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Legislature Urges Raptors to Land at EAFB

(JUNEAU) - The House unanimously approved a resolution Friday that encourages the Air Force to base some of its new F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The F-22 is expected to be the dominant fighter in the world for the next three decades, according to the Air Force. Designed to replace the aging F-15 aircraft, the Raptor combines low-range observation, supercruise capability, increased range, and enhanced offensive and defensive avionics to give its pilots first-look, first-shot, and first-kill capability against enemy aircraft. The F-22 is being developed to counter lethal threats posed by advanced surface-to-air missile systems and next-generation fighters equipped with launch-and-leave missiles.

“Basing the F-22 at Elmendorf AFB makes sense for at least two reasons—Alaska’s strategic proximity to Europe and Asia, and the size of the military training area in our state,” said Sen. Loren Leman (R-Anchorage), sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 3.

Leman also noted that deployment of the Raptors at Elmendorf would provide a boost to the state’s economy, bringing \$150 million to \$300 million to Alaska during the construction phase, and adding 846 new personnel to the deployment area over a three-year period.

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Excerpts of Rep. Murkowski’s floor speech in support of SJR 3 are available on the Majority Actuality Line at 800-478-6540.