

Rebuttal to PC149 and RC010

I am submitting this Record Copy in rebuttal to PC149 and RC010 submitted by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) in regards to proposals 91, 93, 96 & 100.

Let me preface this by saying that I am currently active duty military and have been for over 10 years. I am very intimate with how the military operates and the rationale behind command decisions.

Col. Wilson has been in command of 673rd for less than a year. In my almost 7 years serving on Active duty in Alaska, 99% of those I serve with know next to nothing about Alaskan game, especially bears. There are also very few who understand the lethality of archery equipment. Col. Wilson is no exception.

It is a false perception that archery equipment being allowed in DL455 would result in more wounded and dangerous bears. This mentality comes from a fear of something the opposers know nothing about. I personally have tracked MANY bears shot with rifle, shotgun and archery equipment. The average recovery distance of my archery shot bears is a mere 25 yards! Most of those were shot with a longbow and wood arrow. The longest recovery I made was on a black bear that another hunter shot with a semi automatic .308 rifle with a 180 grain expanding bullet. I tracked the bear with a dog about 2 hours after it was shot and the bear made it 3/4 of a mile! When we caught up to the bear, it was very much alive and angry and had to be shot again. My personal experience proves that wound risk is not arguable when it comes to firearm vs archery on black bear.

The Board should adopt either proposals 91, 93, 96 or 100 knowing that at least for now, the base commander will not allow implementation. If adopted however, it would allow the next commander to allow implementation since it was already approved by the Board of Game.

It is also important to note that JBER requires all hunters to pass a weapons proficiency test before hunting any big game on base.

I Hope that you take my RC into consideration as I cannot testify in person due to military obligations.

Sincerely,

Mike Harris