

SJR

13



NEWS

ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Congressman Don Young

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 26, 1988

CONTACT: SEN. STEVENS (202) 224-1030
SEN. MURKOWSKI (202) 224-9306
CONG. YOUNG (202) 225-5765

COAST GUARD CUTS HAVE MINIMAL IMPACT ON ALASKA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Coast Guard's Commandant has assured the Alaska Congressional Delegation that proposed cuts in the Fiscal Year 1988 budget will not result in any major reductions or eliminations of programs in Alaska.

Admiral Paul A. Yost made his commitment to the delegation following his recommendation for Coast Guard budget cuts due to a \$100 million shortfall in FY 88.

Yost personally called Congressman Don Young and Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens to assure them that the budget crisis nationwide would have only a minimal impact on the Coast Guard in Alaska. However, the Commandant cautioned that nationwide the Coast Guard may experience further cuts during the last quarter of FY 88, if the Coast Guard does not get Congressional approval for an additional \$60 million, and a more realistic appropriation for Coast Guard operations in FY 89.

The delegation said Yost's commitment helped to dispel rumors circulating among Coast Guard communities in Alaska, where one option for reducing Coast Guard costs would have been to decommission the buoy tender PLANETREE, based in Ketchikan, and to replace it with the SWEETBRIAR, now stationed in Cordova.

Congressman Young, who pledged "to do everything in my power" to help the Coast Guard get the additional funding, noted that critical Coast Guard functions in jeopardy include search and rescue, drug interdiction and fisheries enforcement.

"Unless we properly fund the Coast Guard, we are never going to be able to stop the current theft of Alaska's fisheries resources by foreign interests," Young said. "Recently acquired video tape dramatically attests that the Coast Guard must have the resources necessary to enforce the Magnuson Act. I urge the fishing community to join me in communicating directly with the House Appropriations Committee members to convince them of the critical importance of adequate Coast Guard funding."

"I commend Admiral Yost for his decision, which recognizes the high priority of the Alaska sea frontier," Senator Stevens said. "I am pleased that the SWEETBRIAR and PLANETREE will be remaining in Alaska, and that there will be only a minimal reduction in services."

Senator Murkowski said the buoy tender based in Cordova is important to that community.

"Because Cordova relies heavily on the personnel and dependents associated with the SWEETBRIAR, its residents are

naturally concerned about the vessel's removal and its adverse effect on the local economy," he said.

"In addition, Cordova supports approximately 700 fishing vessels during the fishing season. The potential for serious mishaps is heightened by significant levels of pleasure craft, barge, freight vessel and oil tanker traffic in and around Prince William Sound and the nearby areas of the Gulf of Alaska. Transferring the SWEETBRIAR surely would have caused significant reduction in the Coast Guard's ability to respond effectively to search and rescue needs.

"Admiral Yost's assurances will help to subside the fears of Alaskans who would be directly affected by deep cuts in Coast Guard funding," Murkowaki said.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 2/13/87

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 2-16-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered SJR 13 am
Relating to United States Coast Guard reorganization.

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with HCS SJR 13 (SA) the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published 2-11-87
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] - no rec.

[Signature]
 Chairman's signature



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

FILE CONTENTS

1. HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16: RELATING TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD REORGANIZATION
2. FISCAL NOTE, -0-
3. LETTER FROM JAMIE PARSONS, DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, TO ADMIRAL PAUL YOST, DATED 2/9/87
4. LETTER FROM GOVERNOR STEVE COWPER TO ADMIRAL PAUL YOST, DATED 2/4/87
5. RICHARD GARRISON LETTERS
6. LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVE ULMER TO ALBERT WALL, DATED 2/9/87

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

SENATE
BILL VERSION: SJR 13
PUBLISH DATE: 2/11/87

REQUEST: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: relating to United States Coast
Guard reorganization
Sponsor: Duncan et all
Requestor: Senate Transportation

Agency Affected: _____
BRU: _____

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Prepared by: Terry Otness Senate Committee Aide Phone: 4921
Division: Senator Jones, Transportation Chairman Date: 2/10/87

Approved by Commissioner: Senator Lloyd Jones Date: 2/10/87
Agency: Senate Transportation Chairman

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
 - Legislative Sponsor
 - Requestor
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Impacted Agency(ies)
 - Senate Secretary



RECEIVED FEB 13 1987

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

February 9, 1987

Admiral Paul Yost
Commandant (G-C)
U.S. Coast Guard
2100 2nd Street, S.W., Suite 2212
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Admiral Yost:

We urge you to reconsider the realignment of personnel functions for the 17th Coast Guard District. You have a first-hand knowledge of Juneau's water dependency and the Coast Guard's unique relationship to this community, having served as Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations for the 17th District in 1975. We are not convinced that maintenance and logistics functions can be performed better outside this district. Distance and response time are key factors in performance of the Coast Guard's search and rescue mission as well as its patrol responsibilities.

The announcement of the Coast Guard's plan to move 78 military and civilian positions from Juneau could not have come at a worse time. Our economy already is reeling from the loss of state jobs and state-shared revenues which means further reductions in all areas of local employment supported by state revenue. Deeper cuts are still to come.

We urge you to reconsider this action or, at the very least, delay the Juneau implementation for three years when the impact may not be so devastating and the realignment problems will have been worked out in the "Lower 48".

Sincerely,

Jamie Parsons
Acting Mayor

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Representative Don Young
Senator Jim Duncan
Representative Bill Hudson
Representative Fran Ulmer

AVE. COWPER
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED FEB 4 1987

from 4
E Y R

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 4, 1987

Commandant (G-C)
Admiral Paul A. Yost
2100 Second Street SW
Suite 2212
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Yost:

The State of Alaska has been notified of your recent decision regarding realignment of the internal support services of the U.S. Coast Guard. You are to be commended for your efforts to maintain current service levels in Alaska while at the same time attempting to assign more personnel to operational billets. I can certainly sympathize with the difficulty of the task before you to develop a plan which will allow more than 500 support positions to relocate into operation assignments.

Alaska will greatly benefit from the increased operations proposed, including the additional aviation units planned to be operating in Alaska by 1990. As you know, Alaska's waters take their toll each year. In FY 1986 there were almost 1,100 rescue cases in this district. The number of deaths resulting from boating accidents in Alaska is forty times the national average. It is imperative that the Coast Guard maintain its ability to provide timely response on rescue missions.

The maintenance and support for a growing operational Coast Guard presence in Alaska seems to indicate that it could be best served, at least in this dislocated district, by maintaining maintenance and logistical support facilities in the area. The ever increasing vessel activity in the Gulf of Alaska and the waters adjacent to our State, the National Security interests, and the increasing foreign fishing off Alaska all indicate the need for timely support and Coast Guard readiness in this area of the world. I urge you to reconsider your decision to place the Westcoast Maintenance and Logistic Command in Alameda, California and consider instead moving that unit to Juneau, Alaska. Placement of the Unit here would certainly provide better and more timely support for the increased activity off Alaska's waters.

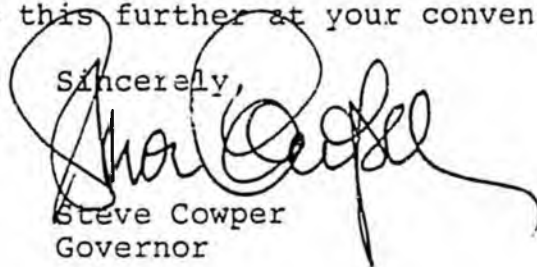
Admiral Paul A. Yost

-2-

February 4, 1987

State of Alaska officials stand ready to assist in the locating of the West Coast Maintenance and Logistic Command to our State. I would be pleased to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cowper", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Steve Cowper
Governor

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Representative Don Young

February 5, 1987

RECEIVED FEB 10 1987

The Honorable Fran Ulmer
Alaska House of Representatives
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mrs. Ulmer:

As you are aware, Congressman Young has introduced legislation seeking to block the Coast Guard reorganization plan that is aimed at reducing support staff. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to him which addresses and shares additional concerns related to the relocation of employees of the Coast Guard Field Maintenance and logistic support functions.

I would appreciate any efforts on your part to support Congressman Young's bill and hope that the information provided in the enclosed letter will be of some assistance to you in this regard.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Garrison
P. O. Box 173
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Encl: (1) Copy of letter to Congressman Young

COPY

5 February 1987

The Honorable Don Young
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your support in introducing legislation seeking to block the Coast Guard reorganization plan that is aimed at reducing support staff.

As one of the support personnel that may be affected by the proposed reorganization, I feel that it is my responsibility to inform you that the assessment figures provided by the Coast Guard do not accurately reflect the actual number of employees that are going to be subject to relocation. The news release provided by the Coast Guard states that 27 civilian personnel and 51 military personnel would be relocated to other areas within the Coast Guard.

As I understand it, the realignment transfers all engineering functions, major contracting functions, civilian personnel management functions and most planning functions to the Maintenance and Logistics Command in Alameda, and it establishes a new field engineering office in Juneau that will be under the direct control of the Maintenance and Logistics Command in Alameda, California. Furthermore, there will be 16 civilian positions and 7 military positions assigned to Juneau, but controlled and operated by the Regional Office in California. Stated simply, these 23 positions/billets will be subject to the scrutiny, discretion, further reassignment, with further potential for relocation to anywhere the regional office in Alameda might consider in their best interest. In other words the local command here in Juneau would have no say in the matter if the Regional Office in Alameda, California decided a couple of months after implementation of the plan that these personnel were needed down in California or elsewhere more than they are needed in Alaska.

I also noted with concern and interest that the Coast Guard news release indicated that the personnel relocations and job losses would be affecting the Juneau office only. As I understand it Support Center Kodiak, Alaska will also be under the scrutiny and control of the Regional Logistics Command in California. This invites the potential for them to reduce/relocate billets from the Kodiak area also, if this is indeed the case, and if the plan is implemented.

I share the above concerns with you in hope that it will be of some assistance to you in your review of the proposed

implementation of the realignment plan ordered by the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and I sincerely hope that the rest of the Congressional delegation will look below the statistical "tip of the iceberg" information and data provided by the Coast Guard so far.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Garrison

P. O. Box 173

Juneau, Alaska 99802

STATE OF ALASKA



REPRESENTATIVE
FRAN ULMER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

5
P.O. Box V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4947

February 11, 1987

Richard J. Garrison
P.O. Box 20173
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. Garrison:

Thank you for your letter regarding the reorganization of the Coast Guard. Enclosed is a resolution which your Juneau delegation has introduced and which will most likely be passed by the Alaska Legislature. However, this is only a request to the federal government, which will do what it thinks best in Washington, D.C. Hopefully, Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Young will be able to help us. There is no doubt that this is an uphill battle.

The House State Affairs Committee, which I chair, will conduct a hearing on this resolution on Monday, February 16, 1987 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 102 of the Capitol. We would welcome your attendance.

I share your concern and wish there was more that I could do to resolve this issue. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer
Representative District 4B

Zc

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA



REPRESENTATIVE
FRAN ULMER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

6
P.O. Box V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4947

February 9, 1987

Albert Wall
P.O. Box 210986
Auke Bay, AK 99821

Dear Mr. Wall:

Enclosed is a resolution which your Juneau legislative delegation has introduced and which, hopefully, will be passed by the Alaska Legislature. However, this is only a request to the federal government, which will do what it thinks best in Washington, D.C. Hopefully, Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Young will be able to help us; but it is undoubtedly an uphill battle.

I wish I could offer to you some assurances of a more positive economic picture for Juneau. But, for the short term, we will have a difficult adjustment. The Greens Creek mine offers a good prospect for us, as does fishing and tourism.

Please stay in touch with any suggestions you might have.

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer
Representative District 4B

Enclosure

FU:lsg/Cg