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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Mr. Anthony Principi	FROM:	Maj Gen Craig E. Campbell
COMPANY:		DATE:	8/5/2005
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PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S VOICE NUMBER:	907-428-6010
RE:	Preparation of DRAFT Report	SENDER'S FAX NUMBER:	907-428-6019

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS****OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

P. O. BOX 5800

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99505-0800

PHONE: (907) 428-6003

FAX: (907) 428-6019

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Committee
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

In preparation of the draft BRAC report, the State of Alaska requests the following points be considered.

1. Kulis ANG Base: The Air Force recommends closing Kulis ANGB and relocating the 176th Wing to Elmendorf AFB. In addition, the Air Force recommends increasing the size of the unit by four C-130 aircraft from Dyess AFB and making the unit an associate wing. The Air Force identified in their COBRA Study, a total cost of \$76.8M to relocate the 176th Wing. The July 2005 PACAF site survey identified actual relocation costs at \$185.8M.

The Alaska Air National Guard has held preliminary discussions with the Air Force 3rd Wing at Elmendorf AFB concerning the relocation recommendation and, while it is agreed that adequate space exists to accommodate the 176th Wing, there remains concern that the relocation be adequately funded. Governor Murkowski continues to withhold state concurrence until adequate funding is confirmed to the level identified by the PACAF team. While it is recognized that vacating the space at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport would be beneficial to the airport for future development, Governor Murkowski is concerned that under funding relocation of the 176th Wing will create an operational impact on the Alaska Air National Guard and may diminish their ability to support state missions.

2. Galena AFS: Subsequent to release of the BRAC report, BRAC commissioners voted to add Galena AFS to the closure list. Governor Murkowski is concerned that the impact of closing Galena AFS will be catastrophic to the local community. The loss of jobs at Galena and the closure of facilities currently being used by the community will be significant.

Community impact must be considered by the BRAC commission, and if closure of Galena AFS is necessary to meet our nation's defense objectives, sufficient community impact funding is required to compensate for this significant loss.

3. Eielson AFB: The State of Alaska does not concur with the realignment of Eielson AFB and the reassignment of aircraft. The Air Force substantially deviated from BRAC criteria when selecting Eielson AFB for realignment. The Air Force acknowledges that Eielson AFB is of high military value to our nation. While military value was the most significant criteria to be considered under BRAC, the Air Force subjugated national military value for cost savings to conclude that the base should be realigned. This is a grave error of national significance.

Eielson AFB is located within the Pacific Command (PACOM). It is one of only nine major Air Force installations in PACOM and one of only four major Air Force installations in PACOM situated on US territory. The Pacific is a region of increasing interest to the United States, with a number of serious national security threats. At a time of rising tension in the region and with increasing US concerns about regional stability, it would be a strategic blunder for the United States to send an unintended message to our nations adversaries that the US is reducing our interests in the Pacific. Realigning Eielson AFB to warm storage status and reassigning all Eielson fighter aircraft out of the PACOM theater, coupled with past and planned force reduction in other parts of this theater, would only reinforce the potential misunderstanding that the United States is reducing its military involvement in Asia.

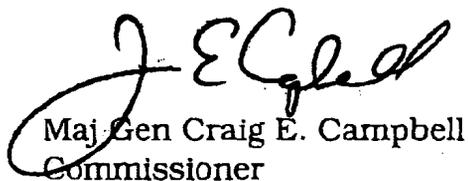
Governor Murkowski is also concerned that the proposed realignment of Eielson AFB may have a negative impact on the 168th Air Refueling Wing (ARW). While the Air Force identified that approximately 400 people would be retained to operate Eielson AFB, the recent PACAF site survey confirmed that it would actually take nearly four times that number to properly maintain Eielson AFB in a warm storage condition that provides all necessary services for full operation of the 168th ARW and keeps the base prepared for potential surge operations and training exercises. This dramatic increase in personnel and operational costs raises concerns that Eielson AFB may not be properly maintained to ensure full operational capability of the 168th ARW. It also brings into question the Air Force conclusions that Eielson should be placed into warm storage capacity because the full cost savings will not be achieved. Therefore, Governor Murkowski does not support the realignment of Eielson AFB, based on his concern that national security may be jeopardized; that US interests may be compromised in the Pacific region; that the reduced savings are not sufficient to warrant warm storage; that operations of the 168th ARW

may be jeopardized; and that the Air Force substantially deviated from BRAC criteria in reaching its conclusion to warm storage Eielson AFB.

The work of the BRAC commission is important to America. Unfortunately, the Air Force, in their zeal to achieve cost savings, did not adequately address many issues essential to reaching defensible conclusions. We are significantly concerned that the Air Force cost savings for both the Kulis and Eielson actions are grossly over valued and may, in fact, jeopardize the very missions the Air Force claims they want retained. We recommend that the BRAC Commission increase the costs associated with the Kulis relocation to those identified by PACAF, that adequate funding be identified to address the impacts of closing Galena AFS, and that Eielson AFB be removed from the BRAC list and remain fully operational with all currently assigned aircraft.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me personally.

Very Respectfully,



Maj Gen Craig E. Campbell
Commissioner

CF: Senator Stevens
Senator Murkowski
Congressman Young
Governor Murkowski
Sid Ashworth
Chuck Cogar
Bob Walsh
Jim Clark
Mike Nizich
Jim Dodson
Craig Hall
Ken Small
Brig Gen Scott