



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

7 June 17

Lieutenant General Kenneth S. Wilsbach, USAF
Commander
Alaskan Command
9480 Pease Avenue
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson AK 99506-2101

The Honorable Matthew Hunter
City and Borough of Sitka
100 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Mayor Hunter

I am writing to sincerely express my appreciation for your community's support of Exercise Northern Edge 2017 (NE17) this past May. Without the outstanding support the military receives on a daily basis from the residents of Alaska, it would not be possible for us to complete our mission of homeland defense and civil support.

Alaska's unique size enables the military to have the largest air-ground and sea training complex in the United States in an incredibly strategic area of the world. This creates an ideal location for vital training exercises such as NE17. As always, the gratitude demonstrated by Alaskans toward our servicemembers was a great asset for Alaskan Command and U.S. Pacific Command during NE17. I want to again assure the residents of Alaska that Alaskan Command and our partner commands greatly appreciate your support and take any concerns you have very seriously.

In an effort to continue our dialogue, I'm asking for feedback from your community regarding our outreach efforts both prior to and during the exercise. We plan to send a survey to several Alaska communities toward the end of fishing season to determine what impacts NE17 may be believed to have had in the Gulf of Alaska. In the meantime, I'd respectfully ask for you to submit any feedback by email to v3alcom.j08@us.af.mil. We will make sure that any feedback is conveyed to Navy leadership at U.S. Pacific Fleet as well. Please contact Mr. Tommie Baker, Alaskan Command Chief of Community Relations, if you have any questions at 907-552-2341.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth S. Wilsbach".

KENNETH S. WILSBACH
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander