

Air Force Tracking Station Closure Concerns Kodiak

Governor Jay Hammond has suggested three steps to help residents of Kodiak who have expressed concern about the Air Force announcement closing Chiniak Tracking Station.

Since the Air Force action is a federal matter, Governor Hammond has written all members of the Alaska Congressional delegation requesting their assistance.

In letters to Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel and Congressman Don Young, Hammond said, "I would appreciate your assistance to keep the station in operation. If closure cannot be averted, then perhaps the economic shock could be mitigated by a phased closure procedure. I understand that the Department of Defense has an office to assist communities that lose major defense activities. Certainly, the people of Kodiak could use the assistance of such an office.

Hammond also said, "This is a small station in terms of the Air Force system, but it is a large station in relation to the Kodiak community."