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Alaska State Legislature

News from the Joint Committee on Military Bases

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Senator Tim Kelly, Co-Chair
State Capitol, Room 101
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3822
Fax: (907) 465-3756
[Send E-Mail](#)



Rep. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2647
Fax: (907) 465-3518
[Send E-Mail](#)

Resolutions Call for New Criteria in Military Base Closure Actions

For Immediate Release: February 26, 1999

Contact: Senator Tim Kelly at (907) 465-3822
Representative Eldon Mulder at (907) 465-2647.

Juneau -- Senator Tim Kelly (R-Anchorage) and Representative Eldon Mulder (R-Anchorage) have introduced identical resolutions in the Alaska Senate and House of Representatives calling for the creation of new evaluation and selection criteria for any future military base closure actions. Senator Kelly and Representative Mulder co-chair the Alaska Legislature's Joint Committee on Military Bases.

"The Secretary of Defense is calling for two new rounds of military base closures in 2001 and 2005," Senator Kelly explained. "Before Congress authorizes a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to conduct those rounds, it should thoroughly review and revise the criteria and procedures used to evaluate our remaining bases."

"The world has changed dramatically since the Congress and the Department of Defense established the procedures for the first BRAC Commission in 1991," Representative Mulder stated. "As a result, America's military has shifted from a forward deployed force based overseas to a power projection force based within our own borders. The success of that force depends on its ability to synchronize all its elements on the ground, air, and sea into a total force that can conduct joint operations around the world. Future base structure decisions must reflect these force structure changes."

Senator Kelly and Representative Mulder noted that the process adopted by the BRAC Commissions in 1991, 1993, and 1995 allowed each of the Armed Services to develop categories for its own bases and then evaluate and rank

their own bases applying criteria established by the Department of Defense and Congress.

"Under these individual service evaluations, the concerns of the individual services overshadowed total force considerations," Senator Kelly said. "The old process doesn't fully recognize Alaska's bases' strongest points: strategic location and Army-Air Force Compatibility. It over-emphasizes our weakest point: cost."

Representative Mulder observed that the 1993 BRAC Commission recognized some of the shortcomings of this single service approach when it recommended that the Department of Defense develop procedures for considering potential joint or common activities among the services in several training and support areas.

"Acting on that recommendation, Joint Cross Service Study Groups were formed in 1994 to study five functional areas: Depot Maintenance, Military Medical Treatment Facilities, Test and Evaluation, Undergraduate Pilot Training, and Laboratories," he explained. "We believe that its time to expand that approach and incorporate it into any new law because that's how our Armed Forces will operate together in a changing strategic environment."

Senate Joint Resolution 12 and House Joint Resolution 21 ask the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Congress to establish new Joint Cross Service Groups (JCSGs) this year to study issues relating to power projection and deployment, joint training, joint operations, and other total force considerations. The JCSCs are directed to develop new evaluation and selection criteria and procedures based on their findings to be incorporated into any future BRAC proceedings.

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FISCAL NOTE

E Version: HJR 21
 (H) Publish Date: 3/10/99

STATE OF ALASKA
 1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____
 Title: HJR 21 - EVAL & SELECTION CRITERIA
FOR BRAC ACTIVITIES.
 Sponsor: REP. MULDER
 Requester: MLV COMMITTEE

Dept. Affected N/A
 BRU _____
 Component _____
 Component Serial No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by

CASEY SULLIVAN ^{HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE}
MILITARY & VET'S AFFAIRS.

Phone 4 3783

Phone _____

Date 3/9/99.**COMMITTEE COPY**

Bill History/Action Display



BILL: HJR 21 SHORT TITLE: MILITARY BASE REALIGNMENT/CLOSURE ACTIONS
BILL VERSION:
SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVES(S) MULDER, Murkowski, Kott, James, Phillips,
Foster

CURRENT STATUS: (H) RLS

STATUS DATE: 3/16/99

TITLE: Relating to new evaluation and selection criteria for military base realignment and closure actions.

Full Text Bill/Resolution has Zero Fiscal Note(s).

Bill History

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
2/26/99	<u>323</u>	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
2/26/99	<u>324</u>	(H) MLV, STA
3/09/99	<u>Text</u>	(H) MLV AT 4:30 PM SENATE FINANCE 532
3/09/99	<u>Text</u>	(H) MOVED OUT OF COMMITTEE
3/09/99	<u>Text</u>	(H) MINUTE(MLV)
3/10/99	<u>406</u>	(H) MLV RPT 5DP
3/10/99	<u>407</u>	(H) DP: MURKOWSKI, KOTT, JAMES, FOSTER,
3/10/99	<u>407</u>	(H) PHILLIPS
3/10/99	<u>407</u>	(H) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (H.MLV)
3/10/99	<u>407</u>	(H) REFERRED TO STA
3/10/99	<u>417</u>	(H) COSPONSOR(S): MURKOWSKI, KOTT, JAMES
3/10/99	<u>417</u>	(H) PHILLIPS, FOSTER
3/16/99	<u>Text</u>	(H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 102
3/16/99	<u>Text</u>	(H) MOVED OUT OF COMMITTEE
3/16/99	<u>466</u>	(H) STA RPT 6DP
3/16/99	<u>467</u>	(H) DP: JAMES, SMALLEY, KERTTULA, COGHILL,
3/16/99	<u>467</u>	(H) WHITAKER, OGAN
3/16/99	<u>467</u>	(H) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (H.MVA) 3/10/99
3/16/99	<u>467</u>	(H) REFERRED TO RLS

Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match

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MILITARY

Bill Root:

Display History/Action

Clear Bill Root

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BASIS Last Updated 3/19/99 3:15 PM



REPRESENTATIVE ELDON MULDER
DISTRICT 23 MULDOON-Ft. RICHARDSON



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPONSOR STATEMENT
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

This resolution asks the leaders of the Federal Government to reform the selection and evaluation criteria used in any future military base closure actions.

Previous Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commissions allowed each of the military services to develop categories for its own bases and then evaluate and rank their bases applying criteria established by the Department of Defense and Congress. Under these single service evaluations, the concerns of individual services often overshadowed total force considerations.

This process also seriously shortchanged Alaska's bases. Strategic location and established Army-Air Force compatibility, our bases' strongest points, were not fully recognized while their high cost in relation to other bases, our weakest point, was overemphasized.

HJR 21 calls for the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Congress to establish Joint Cross Service Groups this year to study the issues which shape our Armed Forces in the Twenty-first Century: power projection and deployment, joint training, joint operations and other total force considerations. These Joint Cross Service Groups will then develop new evaluation and selection criteria and procedures for future BRAC Commissions to ensure that total force and power projection factors receive increased consideration in future base closure decisions.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON MILITARY BASES

TOTAL FORCE CONSIDERATIONS MUST DRIVE BASE CLOSURE DECISIONS

by
Senator Tim Kelly

The Secretary of Defense is pushing Congress to authorize two new rounds of military base closures in 2001 and 2005. Congress should conduct a comprehensive review of the entire Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process before it agrees.

The world has changed dramatically since the BRAC process was originally established by Congress and the Department of Defense in 1991. Today, America's armed forces reflect those changes.

Our military has shifted from a forward deployed force based overseas to a much smaller power projection force based within our own borders. The success of this new force depends on its ability to combine each of its ground, air, and sea elements into a total force package capable of deploying to any trouble spot in the world and conducting fully synchronized joint operations.

The military's base structure must reflect the full impact of these force structure changes. Our most valuable bases in the Twenty-first Century will be those which support total force requirements for increased joint training between units of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines as well as provide streamlined power projection platforms to deploy these units overseas.

The BRAC process used in 1991, 1993, and 1995, however, inadvertently allowed individual service considerations to overshadow total force requirements. Under the old process, the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps each developed categories for its own bases and then evaluated and ranked their own bases applying criteria established by the Department of Defense and Congress. Consequently, when the Army prepared its closure recommendations, it only compared Army bases to other Army bases.

Alaska's bases were seriously shortchanged in these single service evaluations. The unique advantages of our bases were overlooked while their disadvantages were overemphasized.

The old process provided no method to measure and weigh all the total force advantages of having a large Army maneuver base, Fort Richardson, co-located on the same military reservation with a major air installation, Elmendorf Air Force Base. No mechanism existed for the Army to recognize and include in its considerations the value of

(more)

State Capitol, Room 507 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • Phone (907) 465-2647 • Fax (907) 465-3518
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our strategically located Joint Mobility Complex, the world's most modern and comprehensive power projection facility from which soldiers can be quickly sent anywhere around the globe, because it sits next to the runway on the Elmendorf side of the reservation. Alaska Command's highly integrated joint training, which has given the Army and Air Force units based here an unmatched ability to conduct joint air and ground operations, also went unnoticed.

But when the process required each service to emphasize cost comparisons between its own bases, the understandable higher costs of living and working in Alaska drew adverse attention.

Alaskans aren't the first people to recognize the shortcomings in the single service evaluation process. In its final report, the 1993 BRAC Commission recommended that the Department of Defense develop procedures for considering potential joint or common activities among the services in several training and support areas. This recommendation led to the formation of Joint Cross Service Study Groups (JCSGs) in 1994 to study five functional areas: Depot Maintenance, Military Medical Treatment Facilities, Test and Evaluation, Undergraduate Pilot Training, and Laboratories.

It's time to expand that approach. I've introduced Senate Joint Resolution 12 which asks the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Congress to form new Joint Cross Service Study Groups this year to study issues relating to power projection and deployment, joint training, joint operations, and other total force considerations. These new JCSGs are further directed to develop new evaluation and selection criteria and procedures based on their findings to be incorporated into any future BRAC proceedings.

It doesn't make any sense to close bases in 2001 and 2005 through a process that's not only ten years out of date but also contains a built in bias against our Nation's most strategically located military installations.

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Senator Tim Kelly (R-Anchorage) is Co-Chair of the Alaska Legislature's Joint Committee on Military Bases.