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May 30, 2012

Colonel Robert D. Evans
Commander, 673rd Air Base Wing
10471 20th Street
Suite 139
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506

Dear Colonel Evans:

Because of the proposed relocation of the 18th Aggressor Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), 19 aircraft will be moved. Associated with the aircraft are 299 active duty airmen and their families. There are an additional 243 airmen and their families who would also move to Elmendorf-Richardson under the Air Force's proposal.

I am concerned with the housing situation for these airmen. As I understand it, JBER currently operates near capacity for housing, with approximately 450 soldiers housed in temporary trailers in February of this year. To exacerbate the problem, I question whether there is adequate housing in the Anchorage or Eagle River area to compensate for overflow from the base. The attached report from McDowell Group, Inc. showed a deficit in housing that will persist over the next 20 years in and around the Anchorage bowl. Because housing issues already exist at JBER and in Anchorage and the surrounding areas, I formally request a response to the following questions in a timely fashion related to housing on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

- What is the plan to accommodate the increase in personnel on the base that would be associated with the relocation of the 18th Aggressor Squadron to JBER?
- What is the current housing situation for airmen and soldiers at JBER in terms of capacity and flow of personnel on the base?
- How many total people are assigned to the base (by component and rank)?
- How many personnel are housed on base? How many are housed off base?
- What is your maximum capacity for housing (i.e. barracks versus on-base family housing versus temporary quarters)?
- How many airmen and soldiers are currently housed in "temporary barracks"?

In an effort to ensure transparency as the Air Force conducts operations, I anticipate a speedy response. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Captain Chris Bala at (202)224-3619.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Attachment: 2012 March Anchorage Housing Market Report

cc: Senator Levin
Senator McCain
Senator Inouye
Senator Cochran
Secretary Donley
Secretary McHugh