

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HANLEY, PHILLIPS, BARNES,
ZAWACKI, MARTIN, FURNACE, PEARCE,
COLLINS, GRUENBERG AND COTTEN

2

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the headquarters of the

6

Sixth Infantry Division.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS the Air Force and Army Commands located at Elmendorf Airforce
9 Base and Fort Richardson have historically cooperated to promote the best
10 interests of the Anchorage community as well as those of the Department of
11 Defense and its employees; and

12 WHEREAS the United States Department of Defense anticipates moving the
13 headquarters and garrison administrative support staff of the Sixth Infan-
14 try Division (Light) from the current primary garrison at Fort Richardson
15 to Fort Wainwright; and

16 WHEREAS it is further anticipated that from 13 to 100 high ranking
17 military personnel and 27 to 365 middle and upper management civilian
18 positions will be transferred to Fort Wainwright, that any increase in
19 positions at Fort Richardson would be in the lower enlisted military ranks,
20 and that the remaining civilian work force would consist of personnel in
21 the lower graded positions; and

22 WHEREAS current Department of Defense information on the move indi-
23 cates that many of the Fort Richardson civilian employees would select not
24 to move to Fort Wainwright, that people with the skills needed to replace
25 these employees are not available in Fairbanks, and that many people with
26 needed skills would have to be imported from outside Alaska; and

27 WHEREAS in case of a military emergency activation of the military
28 Joint Task Force, Alaska, located at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the head-
29 quarters staff of the Sixth Infantry Division (Light) should be located

1 side-by-side with the Air Force Command at Elmendorf Air Force Base because
2 the value of such an arrangement has been proven by years of close coopera-
3 tion between the military commands; and

4 WHEREAS many military experts agree that the move makes little sense
5 and greatly complicates the communication process and liaison agreements so
6 necessary between the Army and Air Force to ensure sound military opera-
7 tions; and

8 WHEREAS the Army does not currently have family housing and support
9 facilities in place at Fort Wainwright that are in close proximity and
10 readily accessible to the work site to accommodate the proposed move; and

11 WHEREAS the Municipality of Anchorage is experiencing a severe eco-
12 nomic crisis resulting from a worldwide decline in oil prices that has led
13 to bankruptcies, foreclosures, business failures, and the loss of homes,
14 property, and millions of dollars to Anchorage and all of southcentral
15 Alaska; and

16 WHEREAS these civilian and military employees contribute a minimum of
17 \$11,000,000 annually to the Anchorage and southcentral areas' economy, so a
18 transfer would result in an adverse economic impact on the already
19 depressed economy in these areas heightened by additional economic losses
20 due to the multiplication effect; and

21 WHEREAS many of the transferring employees would be placing their
22 homes for sale in a depressed real estate market, thus further driving the
23 prices of residential homes down in the area and causing employees to lose
24 valuable equity built up over the years; and

25 WHEREAS many of these employees' children would leave local schools,
26 thus reducing federal and state funding to the Anchorage School District;
27 and

28 WHEREAS these changes would cause a ripple effect across all sectors
29 of southcentral Alaska's economy resulting in a substantial loss of

1 purchasing power;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges the Secretary
3 of Defense, Secretary of the United States Army, Joint Chiefs of Staff,
4 FORSCOM Commander, and Commander of Alaska Army Forces to leave the
5 headquarters and the primary garrison administrative support staff for the
6 Sixth Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Frank
8 Carlucci, Secretary of Defense; Mr. James R. Ambrose, Secretary of the
9 Army; Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr., Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Joseph
10 Palastra, United States Army Forces Command; Major General Johnnie Corns,
11 U.S. Army Alaska, Sixth Infantry Division (Light); the Honorable Sam Nunn,
12 Chairman, United States Senate Armed Services Committee; the Honorable Les
13 Aspin, Chairman, United States House Armed Services Committee; and to the
14 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
15 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
16 tion in Congress.