

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2012

General Mark McLeod
Brigadier General
Director of Logistics
Headquarters, Pacific Air Force
25 E Street, Suite I-326
Hickam AFB, HI 95863

Dear General McLeod:

On behalf of Alaskans from the Fairbanks area and from all over the state, I am forwarding you a petition regarding the proposed move of the F16 squadron from Eielson Air Force Base and the subsequent reduction in base operations.

Over 1600 Alaskans from all walks of life have signed the petition to express their concern about the negative impact the proposed action at Eielson will have.

As you know, Pacific Air Force's proposal will result in both direct and indirect job loss in the Fairbanks community. The ripple effect of "warm basing" Eielson will extend beyond the base to businesses and the housing market. North Star Borough Schools will lose students and funding, negatively impacting remaining students and teachers.

In short, drawing down operations at the installation outside of a formal Base Realignment and Closure process will leave the community bearing significant burdens without being afforded an opportunity to recover and offset the economic loss.

When this many people take the time sign a petition, it's a good indicator the public cares about the issue. I believe Alaska's high level of trust and respect for our military has been strained by the Air Force's actions. Elected officials recognize the weight this kind of petition drive represents, and I hope the Air Force does as well.

Thank you for your consideration of these petitions and impact on Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Mark Begich
United State Senator