



# Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

CSSJR 18

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Relating to the closure of the USARAL Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) command radio station, AB7USA.

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### BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States Army has announced plans for the closure of the USARAL Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) command radio station, AB7USA, on Fort Richardson; and

WHEREAS this command radio station provides valuable communications links with many rural areas of Alaska where there are many amateur radio operators who are active MARS members; and

WHEREAS this station was instrumental in the 1964 earthquake in that it alone handled over 52,000 messages of inquiry and health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, during the 1967 Fairbanks flood, it was one of the control stations which was able to handle such vital emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, more recently, the station was again a focal point of emergency communications control during the Nome disaster; and

WHEREAS the closure of this station would seriously hinder emergency MARS amateur radio communications for Alaska in times of disaster and emergency; and

WHEREAS operation of the station only requires two full-time operators; and

WHEREAS MARS consists mainly of civilian amateur radio operators who have affiliated themselves with the USARAL MARS program to complement existing military and civilian communities

in times of need; and

WHEREAS the entire USARAL MARS program is largely dependent on the Fort Richardson command station;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it vigorously protests the announced closure of the United States Army MARS command station and urgently requests the United States Army to immediately cancel any and all plans for the closing of the command station at Fort Richardson.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Howard H. Callaway, Secretary of the Army; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.