



18 November 2020

Alaska Civilian Armed Services Team (ACAST)

Memorandum of Support for United States Space Command Headquarters relocation to Anchorage Alaska

Greetings from the Alaska Civilian Armed Services Team (ACAST). ACAST is a volunteer/pro-bono advisory activity, and participants serve as appointed by the Governor of the State of Alaska. The Purpose and Duties of ACAST is to “provide strategic and actionable recommendations to the Governor in the form of task-specific briefings and reports informed by strategic planning documents, and recommend appropriate strategies for direct, ongoing civil-military collaboration, to:

1. Maintain and increase Alaska’s military capacity and capability in both the active component and guard and reserve forces; and
2. Acquire future missions, infrastructure, and recurring military exercises in Alaska for military forces based inside and outside of the state.”¹²

As a cross-functional and multidiscipline team of leaders, ACAST wholeheartedly advocates to the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, for establishing United States Space Command (USSPACECOM), in Anchorage, Alaska. ACAST notes that Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is a secure and spacious military base well suited to establish a 4-star headquarters.

ACAST understand as the Department of the Air Force, in its capacity as the Department of Defense Executive Agent supporting USSPACECOM is the decision authority to establish basing location for the unified command. It is understood the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, supported by the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, will make a final decision in “early 2021” (according to news carried in the open press) for a basing decision for U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM).

ACAST believes Anchorage Alaska is ideally suited to host USSPACECOM and the Anchorage area provides a number of benefits in supporting a functional unified command of the U.S. military, led by a 4-star flag/general officer and comprised of approximately 1,400 military and civilian personnel, plus supporting industry. Anchorage meets and exceeds the three minimum criteria:

The State of Alaska ACAST understand the competition for hosting USSPACECOM is keen. However, Alaska is a space-oriented state, and is geographically aligned to simultaneously close to Europe (via polar routes) and the Asia Pacific region. As a functionally aligned Unified Command, locating USSPACECOM in Anchorage, provides a geographic location well suited to supporting U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Indo Pacific Command, and even U.S. European Command (again via polar transit). From a warfighters’ perspective, locating USSPACECOM in Alaska serves as a deter and dissuade

¹ <https://gov.alaska.gov/admin-orders/administrative-order-no-291/>

² ACAST is Co-chaired by Mr. Bill Popp, President and Chief Executive Officer of Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) private nonprofit corporation (IRS code 501(c)(6)), operating since 1987 in Anchorage Alaska. Fellow Co-chair is Randy “Church” Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret), Executive Director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage.



role for America's potential adversaries, who will see such a basing decision well aligned to American resolve to secure and defend the nations' space interests.

Since establishment as a team in late 2018, ACAST has advocated a number of measures important to military members and their families stationed in Alaska who support these members during their tenure of service with the State. Chief among these are professional license portability for military spouses and quality education opportunities for school-age dependents. ACAST will continue to advocate for military spouse reciprocity and license compacts with participating states for the Alaska Governor for policy and the Alaska State Legislature for corresponding statutory measures.

In sum, from a comprehensive vantage of opportunity...JBER and the Anchorage Alaska area provides remarkable value:

- A region that is strategically superior to support U.S. space interests.
- A well established and mutually supportive relationship between the military and the surrounding city.
- A location where people love to live: Anchorage is a vibrant metropolitan area, with respected universities, arts and businesses, with unparalleled outdoor adventures located in the immediate vicinity.
- A pro-military State that prizes its commitments to the service members and their families.

The ACAST will be an ally of the USSPACECOM and their personnel. We will affirm this commitment by advocating for the success of the current mission and future endeavors.

Respectfully presented.

v/r


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