



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

SEP 14 2012

General Herbert J. Carlisle
Commander, Pacific Air Forces
25 E Street, Suite G-214
JBPPH HI 96853-5420

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-0202

Dear Senator Murkowski

Thank you for your warm welcome back to the Pacific. It is a strategic centerpiece for our Nation's Air Force, and continues to grow in importance. I also thank you for your letter dated 5 September, and appreciate the opportunity to comment on our shared commitment to the issues affecting both our Airmen and the communities of Alaska.

I understand your concerns regarding the continued National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis at Eielson AFB. Although the Air Force Chief of Staff put all FY 2013 moves on hold, he also committed to continuing the environmental analysis required under the NEPA. These efforts were funded as part of the Site Activation Task Force (SATAF) prior to the FY 2013 hold. Continuing with the survey is not intended to be a precursor to any decision on Eielson AFB. This analysis allows the Air Force to understand the potential impacts of the proposal prior to making any decision, share the results of that analysis with Congress and the public, and include that information in any future decision-making process.

Specifically, you inquired about the scope of work, deliverables, and funding of the project. The NEPA analysis, in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA), was funded from Air Force Environmental Quality funds prior to the FY 2013 hold. Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) was the contractor selected to support the NEPA analysis at a cost of approximately \$210K, with a completion date of 28 Feb 2013. The scope of their work includes collection and analysis of data supporting preparation and publication of an EA. The data collection effort includes site visits with the Air Force and other governmental agencies having information relevant to the analysis. The EA will result in either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or the requirement to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

I also thank you for your comments regarding the demolition of facilities on Eielson AFB and your request to transfer ownership of three buildings (buildings 1161, 1190, and 1191) to the Alaska Air National Guard (AKANG). While the Air Force's intent is to reduce overall energy and

space utilization 20 percent by 2020, we understand the AKANG's desire to retain these three facilities. After conferring with my staff and Headquarters Air Force, I have decided it is in the best interest of both the Air Force and AKANG to transfer two of the requested Eielson AFB facilities (buildings 1190 and 1191) to the AKANG. The third facility, building 1161, is no longer being requested by the AKANG because it would cause the 168 ARW to exceed their space standards authorized by the Air National Guard. Therefore, I have directed that planned demolition be halted on all three buildings, and that buildings 1190 and 1191 be transferred to AKANG control. Accordingly, the AKANG will assume the costs of their utilities, refurbishment, and upkeep. PACAF will retain building 1161, and will revisit demolition plans next year in full consultation with the AKANG.

I appreciate your invitation to discuss these issues face-to-face during my upcoming visit to Washington, D.C. Like you, I am committed to maintaining the strong ties between Pacific Air Forces and our elected representatives. Thank you for all you do for our Nation and our military. If you require any additional information, please have your staff contact me at (808) 449-4501, or my PACAF Legislative Liaison, Major Rebecca Sadler, at (808) 449-4558.

Very respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herbert J. Carlisle', written in a cursive style.

HERBERT J. CARLISLE
General, USAF
Commander