

**SJR**

**20**

<TARGET><BILL>SJR 20</BILL><SUBJECT>SJR  
20</SUBJECT><COMM>HMLV27</COMM></TARGET>

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Co-Chair:**

**Rep. Dan Saddler**  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-6598  
Fax: (907) 465-2293



**Co-Chair:**

**Rep. Steve Thompson**  
State Capitol, Room 428  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-6841  
Fax: (907) 465-2070

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 10, 2012

To: House Chief Clerk  
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Members and Staff

From: Representative Dan Saddler, Co-Chair  
Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chair

Re: Schedule for week of April 9-13, 2012  
Room 120

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**Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 8:00a.m. in Room 120**

+ \* SJR 20 Relocation of 18<sup>th</sup> F-16 Squadron

**Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 120**

+ Bills Previously Heard or Scheduled

\* First Hearing in First Committee of Referral  
+ Teleconferenced  
= Bill was Previously Heard/Scheduled

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



## SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### **Senate Joint Resolution 20: Relocation of the 18<sup>th</sup> F-16 Squadron Sponsor Statement**

*“Relating to Eielson Air Force Base and the strategic importance of retaining the 18<sup>th</sup> F-16 Aggressor Squadron in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.”*

The United States Air Force recently released a proposed plan to reallocate military assets due to impending budget cuts. As part of an effort to reduce costs and achieve \$8.7 billion in savings in FY13, the United States Air Force has recommended the relocation of the 18<sup>th</sup> F-16 Aggressor Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

This move will have drastic impact on the Fairbanks economy and will reduce the operational capabilities at Eielson, making it vulnerable in future base realignment and closure rounds. The benefits and strategic importance of Eielson Air Force Base now and into the future far outweigh the negligible savings achieved by the transfer of the squadron.

Eielson is at the forefront of protecting the United States interests in the Pacific Theater and serves a critical function in reinforcing the region. It helps to secure important oil infrastructure, including the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which supplies a significant portion of the nation’s energy needs. Eielson AFB also has access to the largest joint air and land training range in the United States with minimal air space congestion and is well-suited to perform operations for unmanned vehicles and live fire exercises.

The Alaska Legislature must vigorously defend Alaska military assets for the protection of our state and nation.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Bill Version SJR20  
 Fiscal Note Number 1  
 (S) Publish Date 4/2/2012

Identifier (file name) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title SJR 20 Relocation of 18th F-16 Squadron Appropriation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allocation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Senate State Affairs Committee  
 Requester (S) State Affairs OMB Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

POSITIONS								
Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

CHANGE IN REVENUES								

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs \_\_\_\_\_ (separate supplemental appropriation required)  
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs \_\_\_\_\_ (separate capital appropriation required)  
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)**

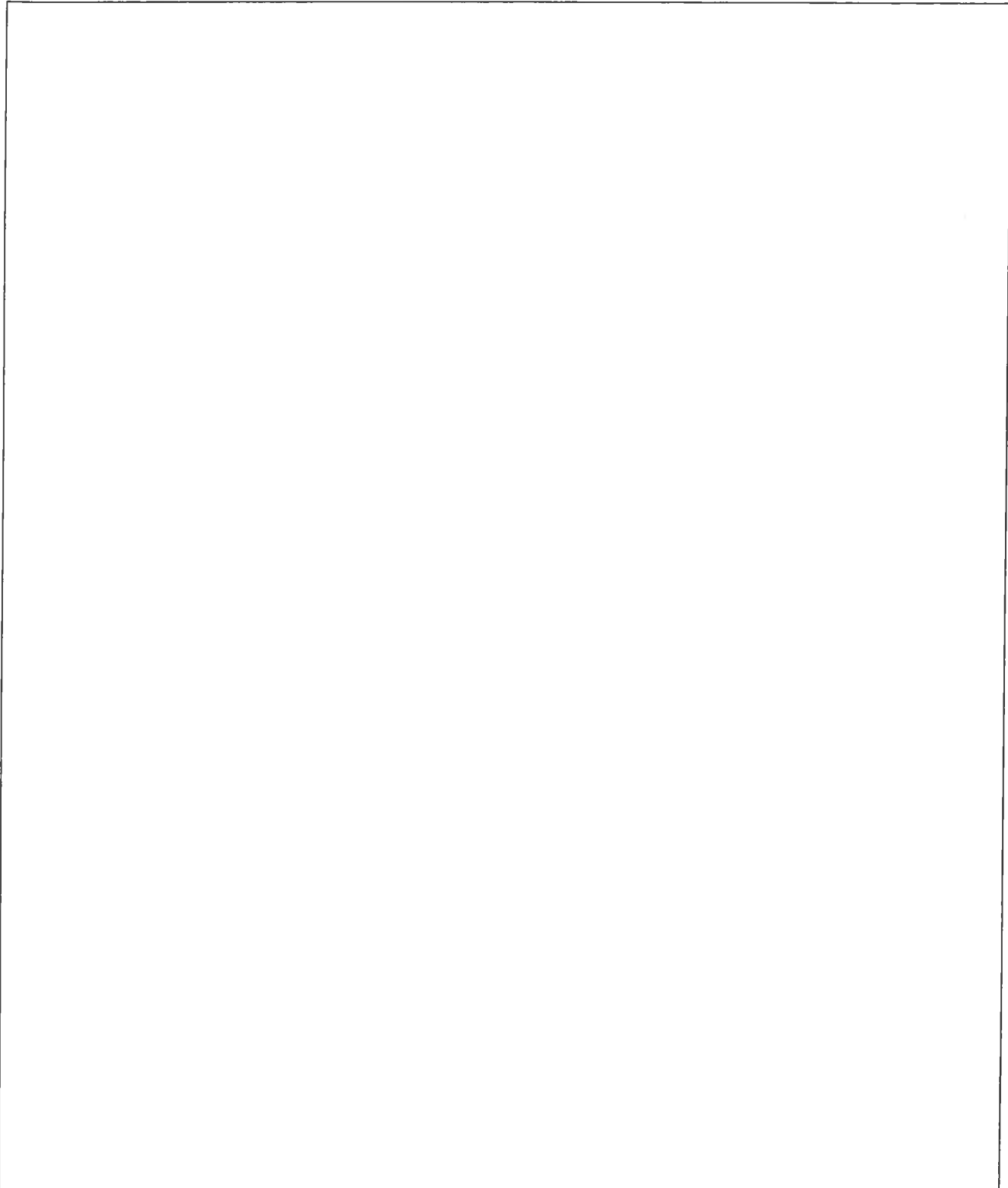
Prepared by (s) State Affairs Phone 465-2435  
 Division \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time 4/2/12 12:00 AM  
 Approved by /s/ Senator Wielechowski, Chair Date 4/2/2012

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR20

**Analysis**





# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet EIELSON FACTS AND FIGURES

### **The Base**

Eielson Air Force Base occupies 63,195 acres southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. The runway is oriented north to south and is 14,507 feet long. It was extended to its present length in the 1950s to accommodate B-36 aircraft, and is the second longest runway in North America.

### **Population**

About 2,500 military people work at Eielson, which includes more than 340 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard servicemembers. The base has approximately 930 houses and 387 dormitory rooms for the more than 2,000 military and family members who live on base. An additional 1,100 active duty, Reserve and Guard servicemembers and their families live off-base. More than 500 retirees from all branches of the military reside in the area.

Rounding out the total military-related population are about 480 civilian employees.

### **Economic Impact**

The total payroll for active duty military employees is about \$132 million. The base spent more than \$79 million for construction, services and procurement of materials, equipment and supplies in fiscal year 2011. More than 1,800 jobs were created valued at approximately \$41 million.

### **Organizations**

The 354th Fighter Wing mission is to prepare U.S. and allied aviation forces for combat, to deploy Airmen in support of global operations, and to enable the staging of forces to promote U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region. The 354 FW is the host unit at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska and is assigned to 11th Air Force, headquartered at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Eleventh Air Force falls under Pacific Air Forces, headquartered at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. The 354th Fighter Wing is divided into four groups and 10 wing staff agencies. The groups are Operations, Maintenance, Mission Support and Medical. The wing commander's staff agencies include the Historian, Protocol, Chaplain, Staff Judge Advocate, Safety, Finance, Manpower, Command Post, Military Equal Opportunity and Public Affairs.

### **Associate Units**

· 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, is the primary workhorse

tanker unit for the Arctic Region and Pacific Rim, annually transferring more than 17 million pounds of fuel in flight to predominantly active-duty aircraft on operational missions. The wing's strategic location provides an invaluable rapid response capability for emergency and contingency situations, as well as enhancing the Air Force's total force global reach.

- The 353rd Combat Training Squadron is responsible for sponsoring training and experimentation in Alaska. In this capacity the squadron hosts Pacific Air Force's Red Flag - Alaska , Alaska Command's Northern Edge, and Pacific Command's Cooperative Thunder exercises. The 353rd has a detachment at Elmendorf Air Force Base. Beyond Red Flag - Alaska, the 353rd hosts an increasingly broad number of combat training events on the Pacific-Alaska Range Complex.

- Detachment 1, 66th Training Squadron, provides Arctic survival training to members of all branches of the military and the other uniformed services. The "Cool School" graduates about 650 students per year. Instructors at the Air Education and Training Command-assigned unit also provide ground search and rescue capability on and around Eielson.

- Detachment 1, 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, provides maintenance and operations support for up to two HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters deployed to Eielson from Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. These aircraft provide alert rescue coverage for Eielson aircraft and logistics support for interior Alaska military ranges. The detachment is also assigned by 11th Air Force to provide search-and-rescue for both military and civil aviators north of the Alaska Range.

- Detachment 632, Air Force Office of Special Investigations provides professional investigative service for felony level criminal activity and counterintelligence matters to commanders of all Air Force activities. AFOSI Detachment 632 provides specialized investigative services for USAF and DoD resources located in the northern half of the State of Alaska.

- Detachment 460, Air Force Technical Applications Center operates and maintains the largest and northernmost seismic network in the United States Atomic Energy Detection System, as well as the sole field backup operations center for detection and analysis of foreign nuclear weapons tests. In addition, the detachment operates and maintains a network of gaseous and particulate air sampling units to detect airborne signatures of nuclear events.

(Current as of February 2012)

354 Broadway St. Unit 15A  
Eielson AFB, AK 99702  
DSN: 377-2116  
Comm: (907) 377-2116

## Eielson's Strategic Importance: Overview

Conservative estimates say that the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free in the summer within 20 years. This will provide a quick shipping lane between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. "We have to prepare for the world coming to the Arctic," said Rear Adm. Gene Brooks, commander of the Coast Guard's Alaska district. Up to 25% of the world's undiscovered oil and gas is in Arctic Ocean area.

Our wide-open spaces, including the Joint Alaska-Pacific Range Complex, offer an unmatched military training environment. Our varied climate prepares soldiers and airmen to operate anywhere in the world.

About 13 percent of the state economy depends on the military, with the impact more strongly felt near larger installations.

Close proximity to North Korea, Pakistan, Iran, and China – all nuclear powers.

### General Hamilton:

- "Alaska, sitting at the top of the world, is within nine air hours of 95% of the industrial world."
- "Eielson's 90,000 acres and Ft. Wainwright's 1.6 million acres represent the best joint training spaces available to U.S. forces."
- Eielson has 63,000 square miles of training airspace, the largest overland instrumented training range in the world.

### General Gamble:

"There are only two deployment routes from North America to Eastern and Central Asia. The first is through Alaska, and the second is through Hawaii and Guam. Of these two, the Alaska route is 1800 miles shorter, which translates into a one-day advantage receiving combat aircraft from the West Coast and a two-day advantage from the East Coast."

- Eielson supports NORAD and the Ground Based Missile Defense System: "Every day for more than 20 years, at least one KC-135 has been on short-notice alert in support of interceptors protecting the sovereign airspace."
- "Only one military base in the state has a runway long enough for all-weather tanker operations."
- Eielson secures the TransAlaska Pipeline.
- "Any Pacific Theater war plan would fully involve Eielson in an air bridge role."

- "...as we understand it, in all prior BRAC rounds, Eielson was 'categorically excluded' in recognition of its critical function in reinforcing the Pacific and defending Alaska."
- Few environmental constraints (noise, pollution, etc) compared to other bases.
- "Eielson's fuel system is another great base asset. It is completely self-contained. The crude comes right off the North Slope, it's refined in the neighboring North Pole, and it's piped directly to Eielson."
- "...failing to consider the consequence of diminished Air Force jet fuel production required to meet the demand of a wartime surge; and two, by moving aircraft from the largest unrestricted airspace in the U.S. to encroached airspace."
- "Eielson provides the infrastructure to air refuel the President's support aircraft when he moves through the Pacific."
- "Eielson supports a multi-million dollar network of seismic sensors which detect underground nuclear tests."
- Eielson has huge field storage capacity, large capacity parking ramp, and a long runway (8<sup>th</sup> longest runway in the United States.)
- Eielson is a self-contained base, making it very secure to terrorist attack: "Eielson's heat and electricity come from its own power plant burning locally mined coal, and Eielson has an entirely self-contained water supply and water treatment facility on base."

LISA MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

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(202) 224-5301 FAX

March 31, 2012

510 L STREET, SUITE 600  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956  
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278  
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101  
JUNEAU, AK 99801  
(907) 586-7277

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105  
KENAI, AK 99611-9104  
(907) 283-5808

4079 TONGASS AVENUE, SUITE 204  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-5526  
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307  
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142  
(907) 376-7665

The Honorable Joe Paskvan  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building, Room 7  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RECEIVED

APR 03 2012

Dear Senator Paskvan:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the U.S. Air Force's plan to relocate the 18th Aggressor F-16 Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base to Joint Base-Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). I enjoyed seeing you recently in Juneau and appreciate the opportunity to respond to you on this important matter.

I agree that the F-16 transfer would have a dire impact on the communities in Interior Alaska if another mission is not found for the base. The Air Force has stated that this would be a cost-cutting measure, but I am skeptical. This proposal is far too similar to the 2005 proposal that was rejected by the BRAC Commission which found that warm basing Eielson would not be an effective cost-saving measure. The proposal was wrong in 2005, and it remains wrong today.

As you know, I have strongly expressed my concern with the Air Force's proposal. In my first meeting with General Norton Schwartz about the proposal, we agreed that America still needs Eielson, and that it should play a significant role as the military redirects its future focus to the Pacific Rim. I hope to work with him and others at the DOD to ensure that is the case.

On March 7, 2012, I along with the rest of the Alaska Congressional Delegation and Governor Parnell, sent a letter to General Schwartz and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley encouraging the Air Force site survey team to make an accurate assessment of all risks and indirect costs associated with the Eielson proposal. We also encouraged the Air Force to incorporate the Fairbanks community in the fact-finding process as well as other appropriate Alaskan officials who may be in the best position to help the survey team present an accurate report. I have attached a copy of that letter.

I have also voiced my concerns about the F-16 move with officials at the U.S. Air Force, including General Schwartz during his recent trip to Alaska, and in recent Defense Appropriations hearings. I have assembled members of my staff in Alaska and Washington to work extensively on this issue. We have been working with officials at the Air Force and DOD, as well as with the Governor and his AMFAST team, to show the military why this proposal is wrong. I will continue to fight on behalf of Alaska's network of military installations.

Again, thank you for contacting me, and thank you for your continued service in the Alaska State Legislature. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

  
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

Enclosure



March 7, 2012

Honorable Michael Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

General Norton A. Schwartz  
Chief of Staff, US Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Donley and General Schwartz:

Over the President's Day recess we had the opportunity to visit with many Alaskans, including members of the Alaska Legislature, about the future of Eielson Air Force Base. While the Alaska community remains deeply concerned about the proposed move of the 18<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron it takes the Air Force at its word that Eielson Air Force Base will continue to operate far into the future as the home of the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing and launching point for Red Flag Alaska and other exercises in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex.

We respectfully submit that the incremental cost that will be saved by relocating the Aggressor Squadron will prove to be relatively negligible, if it exists at all, in contrast with the more significant cost of maintaining Eielson Air Force Base in an operational state as General Schwartz described in his briefing with the Alaska congressional delegation on February 9, 2012. As the 2005 BRAC Commission found, you simply cannot maintain a warm base in a cold place.

There is strong support among statewide leaders and within the Interior Alaska community to find a path forward that will enable Eielson Air Force Base to continue to operate at a higher level of utilization than presently exists. Alaska's leaders are committed to work with the Air Force in search of creative solutions to make this possible.

General Schwartz emphasized that the cost savings associated with the move was calculated in a tabletop exercise and would have to be "truthed" in a site survey which would include visits to Eielson Air Force Base as well as Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). We welcome that decision. We write today to share some additional thoughts about the work of the site survey team.

If the Air Force proposal briefed to us by General Schwartz is implemented, the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing would be the only year round operational tenant unit at Eielson Air Force Base. However, conversations with the leadership of the Alaska National Guard leave us to believe that there has been minimal, if any, consultation regarding the requirements of the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing going forward. This failure to consult threatens to place the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing in a position where it cannot fulfill its mission. We strongly encourage the site survey team

to spend as much time as necessary with the leadership of the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing and the Air National Guard.

Mayor Luke Hopkins and the leadership of the Fairbanks North Star Borough have expressed an interest in visiting with the site survey team while they are on the ground, primarily to impart information about local conditions which may be relevant to an evaluation of the issues at hand. We encourage the survey team to visit with appropriate officials of the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Fairbanks North Star Borough and other appropriate stakeholder groups who may be in the best position to help the survey team present an accurate report to senior leaders.'

In addition to direct costs, an accurate report must also include an assessment of all risks and indirect costs associated with the proposal. We therefore strongly urge the site survey team to include the following in their assessment:

- The cost of the potential need for expanded eligibility of the Homeowner's Assistance Program to offset financial losses to Airmen impacted by the relocation and permanent change of station (PCS) costs. Many Airmen have purchased homes in the Fairbanks/North Pole community. If the Air Force moves several hundred service members to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), they may find themselves unable to sell their houses in a suddenly flooded market. It is unacceptable to expect our service members to incur significant financial losses as a result of the proposed realignment. PCS costs must also be factored in.
- The cost of building additional housing and increasing civilian personnel in base support services at JBER. The housing on JBER is currently at capacity. Support services are already taxed meeting current base needs due to significant Air Force civilian personnel reductions. The addition of several hundred service members and their families to the JBER community would require building additional housing and expanding base support services.
- The cost of increased fuel usage and temporary duty assignment pay associated with Red Flag exercises. Under the Air Force's current proposal, Eielson would be placed in "warm" status and used to host an increased number of large-scale Red Flag exercises. However, these large exercises would increase the amount of transit fuel used and result in TDY costs for the Aggressor Squadron. Furthermore, they may require a surge of civilian personnel at the base.
- Workforce impact and the cost of voluntary separation incentives. Civilian employees will be displaced as a result of the proposal. Many of the personnel in these positions have proudly served our country and the Air Force for years, and implementing an across the board reduction-in-force to achieve the reduced number of billets would be an unacceptable solution. The Air Force must factor in the cost of voluntary separation incentives and training personnel for other open positions.
- Congested air space in Anchorage. The Anchorage air space is extremely active, with air traffic from Ted Stevens International Airport, Fed Ex, UPS, Lake Hood Seaplane Base,

and existing traffic from JBER. Given the number of aircraft already operating in this air space, the feasibility of incorporating an additional squadron of single-engine F-16s is questionable.

- Increased risk of having all fighter assets located at JBER. Locating all fighter assets in Alaska at a single base increases their vulnerability in the event of a natural disaster. The possibility of a volcanic eruption or earthquake that could potentially ground all aircraft at a given base is serious concern in Alaska. Dispersing our fighter jets throughout the state decreases the likelihood a natural disaster would affect all aircraft.

Thank you for considering these suggestions. We look forward to your response.

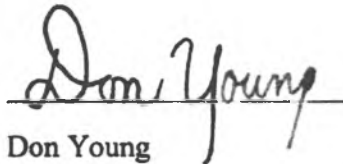
Sincerely,



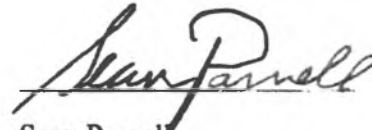
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Mark Begich  
United States Senator



Don Young  
Congressman for All Alaska



Sean Parnell  
Governor of Alaska



PHOTOS COMMUNITY RESOURCES ADVERTISING FOOD & DRINK ASTROLOGY POLICE BLOTTER  
THE WORD FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE QUOTE FOR THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS ABOUT

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THIS WEEK'S POLL IS:

Regarding your 2011 taxes, due April 17th 2012, will you:

- do them yourself?
- pay to have a robot do them?
- pay a human to do them?
- None of the above: it's MY money!

Vote /view Results

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- March 28th WORD FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS - harbinger -

Man survives for months in snowed-in car

Alaska's Aleutian Islands Volcano Could Erupt, Scientists Say

# Interior Alaska's Eielson Air Force Base closure: what's really going on?

by T. PHILLIPS on FEBRUARY 19, 2012

*It's easy to get lost in the controversy...*



Twenty-one F-16s (one of which is pictured above over Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska) are really being transferred from Eielson Air Force Base? After reading the major articles about the move and spending roughly 25 years in the Fairbanks area, I have compiled a report, along with my own thoughts, to clear up the confusion.

**First, let's look at what we have been told (mostly from Alaska news sources):**

Twenty-one F-16s may move from Eielson Air Force Base by summer 2013, followed by any associated personnel by the end of the year.

Nineteen of the F-16s would be relocated to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. 1600 jobs would be cut with only 600 moving to Anchorage. The Pentagon would save \$35 million over five years, according to authorities.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Hoog says that the National Guard's refueling unit would continue operation at the base even if the F-16s are relocated (the base would not close).

According to Hoog, "If you mapped out everyone who touches (the F-16s), you'd be looking at about 900 folks." So far, it is uncertain how many of the 1,800 active-duty personnel would leave the Fairbanks area. There are 2.1 to 2.3 family members for every active duty airman stationed at Eielson, according to Hoog, and let's not forget about the numerous civilian jobs that would also diminish.

Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich, as well as Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins, met on Saturday (2/18) with General Norton Schwartz (Chief of Staff to the U.S. Air Force) regarding the proposed move.

### Fairbanks International Airport, AK

Last Updated on Mar 31 2012, 1:53 pm

AKDT

Weather by NOAA

**Current Conditions: Partly Cloudy**

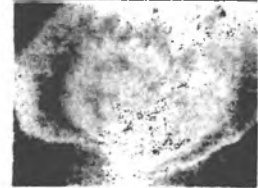


Temp: 26°F  
Wind: North at 0mph  
Humidity: 75%

Dewpoint: 19.0°F

Your 5-Day Forecast at a Glance

### THE PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Pretty like a Mushroom Cloud

Past Photos of the Week

If you are interested in submitting news, photos, or information regarding Fairbanks, Alaska, or the universe, send your articles to: [articles@fairbanksirl.com](mailto:articles@fairbanksirl.com)

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<http://t.co/MHYUWbVj>,  
2012/03/29

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Both Hoog and Schwartz said an analyst will arrive in March to investigate the logistics of the move and the future of the base.

Mayor Hopkins and Governor Sean Parnell have both proposed spending state money to investigate the financial figures that would result from the move.

Some government spending has been put on hold (\$45 million for the Eielson dorm project) while some spending continues (\$14.8 million for a railroad upgrade to haul fuel to Eielson).

Ted Stevens is dead and can't protect Alaska from military spending cuts in Washington.

There are only a few months left for politicians to convince the Pentagon not to go through with the move.

**Now let's think about what we have been told:**

Alaskan politicians say that there is no better training place for the F-16s than the Interior. Shouldn't that decision be left to leading military strategy experts instead of bureaucrats?

The real reason there is such a fuss: THE AMOUNT OF MONEY LOST BY BUSINESSES IN INTERIOR ALASKA WILL BE MASSIVE. MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! MONEY TO LOSE and MONEY TO SPEND TO TRY NOT TO LOSE MORE MONEY!

Lisa Murkowski states that in rural areas of Alaska, military spending is responsible for 38% of the economy.

According to Wes Madden, the departure of even 1,500 people would drastically influence the housing market in a negative way. Oh no, the housing market would be hurt. The rental prices are already through the roof (and have been for awhile), even in west Fairbanks!

According to one Interior resident, "A lot would change – fewer assaults, less traffic, smaller population, fewer Republicans – it would be horrible."

While the above human is being a bit sarcastic, there is no doubt that a number of aspects of society could see a positive benefit from the closure of the base. I cannot help but fantasize about the crumbling of the east Fairbanks chain stores that might occur (they were not around for most of my life). Maybe some local businesses would actually benefit!

**To summarize:**

The military is interested in transferring some very expensive military technology Outside and to another location in the state. This change would majorly hurt the economy of Interior Alaska, resulting in businesses closing and housing prices plummeting. The population would decline along with crime and traffic.

Is the extra money for the economy really worth the negative impact the base has on society? Remember military fans, plenty of Ft. Wainwright troops will be returning in the next few months...

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# Murkowski, Begich Fighting F-16 Aggressor Squadron Move from Eielson to Elmendorf, 4 C-130 Retirements at Elmendorf

## **Lawmakers to Introduce Legislation Monday That Would Prohibit Action**

*Senators Murkowski and Begich today issued a united set of statements opposing the Department of Defense's plans to relocate the F-16 Aggressor squadron from Eielson Air Force Base to Elmendorf Air Force Base and retire four C-130 transport aircraft at Elmendorf – as part of a nationwide Pentagon budget reduction strategy.*

*When the Senate returns to session on Monday, Murkowski and Begich will introduce legislation that would prohibit the Air Force from making these moves.*

### **Senator Lisa Murkowski:**

"While I am gratified the Air Force plans to keep the F-16 aggressor squadron in Alaska, I believe its rightful home is Eielson Air Force Base – at the gateway to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC). Today's announcement is identical to the BRAC proposal the Air Force advanced in 2005, when the Fairbanks community conclusively proved to the independent Base Realignment and Closure Commission that the Air Force would not achieve any savings by attempting to maintain a warm base in a cold place.

"Yet the Air Force suggests that today's action will result in a cost savings in Fiscal Year 2015. I no more believe that they will be able to achieve that cost savings in 2015 than they could in 2005. I'm going to do everything in my power to change the Air Force's plan.

"I am also concerned about the Air Force's plan to retire four C-130 transports at Elmendorf, with an anticipated loss of 120 active duty positions. The C-130 plays a crucial role in disaster relief missions. Coming on the heels of an earlier announcement that the Army National Guard will retire the remaining C-23 Sherpa, I need to be convinced that this action leaves the Air Force and Guard with sufficient assets to respond to a catastrophic earthquake or other natural disaster requiring immediately available airlift capacity."

### **Senator Mark Begich:**

"Relocating the 18th Aggressor Squadron from Eielson to JBBER is an unacceptable proposal. I will not support the Air Force's attempt to circumvent the law and the formal BRAC process by trying to piecemeal one of the most strategic installations in the country. As Alaska's only member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I will fight this action every step of the way. A decision to relocate the F-16s from Eielson was already rejected in 2005, when the independent BRAC Commission overturned the Air Force's recommendation, recognizing Eielson has the best airspace and range complexes and the estimated costs savings were inaccurate. Nothing has changed since 2005. Eielson Air Force Base is critical to the defense of the United States.

"The Air Force also plans to retire 4 C-130Hs stationed at JBBER. It is unfortunate this will result in the loss of the active duty personnel in the integrated unit that fly these planes. However, I am pleased Air Guardsmen of the 144<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron will retain eight C-130s and the manpower to continue to provide important lift capability in defense of our

nation and in support of our state. As members of our community, these Guardsmen will continue to make us proud in Alaska."

**Kendra Kloster**

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**Subject:** FW: Murkowski, Begich File Legislation Prohibiting F-16 Move  
**Attachments:** 12.02.06.F16.Legislation.pdf



For Immediate Release  
Monday, February 6, 2012

### **Murkowski, Begich File Legislation Prohibiting F-16 Move**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senators Murkowski and Begich today introduced legislation (*attached*) in the U.S. Senate that would expressly bar the United States Air Force from planning or executing the relocation of F-16s from Eielson Air Force Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson – and requires that just as many, if not more, F-16s are based at Eielson this September.

Alaska’s entire Congressional Delegation will be sitting down with U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz on Thursday, to further discuss the Air Force’s plan and question the reasoning.

The Senators issued the following statements after filing the bill:

**Senator Lisa Murkowski:**

“This is déjà vu all over again, reminding me of the Air Force’s BRAC proposal for Eielson in 2005. Back then, Alaskans made the case that the Air Force wouldn’t achieve any savings by attempting a move. 7 years later, I remain unconvinced that moving existing units from one part of Alaska to another is an efficient or effective way of cost-cutting. I want the Air Force to show me its math.”

**Senator Mark Begich:**

“Moving F-16s from Eielson Air Force base to Anchorage will neither save money nor make our military stronger. If military leaders try to end-run the formal base-closing process with this piecemeal approach, I will do whatever I can through my position on the Senate Armed Services Committee to stop it. I’ll work with community leaders to demonstrate this is not the right decision and keeping these fighter jets at Eielson makes strategic and economic sense. If we have to stop it through legislation, that’s what we’ll do.”

###

S 2073 IS

112th CONGRESS

2d Session

**S. 2073**

To prohibit the permanent relocation of F-16 aircraft assigned to Eielson Air Force Base.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES****February 6, 2012**

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

**A BILL**

To prohibit the permanent relocation of F-16 aircraft assigned to Eielson Air Force Base.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON RELOCATION OF F-16 AIRCRAFT.**

The Secretary of the Air Force--

(1) may not plan or execute the permanent relocation of any F-16 aircraft assigned to Eielson Air Force Base as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall ensure that the number of F-16 aircraft assigned to Eielson Air Force Base as of September 30, 2012, equals or exceeds the number of F-16 aircraft assigned to Eielson Air Force Base as of October 1, 2011.

END

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## **Sen. Begich questions F-16 move**

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by Jeff Richardson/jrichardson@newsminer.com

02.28.12 - 11:19 pm

FAIRBANKS — Sen. Mark Begich questioned the legality of the Air Force's plan to relocate its F-16 squadron from Eielson Air Force Base during a hearing Tuesday, asking Defense Secretary Leon Panetta whether such a move needed to be part of a formal process.

The Alaska Democrat spoke to Panetta during a Senate Budget Committee hearing on the Department of Defense budget request and said such significant moves are typically part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission process — known informally as BRAC — that is used to shift assets throughout the military.

On Feb. 3, the Air Force announced plans to move the 21-plane squadron from Eielson to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson by mid-2013, part of a proposed nationwide realignment that would affect 60 installations in 35 states.

Begich asked Panetta why such a major move wasn't part of the BRAC process. Eielson was targeted for closure in 2005 by the Defense Department but was deemed too strategically valuable to abandon by that year's BRAC members. The commission allowed only the partial downsizing of Eielson.

"That's the same debate we had with the BRAC, the exact same debate," Begich said. "We're not doing a BRAC now — we're just (relocating the squadron)."

The departure of the F-16 squadron would significantly alter the makeup of Eielson. Nearly half of the 3,100 military and civilian jobs at the base will be transferred to the Anchorage area if the move takes place.

Begich said he's received little explanation from the Air Force about why moving the F-16s makes strategic or economic sense. He said the move is especially mystifying in light of the Air Force's stated goal of boosting its role in the Asia-Pacific region.

"I don't get this, to be very frank with you, that it's almost like they picked a location ... but they're now starting the analysis," Begich said to Panetta.

Panetta recommended Begich talk to the Air Force to get more details about the process. When Begich said he hadn't received a satisfactory response from Air Force leaders, Panetta said he would get back to him with the information.

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# Legislative Journal

## Air Force to assess impact of F-16s move from Eielson

By Tim Bradner

*Alaska Journal of Commerce*

Alaska military officials are doing their best to soothe ruffled feathers in Alaska over the U.S. Air Force announcement that 21 F-16s based at Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks will be relocated to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage in 2013.

The relocation of military personnel and families will adversely affect the Fairbanks-area economy.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog, commander of Air Force and Army units in Alaska, told the Legislature's Joint Armed Services Committee Jan. 14 that an Air Force team will arrive in March to assess just how many personnel from Eielson will actually move.

Hoog said there are 300 to 500 military personnel at Eielson who are directly engaged with the F-16s and assuming a population multiplier of 2.1 to 2.3 when families are included, "we will see an impact," the general said.

The Alaska Air National Guard aerial refueling mission will remain at Eielson and some capital improvements relating to the tankers will continue, such as a planned upgrading of railroad track to the base that are used to transport fuel.

However, a planned \$45 million remodeling of base housing set for this year has been put on hold by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because of the announced move, Hoog said.

The Air Guard operates 9 KC-135 tankers from Eielson and performs refueling operations for military aircraft operating in northern areas and the Arctic, as well as other parts of the world. The tanker operation is vital and the Air Guard has been able to be "wheels up" with a loaded KC-135 with-

and their location, said Gen. Thomas Katkus, the Alaska Air Guard Commander, who was with Hoog in the briefing.

"We've never missed it," on that record, Katkus said. "There is no shortage of people asking for fuel (in the air). It's a growth industry."

Hoog said Eielson, meanwhile, will continue to be the main base supporting the annual Red Flag air combat training exercises, where air crews from the U.S. and other nations come to Alaska for training. The F-16s now at Eielson play the "aggressor" role in the training, and that will continue.

It also means that for part of the summers, the relocated F-16s will return to Eielson temporarily to participate in the exercises. The Red Flag exercises typically run from April to October, and this year will involve about 7,000 people from 73 units from eight nations.

Hoog said the Air Force hopes to save money in support of the F-16s at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson because of other aircraft based there, such as F-22s. Maintenance and other work can be done for all the aircraft, gaining efficiencies.

A member of the legislative committee, Sen. John Coghill, R-North Pole, said, "I appreciate that the Air Force sees continued value for Eielson for training, but I hate to see the pullout (of the F-16s). That is going to be an economic burden for my area, and also the Air Force. The efficiencies you anticipate are, to me, open to question."

Rep. Carl Gatto, R-Palmer, another committee member, asked Hoog that with another round of base closings possible, whether Eielson could be on the chopping block even with the tanker mission.

Hoog couldn't comment on the possible closings, but said, "We will need tankers (for aerial refueling) in Alaska. The

Force view, the relocation (of the F-16s) is part of the effort to reduce spending by \$8.5 billion in 2013."

On other matters, Hoog said improvements at missile defense facilities at Fort Greely and Clear Air Force radar site are continuing. A new power plant at Fort Greely is to be on line soon and Missile Field 2, a second set of launch silos, is to be completed.

"This will give us added silos when additional interceptors are purchased," Hoog said.

Fort Greely is operated by the Alaska Army National Guard, which have 200 soldiers employed full-time operating the facility.

Also, improvements to the missile radar facilities at Clear, south of Fairbanks, are continuing. The budget for middle defense improvements in Alaska is \$350 million this year, he said. About 60 Alaska Air Guard airmen are employed at Clear to provide support.

On planned reductions of civilian positions at Air Force and Army installations, Hoog said the goal is to eliminate 222 civilian positions at Eielson and 48 at Eielson, but that he was not informed as to the Army's plan at Fort Wainwright. As for the Air Force, an early retirement program has been reopened and some people are being moved to other positions.

Even after those moves, "It appears that there will still be 40 to 60 people that we cannot place," Hoog said.

One concern for Air Force and Army commanders is any reduction in civilian workers providing support to families of soldiers and airmen deployed overseas, the general said.

*Tim Bradner can be reached at*

Members, Senate State Affairs Committee,

As Mayor of Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) I am very concerned with the current relocation of the F-16 fighters. The strategic and operational advantages for this most northern USAF base are extremely important geographically and operationally. In addition, as my office undertakes a review of the impacts and review of known funding issues, I have heard numerous overview discussions before the US Senate that causes me to question the basis for this action. Understanding there is a congressional budget reduction called for and seen in the FY 13 funding proposals, the proposed Air Force savings that might be achieved with this relocation appear to be reused AF numbers from the 2005 BRAC that were shown to be inaccurate then and would be so now. I ask you to move this resolution forward so the AK Legislature can fully act on the passage of SJR20.

Luke Hopkins  
Mayor, FNSB

Introduced By: Mayor Cleworth  
Date: April 9, 2012

**RESOLUTION NO. 4521**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN AND OPPOSITION TO  
MOVEMENT OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AGGRESSOR SQUADRON AT EIELSON AFB TO JOINT  
BASE ELMENDORF/RICHARDSON (JBER)**

**WHEREAS**, the USAF Force Structure Adjustments includes the realignment of the 18<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron based at Eielson AFB to Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson (JBER); and

**WHEREAS**, normal programming actions were not followed in considering FY 2013 Budget Submission Programming Actions, and no site survey was conducted prior to the announcement which would analyze both financial and logistical data; and

**WHEREAS**, no cost savings have been identified, which raises many questions about the feasibility of the move; and

**WHEREAS**, the geographic location of Eielson gives it a strategic advantage in several theaters of operation, an advantage that is shared by few other bases; and

**WHEREAS**, the training opportunities afforded by the 63,000 square mile range adjacent to Eielson offer a resource that is unmatched elsewhere; and

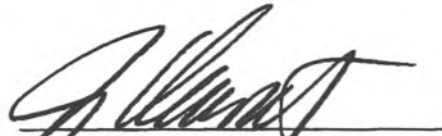
**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska has made a large capital investment of \$80,000,000 to help provide access to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex near Eielson AFB, strongly showing our commitment to the military in the interior of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, our Congressional Delegation has expressed their concern and dismay with the process, the lack of information that has been provided to them, and the justification for the move; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council is extremely concerned about the lack of transparency in this process, the ability to provide input up front, especially when considering the real costs associated with the move, the loss of the logistical importance that Eielson affords, and the effect it will have on families relocating, considering the disparity in the housing markets at both locations,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairbanks City Council opposes the Air Force's plan to relocate the 18<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron from Eielson AFB to Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson (JBER).

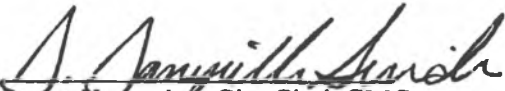
**PASSED and APPROVED this 9th Day of April, 2012.**

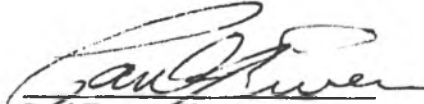
  
Jerry Cleworth, Mayor

AYES: PASSED and APPROVED on the Consent Agenda  
NAYS:  
ABSENT:  
APPROVED: April 9, 2012

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

for   
Janey Hovenden, City Clerk CMC

  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney