

DCN: 2599

Sponsored by: Mayor Jacobson  
Co-Sponsored by: Councilpersons Taylor,  
Williams, Isaacson & Pieczynski  
Introduced and Adopted: June 6, 2005

**CITY OF NORTH POLE  
RESOLUTION 05-11**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION TO REALIGN EIELSON AIR  
FORCE BASE**

WHEREAS, the North Pole City Council represents 1,600 residents and 100 businesses within the City of North Pole; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole is the closest community to Eielson Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole provides a family friendly environment, with excellent public schools, low crime rate and a strong healthy relationship between civilian and military leaders and populations; and

WHEREAS, based upon the BRAC selection criteria the city is shocked and disappointed by the announcement that Eielson Air Force Base has been identified by the Department of Defense for realignment; and

WHEREAS, Eielson is a vital and integral part of our nation's military mission, the State of Alaska, Interior Alaska and the North Pole area for more than 50 years, interjecting millions of dollars into the local and State economy, providing a skilled labor force and creating economic opportunity for a variety of businesses, large and small; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole is concerned about the overall impact this realignment would have on the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the State of Alaska; including the tremendous impact to local schools, retailers, and employers; we believe that Eielson holds a unique and important position to the overall defense of our nation which cannot be achieved by the placement of personnel and equipment elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Eielson is strategically positioned in the world, mere hours from any military mission within the northern hemisphere and the Pacific Rim and is the nearest air force base to the North Pole, making it a critical element of the nation's overall defense; and

WHEREAS, Eielson offers security for the Ground Based Midcourse Defense program, presently under construction at Fort Greely, located only 80 miles to the east; and

WHEREAS, Eielson's position provides protection for the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline System which carries 17 percent of our total domestic oil supply; and

WHEREAS, Eielson will provide that same security for the Natural Gas Pipeline when it is constructed; and

WHEREAS, Eielson's access to vast training resources including, 60,000 square miles of dedicated airspace and its proximity to Fort Wainwright, home of the Army's 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, provides the opportunity for real-world, joint training; and

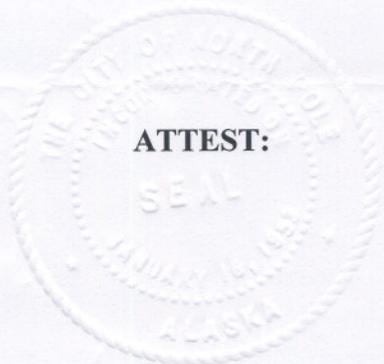
WHEREAS, the fiscal realities of maintaining Eielson in "warm" status will ultimately prove to save the Pentagon little in oval operation and maintenance cost, due in part to Eielson's strategic position related to reliable energy sources; its proximity with an existing rail connection to coal provided by Usibelli Coal Mine and aviation fuel provided by the Flint Hills and Petro Star Refineries; and the tremendous expense costs associated with maintaining utilities and buildings in arctic conditions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Pole City Council objects to the realignment of Eielson Air Force Base as proposed by the Department of Defense and requests that the Commission reverse the realignment recommendation and remove Eielson Air Force Base from the BRAC process; and

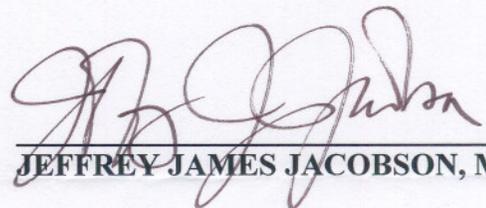
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to encourage the BRAC Commission to emphasize to President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, that Eielson Air Force Base is vital to the overall security of our nation and that the Department of Defense should seek to expand rather than diminish Eielson's strategic and unique position; and

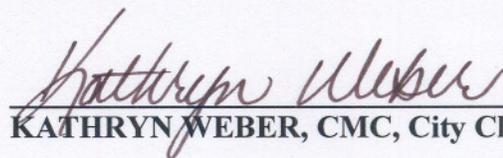
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Pole City Council urges all business owners and residents to attend the North Pole Town Meeting on June 9, 2005 and the BRAC Commission Hearing on June 15, 2005.

**Passed in North Pole, Alaska this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2005 by the North Pole City Council.**



**ATTEST:**

  
**JEFFREY JAMES JACOBSON, Mayor**

  
**KATHRYN WEBER, CMC, City Clerk**