



[Alaska Civilian-Armed Services Team \(ACAST\) Read Ahead Document](#)

Note #1: This read ahead is an informal working paper and intended only to facilitate discussions of ACAST. The below contents do not reflect any particular member of ACAST or any particular organization or entity associated of ACAST participants.

Note #2: ACAST is a volunteer pro-bono advisory activity, and participants serve as appointed by the Governor of the State of Alaska.

Overall guidance:

In accordance with the [ACAST Administrative Order 291 Purpose and Duties](#) the ACAST “shall 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.”¹

Potential Items of Action for ACAST in support of Calendar Year 2020.

The following is a brief summary of potential strategic and actionable topic for consideration to serve in developing recommendations for Governor Dunleavy which could result in onward actions to aid in implementing ACAST recommendations (in accordance with Admin Order 291).

- Build-out/seek implementation of ACAST 2018 Report recommendations.
 - Each recommendation was developed and supported by ACAST...and most/all remain relevant for onward action/implementation.
- Develop strategy recommendations on military force structure and readiness needs focused on the developing security landscape near Alaska and the U.S. Arctic, and which can result in a U.S. Federal infusion of resources that benefit assigned forces and advance the economy of the State of Alaska.
 - Affirmation, advocacy and engagement with DoD and USAF for the establishment of KC-46 “Pegasus” air refueling platforms to replace Eisenhower era KC-135s.
 - Considerations to charter case study to analyze benefits of Alaska-based KC-46 tankers.
 - Funding refurbishment of key National Guard armories in rural Alaska, which could serve as a catalyst for recruiting.
 - Advocacy in basing new USCG Polar Security Cutters PSC (or at least one) in Alaska as opposed to current location in the Port of Seattle.

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



- Even one PSC located in an Alaska based port outside of Arctic puts USCG ice breaking response much closer to U.S. Arctic ice breaking missions than in Seattle.
 - Advocacy in U.S. Navy to re-establish dedicated facilities in the Aleutians.
 - Invitation for U.S. Marine Corps to consider Alaska for the kinds of Arctic and cold weather training and routine exercises similar to what they conduct now in Norway.
 - Advocacy to DoD and USAF to replace AK National Guard HH60s with CV-22s.
 - Considerations to charter case study to analyze benefits of Alaska-based CV-22s that can be a potential game changer in speed of response for Search and Rescue.
 - Important to note, a transition from HH60s to CV-22s should not be a down-scope activity...numbers of airframes are the key driver for emergency response, not cargo hold capacity.
 - Understand the minimum number of needed airframes is at least eight.
 - Advocacy for mission and installation enhancements on the Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI), based on the mission importance to U.S. defense.
 - GBI force has a zero fail mission responsibility. Is the GBI force and support structure aligned to best support this responsibility?
 - Is there value for chartering a case study to analyze areas of useful improvement?
- Develop recommendations that add to resiliency of the State of Alaska in domestic crisis/emergency.
 - Gain understanding/charter a study that looks at vulnerability gaps and shortfalls in Alaska in crisis.
 - Discuss thoughts, provide options for a composite civil-mil/crisis response team for community assistance. Options to recommend putting forward a table top or other sort of exercise as a “proof of principal” to learn what works and what does not work so well in civil-mil crisis response.
 - Does the COVID-19 crisis provide particular or unique opportunity to advance such resiliency?
- Develop and recommend engagement activities that showcase military forces in Alaska.
 - State of Alaska partnering with 11 AF, U.S. Army Alaska, Alaska NORAD Region, Alaska Command and U.S. Coast Guard District 17 to conduct a “fly-in” of Federal, Business and Congressional Leaders.
 - Engagement with “BENS” (Business Executives for National Security)² and other business/industry professionals that support military and veterans in a community by community approach in highlighting Alaska’s military.
- Develop recommendations which serve to better integrate and achieve a more holistic sense of community between active duty, National Guard and the municipalities located near installations.
 - While Alaska’s neighboring municipalities to military installations and facilities care deeply about “their” installations, what are missed opportunities or ideas which, if

² <https://www.bens.org/>



taken will improve relationships and sense of community between the installations and surrounding civilian businesses, local governments and more?

- Recommendations to support Alaska National Guard for improved engagement in recruiting rural Alaska?
 - What messages and opportunities in mission and activities for military service may better appeal to recruiting age citizens in rural Alaska?
 - What are some possible new strategies and methods in communicating opportunities and purpose of serving may be more effective than current approaches?
- Recommendations to support improved approaches in protection and resiliency in light of COVID-19 National Emergency (in accordance with existing State of Alaska declarations and orders) as relates to military and supporting communities?
- Other recommendations for consideration?

Conclusion

In accordance with the administrative order, ACAST conducts a minimum of quarterly meetings and an annual report. Based on the inadvertent loss of time following the submission of the ACAST 2018 report until restart of committee-wide activities in January 2020, ACAST has the opportunity to provide recommendations for action that can be implemented in advance of the Annual ACAST report. One of the most pressing question to the committee, is which of the above possible recommendations and in what priority/sequence are most suitable to advance?

