

DCN 5609

June 29, 2005

Thomas A Heinrichs
1934 Tall Timbers Drive
Box 82305
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708



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Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

BRAC Commissioners,

Thank you for your recent visit to Eielson Air Force Base and its neighboring communities. I hope you will modify the BRAC recommendations and stop the realignment and mothballing of Eielson AFB.

I believe one of the most compelling reasons not to close Eielson is its central location in the Northern Hemisphere. I am sure you have be inundated with maps, mileage, and time-of-travel charts making this case. However, you do not need to take the word of any geographer, analyst, or pundit regarding the utility of Alaska as an international hub. Instead, follow the money. FedEx, United Parcel Service, Northwest Airlines and the U.S. Postal Service have all established major cargo sorting and distribution hubs in Anchorage. *If well-run, profitable, technology-leading logistics companies like FedEx and UPS are investing in Alaska, you can be certain they are gaining global advantage and receiving a significant return on their investment.*

These commercial hubs are in Anchorage, Alaska, 300 miles south of Eielson AFB. They are in Anchorage rather than Fairbanks to take advantage of the larger workforce and light-industrial capacity in Anchorage. In contrast, the Air Force has the personnel and capacity in place at Eielson to serve as a military air and logistics hub. Rather than halving the capability of the Air Force in Alaska from two major bases to one, I believe *the Air Force should look to the commercial logistics sector for leadership regarding how to best utilize and enhance existing Alaska assets to gain global military advantage.*

I favor a strong US military with every war-fighting advantage possible. Look in depth at the problem and I believe you will find Eielson AFB is an asset and advantage our country cannot do without.

Sincerely,

Thomas A Heinrichs

June 21, 2005

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2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sirs:

I think it would be a mistake to realign or close Eielson AFB. Eielson is near a small city, but far enough away so its airspace and the international airport and numerous small airports in the area do not have conflicting control areas. We have good flying weather almost all of the time. Its runway is second to none and its housing has been judged among the best in the military. It has been said that nothing done at Eielson can't be done at Elmendorf. I say that nothing done at Elmendorf can't be done at Eielson. Also, should an aircraft accident occur, it wouldn't be in the middle of a larger city, but away from a populated area. The largest expenses of maintaining the base will be keeping the infrastructure up and running. You will have to maintain the runway, roads, power plant, plumbing, electrical, phones, etc. whether the base is fully operational or kept in "warm" status. You have to pay the airmen currently stationed there, regardless of where you move them. It makes no sense, on whatever level, to realign the base. It is closest to the Great Circle Route and can deploy personnel and planes anywhere in the world faster than from anywhere else, including Elmendorf. It is really a stupid idea to close or realign this base and we urge you to put a stop to it by removing Eielson from the BRAC list.

Sincerely,



Margaret J. Griffin
3020 Super Cub Lane
North Pole, AK 99705

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June 22, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark St. #600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commission:

Every day we hear on the news about the growing threat of North Korea. We hear that they are developing nuclear grade material, but they don't have the bomb. Then we hear that they have the bomb, but they don't have a sufficient delivery system. Now the story is they have a medium range delivery system that could indeed deliver a nuclear payload to Alaska. Unlike nuclear threats of the past where build-ups were done as a deterrence to use - today's threats from North Korea and other terrorist states has everyone asking not if, but when. Our government should not respond to this critical threat against one of our United States and the critical early warning systems and vast oil fields housed in Alaska. We must not slate one of our most functional and important military installations in the nation for closure and redirect its resources to another base thousands of miles away.

An old cliché reads, "Those that don't learn from the mistakes of history are bound to repeat them." Beginning in the late 1930's through the beginning of the 1940's America began shifting much of its military out of the Pacific and into the Atlantic to deal with the rising threat of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi's. The realignment and pilfering of our Pacific military continued into 1941 despite growing tension and threats from the Japanese, which we all know came to a boiling point on Dec. 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor.

Now in 2005 it appears that we are ready to invite a repeat of history. Despite growing threats from countries like North Korea, the Department of Defense is ready to re-direct our military assets from where they are needed. Closing Eielson would be an enormous mistake with potentially dire consequences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Fischetti".

Michael Fischetti
10336 Stewart Drive
Eagle River, Alaska 99577