

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, 673D AIR BASE WING JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

Colonel Patricia A. Csànk Commander, 673d Air Base Wing and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson 10471 20th Street, Suite 139 JBER, AK 99506

Scenic Foothills Community Council 7801 E 32nd Ave Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear President Groth and Members of the Scenic Foothills Community Council,

I received your resolution—thank you for the time and consideration you put into it. JBER and the greater Anchorage community have worked side by side for decades to our mutual benefit, and it is a priority for me to grow our community partnerships.

Due to an increase in trespassing, my staff looked at several alternatives to help restore a healthy balance of training and recreational use for JBER land. Since last October, 45 percent of our total joint-use acreage was open for recreating. However, recreating extended beyond open areas and days, putting both the public and our service members at risk. This activity curtails, and often cancels critical combat readiness training.

In response to your request, we continue to evaluate JBER training areas 424, 429, 430, Bulldog Trail, and the footbridge over North Fork Campbell Creek and the availability to community members signed into iSportsman during non-training days for recreation. I also accept your offer of assistance in creating better communication and awareness in and around JBER training areas. You are right—consistent signage is critical for clarifying recreating rules.

I am sending our Public Affairs teams to community council meetings—including yours—to share current installation policies and solicit feedback to increase compliance with safe recreating guidelines. My team also plans to conduct a perimeter walk to identify frequently used access points and inconsistent signs. We would love to have you join us in this effort and will extend an invitation to you soon. I hope to have your assistance with refining our grassroots messaging.

I am committed to ensuring a safe, responsible balance between our mission to deliver combatready forces for our nation's defense and compatible public recreational use of JBER lands. Thank you for your continued support as we further enhance our relationship.

Sincerely,

Colonel, USAF

Commander