

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

~~DCN 1211~~
1211

RECEIVED

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 25, 2005

05312005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,

DANIEL K. INOUE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUIE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

May 25, 2005

DCN 1121

RECEIVED

05312005

ORIGINAL

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Philip Coyle
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,

DANIEL K. INOUIE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

May 25, 2005

DCN 1211

RECEIVED

05312005

The Honorable Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,

DANIEL K. INOUE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

May 25, 2005

DCN: 1121
RECEIVED

05312005

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable James V. Hansen
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,

DANIEL K. INOUE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

May 25, 2005

RECEIVED

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable James T. Hill
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

05312005

Dear Commissioner Hill:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,


DANIEL K. INOUE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense


TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

DCN 1121

RECEIVED

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 25, 2005

05312005

The Honorable Lloyd Warren Newton
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Newton:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,

DANIEL K. INOUE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUIE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

May 25, 2005

DENTIST

RECEIVED

05312005

The Honorable Sue Ellen Turner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Turner:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

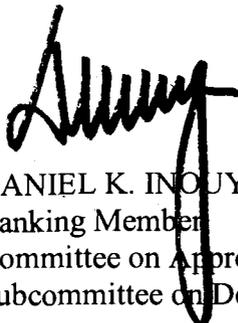
First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,



DANIEL K. INOUIE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense



TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUIE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

DCN 1121

05312005

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 25, 2005

RECEIVED

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

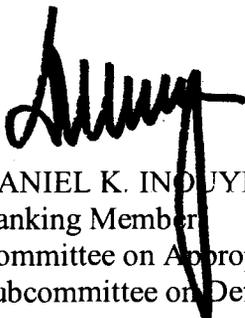
First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,



DANIEL K. INOUIE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense



TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

~~DCN 1121~~

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

DCN 1211
Executive Correspondence

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

RECEIVED

May 25, 2005

05312005

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Principi:

We are writing to express our concern with the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign and convert Eielson Air Force Base to a "warm" status. It appears that this is inconsistent with the criteria set out in law and the force structure plan. We believe the recommendation is faulty for the following reasons and urge you to reconsider the decision.

First, the recommendation could be detrimental to national security. Eielson is in a strategic forward-based location that allows units based there to respond to contingencies in Europe faster than units based on the East Coast. The same is true for the Pacific Theater. Eielson units can deploy to Korea more expeditiously than units based in California. Today, the primary mission of units stationed at Eielson is to reinforce our units in Korea. Our plans to reduce the number of aircraft and ground troops in Korea, makes the Eielson mission of greater strategic importance and value to our nation.

Second, Eielson is adjacent to vast airspaces and ranges that provide for exceptional training and joint experimentation opportunities. In fact, the installation sits right on the corner of one of the largest military operating areas in North America, in which pilots can fire conventional weapons. Eielson's close proximity to Fort Wainwright (home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team) facilitates joint training and operations which greatly improves combat readiness of both the Army and the Air Force. The installation has no environmental or encroachment issues and given the many limitations on continental U.S. installations, Eielson's airspace is some of our country's most valuable.

We urge you to visit Eielson Air Force Base during your review of the base realignment and closure recommendations. We strongly encourage you to attend the regional hearing scheduled in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 15, 2005. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider scheduling an Alaska visit to evaluate if the Defense Department's recommendation supports our national defense objectives.

We look forward to working with you during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Cordially,


DANIEL K. INOUE
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense


TED STEVENS
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense