

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

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Submitted by: ASSEMBLY CHAIR OSSIANDER

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: March 13, 2012

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2012-73

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING GOVERNOR PARNELL'S REQUEST TO HIRE A CONSULTING GROUP TO ASSIST IN DEFENDING AGAINST UNWARRANTED REDUCTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE IN ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense has recently announced plans to make significant budget reductions in Alaska and other states, and intends to ask Congress to make additional budget reductions through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's geographic location has been recognized since World War II as providing strategic military advantage to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force can gain quick access to the Pacific and European theaters from bases in Alaska, and can transition across the Arctic to arrive in Europe faster than forces departing from the East Coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the 63,000-square-mile Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex provides United States military forces a unique and unparalleled military training environment; and

WHEREAS, securing and providing search and rescue capabilities for Alaska's 663,000 square miles and 6,640 miles of coastline stretching from Southeast Alaska to the Arctic creates the necessity for cooperation from all of our armed forces and their installations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's 32 military installations, 24,000 active-duty Reserve and National Guard troops, and annual payroll of more than \$1.5 billion together comprise 13 percent of the state's economy and would be greatly impacted by significant reductions in the U.S. military presence; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is fortunate to be the home of the Joint Base operation of Elmendorf and Richardson as well as significant Reserve and National Guard forces with approximately 10% of our population consisting of military personnel and their families, and

WHEREAS, Alaskans responded to a BRAC review in 2005 by standing together to resist unwarranted reductions in the U.S. military presence in Alaska and successfully maintained Eielson Air Force Base as a fully operational installation; and

WHEREAS, a cooperative, active, vigorous, and well-supported effort is again required to defend military bases in Alaska from federal spending reductions that threaten our strategic national security; and

1 WHEREAS, Governor Sean Parnell has asked the Alaska State Legislature to approve
2 his request for \$300,000 in a supplemental budget bill to engage the services of national
3 consultants skilled in coordinating efforts by states to advocate for the effectiveness of their
4 military installations;

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6 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly calls on the
7 Alaska State Legislature to support and quickly approve the Governor's request to hire a
8 consulting firm to advise the state on strategies to defend against unwarranted reductions in
9 the United States military in Alaska for the long-term benefit of our city, our state and our
10 nation.

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12 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 13th day of
13 March, 2012.

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18 Chair

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20 ATTEST:

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25 Municipal Clerk