



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 18-126

Contact: Austin Baird, Press Secretary – (907) 310-9761
Berett Wilber, Deputy Press Secretary – (907) 419-3931

Governor Walker Designates North Pole Military Facility Zone

New zoning to help spur development as F-35s head to Eielson Air Force Base

OCTOBER 9, 2018 NORTH POLE – At a ceremony today, Alaska Governor Bill Walker and Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) Commissioner Laurie Hummel designated the city of North Pole as the first military facility zone in Alaska, a change that will help spur private infrastructure development to support Eielson Air Force Base and its operations.

"With two squadrons of F-35 Lightning II jets on the way to Eielson Air Force Base, bringing 3,256 new uniformed personnel, civilian employees, and family members, the City of North Pole and the Fairbanks North Star Borough have been working hard to get ready," **Governor Walker** said. "Hopefully, today's events will make that work a little easier."

The military facility zone designation means private sector ventures in the area will get priority review status from the [Alaska Housing Finance Corporation](#) and the [Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority](#) to qualify for existing infrastructure financing programs. It allows local governments to provide partial or full property tax relief for up to ten years for private sector infrastructure that benefits military facilities.

"We're proud of the City of North Pole for taking the leap and being the first local government to put the military facility zone program in place," said **Maj. General Laurie Hummel**. "The U.S. military has a huge footprint in Alaska. We're happy to have the men and women of the military as our neighbors. This program is intended to help Alaska continue to be a place the U.S. military wants to invest."

"The city of North Pole is excited to have another tool in the tool belt to be able to better accommodate our nation's defense and support the businesses and organizations that service the mission," said **North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward**.

Representation Steve Thompson sponsored and passed two bills that created and strengthened the military facility zone process in 2013 and 2014. Governor Walker signed [Senator John Coghill's SB 9](#) in 2017, allowing local governments to apply for military facility zones by local ordinance. City of North Pole adopted ordinance number 18-10 in May 2018 to apply for the new zoning designation, as reviewed and certified by the Commissioner of DMVA, lasting twenty years. U.S. Department of Defense spending makes up a larger proportion of Alaska's GDP than in all but two other states, equal to about \$3,840 per Alaskan each year.

