

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2011

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
Pentagon 3E528
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary McHugh:

I understand the Army will be issuing a final decision on the stationing of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) in the near future. As you know, I understand the importance of additional aviation brigades to the Army's force structure but remain concerned about the impact of the stationing decision on United States Army Alaska (USARAK).

As I have outlined in previous correspondence, existing aviation assets at Fort Wainwright are an essential component of USARAK. I again urge you to consider USARAK's force structure and Alaska's global posture, training opportunities and ability to accommodate additional assets in a cost effective manner when making a final stationing decision of the 16th CAB.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I look forward to our continued work together. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator