important point looking at \$1.2 trillion saving 201216. Budget control process. Failing to find other sources went into sequestration. Sets out ceilings on annual basis through 2021. FY13 hardest year.

[1:15:34 PM](#)

second slide: how sequester works. Everyone assumed it wouldn't happen. So, they hadn't prepared. 2013 is difficult because of compressed action.

Budget Control Act requires ? to find savings between December 2013

[1:17:02 PM](#)

Highlighted two numbers for FY14 3.4 percent. DOD will take big hits \$40 billion this year. When Congress passes appropriation will have to make cuts to bring down to \$470 million.

Once passed that point life gets brighter. The longer sequestration goes, the harder it will be to get rid of.

The out years are manageable.

[1:20:36 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked

MR. HYJEK answered giving feel of where various elements are that are available for cuts. Stressed modernization gets cut first, because

More program cuts coming in the future.

[1:21:47 PM](#)

Places DOD can cut: base closures, cancel weapons systems, contractor operator towers, food inspectors

Congress can say dire consequences didn't occur, so people will not believe they will happen.

[1:23:07 PM](#)

Air craft being parked, Red Flag training and operations, maintenance. Once no longer regularly training creates issues, not short term readiness response and need more time to ramp up.

[1:24:47 PM](#)

Air Force and Army are biggest drivers

[1:25:30 PM](#)

Air Force looking in the future is ahead of the Army. Looking at wind turbines, spectrum with air waves, waste water treatment. Have developed 16 criteria called ICEMAP.

Army looks to replicate this activity.

[1:26:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON asked how J? with respect to Eielson.

MR. HYJEK answered will not cover new full spectrum items

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON asked if that bodes better for keeping Eielson.

MR. HYJEK answered it is a card in the deck they can play, but it isn't the key.

Kennedy; what can you do for your country....

[1:29:52 PM](#)

Air Force has begun table top exercises at . Alaska is at top of 2014 manifest

MR. PIERRE emphasized that is as needed.

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked for examples of services.

[1:31:24 PM](#)

MR. HYJKEK said no complete list, but one not in there is commissary services. We need to be proactive. DoD is looking for partnerships. It's harder for them to walk away.

? here

MR. HYJKEK said that number would get smaller.

[1:34:46 PM](#)

Army and Air Force need BRAC, but Congress doesn't want it because it was so poorly executed.

Air Force has stressed

Want to operate as

[1:36:13 PM](#)

Two sides to this coin.

Last slide on need for BRAC from Air Force.

[1:36:43 PM](#)

Lestenkof asked

MR. HYJKEK said joint bases are still experimental and haven't seen significant savings - yet.

MR. PIERRE added they have been told that is not the case at JBER, because bases were operating a much lower than required operating costs. While going through joining process identified correct standards, but have been reduced.

[1:38:34 PM](#)

Review of Presentation:

Budget cuts: personnel, modernization

Deal cut at end of year to move forward with some actions and not others.

[1:41:06 PM](#)

Army has learned from Air Force mistake.

[1:41:15 PM](#)

Secured some information for Alaska: Fort Wainwright will gain and the 25th will gain. Fort Rich will lose  
Average state loss involved in PEA was  
We have held our own because of training

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked

MR. HYJEK absent decisions by he U.S. Congress no.

[1:42:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON pointed out. Air Force has basic strategic process. Document is pile of crap that is contradictory.

[1:44:01 PM](#)

MR. PIERRE asked if he was referring to

MY. HYJEK strategic basic plan is used for new as opposed to

If military judgment supersedes what the analysis finds

[1:46:06 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON summarized that they are misinterpretation the strategic basing application

MR. HYJEK correct. It is a mission that is already there.

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON said his testimony was that

MR. HYJEK answered

[1:48:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON said the EIS is a regurgitation.

MR. HYJEK EIS starts with a premise. The difference between that and a SAF

MR. HYJEK said it is not a fait accompli .

Map showing major installations. Urged remember history's lessons. BRAC 2005 set the stage for strategic plan. Force structure adjustments

Page 4 Strategic Plan Development

Roadmap for analysis and development of strategic plan: provides parameters for track. Important to recognize coordinated plan of

attack including communities. Object not just hold their own, but look for opportunities to expand and partner with DoD.

Over 30 states have state consultant or some form of military counsel to be ready for the future.

5 "Headlines"

CO-CHAIR SADDLER confidential.

MR. HYJEK said he was using the sanitized version.

Overall big state issues stressing:  
strategic location  
unencumbered training space  
missile defense growing because of North Korea.  
Take message out to major commands

6 Army and Air Force headlines: have room to expand for training units from the Lower 48. Must make it easy for them by prepositioning equipment.

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON asked how

MR. HYJEK drawing down people. Pre-positioning in Hawaii and Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON does the legislature need to appropriate funds.

MR. HYJEK federal

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON

MR. HYJEK measure of good faith. Don't want to build the shelter until you know you are going to get the

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON said Louisiana and ? are already building

MR. PIERRE said that is the point they are trying to make; other states are doing it and Alaska needs to compete. Training space needs to be bigger because weapons are longer. Alaska has it.

Need rudimentary gravel roads for placing storage centers.

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON said key is how much equipment

MR. HYJEK battalion size is good target.

Hope to see positive movement in F-35 OOConus

7 US Coast Guard, impasse team.

MR. PIERRE said allowing AIDEA to lend to federal agencies. Will have search and rescue no other state has. Secretary Napolitano will inspect soon.

Advocating squadron of Spartans up here would allow CG to patrol while leaving the

Coast Guard is not under the same budget cuts.

8 Alaska Priority Actions

1. Energy costs - real problem for DoD. Energy presents the greatest opportunity/challenge to impact cost reduction. Use natural gas as opposed to coal.

MR. PIERRE said the power plant is antiquated being replaced slowly. To lower costs and improve air quality in Fairbanks is the speed up replacing them. Boilers can be upgraded to natural gas. Need more thorough discussion.

MR. HYJEK added NY implemented Patriot Power that developed rates

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked if

mrh

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH asked if he was asking for new boilers.

MR. PIERRE answered that he didn't know how that intersected . Looking at challenges with using coal.

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH asked if going from 4 to 3 was more efficient.

MR. PIERRE more efficient. 1950s boilers need to be in a museum.

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH asked if he was proposing developing gas generation.

MR. PIERRE Dod doesn't want to burn coal at all, bc when new boilers are put on line they will be cheaper overall.

There is no way the state.

It a potentially wise investment to keep infrastructure through BRAC.

REPRESENTATIVE TARR asked

MR. PIERRE that is not a shared services agreement. Municipality is using land for landfill and bases is harvesting gas developed by it. Has lowered costs more than expected.

MR. HYJEK pointed out that ? also sits on the new committee.

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH asked if we have a breakdown on costs

MR. PIERRE just ideas, first step in identifying what is possible.

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH power share agreement if the state were invest in Fairbanks area that utilities rates would be lowered.

MR. PIERRE answered an agreement where GVEA could buy power

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH if going to invest, then people should be able to receive the benefit versus for-profit utility.

MR. PIERRE that is their number one concern.

CO-CHAIR SADDLER said General Hoag was working on

}TIM JONES, said he didn't know of an agreement in place, because not an issue. Military not in a position to sell excess power to civilian market, but it could be worked out.{

He believed that energy is a major cost driver but not just for the military installations. Can't take it out of the overall cost of energy in the community. It drives all costs in a community. Take a global look.

MR. HYJEK 9 recommend high level delegation go to PACAF and go the Pentagon to meet with . Need to be perceived as credible and pro active.

It would cost money so look at idea of having well recognized agency do a specific paper on the strategic location of Alaska to project power to Pacific Rim and use it as a cost

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked if that would be seen as

MR. HYJEK helps us out. Dr. Amery has very good metrics.

10

Strengthen relationship between State of Alaska, ALCOM, USARAK and US Coast Guard District 17.

REPRESENTATIVE FEIGE asked if the fellow who got promoted was Vince Brooks.

MR. HYJEK yes.

Action 5 Leverage opportunities: Need two-squadron wing to keep up with others

Will focus on "broken glass" what they didn't get in the first BRAC.

11

Infrastructure improvement to expand search and rescue

Action 7: Look for ways to support Quality of life issues

REPRESENTATIVE TARR brought up high sexual assault numbers and if he knew of ways to engage in family support.

MR. HYJEK was acquainted with interagency working groups Wounded warrior marry up with private sector.

MR. PIERRE said sexual assault is very serious. Investigate every allegation. Will not tolerate that

Military has increased its definition of sexual assault.

MR. HYJEK recruitment and retention. Top priority to get a

Active association takes place at a reserve base where they are the host and active duty personnel join them and are housed in the community. Many are coming into play.

Classic association like at JBER 176th housed at and share air craft. 168 more personnel, equipment

12

Shared services and the ICEMAP. Some states are moving out...

ICEMAP only applies to the Air Force, but will apply to the Army in the future.

13

Infrastructure authorizations: consider enhanced use lease and other non-traditional financing options for dual-use facilities.

[2:39:50 PM](#)

[2:42:34 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON slide 14 bases for moving F-15

[2:43:51 PM](#)

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH said they should look at reevaluate destroying existing facilities and infrastructure and maybe be relocated.

MR. HYJEK agreed, but Air Force has said they are trying to meet their 2020 maintenance costs. What criteria using and how that applies to Eielson.

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH

MR. HYJEK agreed.

[2:46:23 PM](#)

Look at ability to do distance training, linking three or four installations together. Huge potential for

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked whose decision that would be.

MR. HYJEK systems agency

[2:48:07 PM](#)

16

Eielson Air mobility command.

[2:49:11 PM](#)

17 modernization issues.

add synthetic aperture radar (SABR) can be moved

It can be tuned to certain conditions, has ground penetrating radar to see what can't be seen with naked eye.

CO-CHAIR SADDLER said these are the kinds of requests we should bring

[2:51:27 PM](#)

MR. PIERRE need oversight

CO-CHAIR SADDLER recognized Norman Elliot.

MR. HYJEK closing slides

Important to speak with one voice

Be proactive

Regularly engage decision makers, not just Alaska's

Thinking what potential implication could be for an installation

Be in their face not just the delegation's.

Lay out a community and a state legislative strategy that will augment state of Alaska advocacy for each Alaska military installation.

[2:54:23 PM](#)

BRAC 2015 Dod will get a BRAC one way or the other. Need to get those cuts. Which process will articulate our message.

SENATOR KELLY said he wanted to anything they can do, not just things, appropriations or statutes before governor goes into

MR. PIERRE will do.

REPRESENTATIVE TARR asked if any opportunities to have

MR. PIERRE not sure

[2:58:02 PM](#)

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH delegation to travel to D.C.

MR. HYJEK sept/oct rationale point that FY2013 process to a close allegedly. near decisions for and plant seeds for upcoming decisions.

[2:59:49 PM](#)

MR. PIERRE committee members with governor

MR. HYJEK said they will identify issues and who to see and develop draft questions to ask the various speakers. Discussions will be productive.

[3:01:09 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON are there things so important about Alaska that people don't think about. Worried that decisions makers don't understand Arctic. Go slow in shutting down facilities.

MR. HYJEK hit and miss on communication and coordination. Recommend think tank to be independent in thoughtful and coherent manner. Want to point out how important bases are to Dod.

[3:06:18 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SADDLER asked civilian

Major General Lestenkof said

[3:11:04 PM](#)

Brigadier General Cannelos commented that

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH concurred with Senator Dyson about appropriateness of conversation.

Import numbers

Alaska has that potential to be a foundation for America.

[3:15:08 PM](#)

MR. HYJEK they will be better positioned to work. Two tectonic issues. Oil sources and

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH better for federal delegation to take it on.

CO-CHAIR SADDLER will take that up

REPRESENTATIVE ISAACSON said it should be discussed because even thought not global issue about where energy comes from.

[3:19:36 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE TARR quality of life: veterans have impact on deciding on facility closures.

MR. PIERRE great question, but no. Veterans plan is separate.

[3:21:27 PM](#)

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH under strategy of delegation talking about importance of community.

[3:22:50 PM](#)

MR. PIERRE said procurement costs can be lowered through shared services.

[3:23:22 PM](#)

GENERAL CASE ??

MR. PIERRE said Alaska is the reason the United States is an Arctic nation.

REPRESENTATIVE FEIGE no questions.

Colonel Jones no questions.

SENATOR COGHILL asked if the governor is already going down the independent review.

MR. PIERRE no.

SENATOR COGHILL if not going to appear self serving.

SENATOR COGHILL new dynamic of having reserves be more active, does Alaska have any advantage to highlight.

MR. HYJEK supporting any missions and geography is an asset.

[3:26:47 PM](#)

Can the state better coordinate with Canada.

Mr. Pierre we are

Search and rescue is more of a civilian need than.

SENATOR COGHILL we need to understand air mobility command issue. Need to know who talking to

[3:29:59 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR KELLY identify people who have served in Alaska in the Pentagon. Start developing long term relationships with.

MR. PIERRE General Troy and General Garrett, up and coming decision makers.

CO-CHAIR SADDLER said this was a great presentation

REPRESENTATIVE TARR said she brought up the

[3:33:58 PM](#)

Adjourned