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1 IN THE SENATE

BY HALFORD, KELLY AND  
KERTTULA

2

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

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 SENATE:

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 de-  
19 pressed economy in these areas heightened by additional economic losses due  
20 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 Senate urges the Secretary of Defense, Secre-  
3 tary of the United States Army, Joint Chiefs of Staff, FORSCOM Commander,  
4 and Commander of Alaska Army Forces to leave the headquarters and the  
5 primary garrison administrative support staff for the Sixth Infantry Divi-  
6 sion (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.