

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2014-14:

**SUPPORTING THE STATIONING OF THE F-35 LIGHTNING II JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER
AT EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE**

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force is currently conducting a Strategic Basing Analysis to determine the most strategic and cost effective location for stationing F-35 aircraft to be assigned to the Pacific Air Forces in support of the Asia-Pacific Theater; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 a strategic assessment of Pacific Air Forces installations affirmed the critical, long-term and strategic value of Eielson Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, Eielson Air Force Base anchors the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex comprised of 67,000 square miles of airspace, 1.6 million acres of maneuver training lands, and related 48,000 square miles of surface, subsurface and overlying airspace in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the training venues of Interior Alaska are recognized as national treasures; have unparalleled size, capability, and characteristics; are essential to joint, combined and coalition training of the United States forces and those of its global allies; and cannot be replicated elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Eielson Air Force Base's personnel and families live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, making them valued members of the "Fairbanks Family" and part of the social and cultural fabric of Interior Alaska providing essential services to our community and serving as educators, support staff, and other educational professionals within the school district; and

WHEREAS, school operations on Eielson Air Force Base have been an integral part of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District since the district assumed responsibility of base schools in 1975; and

WHEREAS, the district currently operates three schools on Eielson Air Force Base, as well as five schools in the nearby community of North Pole, and is well prepared to provide the influx of families as a result of the F-35 stationing with exceptional educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the district's commitment to meeting the educational needs of Eielson Air Force Base families is further demonstrated by the fact that Eielson is represented by a delegate on our Board of Education, which has been the case for close to 40 years; and

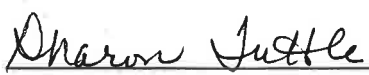
WHEREAS, no other region of the country or the United States Pacific Command Area of Responsibility can offer the United States Air Force as strategic, cost effective and welcoming alternative for stationing the F-35 *Lightning II* aircraft; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education strongly urges the Secretary of the Air Force; Chief of Staff of the Air Force; and Commander, Pacific Air Forces to station the F-35 *Lightning II* Joint Strike Fighter at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED: April 1, 2014


Heidi Haas, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:


Sharon Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board

