

5 Nov 2020



Alaska Civilian-Armed Services Team (ACAST) Meeting Summary 9 October 2020

The below is a written summary of the ACAST meeting held on 9 Oct 2020, via Cisco WebEx Teleconference. Note, details are included in the Cisco meeting recording sent via email.

Attendees included:

Thomas J. Barrett, VADM, USCG (Ret), Maj. Gen. (AK) Torrence W. Saxe, Randy "Church" Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret), Mr., Bill Popp, Mr. Stanley Wright, Mr. John Whiddon, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Carl Uchytel, Mr. Joshua Church.

Unable to join:

Douglas Goodwin (due to ACAST having outdated contact information)

Additional participants included:

DMVA Special Assistant Stanley Wright, DMVA member Gina Ritacco, DVMA Deputy Commissioner Mr. Craig Christenson, Mr. Jason Roe (ADAC)

Discussions.

Meeting was called to order by ACAST Co-Chair, Church Kee.

- Brief review of the associated read ahead and noted that both the agenda and read ahead are informal working papers and intended only to facilitate discussions of ACAST. Unless so reflected the contents of working papers do not reflect any particular member of ACAST or any particular organization or entity associated of ACAST participants.
- Reminded that Co-Chairs will alternate chairing meetings.
- Also noted was that ACAST remains a volunteer pro-bono advisory activity, and participants serve as appointed by the Governor of the State of Alaska in accordance with the Administrative Order 291 establishing ACAST by then State of Alaska Governor, Bill Walker.
- Reference order: <https://gov.alaska.gov/admin-orders/administrative-order-no-291/>

Conducted Order of Business:

- 1) Briefly reviewed last actions of ACAST 2020 Meeting #2 (see prior summary) on 24 Jun 2020. Motioned for approval of 24 April 2020 Meeting, seconded and put to a vote. Motioned carried with no dissent.
- 2) Co-Chair Kee related that ACAST had been unable to reach member Mr. Goodwin, and DMVA Special Assistant Mr. Wright, took it for action to resolve. Note: subsequently, Mr. Goodwin has been reconnected to ACAST and catch-up with Co-Chairs is planned in advance of next ACAST meeting.
- 3) Co-Chair invited DMVA Commissioner to provide an update from the Alaska National Guard:



- a) National Guard has had 25 or 30 positive Coronavirus 2019 (COVID19), no member or family has had to be hospitalized.
- b) Alaska National Guard involved with food distribution and election support, and COVID 19 contact tracing
- c) If Pandemic or other crisis materializes, AK National Guard has qualified “Dual status commander” (able to command Title 10, Title 32 and Guardsmen serving in state status) and has someone identified ready if/as needed, extended through the end of the year.
- d) Alaska National Guard’s Joint Task Force (JTF) is ready to respond, to include the following important crisis capabilities:
 - i) Logistics
 - ii) Med/Aviation
 - iii) COVID Response
- e) Basing for HQ U.S. Space Command [while meeting discussed Space Force, the intent of the conversation was for U.S. Space Command, (USSPACECOM) a functional Unified Command].
 - i) Highlighted Alaska Aerospace President/CEO Mark Lester at Kodiak Launch Facility was leading the effort to advocate for establishing a new enduring location for HQ USSPACECOM (which was reconstituted early in the Trump administration). The initiative seeks to have USSPACECOM HQ relocated from its provisional HQ near Colorado Springs CO to the Anchorage area (Joint Base Elmendorf is the likely preferred location). Alaska has made it through the first round of review for the new Headquarters.
 - ii) DMVA drafting letter for the Governor. Requested ACAST to provide a memo of support.
 - iii) HQ SPACECOM final decision will be made approximately Jan 2021 by the Secretary of the Air Force (As the Department of the Air Force is the Executive Agent of USSPACECOM).
 - iv) Note: HQ U.S. Space Force as a Service Headquarters, is located in the Pentagon, Arlington, VA.
 - v) Basing location requirements/factors include:
 - (1) Available Office Space
 - (2) Proximity to Military Installation and major transportation facilities
 - (3) Population size of supporting community (a minimum threshold of community size).
 - (4) Supporting community education also part of the suitability review (for dependent children).
 - (5) Deliberations so far are proceeding at a measured pace, with initial General Officer review conducted so art GO support through first round
 - (6) HQ USSPACECOM will directly employ between 500 and 1,000 personnel,
 - (a) Large boost to Alaskan economy
 - (b) Alaska already IS a space state: Ground Missile Defense at Ft Greely, Space Control at Clear Air Force Station, Commercial Launch (Medium Lift) facilities at Kodiak Space Port, Early Warning at Eareckson Air Station (Shemya), North Warning System radars, Poker Flat (University of Alaska Fairbanks) launch site.
 - (c) Alaska is ideally suited for expanded efforts in Polar Launch and is integral to North American early warning.
 - (7) While many appreciate the value of the Kodiak Launch Facility, there are certain number of local Kodiak Residents are not completely happy with launch facility, on hiking and hunting land.
 - f) KC-46 Pegasus, next generation air refueling aircraft as replacement to legacy (Eisenhower era) KC-135 air refueling aircraft at Eielson AFB.



- i) Three locations are on the table for Pacific Air Forces locations to base KC-46 aircraft: Hawaii, Guam or Eielson AFB.
- ii) Alaska has the largest concentration of 5th Generation fighters, suitable ramp space housing, maintenance and operations facilities. Hawaii has limited ramp space, Guam may have future air defense concerns, and both are located well away from great circle transit routes. Eielson is the only location of the three that can help project airpower into/across the Arctic region.
- iii) North Star Borough are fully supportive of KC-46 aircraft at Eielson AFB.
- iv) Requested ACAST to provide a memo of support.
- g) Long Range Radar at Clear Air Force Station. Concerns about radar development is lagging in construction. "Holistic support is needed to keep pushing forward."
 - i) Cost going higher and higher, don't want the cost or timeline to be pushed any more. Very important that the project is completed on current timeline.
 - ii) Requested ACAST to provide a memo of support.
- h) DMVA can provide fact sheets for USSPACECOM, KC-46 and Clear AFS Radar.
- 4) Action: ACAST Co-Chairs will develop memos for USSPACECOM, KC-46 and Clear AFS Radar advocacy.
- 5) New Business: Inputs from each attending member of ACAST. New or renewed items of interest, concern or opportunity? The following is a summary of discussions:
 - a) Needs to defend and secure the Bering Sea Region
 - i) Deepwater Port, ability to protect EEZ from Russian incursion, is challenging to protect
 - ii) Little progress and a lot of equivocation.
 - iii) New Russian Military presence in US EEZ: 25-26 August Russian Operation "Ocean Shield" descended on fishing grounds in the US EEZ. Multi-service, Multi-fleet Russian Military Exercise in US Waters. Threatened US Pollock Fleet. Not on National Radar. Tied into possible new Russian strategic approach
 - iv) Is there are way to bring more national focus to these activities
 - (1) One aspect of bringing focus: Senator Sullivan (as the Chair of the Senate Security Subcommittee on Transportation, Commerce and Science) is holding hearing on U.S. Coast Guard efforts in Alaska and the Arctic, rescheduled from 22 September 2020 to tentatively 8 December 2020. ACAST Co-Chair Kee is witness #2 for this hearing.
 - (2) In 1980s, videos of Russians fishing in US EEZ created pressure.
 - (3) Principal issue, is how well prepared and resourced is U.S. Coast Guard to project and sustain presence in region to deter and dissuade?
 - v) Defending and securing the Bering Sea EEZ likely warrants a separate memorandum of ACAST Advocacy.
 - b) Continued advocacy of the Alaska Marine Highway System (for Federal recapitalization)
 - i) Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) needs to stay on the radar as a key issue of security concern.
 - ii) September 2020 report to Alaska Governor on current issues to AMHS.
 - iii) AMHS is anticipated as a legislative issue.
 - iv) AMHS advocacy needs to not get in front of Alaska Governor decision making.
 - c) Port of Alaska Recapitalization.
 - i) Congressional infrastructure advocacy is crucial
 - d) Cyber Academy, defense industry base IAW Native corporations
 - i) Funding bill
 - ii) Anchorage Center of cyber-security Excellence



- iii) Could support Space Command
 - iv) Could produce 100s of Cyber techs annually
 - e) Communications and Connectivity: Low Earth Orbit (polar) Satellites and Broadband
 - f) UA Center of Economic Development
 - i) Supply Chain analysis and investment
 - ii) Areas to reduce costs and upgrade efficiency
 - g) Spousal Reciprocity issues remain: Licensure, could hinder developments, this is something that Legislature needs to address.
 - h) A2A Railroad, New Rail lines Alaska to Alberta.
 - i) If developed, include railroad spur/connection to Eielson AFB and connection from Fairbanks to Arctic Sea Port (Nome).
 - i) CARES ACT
 - i) Dispersed over 3.5 million dollars
 - ii) Assisted 242 businesses
 - iii) Business climate will be different
 - j) Advancing Alaskan Shipyard and contingency operating ports. Congressional funding is needed to develop ports that can serve as part of commercial and government maritime operating locations that support U.S. National interests in the North Pacific, Bering and Chukchi Sea regions.
 - k) Veterans Care. DMVA to provide ACAST an update on State of Alaska Activities in support of Alaskan Vets. Concern is -20% increase of Veteran suicides in recent months
- 6) Future task: Develop 2020 Annual Report for DMVA Commissioner. Provide draft in advance of December 2020 meeting.
- 7) Established tentative date for next meeting (planning early December 2020).
- 8) Meeting chair provided recap discussion and gained closing reflections from ACAST participants.
- 9) Meeting chair requested motion to conclude meeting, which was received, seconded, and voted with no dissent. Meeting was adjourned.

End of Report.

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Annex



5 November 2020

Alaska Civilian Armed Services Team (ACAST)

Memorandum of Support for United States Space Command Headquarters relocation to Anchorage Alaska

Greetings from the Alaska Civilian Armed Services Team (ACAST). ACAST is a volunteer/pro-bono advisory activity, and participants serve as appointed by the Governor of the State of Alaska. ACAST was established by State of Alaska Administrative Order 291, under State of Alaska Governor Bill Walker. The Purpose and Duties of ACAST is to "provide strategic and actionable recommendations



ACAST...Actionable recommendations to improve the Defense and Security Landscape in Alaska.

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."¹²

As a cross-functional and multidiscipline team of leaders, ACAST respectfully advocates to the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, for establishing United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) (reconstituted in 2018 by Secretary of Defense recommendation and Presidential decision), in the vicinity of Anchorage, Alaska. ACAST notes that Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is a secure and spacious military base well suited to establish a 4-star headquarters.

ACAST understand as the Department of the Air Force, in its capacity as the Department of Defense Executive Agent supporting USSPACECOM is the decision authority to establish basing location for the unified command. It is understood the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, supported by the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, will make a final decision in "early 2021" (according to news carried in the open press) for a basing decision for U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM).

ACAST believes Anchorage Alaska is ideally suited to host USSPACECOM and the Anchorage area provides a number of benefits in supporting a functional unified command of the U.S. military, led by a 4-star flag/general officer and comprised of approximately 1,400 military and civilian personnel, plus supporting industry. Anchorage meets and exceeds the three minimum criteria:

- The location must be within one of the 150 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S., based on 2019 population estimates from the Census Bureau. (Anchorage is #69)³
- The location must be within 25 miles or less of a military base. (Anchorage is home of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, headquarters to Alaska Command, 11th Air Force, Alaska NORAD Region, U.S. Army Alaska, and Alaska National Guard Joint HQ)
- The location must have a livability index score of at least 50 points out of 100, based on statistics kept by AARP's Public Policy Institute. (Anchorage scores a total score of 50.)⁴

South Central Alaska is home to Alaska Aerospace Corporation, with business offices in Anchorage and space launch operations at the Kodiak Pacific Spaceport Complex, a state-of-the-industry spaceport on Kodiak Island.⁵

USSPACECOM, a unified command, will provide combatant command for all operational space forces assigned to the military services, which will include the newly approved U.S. Space Force.

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

² ACAST is Co-chaired by Mr. Bill Popp, President and Chief Executive Officer of Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) private nonprofit corporation (IRS code 501(c)(6)), operating since 1987 in Anchorage Alaska. Fellow Co-chair is Randy "Church" Kee, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret), Executive Director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population

⁴ <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/search#Anchorage+AK+USA>

⁵ <https://akaerospace.com/>



Alaska is home to a number of installations and capabilities that can transition to U.S. Space Force in an organized, trained and equipped function, which include assets located at Eareckson Air Force Station (AFS) on Shemya Island, Clear AFS and Ft Greely and other remote sites.

Based on alignment of operational assets, a location in the higher latitudes that are associated with space defense mission, presence of a premier commercial launch facility and location decision parameters that meet or exceed existing criteria, Anchorage and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is exceedingly suitable to serve as the host of USSPACECOM.

The State of Alaska ACAST understand the competition for hosting USSPACECOM is keen. However, Alaska is a space-oriented state, and is geographically aligned to simultaneously close to Europe (via polar routes) and the Asia Pacific region. As a functionally aligned Unified Command, locating USSPACECOM in Anchorage, provides a geographic location well suited to supporting U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Indo Pacific Command, and even U.S. European Command (again via polar transit).

From a warfighters' perspective, locating USSPACECOM in Alaska serves as a deter and dissuade role for America's potential adversaries, who will see such a basing decision well aligned to American resolve to secure and defend the nations' space interests.

Respectfully presented.

V/r, Randy "Church" Kee

Bill Popp

RANDY KEE, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)
ACAST Co-Chair

BILL POPP
ACAST Co-Chair

