



HEADQUARTERS
ALASKAN COMMAND (ALCOM)
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99506

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Lieutenant General Dana T. Atkins
Commander, Alaskan Command
9480 Pease Avenue, Suite 110
JBER, AK 99506-2101

The Honorable Lisa A. Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0201

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the key role the Port of Anchorage plays in our national security and its importance to Alaska's five major military installations.

In 2004, the Maritime Administration designated the Port of Anchorage as one of America's 19 National Strategic Ports. The Port of Anchorage supports our mission and requirement to receive and deploy combat forces stationed in Alaska. Alaska is now home to an Army Stryker brigade, an airborne brigade, and a combat aviation brigade, with the likelihood of additional forces being home-stationed here in the future. Since 2005, almost 18,000 pieces of military cargo in the form of combat vehicles, weaponry, and support equipment have passed through the Port. Over 33 million gallons of military aviation fuel is received annually by barge and tankers offloading via the Port. Our ability to project this power to combat theaters around the globe depends heavily upon sealift through the Port of Anchorage.

The Port of Anchorage's commitment under the Strategic Port program to provide at least 25 acres of land area within its boundaries during a deployment is key to the efficient staging and loading of our combat equipment. Due to the high worldwide operations tempo, we have executed several large military movements through the Port recently.

The Port of Anchorage is not only the strategic hub for military deployments and operations, it is also one point of throughput for the commodities we stock in our base exchanges, commissaries, and troop stores in support of 55,000 military and family members in Alaska.

I look forward to continuing the long and successful partnership between the Port and Alaskan Command forces for many years to come.

Respectfully

Dana T. Atkins
DANA T. ATKINS
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander