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Denali Commission and U.S. Navy Launch First-of-Its-Kind Arctic Infrastructure Partnership in Alaska

Anchorage, Alaska — The Denali Commission, in partnership with the US Department of War and the US Department of the Navy, have entered into a new interagency landmark agreement to advance critical infrastructure development in Adak, marking the first partnership between the Commission and the United States Department of War in which funding will be transferred to and administered by the Denali Commission.

Through this agreement, the Denali Commission will manage and award grants supporting critical infrastructure projects. The partnership will implement the Department of War's Arctic Infrastructure Program, investing up to \$115 million secured by Alaska's federal delegation through recent legislation aimed at strengthening resources and enhancing the capabilities of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command through the exploration and development of existing Arctic infrastructure.

The investment is focused on improving key infrastructure systems in Adak - including energy reliability, transportation infrastructure, airfield operations, and fuel systems. These upgrades are intended to support episodic military operations and exercises while also enhancing the reliability of infrastructure used by the community and regional industry.

"Our partnership with the Denali Commission will help rapidly deliver cost effective infrastructure improvements in Adak, Alaska to support both U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command future operations.", said **Honorable Dale R. Marks**, Deputy Undersecretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment"

"The Denali Commission as a proven efficiency model can implement critical priorities with a sense of urgency and care. We look forward to delivering cost effective results and helping in our small way the defense of our homeland," said **Julie Kitka**, Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission.

Initial projects identified for implementation include airfield improvements, runway resurfacing and lighting upgrades, port and navigation assessments, power system redundancy, fuel storage enhancements, and repairs to aviation facilities. Many of these projects will be

implemented in partnership with entities such as the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Aleut, and the City of Adak.

Adak's strategic location in the Aleutian Islands makes it uniquely positioned to support Arctic and North Pacific operations. Investments under the program are designed to ensure critical infrastructure can support both defense missions and the broader needs of the region.

Members of Alaska's congressional delegation and governor Dunleavy also welcomed the partnership.

"Alaska is the front line of America's Arctic presence, which is why the delegation prioritized investments like these that meet both the opportunities and challenges of this region," said **Senator Murkowski**. "Adak represents one of the most strategic footholds in both the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic, and this historic partnership between the Denali Commission and the Navy will strengthen our strategic posture through investments that support both military readiness and the needs of local communities."

"Alaska has never been more important to America's national security, with our country's main adversaries escalating their aggression and incursions near our airspace and waters," said **Senator Sullivan**. "Adak is unrivaled strategic terrain, sitting at the seam between the North Pacific and the Arctic, which is why I worked so hard to secure \$115 million in the *Working Families Tax Cuts Act* to begin redeveloping the incredible air and naval infrastructure that already exists on the island. I'm glad to see another key provision of the budget reconciliation bill beginning to bear fruit in our great state, and I commend the Denali Commission and the Department of War for entering this strategic partnership that will help support military operations in the region. The work being undertaken here is critically important not only for our military and national security, but also for the people of Adak, Alaska's economy, and the creation of good-paying jobs for Alaskans."

"The partnership between the Denali Commission and the U.S. Navy is a strategic step that leverages existing infrastructure in Adak while strengthening our long-term presence in the Arctic and North Pacific," said **Congressman Begich**. "By advancing dual-use infrastructure like airfields, energy systems, and fuel capacity, we more firmly solidify Alaska's role as a pillar of Arctic security. Continued focus on Arctic infrastructure will be critical to ensuring the United States remains prepared, competitive, and secure in this rapidly evolving region. I look forward to seeing this partnership deliver lasting results for our state and our nation."

"Alaska continues to play a vital role in our nation's Arctic and national defense strategy, and this partnership represents a significant investment in that future," said **Governor Dunleavy**. "By strengthening critical infrastructure in Adak, we are not only enhancing military readiness but also supporting economic opportunity and long-term resilience for Alaska communities. I appreciate the collaboration between the Denali Commission, our federal partners, and local stakeholders to advance this important work."

“Strengthening transportation, energy, and aviation systems in the Aleutians not only supports national defense priorities but also delivers lasting benefits for the residents and industries that depend on reliable infrastructure in this remote region,” said **Ryan Anderson**, Alaska DOT&PF Commissioner. “This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to resilient, dual-use infrastructure that serves both community and strategic needs.”

Adak is vital to our nation’s security. Aleut brings decades of operational expertise and local knowledge to this initiative. We understand what it takes to live and work in the Aleutians,” said **Skoey Vergen**, Aleut President & CEO. “Aleut is eager to support the Denali Commission’s work on Adak and stands ready to move on this critical effort.

“The City of Adak greatly appreciates the Denali Commission’s leadership in facilitating and coordinating these infrastructure efforts. Their work is strengthening collaboration and ensuring investments deliver lasting value for both our community and the Navy,” said **Terri Douglas**, Mayor of Adak.

“TDX Adak Generating (TAG) applauds the Denali Commission and the U.S. Department of War on this landmark partnership to strengthen critical dual-use infrastructure in Adak. As the community’s electric utility provider since 2008, TAG has invested significantly in generation and distribution systems to deliver reliable power in one of Alaska’s most remote and challenging environments. We are grateful for the Denali Commission’s support in our efforts and look forward to partnering on additional upgrades to Adak’s aging electrical infrastructure as part of this important initiative. Reliable energy is foundational to both community resilience and the strategic military capabilities this investment will enable in the Aleutians. TAG stands ready to collaborate with all the partners to ensure these projects deliver lasting value for residents, industry, and national security,” said **Jay Hermanson**, TAG CEO

Under the agreement, the Denali Commission will manage the grant selection, administration, and oversight of projects funded through the program, providing financial and progress reporting to Department of War partners as projects move toward implementation.

This partnership reflects growing federal attention to Arctic infrastructure and the importance of dual-use investments that strengthen both national security and community resilience in Alaska.

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