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By: Luke T. Hopkins, Mayor
Diane Hutchison
Introduced: June 26, 2014

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 - 27

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DON YOUNG - ON HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MILITARY FORCE STRUCTURE IN ALASKA AND HIS RECENT WORK TO BRING THE F-35 LIGHTNING JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER TO EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE (EAFB), ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has begun its process of permanently stationing the F-35 Lightning Joint Strike Fighter at installations in the Continental United States (CONUS) and forward-basing Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS); and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Air Force is assessing operating bases for the F-35A to support Pacific Air Forces, which includes two United States candidate bases in Alaska – Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB) and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) – and three foreign OCONUS candidate bases; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Don Young has included a critical amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, to lead the effort to bring the F-35 Lightning Joint Strike Fighter to Eielson AFB by inserting preferred base criteria; and

WHEREAS, these criteria stipulate a preferred base is one that is “capable of hosting fighter-based bilateral and multi-lateral training opportunities with international partners,” as Eielson AFB already does multiple times per year during DISTANT FRONTIER and RED FLAG-Alaska, Pacific Air Forces’ (PACAF) premier combat training exercises; and

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WHEREAS, these criteria stipulate a preferred base is one that has “sufficient airspace and range capabilities and capacity to meet the training requirements,” which Eielson AFB possesses as the gateway to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC), a national asset and a one-of-kind joint training area consisting of varying terrain, conditions, and climate, realistic threats and targets, negligible restrictions and scheduling conflicts, and unencumbered airspace that is the size of entire states in the Lower 48; and

WHEREAS, these criteria stipulate a preferred base is one that has “limited encroachment that would adversely impact training or operations,” which Eielson AFB possesses as the gateway to the JPARC which is comprised of 67,000 square miles of airspace, 1.6 million acres of maneuver training lands and related 48,000 square miles of surface, subsurface and overlying airspace in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these criteria stipulate a preferred base is one that will “minimize the overall construction and operational costs,” as Eielson AFB will do with existing hanger space stemming from the redeployment of Eielson’s A-10 Warthog Fleet in 2007 and complimentary missions and wing-structures already existing at both Eielson AFB and JBER.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly and Administration commend U.S. Representative Don Young for his powerful effort to bring the F-35 Lightning Joint Strike Fighter to Eielson AFB and thank him for his long and distinguished service on behalf of the State of Alaska.

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PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF JUNE, 2014.

Karl Kassel
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Nanci Ashford-Bingham, MMC
Borough Clerk



A. René Broker
Borough Attorney

AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT
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