May 30, 2017

Alaska Command

Alaskan NORAD Region and 11 AF

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, 99506

RE: Debrief to Communities on Alaska Northern Edge Training Exercises

Alaska Command,

The City of Homer would like to congratulate Alaska Command on a successful training mission in the Gulf of Alaska May 1-12. As you know, the City of Homer had the pleasure of hosting the USS Hopper for 3 days while the crew explored our beautiful City and residents got a chance to tour an Arleigh Burke class destroyer. Thank you for providing this opportunity to share our community with the sailors and thank them for their service.

In August of 2016 the Homer City Council passed Resolution 16-081(A) opposing the siting and timing of the U.S. Navy training exercises that pose risks to fish and fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. The City is grateful for the measures that the U.S. Navy took to mitigate potential noise impacts and disturbances to marine mammals in advance of the training exercises. The Homer City Council and the Citizens of Homer would like to invite Alaska Command to a City Council meeting to report on how the training exercises went in regard to protection of our important marine ecosystem. City Council meetings are generally held the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month and with 7 days’ notice, the City Clerk can place you on the agenda (907.235.3130).

The City of Homer appreciates the outreach the U.S. Navy and Alaska Command has done on this topic, including visits to our community and the highly anticipated port visit of the USS Hopper. The Homer City Council encourages the continued open communication between Alaska Command and Gulf of Alaska communities. Both the need for the military to provide real world training experiences for the men and women tasked with protecting the United States of America and the protection of the marine life that Alaskan waters support continue to be high priorities for everyone involved.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Homer City Council