

BRAC 2005

South Dakota Regional Hearing

June 21, 2005

1:00 p.m.

**Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD**

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June 21, 2005 - 1:00 p.m.
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

>Welcome, call to order, announcements, swearing in of witnesses	
Introductory Testimony, quality of life video	Jim McKeon, Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Military Value Testimony	General John Michael Loh, USAF (Retired)
Military Value Testimony	Lt. Gen Thad Wolfe, USAF(Retired)
Ellsworth Task Force (ETF) Military Value Assessment	Jim McKeon
Ellsworth Task Force (ETF) Military Value Assessment	Pat McElgunn, Colonel USAF (Retired)
Quality of Life Testimony	Jim Shaw, Rapid City Mayor
Congressional Testimony	Tim Johnson, US Senator
Congressional Testimony	John Thune, US Senator
Congressional Testimony	Stephanie Herseth, US Representative
Socio-Economic Testimony	Sidney Goss, Professor
ETF Assessment Testimony (conclude).....	Jim McKeon
Governor's Testimony and closing comments.....	Mike Rounds, SD Governor
Q & A for Commissioners	
Adjourn	

BACKGROUND:

According to the official BRAC website, the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Commission's goal "is to assist the American public, including interested stakeholders, to fully understand the open and transparent process through which work is conducted."

Congress established the 2005 BRAC Commission to ensure the integrity of the base closure and realignment process. As directed by law, the Commission reviews and analyzes the list of military installation recommendations issued May 13, 2005 by the Department of Defense (DoD). The Commission's mission is to assess whether the DoD recommendations substantially deviated from the Congressional criteria used to evaluate each military base. While giving priority to the criteria of military value, the Commission will also take into account the human impact of the base closures and will consider the possible economic, environmental, and other effects on the surrounding communities.

The Commission can also add installations to the closure or realignment list recommended to the President, but only through a process in which seven of nine Commissioners vote to do so, the Secretary of Defense is properly notified in writing 15 days prior to the proposed change, and only after at least two Commissioners physically visit the military installation in question.

The Commission will submit its findings and recommendations to the President of the United States on or before September 8, 2005.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION PRESENT IN RAPID CITY:

There are nine members of the BRAC Commission. Present at the June 21 meeting are:



SAMUEL SKINNER is the retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of USF Corporation, one of the nation's leading transportation and logistics companies. He also served from 1993-1998 as President of Commonwealth Edison Company and its holding company, Unicom Corporation. Prior to joining Commonwealth Edison, Mr. Skinner served as Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush. Prior to his White House service, he served in the President's Cabinet for nearly three years as Secretary of Transportation. As Secretary, Mr. Skinner was credited with numerous successes, including the development of the President's National Transportation Policy and the development and passage of landmark aviation and surface transportation legislation. Mr. Skinner is currently an Adjunct Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He served as a member of the Illinois National Guard and the US Army reserve from 1957-68.



PHILIP COYLE is a Senior Advisor to the President of the Center for Defense Information and a defense consultant. Formerly, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Test and Evaluation, (1994-2001), Mr. Coyle is a recognized expert on U.S. and worldwide military research, development and testing. During the 1995 BRAC, he served as the Co-Chairman of the DoD Joint Cross-Service Group for Test and Evaluation. Prior to serving at the Pentagon, Mr. Coyle served as Laboratory Associate Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and as Deputy to the Laboratory Director. During the Carter Administration, Mr. Coyle served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in the Department of Energy. With more than 40 years of experience in testing and test-related matters, he was selected by Aviation Week magazine as one of its "Laurels" honorees for 2000, a select group of people recognized for outstanding contributions in the aerospace field.



JAMES BILBRAY's primary area of practice is government relations and administrative law. Former Congressman Bilbray received his B.A. in Government and Public Administration from the American University in Washington, DC in 1962, and his JD from the Washington College of Law in 1964. He is a Nevada native, and prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1987, was a Nevada State Senator, where he served as Chairman on the Taxation Committee and was a member of the Judiciary Committee. During his four terms in the US Congress, he served as Chairman of the Small Business Sub-Committee on Taxation, Tourism and Procurement. He was also a member of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees. He joined the firm of Kummer Kaempfer Bonner & Renshaw as Of Counsel in 1996, where he specialized in dealing with local, state and federal issues. In 2001, he received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Nevada Las Vegas for his extensive contributions to the State and U.S. government.

**Jim McKeon, President,
Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce,
Colonel USAF (retired)**

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Gen. John Michael Loh, USAF (retired)

3

Lt. Gen. Thad Wolfe, USAF (retired)

4

**Pat McElgunn, Ellsworth Task Force,
Colonel USAF (retired)**

5

Jim Shaw, Rapid City Mayor

6

Tim Johnson, US Senator

7

John Thune, US Senator

8

Stephanie Herseth, US Representative

9

Sidney Goss, Professor

10

Mike Rounds, South Dakota Governor

JIM McKEON

Welcome the Audience

House Announcements

Announce the Entrance of Local, State and Federal Officials and Advocates

Announce the Entrance of Commissioners

National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance

Commission's Regional Chairman Opening Statement --- Commissioner Skinner

Swearing In of Witnesses --- Commission Counsel

Commissioner Skinner, Commissioner Bilbray and Commissioner Coyle, I am Jim McKeon, President and CEO of the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of our community, I welcome you the Black Hills of South Dakota and the home of Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Before we begin, we would like to express our sincerest appreciation for accepting the monumental task placed before you. We know it will challenge your endurance and skills as credentialed public servants, but as you go thorough the remainder of the summer and find that you are asking yourself not only what town am I waking-up in but why did I not listen to that little voice that cautioned me about "what I was getting into" ... know that we admire you for your service to our country.

Today, it is our pleasure to be able to meet with you to hear from us. You have now seen Ellsworth firsthand ... a modern platform from which the "bomber of choice" in our ongoing Global War of Terror engages our nation's enemies. Hopefully, your brief visit to the base and discussions with its airmen and civilians accurately depicted that it began its transformation and modernization long before the concepts became widely accepted.

And ... as a community ... so long tied to the defense of our nation, I am sure that the audience assembled here, although adamantly opposed to your approval of the Secretary of Defense's recommendation to close Ellsworth Air Force Base, appreciates your service to our nation.

In a like manner, we are all fully aware that you are seated as an independent body of examiners and were not involved in the formulation of the Secretary's recommendation. As such, we believe you will find our preliminary analysis of the limited information the Secretary released in the weeks after his recommendations were forwarded to you and the bodies of data, minutes and decisions released in the past week will establish that there is substantial deviation from the criteria approved for this round of closures and realignments. We believe you will insure this is a fair process and the credibility of data used in your determinations must be above reproach if the American public is to believe in the integrity of the BRAC process.

Commissioners, at this time, I would like to direct your attention to the video screens for a specially produced introduction to the fabric of life that bonds our greater military-civilian community in the defense of our nation. Without reservation, I can tell you "there is no us and them" in the community we have built over the past six decades of war and peace --- Ellsworth has been and must be here at the foot of Mount Rushmore, our nation's Shrine of Democracy...

Show video --- South Dakota Video

From what you just saw in that video, I believe you should have an understanding of who we are and the values in which we believe.

Now that you know a little about our community and the values by which we live, at this time, let us "get down to facts" about our reaction to the Secretary's recommendation." In addition to being adamantly opposed to your approval of the Secretary of Defense's recommendation to close Ellsworth Air Force Base, we are deeply disappointed in the Department of Defense's management of the release of the data, records of discussions and decision processes that were used in formulating the recommendations presented to you. We believe you likewise share our sense of frustration and the presentation of such unnecessary challenges to communities such as ours and for that matter to the Commission. The last several weeks have

been like working with a kaleidoscope of ever emerging pictures. While such may be an amusing adventure in some circumstances, we have found it to be inconsistent with the gravity of the national security decisions being made in this process. As late as last Friday, data was being released ... and, as such, we sincerely believe that your offer to communities to be able to present new information to you over the next several weeks will help compensate for the Department's actions.

JOHN MICHAEL LOH

MC: Here to open our message is a former commander of Air Combat Command, General Mike Loh. General Loh is an Air Force visionary, who told us when Ellsworth became an Air Combat Command base in the 1990's that the Air Force will need Ellsworth, a base with great expanses of open skies and uncongested airspace in 2020 and beyond, but the Air Force needs the vision to get it there. I would offer that nothing could be more appropriate to you today, as you decide whether Ellsworth will be here in 2020 and beyond. Although General Loh was unable to join us in person due to a medical condition, he has provided this video for us. A copy of his written testimony along with his sworn affirmation is also being provided for your consideration.

Commissioners, General Loh.

GENERAL LOH TESTIMONY



THAD WOLFE

MC: Commissioners, to bring another personal face to the powerful testimony General Loh has provide to you, I would like to present to you Air Force Lieutenant General Thad Wolfe (Retired). General Wolfe commanded the 509th Bomb Wing's and its FB-111s, commanded Ellsworth's Strategic Warfare Center from 1990 to 1992 with its three wings of B-1B, KC-135, EC-135, B-52, T-38 and UH-1 flying missions and the 44th Strategic Missile Wing as an associate unit. General Wolfe concluded his career as Vice Commander of Air Combat Command from 1993 to 1996 with a vast variety of bases and weapons systems assigned.

General Wolfe.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THIS STATEMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE.

I AM JOINING YOU TODAY BECAUSE I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THAT TENTATIVE DECISION. I SERVED AT ELLSWORTH IN 1990 AS THE COMMANDER OF WHAT WAS THEN CALLED THE STRATEGIC WARFARE CENTER AND I WAS THE SENIOR COMMANDER AT THE BASE. THEN FROM 1992 THROUGH 1995, I WAS THE VICE COMMANDER OF AIR COMBAT COMMAND OVERSEEING THE OPERATIONS OF ELLSWORTH ALONG WITH ABOUT 30 OTHER BASES. I WORKED DIRECTLY FOR GENERAL MIKE LOH WHOSE STATEMENT YOU'VE JUST HEARD. HE IS WIDELY RESPECTED FOR HIS INTELLECT, PRAGMATISM, AND HIS ADVOCACY FOR GOOD ANALYSIS. HIS THOUGHTFUL RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU.

MY SOLE PURPOSE TODAY IS TO PROVIDE THIS PANEL WITH INFORMATION AND INSIGHTS THAT MAY ALSO HELP YOU REACH SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS.

IN THE END, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD RECOMMEND RETAINING ELLSWORTH AS A B-1 OPERATIONAL BASE FOR ITS CURRENT AND FUTURE MILITARY VALUE, FOR SECURITY REASONS WHICH WEIGH AGAINST CONSOLIDATION OF ALL B-1 ASSETS AT ONE PLACE, AND AS A UNIQUE HEDGE AGAINST EVOLVING NEW MISSION REQUIREMENTS.

I WILL SUPPORT THE CASE IN TERMS OF MY DOUBTS ABOUT THE OSD CLOSURE RECOMMENDATION.

FIRST, MOST EVERYONE AGREES ON THE VIABILITY OF THE B-1. THAT VIABILITY WAS APPARENTLY NOT A FACTOR IN DECIDING TO RECOMMEND CLOSING ELLSWORTH. THE B-1 WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BEAT ITS LIFE EXPECTANCY AND WILL HAVE NEW TECHNOLOGY INSERTED TO EXTEND ITS SERVICE LIFE AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS AS A WEAPON SYSTEM.

BUT, MILITARY VALUE TAKES MORE THAN JUST THE WEAPON SYSTEM. WHAT ADDS TO THE B-1 OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS MAY BE UNIQUE TO THIS REGION BECAUSE

OF ELLSWORTH'S REMARKABLE PROXIMITY TO UNCROWDED, QUICKLY ACCESSIBLE AIRSPACE AND RANGES, SPARSELY POPULATED AND DIVERSE TERRAIN, PROXIMITY TO OTHER TRAINING AREAS NEARBY FOR JOINT AND COMBINED OPERATIONS; AND FINALLY, TO MODERNIZED INFRASTRUCTURE—ELLSWORTH IS LITERALLY A "NEW" BASE.

SO, HOW DID ELLSWORTH END UP ON THE CLOSURE LIST? FOR CONTEXT, ELLSWORTH HAS BEEN A WELL KEPT SECRET—PERHAPS TOO WELL KEPT. AS THE AIR FORCE, ITS MAJOR AIR COMMANDS, AND OUR UNIFIED COMBATANT COMMANDS HAVE CHANGED, INCLUDING RE-SUBORDINATION OF UNITS, FEWER PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING ROLES HAVE LONG-TERM, DIRECT INSIGHT INTO SOME UNIQUE AND VALUABLE ASPECTS OF ELLSWORTH. WHAT I AM REFERRING TO IS THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RAPID CITY, THE STATE, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND TRIBAL ENTITIES IN THE AREA. I SAY THIS TO UNDERSCORE MY CONCERN THAT WHEN IT COMES TIME TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT ELLSWORTH—THE FORCED DECISION BETWEEN CLOSING ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE B-1 BASES--THE "JUDGES" LACKED THE MORE ROUNDED INSIGHT REQUIRED TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS COMBINING OBJECTIVE DATA WITH SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENTS.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE SPENT EVEN A DAY HERE, YOU MAY ALSO SHARE MY CONCERN AS A FORMER COMMANDER HERE AND LATER OVERSEEING ACC BASES, THAT THE AIR FORCE AND OSD DECISION LACKS AN APPRECIATION OF JUST WHAT THIS ENDURING CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BASE AND COMMUNITY HAS PROVIDED TO THE MILITARY SUCCESS OF ELLSWORTH AND THE AIR FORCE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BRING IN THE FUTURE--AN ASPECT NOT QUANTIFIABLE WITHIN DOD DATA CALLS. WHILE YOU'LL HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS IN A MOMENT, AS SOMEONE WHO LED THE AIRMEN AT ELLSWORTH, I URGE YOU TO CONSIDER WHAT THAT RELATIONSHIP HAS MEANT IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND QUALITY OF SERVICE— UNQUESTIONABLY SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS OF MILITARY VALUE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AT ELLSWORTH. AS YOU NOTICED TODAY, ELLSWORTH IS ONE OF THE BEST EQUIPPED AND MOST UPDATED IN THE AIR FORCE INVENTORY. FOR INSTANCE,

- OVER A THOUSAND HOUSING UNITS, INCLUDING MANY UNDER CONSTRUCTION TODAY IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR YOUNG AIRMEN, OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THOSE WERE A RESULT OF THE COMBINED COMMITMENT OF THE BASE, THE AIR FORCE, THE TOWNSPEOPLE, THE GOVERNOR, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.**
- THE SAME IS TRUE FOR VAST INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS. IN FACT, THE INFRASTRUCE IS**

NEWER, MORE MODERN AND IN BETTER SHAPE THAN MOST BASES NOT ON THE CLOSURE LIST.

- **THE PARTNERSHIP EXTENDS TO SUCH VITAL ELEMENTS AS:**
 - **CONTINUED COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR COMBAT COMPETITIONS THAT ENHANCE MILITARY VALUE; AND SUPPORT FOR OUR PEOPLE INCREASINGLY PLACED IN HARMS WAY IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.**
 - **OPEN INFORMATION FLOW BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND ELLSWORTH WHEN PLANS, POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES WOULD AFFECT THE OTHER.**
 - **SHARING INSIGHTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY VALUABLE TO STATE AND BASE.**
 - **REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCHANGE CULTURAL INSIGHTS WITH THE LAKOTA SOUIX.**
 - **EFFICIENCIES IN MEDICAL CARE THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PATIENTS AND EQUIPMENT BETWEEN THE ELLSWORTH HOSPITAL AND THE VA HOSPITALS IN THE AREA.**
 - **AN OPEN AND RATIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNION REPRESENTING MANY ELLSWORTH EMPLOYEES.**
 - **A STRONG PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE HIRING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL CHALLENGES.**

- **AND, ACCESS TO THE MOST ACCESSIBLE FORESTS, MOUNTAINS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS THAT DRAW VAST NUMBERS TO THE BLACK HILLS AND SURROUNDING AREA. YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SERVE HERE WANT TO STAY OR RETURN.**

THIS LIST COULD GO ON BUT THE REAL POINT IS THAT THERE IS A FLAW IN THE BRAC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCESS THAT FAILS TO CAPTURE AND CONSIDER VITAL SUBJECTIVE FACTORS SUCH AS THESE THAT CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR AIR CREWS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL. SO, THE COMMISSION MUST OVERLAY THAT JUDGEMENT ONTO THE ANALYSIS.

I HAVE ADDITIONAL CONCERNS WITH CLOSING ELLSWORTH—WITH ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR NATION’S SECURITY AND FUTURE FLEXIBILITY OF OUR AIR FORCE. I SHARE GENERAL LOH’S VIEW THAT CONSOLIDATION OF B-1S AT ONE BASE WILL HAVE A MEASURABLE ADVERSE IMPACT ON READINESS AND MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS OF THE B-1 FLEET. FOR INSTANCE, ELLSWORTH’S B-1S REGULARLY OUTSCORE THEIR PEERS IN READINESS MEASUREMENTS, IN LARGE PART DUE TO FACTORS UNIQUE TO THIS REGION AND THIS BASE—NOT UNLIKE THE PARTNERSHIP I SPOKE OF MOMENTS AGO. DUE TO THE VAST UNCROWDED AIRSPACE, SPARSELY POPULATED AND DIVERSE TERRAIN, VARIETY OF WEATHER AND OTHER

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS, AND PROXIMITY TO OTHER TRAINING AREAS FOR JOINT AND COMBINED OPERATIONS, ELLSWORTH HAS PROVEN TO BE THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR B-1 BED-DOWN AND CREW TRAINING. I URGE YOU TO REVIEW READINESS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE B-1 BASES.

OF FURTHER CONCERN ABOUT THE DATA USED TO JUSTIFY CLOSING ELLSWORTH, I BELIEVE THAT THE ASSESSORS ERRED WHEN COMPARING THE LANCER MILITARY OPERATING AREA WITH THE POWDER RIVER COMPLEX LITERALLY OVERHEAD THIS IMMEDIATE AREA. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THEY LOOKED AT THE QUALITATIVE VALUE OF THE TRAINING AVAILABLE BUT APPEARED TO SCORE PRIMARILY THE DISTANCE TO AND NUMBER OF ENTRY POINTS OF EACH RANGE COMPLEX. THOSE ARE INTERESTING BUT NOT COMPELLING WHEN LOOKING AT OVERALL TRAINING VALUE.

I ALSO BELIEVE BRAC IS DEALING WITH AN INCOMPLETE VIEW OF FUTURE MISSIONS AND ELLSWORTH'S ROLE AND VALUE THEREIN. IMPORTANT COMMAND MISSIONS ARE CHANGING RAPIDLY WHILE THIS BRAC PROCESS IS UNDERWAY. NEW MISSIONS LIKE GLOBAL STRIKE, INFORMATION OPERATIONS, INTELLIGENCE/SURVEILLANCE/AND RECONNAISSANCE, MISSILE DEFENSE, SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITY, AND BROADENED HOMELAND DEFENSE TO INCLUDE MARITIME

**AND LAND SURVEILLANCE ARE RAPIDLY EMERGING. FOR
CONTEXT, AGAIN:**

- **YOU RECOGNIZE THAT ELLSWORTH IS SUBORDINATE TO AIR COMBAT COMMAND... AIR COMBAT COMMAND, IN TURN, IS A COMPONENT TO SEVERAL COMBATANT COMMANDS THAT RELY ON CAPABILITIES AT ELLSWORTH. ACC ALSO PROVIDES FORCES TO STRATEGIC COMMAND [HEADQUARTERED IN OMAHA], USNORTHERN COMMAND [HEADQUARTERED IN COLORADO SPRINGS], JOINT FORCES COMMAND [...NORFOLK]; AND ALSO THROUGH JOINT FORCES COMMAND TO OTHER REGIONAL COMBATANT COMMANDS AROUND THE WORLD.**
- **THE POINT IS THAT EACH OF THESE SUPPORTED COMMANDS HAS EVOLVING MISSIONS THAT WOULD USE THE KIND OF CAPABILITIES RESIDENT AT OR POTENTIALLY RESIDENT AT ELLSWORTH—IF IT WERE TASKED. THERE IS NO BASE IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION BETTER POSITIONED TO DO THAT.**

ALL OF THOSE EVOLVING MISSIONS WILL REQUIRE FORCES, SYNCHRONIZATION, TRAINING, EXERCISES AND EDUCATION. FURTHER, DOD IS TRANSFORMING TO JOINT FUNCTIONAL COMPONENT COMMANDS WHEREIN SERVICE FORCES CAN WORK FOR ANYBODY, ANYPLACE, AT ANYTIME. THIS IS OCCURRING AS THE U.S. IS PULLING BACK FROM OVERSEAS STATIONS, REDUCING FORWARD BASED

FORCES. THAT PUTS AN ADDITIONAL PREMIUM ON BASES IN THE U.S.

TO DATE, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE BRAC PROCESS HAS BEEN CAPABLE OF GIVING THIS ADEQUATE AIRING BECAUSE THE CHANGES ARE ONGOING.

SO WITH THESE EVOLVING MISSIONS, FACTORS WHICH SHOULD BE FURTHER CONSIDERED INCLUDE ELLSWORTH'S POTENTIAL VALUE IN:

- NEAR SPACE ACTIVITY AND THE ESSENTIAL USE OF THE AIRSPACE IN THIS REGION IN SUPPORT OF MISSILE DEFENSE**
- THE NEED TO MAINTAIN FORCES AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS TO PLACE STRESS ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NET-CENTRIC NATURE OF FUTURE CONFLICT. DOD IS CHANGING TO THIS MODEL TODAY WHICH APPEARS TO RUN COUNTER TO CLOSING OF HIGH VALUE BASES LIKE ELLSWORTH.**
- OUR RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SHOULD CONSIDER ELLSWORTH FOR CONVENTIONAL ICBMS, UNMANNED AIR VEHICLES, AND UNMANNED COMBAT AIR VEHICLES TAKING ADVANTAGE AGAIN OF THE AIR SPACE AND RANGES, SPARSE POPULATION AND EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.**
- FROM NORAD AND U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND THERE IS CERTAINLY A POTENTIAL FOR ELLSWORTH IN**

**MAINTAINING, TRAINING WITH, AND OPERATING UAVS
FOR SURVEILLANCE OF OUR BORDERS.**

**AGAIN, THIS LIST COULD GO ON BUT IT IS ILLUSTRATIVE
AND NOT EXHAUSTIVE. BUT IT POINTS OUT THAT
DISSOLVING ELLSWORTH'S CAPABILITIES DUE TO A
QUESTIONABLE A PRIORI DECISION TO CONSOLIDATE THE
FLEET SEEMS A RISKY PROPOSITION TO SAY THE LEAST.
OUR AIR FORCE ITSELF RECOGNIZED THIS WHEN IT
REVIEWED ITS DECISION REGARDING KEEPING A
STRATEGIC PRESENCE IN THE UPPER MID-WEST.
COINCIDENTALLY, ELLSWORTH'S MILITARY VALUE SCORES
ARE FIRST IN SIX OF THE EIGHT MISSION AREAS AND
SECOND IN THE OTHER TWO. THE SOLUTION TO BOTH OF
THESE IS TO RECOGNIZE THAT STRATEGIC REDUNDANCY
AND OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS ARE TOO IMPORTANT
TO SACRIFICE ON THE ALTAR OF CONSOLIDATION AND
BUDGET CUTS. BOTH ARE SOLVED BY REMOVING
ELLSWORTH FROM THE LIST, PRESERVING THE DUAL B-1
BEDDOWN, AND WORKING WITH DUE DILIGENCE TO
EXPAND THE ELLSWORTH MISSIONS.**

**IN CLOSING, NAPOLEAN SAID ESSENTIALLY THAT THE
"MORAL IS TO THE PHYSICAL, AS THREE IS TO ONE". WELL,
THE COMBINATION OF THE SUPERIOR TRAINING
ENVIRONMENT, YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SERVE
HERE, AND THE ENDURING POSITIVE CIVIL-MILITARY**

RELATIONSHIP HAVE ADDED UNIQUELY TO THE DOMINANT VALUE OF THE “MORAL” COMPONENT OF MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS AT ELLSWORTH—AND IT PROMISES TO DO SO EVEN MORE DRAMMATICALLY IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE COUNTING ON YOUR ROLE AS COMMISSIONERS TO BE THE ADEQUATELY EMPOWERED AUTHORITY CAPABLE OF “JUDGING SOME OF THE JUDGMENTS” THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PROCESS TO DATE. THAT IS WHAT I RESPECTFULLY ASK OF YOU IN REMOVING ELLSWORTH FROM THE BRAC CLOSURE LIST.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TODAY.

PAT McELGUNN

MC: Thank you General Wolfe.

Now, before I move on to more specifics of our preliminary analysis, I would like to provide you a little more information about my Air Force career experiences ...

from 1987 to 1989 I was the commander of Flying Operations at RAF Fairford and the European Tanker Task Force. In 1989, I stood up the 99th Strategic Wing here at Ellsworth. A wing unique in that from Ellsworth it trained B-52s, B-1Bs, FB -111 and KC-135 aircraft.

As to some of our specific analysis to date ...

A close examination of the Comparative Military Value Rankings among the three bases in the north central U.S., where the Air Force has stated they plan to maintain a strategic presence, Ellsworth ranked first in 6 of the 8 functional categories --- Ellsworth is clearly "a base" to be retained.

As used for their Ellsworth recommendation, Air Force Basing Principle Number Ten directing consolidated operations violates Air Force Basing Principle Number Seven that directs Long Range Strike Basing to provide flexible strategic response. Consolidating all B-1B aircraft on one base with one runway violates that principle.

The information on Ellsworth's infrastructure is not accurately characterized in the data used in the recommendation to close Ellsworth --- clear examples are the total square footage of facilities and aircraft parking capacity.

Ellsworth's rating on Current and Future Mission Capability is undervalued by a misconstructured metric measuring access and use of the primary aerial training range managed by Ellsworth.

Consistent with General Loh's assessment of the ability of a single B-1B base to maintain a satisfactory or higher aircraft mission capable rate, the Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria

#1 in recommending the consolidation of Ellsworth's consistently higher rated B-1B operations at a base that maintains a lesser operational readiness rate; thereby impacting training, readiness and warfighting.

The Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria #2 in that the recommended closure of Ellsworth will relocate the B-1B aircraft, which constitute 82% of the use of the immediately adjacent air space (Powder River MOA) to a base at least two hours flight time away; thereby, either increasing operational cost or reducing mission effectiveness.

The Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria #3 in that the reduced use of the Powder River MOA will either increase the cost of operations per mission flown from out of the area or cause it to be abandoned for use by future total force requirements.

If the Secretary's recommended closure of Ellsworth is approved, General Loh's assessment of the loss of valuable training airspace constitutes substantial deviation from Military Value Criteria #3 regarding use of the Powder River MOA.

If on the other hand, the Powder River MOA is not to be closed, it is difficult, if not impossible to understand how Ellsworth scored low with respect to access to the Powder River MOA.

The Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria #4 in that the cost to operate the entire B-1B fleet will exceed the cost of maintaining two bases, each of which has the capacity to accept future force beddowns.

The Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria #6 in that of the three bases in the north central U.S., considered for strategic presence retention, the recommended closure of Ellsworth will eliminate the most highly rated base for realigning tanker aircraft or the beddown of future force missions such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, C2ISR or emerging missions such as the Airborne Laser.

The Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria #6 in that of the three bases in the north central U.S. considered for

strategic presence retention, the recommended closure of Ellsworth will more severely impact the existing communities in its vicinity than the one being recommended for retention for an “emerging mission.”

The Air Force substantially deviated from Military Value Criteria #7 in that the recommended closure of Ellsworth will relocate B-1B assets to base that has a lesser current Plant Replacement Value and will have a lesser infrastructure and overall capacity even after the more than \$100 million required facility projects are constructed.

Commissioners, I would now like to introduce to you Air Force Colonel Pat McElgunn (Retired). Pat served at Ellsworth from 1989 to 1994 and commanded the largest Security Group in Strategic Air Command. After 27 years of service, he joined us in 1994 as Director of our Ellsworth Task Force.

Commissioner Skinner, Commissioner Bilbray and Commissioner Coyle,
on behalf of our Ellsworth Task Force, I welcome you the military support community that is the proud host of Ellsworth Air Force Base.

As we began to analyze the data, minutes and decisions the Secretary used in preparing the recommendations, we became concerned about the integrity and clarity of the information. We were also concerned about the unprecedented withholding of information used in determining which bases should close. I testify here today with the conviction that from what we have seen to date, the Air Force’s recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding Ellsworth are not based on accurate information and substantially deviate from the BRAC 2005 criteria. You have heard a number of specific citations to that effect and I am convinced that the Air Force process took a basing imperative to consolidate legacy aircraft out of the context and applied it to B-1B weapon system thereby violating the basing principle of insuring the flexibility of the its Long Range Strike Force. In addition, from what limited information and time we have been afforded, Ellsworth’s modernized facilities and base operations support cost were not properly considered in head to heads competition with like bases in the north central U.S. and in

similar evaluations among this regions bases capable of handling heavy aircraft.

Examples of Ellsworth's Military Value in terms of operational advantages are as follows:

Easy/quick access to multiple training ranges from the Upper Great Plains/Midwest to the Rocky Mountain/Western region.

Low air traffic density, unconstrained airspace, and excellent flying weather provide ideal operational conditions for DOD multiple/joint mission basing.

Ellsworth's location in the geographical center of the nation has advantages of Central CONUS location ideal for Global Strike and Response missions equidistant from Atlantic and Pacific Theaters.

Shorter Polar Routes into the most likely theaters of operations.

Security advantages of distances from East and West Coast and well within protective envelope of National Missile Defenses.

Low-density population, incremental growth, no aggressive urban sprawl and encroachment which severely impact many DOD installations.

State and region is not projected for any acceleration of population growth.

Bottom line --- Operational advantages of EAFB make it an ideal 21st Century installation for manned and unmanned platforms supporting current national security and homeland defense and those operations of 2025 and beyond.

Examples of Ellsworth's Military Value in terms of Joint Missions Capabilities.

Ellsworth has a 65-year history of supporting multiple aircraft weapon systems including Bombers, Tankers, Command and Control, Jet Trainers, Helicopters and Ground and Flight Training missions.

As recently as 1990, EAFB housed the Strategic Warfare Center and four wings with over 7,300 military personnel.

Ellsworth is even better positioned today to support multiple missions and joint-service basing options due to its comprehensive facilities modernization and ideal operational conditions.

- Available/existing or readily modified facilities for operations, maintenance and support:
 - 230,000 sq. yd. of ramp space.
 - 200,000 sq. ft. in 8 large aircraft docks.
 - 100,000 sq. ft. in a single arched structure for oversized aircraft.
 - 99,000 sq. ft. of administrative space.
 - 20,000 sq. ft. of maintenance or support space.

Flight line dock space can support multiple joint basing options for current and future manned/unmanned atmospheric platforms.

Ellsworth has over 1,800 acres of undeveloped and suitable on-base property to beddown new missions or missions relocating from CONUS or overseas theaters.

Ellsworth's Military Construction and Airfield Infrastructure do not present major funding requirements in the Air Force's FY06 Unfunded Priority List.

Specific examples of Ellsworth's "Future Total Force" Basing.

Ellsworth's existing physical plant and airspace can accommodate future missions such as airborne laser, near-space vehicles, DOD Joint Service and Service specific

missions and 21st Century missions identified in the Air Force's Transformation Flight Plan.

Ellsworth's infrastructure and operational advantages make it an ideal base for collocation of Active Duty, National Guard and/or Reserve missions.

Ellsworth can support the National Guard Initiatives to reduce Reserve Component "footprints" within continental regions and consolidate operations at primary or active duty installations.

Considering Reserve Component operations within the region,

Ellsworth provides an excellent opportunity for units to take advantage of Ellsworth's excellent infrastructure, secure operating location and training opportunities.

Consolidations at Ellsworth also provide excellent opportunities to conduct joint training operations and more effectively support annual joint training exercises and war fighting deployments.

Specific examples of Ellsworth's Military Value in terms of Transformation.

Ellsworth has "in-place" the modern and cost-efficient infrastructure DOD needs for 21st Century basing requirements.

Proven basing facility for B-1B platforms and crews in Global Power Operations.

Repeated AEF cycles of heavy lifting and precision weapons deliveries in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Projected "weapons of choice" and chosen as CENTCOM's roving linebacker.

In 2001, Ellsworth was rated as one of the top five AF bases for beddown of the Global Hawk Mission; subsequent infrastructure improvements have enhanced its competitiveness for future manned or RPV capabilities.

Air Force has invested over \$150 million to replace, consolidate or upgrade major operations, maintenance, support and quality of life facilities over the past 15 years.

Infrastructure modernization prior to and after mid-1980's beddown of the B-1B has positioned EAFB as a showcase of consolidated operations in multi-purpose or joint-use facilities -- in many instances one facility has replaced two or more outdated units.

A majority of the workforce occupies facilities built after 1985. Disposal of over 100 outdated and inefficient facilities has reduced unnecessary infrastructure and lower operations/maintenance costs.

With approval of \$14.4M in the FY07 budget, the aggressive management of EAFB's Military Family Housing will have produced a total EAFB housing inventory less than 20 years old.

Specific examples of Ellsworth's Business Operations and Cost Efficiencies.

Ellsworth has the lowest utility rates in Air Combat Command:

Access to extremely reliable and very affordable federally generated electrical power purchased at 50% of the commercial rate (\$.02/kw).

The base upgraded its internal electrical power distribution system in the 1990's.

Similar savings are being realized for its natural gas requirements with very favorable rates and an upgraded distribution system.

With strong community support, Ellsworth has long-term water reservoir rights and a favorable long-term water purification contract with Rapid City.



Ellsworth's aggressive water conservation measures have enabled the installation to consume only 55% of its nearly 600 million-gallon annual allocation.

Ellsworth recently upgraded its wastewater facility and can double its treatment and discharge flow.

Bottom line --- Ellsworth is a modern installation with cost-efficient operations that provides the taxpayer maximum combat power for minimum cost.

Thank you Pat.



JIM SHAW

MC: Commissioners, I would like to now like you to hear from Rapid City Mayor Jim Shaw, who will speak on behalf of our local government leaders.

Mayor Shaw.

Commissioner Skinner, Commissioner Bilbray and Commissioner Coyle, Rapid City and the other Greater Black Hills area cities and counties have a well established history of both supporting and embracing our nation's military services.

For over 60 years, we have supported Ellsworth's many and varied missions throughout WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, the Cold War and Gulf Wars including a 12,000 sq. mi. Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Field.



Since 9-11, we have supported Ellsworth's base and family needs during their repeated deployments in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and in a similar manner, we have seen our area's National Guard units mobilized with many still serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As someone who has the privilege of associating with Ellsworth's B-1B crew members, I can tell you those who train to fight from Ellsworth absolutely rave about our uncongested skies and immediate access to the Powder River Military Operating Area.

The inherent military utility Ellsworth offers air crews, maintainers and support personnel is being continually demonstrated by the B-1B squadron's skilled crews delivering precision weapons and tremendous firepower for Central Command's missions over Afghanistan and Iraq.



In another area of base support, as a community, we addressed the issue of encroaching development near Ellsworth in the 1990's and took an unprecedented multimillion dollar initiative to relocate an interstate highway interchange and build a new five lane base access road. As a result, development has been drawn away from the area and property and acreages have been purchased in that Accident Potential Zone.

In that same area of concern, I can assure you that we have few, if any prospects, of suffering the congestion and urban sprawl that is limiting the operational utility of many other bases within cities and in the high to explosive growth areas of our nation.

As to another important factor in the overall management and retention of military personnel, our community pays close attention to the Quality of Life afforded them and most importantly their families.

In fact, a 2004 survey by Expansion Management Magazine rated the overall Quality of Life afforded those who live in the Rapid City Community to be in the top 25% of 60 military support communities evaluated.

Such categories as Best Public Schools, Spousal Employment Opportunities, and Middle Class Living Standard stood out from the rest and when combined with the quality housing and access to National and State Parks, military families flourish here.

Further evidence of the sustained Quality of Life we and the rest of South Dakota enjoys is a 15 year record of being nationally recognized as one of the "Top Ten Most Livable States" in terms of 44 evaluation categories.

Commissioners, we are convinced that Ellsworth offers the Air Force and DOD an opportunity to both realize Ellsworth's military value and expand on its operational advantages and expansion capability.

Further, we can assure you that the base and its missions will be supported by the public policy decision within our community; we will continue to embrace its people as integral members of our community and our Congressional Delegation will be similarly supportive.

In closing, please allow me to commend you on behalf of the citizens of Rapid City and our Greater Black Hills Area. We appreciate the challenges you face and believe when you have evaluated the Secretary's recommendation to close Ellsworth you will find the counter points offered in the testimony of our experienced military leaders to prevail.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you.



6



TIM JOHNSON

MC: Commissioners, I would like to introduce to you our senior United States Senator, Tim Johnson.

I would like to welcome Commissioner Skinner, Commissioner Bilbray, and Commissioner Coyle to South Dakota and to thank them for their service to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. I know each of you will give careful and thoughtful consideration to the arguments presented today in defense of Ellsworth Air Force Base.

I would also like to recognize the Ellsworth Task Force, the Rapid City and Box Elder communities, and the men and women stationed at Ellsworth. Your steadfast dedication, patriotism, and support for Ellsworth has strengthened America.



This morning, I had the opportunity to join the Commissioners in touring Ellsworth Air Force Base and we saw first hand that it is an unparalleled and world-class military installation that is uniquely qualified to beddown the B-1 bomber fleet. Ellsworth is physically not the same air force base that it was a decade ago. In an age of ever-changing and emerging threats, it was imperative to upgrade the facilities at Ellsworth in order to confront the new enemies of the 21st century. Without question, we have succeeded.

The challenge to transform Ellsworth was necessary given our military's growing reliance on the B-1 bomber in defending our country. The B-1 bomber was first used in combat during Operation Desert Fox in December 1998. In recent years, B-1 bombers and their crews proved their combat value in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In fact, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, B-1s flew fewer than 2% of the combat sorties, but dropped more than half the satellite guided munitions. They showed great flexibility and were assigned a broad range of targets in Iraq, including command and control facilities, bunkers, tanks, armored personnel carriers, and surface-to-air missile sites. They also demonstrated the ability to linger for many hours over the battlefield and to provide close air support for U.S. forces engaged in the field.



Clearly, the B-1 bomber has proven it is the backbone of our bomber fleet. To ensure that its mission was not compromised, and to maintain operational



efficiencies and readiness, the South Dakota Congressional delegation secured funding necessary for substantial upgrades to the base's infrastructure. As a result, Ellsworth is a top-notch, modern facility without equal among military installations.

In the past decade, we have secured nearly \$140 million dollars that has been invested in Ellsworth's infrastructure. This includes funding for a new flight-simulator facility for B-1 crews to replace the outdated facility, allowing aviators access to improved training methods. A new operations center for the 37th Bomb Squadron was built to consolidate operations that had previously been housed in three separate locations. Erected in close proximity to the new headquarters of the 77th Bomb Squadron and to the flight line, it has enhanced mission responsiveness and productivity.



While servicemembers must have access to the most advance training systems available, it is equally important to provide a good quality of life to the men and women who serve Ellsworth. The dilapidated family housing units have been replaced with military housing that ranks amongst the best in the country. In addition, a new library and education center have been built, while the McRaven Child Development Center has been remodeled and expanded. These improvements have made Ellsworth one of the most family friendly and desirable bases for military personnel and their loved ones.

Finally, Ellsworth is strategically located with good access to training ranges and potential for growth. Ellsworth has strong community support and does not face the urban encroachment issues that confront many other military installations. Rather than closing, Ellsworth has without a doubt demonstrated it is our nation's premier bomber base, and is well positioned to receive additional missions.

The entire state of South Dakota is proud of Ellsworth and the men and women stationed there for their role in keeping America safe. The B-1s that call Ellsworth home are integral to our nation's defense, and Ellsworth is uniquely qualified to maintain the B-1 mission. Closing Ellsworth and stationing all our bombers at one installation without carefully considering the long term consequences will impair our ability to protect against threats at home and abroad.



Thank you.





JOHN THUNE

MC: Commissioners, I would like to introduce to you our newest United States Senator, John Thune.

Thank you for coming today, and welcome to Rapid City and the Black Hills.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I know that you and your fellow commissioners will bear a great responsibility over the coming months. As Commissioners, your decisions will directly impact the safety and security of all Americans.

The B-1 Bomber, as the backbone of our nation's bomber force, plays a critical role in our War on Terror. The question for this Commission is this: Does it make military sense to house the entire B-1 fleet in a single location?



Members of the BRAC Commission, we believe the answer is clear -- any further consolidation of the B-1s would create an unnecessary and unwise security risk, and the Pentagon's proposal to do so should be rejected by this Commission.

Let's take a look at the risks and dangers of the Pentagon's proposal:

As General Loh explained, putting all our B-1s in a single location would make our B-1 fleet unnecessarily vulnerable.

First, as we have so painfully learned, military installations are not immune from attack. We should never forget about the short-sightedness we had as a nation before Pearl Harbor. We might dismiss that as just some past, distant war from another time and another place, not really applicable to today's threats. But it is.

We were reminded of this on September 11th, when Al Qaeda attacked the Pentagon itself, with tragic results. And there were also reports that the terrorists had targeted other military installations before September 11th.



With the terrorists clearly bent on targeting our military assets and their willingness to use unconventional weapons, we should make it harder, not easier, to take out our fleet of B-1s. But the Pentagon's proposal would create the possibility that a single terrorist attack could wipe out our entire B-1 fleet, or all of the B-1 pilots and flight crews.

Second, the risk of natural disasters is a constant reminder that we shouldn't put all our B-1 assets in a single location, particularly one located in the heart of "tornado alley." We simply cannot afford to risk our nation's security on the whims of a single deadly tornado that could destroy or damage our entire B-1 fleet.

Third, we can't afford to look only at the world as it is now. Instead, we have to look to the emerging threats our nation will face 10 or 20 years from now. This is not as easy as it sounds.

From the abrupt ending of the Cold War to the events of September 11th, it is clear that we live in an uncertain world full of surprises.

We must learn from our history. Although the Soviet Union is gone, countries like China, North Korea, and Iran either have nuclear weapons or are actively developing them. What's more, they are seeking the means to deliver those weapons by long-range ballistic missiles.

The lesson in all this is that the threats we face as a nation will continue to change. And to respond to those threats, we need to maintain or increase our flexibility, not reduce it. If the Pentagon is allowed to close Ellsworth, it will be difficult or impossible to re-open it if we are once again surprised by the unexpected.

General Loh's statement that we should not over-consolidate our B-1 fleet makes perfect sense. It is also supported by sound military principle.

The Department of Defense itself has stated, in its *National Defense Strategy* report issued just three months ago, that we should be guided by the goal of "developing greater flexibility to contend with uncertainty by emphasizing agility and *by not overly concentrating military forces in a few locations.*"

Similarly, the DOD has stated that they need "secure installations . . . that ensure strategic redundancy."

Finally, Ellsworth's military value is clear even under the Pentagon's own analysis, and could easily expand with additional missions. The Pentagon gives Ellsworth one of its highest scores for a tanker mission – a significantly higher ranking than the three bases that will actually be tankers under the Pentagon's plan -- McConnell, Fairchild and McDill.

Among the three bases in North and South Dakota -- Ellsworth, Grand Forks, and Minot -- Ellsworth scored highest in six of the eight Air Force mission evaluation categories, with the other bases scoring first in only one category each. The surge capacity of Ellsworth is unmistakable.

We fully understand that one of the purposes of this BRAC round is to save money. But we should not do so at the expense of our nation's security. With the ever-changing threats we face in this century, we simply cannot take the chance of closing Ellsworth. If we eliminate this base, it cannot be easily replaced later.

Members of the Commission, we are all here today urging you to take Ellsworth off the Pentagon's proposed closure list. Obviously, Ellsworth is critically important to our state. But it is even more important to our country and to our national defense. Ellsworth is a first-class base with a critical mission in our War on Terror, both now and in the future. As a nation, we simply cannot afford to lose it.

STEPHANIE HERSETH

MC: Commissioners, I would like to introduce to you our United States Representative, Stephanie Herseth.

Representative Herseth.

As Senator Johnson discussed, and as you undoubtedly noticed in your visit this morning, Ellsworth has been transformed from a base of the past to a modern base of the future. It has, and can continue, to serve the existing B-1 mission extremely well. And as we in Congress work to transform our nation's military, there is no doubt that Ellsworth is uniquely positioned to serve as an exceptional facility for emerging missions.

The transformation of the Air Force is already underway, and while we have some good guesses as to what the Air Force will look like in 2025, there is never any absolute certainty about how the military will look in the future or how the strategic environment for our national security may change.

Ellsworth is one of the few bases with the viability to accept the emerging missions currently being developed and deployed, and it is well positioned to operate virtually any defense platform conceived by the military in the future.

Because of Ellsworth's existing infrastructure, the Air Force has already recognized Ellsworth as a base well positioned to handle various emerging missions. And as Senator Thune mentioned briefly, that makes Ellsworth an extremely important asset to our nation's military in the years to come.

For example, the Air Force has already identified Ellsworth as an excellent candidate for an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle mission such as the Predator or Global Hawk. In contrast to the other base in the region recommended by the Pentagon for retention and bed-down, Ellsworth was one of the five continental U.S. bases identified by the Air Force's internal alternative identification and evaluation process and the only north central base considered suitable for the initial bed-down of a Global Hawk UAV mission in 2001. Given the Air Force's own recommendations, I submit that the Air Force deviated from the Military Value Criteria by not designating Ellsworth as a base to be retained in the north central continental United States for a UAV mission.

Additionally, the Air Force's own evaluation of Ellsworth's location and infrastructure positions it as a prime candidate to bed-down new missions such as Command & Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance or "C2ISR"; and Space Operations. Additionally, the Air Force has given Ellsworth a rating for a future tanker mission that exceeds that of the bases recommended for a tanker mission. Importantly, Ellsworth also has been surveyed for the bed-down of the Airborne Laser, and its arched hanger capable of housing two 747 sized aircraft make it a prime candidate for that mission.

In closing, allow me to reiterate that Ellsworth is the only facility in the region considered suitable for a Global Hawk UAV mission. It is also ready and uniquely capable of accepting the Airborne Laser mission, and has been identified as an excellent location for a tanker mission. Additionally, the base has the flexibility of accepting emerging missions such as C2ISR as well as space operations. I submit that there was a substantial deviation from the Military Value Criteria by not adequately considering the emerging mission capability of Ellsworth. As the commission moves forward, I ask that you review the Air Force's own findings related to the potential of Ellsworth to house both a UAV and airborne laser mission. Those findings reflect what those of us familiar with the base already know – it is a world class, modern facility well positioned to handle emerging missions in the decades to come.

Thank you.



SIDNEY GOSS

MC: Commissioners, I would now like to move to another area of concern that can be best addressed by an authority on the impact of Ellsworth Air Force Base as a vital component of our state and region. Professor Sidney Goss, Ph.D. of The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, here in Rapid City will provide you a perspective that might not be readily understood or appreciated in terms of impact on our state and region.

Professor Goss.



BRAC Commission Testimony
Sidney Goss
June 21, 2005
Accompanied by Powerpoint Slides

Good Afternoon Commissioners.

My name is Sidney Goss.

My focus today is to show the impact of the closure of Ellsworth AFB on our community.

Among the BRAC selection criteria is one which states that the commission is to consider the "impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the military installation." Our community is large, cohesive, and may be defined in many ways.

Some would define our community as the entire state of South Dakota, others as the western 1/2 of SD, others as the 100 mile trade area with 144,000 population, others as the 200 mile trade area, with 459,000 persons, and still others as the Black Hills Region. We live in an area where people think nothing of driving over 100 miles each way to shop. All of these definitions of community are valid.

For purposes of comparison, I'll also refer to the federally defined, United States Census Bureau area called the Rapid City Metropolitan Statistical Area, or Rapid City MSA. This includes the populations of Pennington and Meade Counties. Coincidentally, EAFB sits on the county line of the counties making up this statistical area. The surrounding area, by any definition, supplies more than sufficient population to support guard or reserve units.

As a state, South Dakota is rural. Our entire state's population is 771,000. That's roughly the size of a small city. In fact, Indianapolis, Indiana or Jacksonville, FL have roughly the same population as the entire state of South Dakota. This satellite night-time image shows the rurality of SD quite well. The upper Midwest area without many lights...that's South Dakota.

On your way here, you drove through the town of Box Elder, SD. Its population is about 3000.

Rapid City, where we are now seated, has a population of about 60,000.

The Rapid City MSA, or combined counties population is 116,000.

EAFB contains nearly	4500 military personnel	4491
With	5600 dependents	(5640)
Civilian employees	1000 (418 apprpr, 634 non-apprp)	(w/o Dep.)
Total		11,000

Indirect jobs	1700 (1698) (w/o Dependents)
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EAFB Econ Impact Report, Fiscal 2004

Ellsworth contains nearly 4500 military personnel with 5600 dependents. It also employs over 1000 civilian employees, not counting their dependents, for a total of over 11,000 persons. Ellsworth also creates 1700 indirect jobs.

If we quickly find employment for 1000 of these individuals (a major feat in an area with low unemployment), we'll lose an estimated 10,000 people.

This conservative number of 10,000 represents:

9% of RC MSA --a 2 county population base.

10,000 persons represent, in the Minneapolis MSA area 0.3 %
In Denver's MSA, 0.4%
Of Rapid City MSA, 9%

We are also an area experiencing net out-migration. Over the past census decade, the RC MSA lost 1300 (1279) persons due to net out-migration. In other words, 1300 more persons moved out than in to this area between 1990 and 2000, the last census decade, roughly 130 persons per year, net out migration for our MSA.

We understand that the Department of Defense wishes to move quickly.

If our metro area of 116,000 were to lose 10,000 persons in 1 year, this would be the equivalent of 76 years of out-migration for this area—hitting us all at once. This impact is significant.

Our community has experienced moderate growth, as births outnumber deaths giving us today's 116,000 population.

A decrease of 10,000 persons would put our population back to levels of 1988, a 17-year regression.

Economically, Ellsworth represents \$278,000,000 annually in our economy. This is a large figure in SD terms, and represents, in fact a figure larger than the total annual gross sales of neighboring Sturgis, SD, some 20 miles from here.

Ellsworth Econ Impact Report, Fiscal Year 2004

Simply put, EAFB is SD's 2nd largest employer. The state's largest employer is some 350 miles east of here. I don't know how to state its economic impact more clearly. EAFB is the state's second largest employer. SD Dept of Labor, Phil George

Now, please allow me to be more specific about the integration of the EAFB personnel and our community, state and region.

1st, Schools: Ellsworth is served by area public schools, most notably the Douglas school system. Douglas K12 school contains 2500 students, 1/2 of whom are Ellsworth dependents.

This school is the 10th largest in South Dakota. Out of SD's 165 school districts, the Douglas school system is larger than 155 of them. It is larger than the smallest 25 school districts combined. The reduction of 1/2 of this school is equivalent to the closing of 16 of the state's smallest school districts. (DECA figures, SD Dept of Education).

University and Technical school offerings are popular at Ellsworth. We combine our local populations with the military personnel and dependents to create a college student nucleus large enough to support our offerings. A reduction of 10,000 base-related personnel will seriously diminish the educational opportunities of those of us remaining in this community.

(BHSU, T. Flickema: 284/977 students are military or dependents, Fall 2004)

Services: The local United Way indicates that their member agencies rely heavily upon Ellsworth and its personnel in many ways. While there are too many examples to cite, at last year's day of caring, a day of community projects, 300 Ellsworth personnel worked on 54 projects in this community. Their volunteerism is an integral part of our community.

Renee Parker, United Way

Medicine:

The Rapid City Regional Hospital provides most of the inpatient health care needs of Ellsworth personnel and dependents. 12% of the babies born there are to Ellsworth personnel or dependents. During the past 5 years, this hospital served 27,000 military personnel/ dependent or retiree cases, generating \$50 million in gross charges (\$49,539,610 over 5 years). RCRH Alan Bares

Our arts community, or symphony, our theaters, our sports teams all receive substantial support from the Ellsworth community. Our community's ability to offer such life enriching experiences will be diminished by the loss of EAFB.

Our places of worship are lead by and contributed to significantly by Ellsworth personnel and dependents.

Our security: I'm not talking about the nation's security, but instead our volunteer firefighters, search and rescue teams, or police reserves. For example, when search and rescue called recently for assistance to find a lost alzheimer's patient, over 50 of those searchers were Ellsworth personnel. As part of the mutual aid fire departments, the EAFB fire department responds regularly to fires throughout the area. The law enforcement divisions of Ellsworth are true partners with the local sheriff and police departments. In the Pennington County Sheriff's Department alone, 50 current employees are former EAFB personnel or spouses, comprising 19% (50/267, Lt. Weber) of the staff. In fact, 12 of the 28 members of the Box Elder volunteer fire department are EAFB personnel.

Penn Co Sheriff's Office, Lt. K. Weber
Box Elder Mayor Haddenham
Park Owen, Emergency Management

Retirees: Our community is enriched by the countless military retirees residing here. They fill much needed rolls in our community and are integral to our economic and cultural well-being. While it is difficult to get an exact count, we know that a minimum over 2700 retirees use medical facilities at Ellsworth. The number of retirees in our community far exceeds this figure.

Quality of Life:

The EAFB community, the RC community, has been ranked, not by us, but by independent agencies and organizations as among the top in lifestyle. Morgan Quitno puts SD in the top 10 of the "most livable" states in America. Expansion Magazine ranks us among 60 military communities in its top ¼, ranking 2 in schools, and high in numerous other categories. In short, the military personnel enjoy living here as much as we enjoy having them here.

Commissioners: Ellsworth Air Force Base is a significant part of our community and we are a significant part of theirs. We know that your decision must be based primarily on military value factors. We also know that your criteria include "the impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the military installation." Congress included this provision for a reason. Commissioners, the impact of the closure of Ellsworth AFB on this community, state and region will be significant and long lasting.

Thank you

Sources

Message from the 28th Bomb Wing Commander, Joe Brown IV. Economic Impact Analysis, Fiscal Year 2004

**Letters (of Support) to the Rapid City Journal Editor
Re.: Ellsworth Air Force Base**

Letters to the editor, 5-24

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/06/17/news/opinion/opin203.txt>

Wait and see

I will admit that the closing of Ellsworth came as a shock to me. But you cannot point your finger at only John Thune.

You have to remember that there are three people in Washington representing the people of South Dakota. Thune is not the only person who was fighting to keep the base open.

If I am correct, Sen. Johnson has been in Washington a lot longer than Thune has. It is not right that Tim Johnson and Stephanie Herseth stand back and let John Thune take all the blame.

You also must remember that President Bush can still come through for Thune and decline the list next fall. All we can do is wait and see and hope Bush does come through.

In the meantime, give John a break!

MITCH JOHNSON
Rapid City

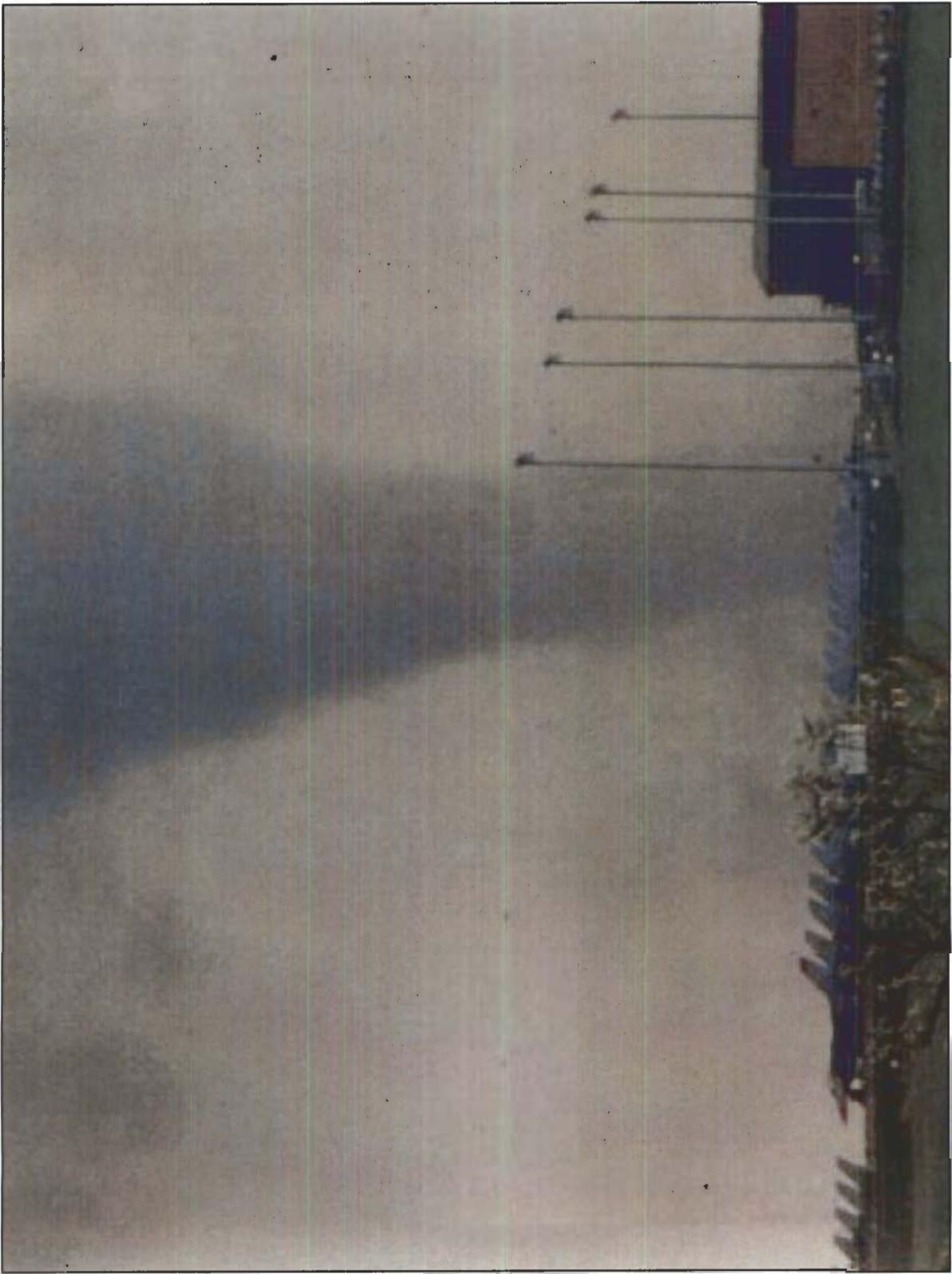
Work together

I was greatly impressed with the press conference held Friday (May 14) by our D.C. delegation and Gov. Rounds regarding Ellsworth. They appear to be working hand in glove for the cause.

Sen. Johnson set the tone with his serious and mature discussion of the issue. Sen. Thune similarly expressed his disgust with the Pentagon's decision. Our senators, along with Rep. Herseth, calmly but sternly laid out their plan to prove Ellsworth should remain, pointing out the potential for growth. Gov. Rounds was equally impressive with his grasp of the situation.

I'm proud of our state's leaders ability to stay calm yet adamant in their attempts for the future. Now if only the partisan political types and left-over remnants of the Daschle machine would just do the same!

Let's show the world that South Dakotans have what they don't: people who work together to make things happen instead of whining about who's to blame while sitting on the sidelines giving their two cents instead of working towards a solution! Let's remember to pray for our delegation and elected leaders at all levels as these discussions take place.





“As we transform our posture, we are guided by the following goals:

...Developing greater flexibility to contend with uncertainty by emphasizing agility and by not overly concentrating military forces in a few locations;...”

Source: DoD, The National Defense Strategy of the United States of America, March 2005, page 22.



Principles and Corresponding Imperatives

Deploy & Employ (Operational):

- The Department needs secure installations that are optimally located for mission accomplishment (including homeland defense)... and that ensure strategic redundancy.

Comparative Military Value Rankings Between Ellsworth AFB, Grand Forks AFB, & Minot AFB

Air Force Function	1 st in Rankings		2 nd in Rankings		3 rd in Rankings	
Bomber	Ellsworth	50.81	Minot	45.72	Grand Forks	38.48
Lift	Ellsworth	59.40	Minot	54.34	Grand Forks	50.53
Tanker	Ellsworth	83.73	Grand Forks	63.52	Minot	62.74
Fighter	Ellsworth	58.06	Minot	56.64	Grand Forks	55.88
SOF	Minot	45.12	Ellsworth	43.91	Grand Forks	43.75
C2ISR	Ellsworth	87.72	Minot	77.04	Grand Forks	76.33
UAV	Grand Forks	70.93	Ellsworth	69.73	Minot	67.53
Space	Ellsworth	84.12	Minot	83.93	Grand Forks	82.64



Candidate # USAF - 0018V3/ S200.3
#USAF - 0117V2/ S420c3

	Ellsworth Air force Base	Grand Forks Air force Base
One-time Cost:	\$229 M	\$129 M
Payback period:	1yr / 2009	Immediate
NPV Savings:	\$1,853 M	\$2,656 M

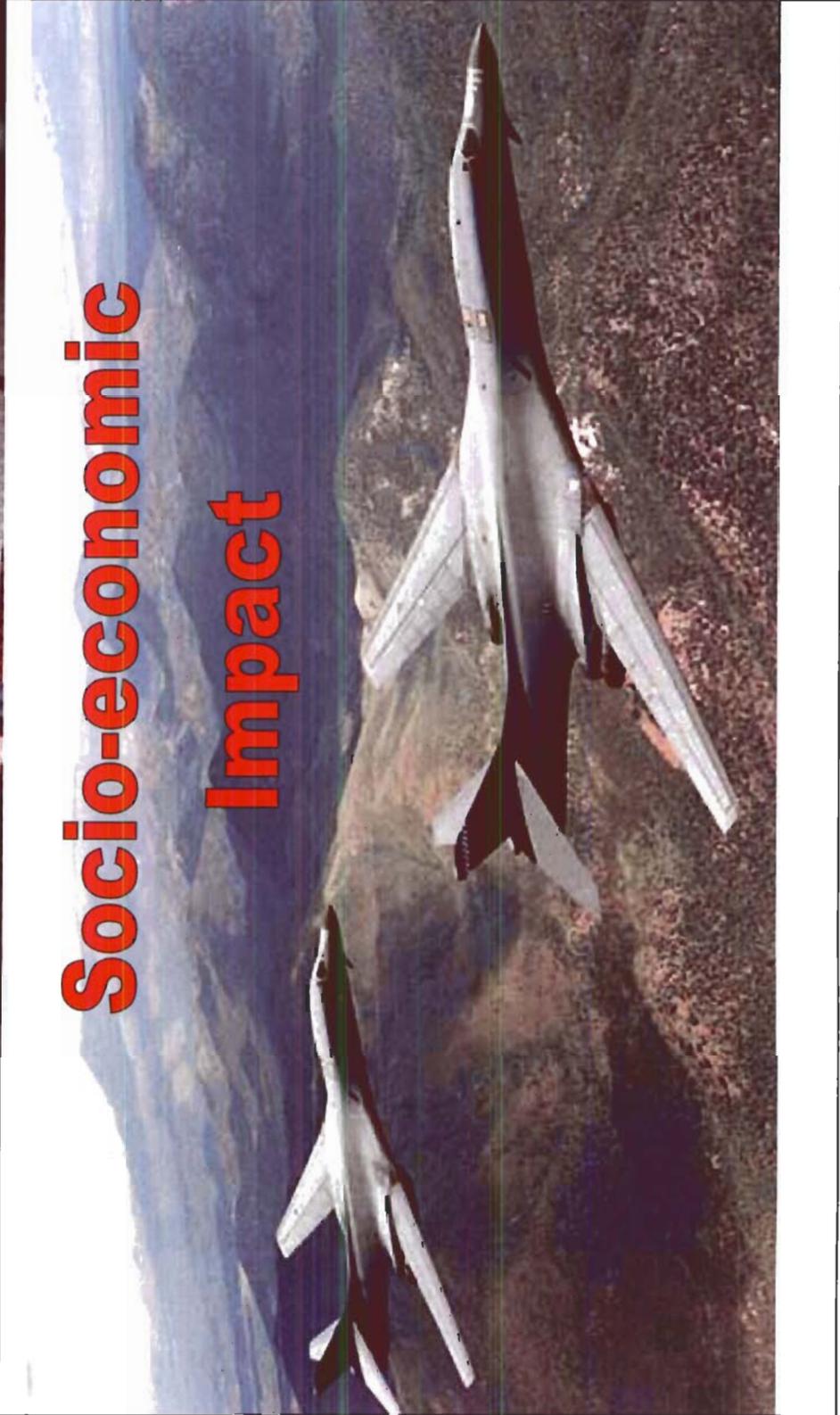
Updated OSD Quad Charts (2 May 1030).ppt



ELLISWORTH
Air Force Base



Socio-economic Impact



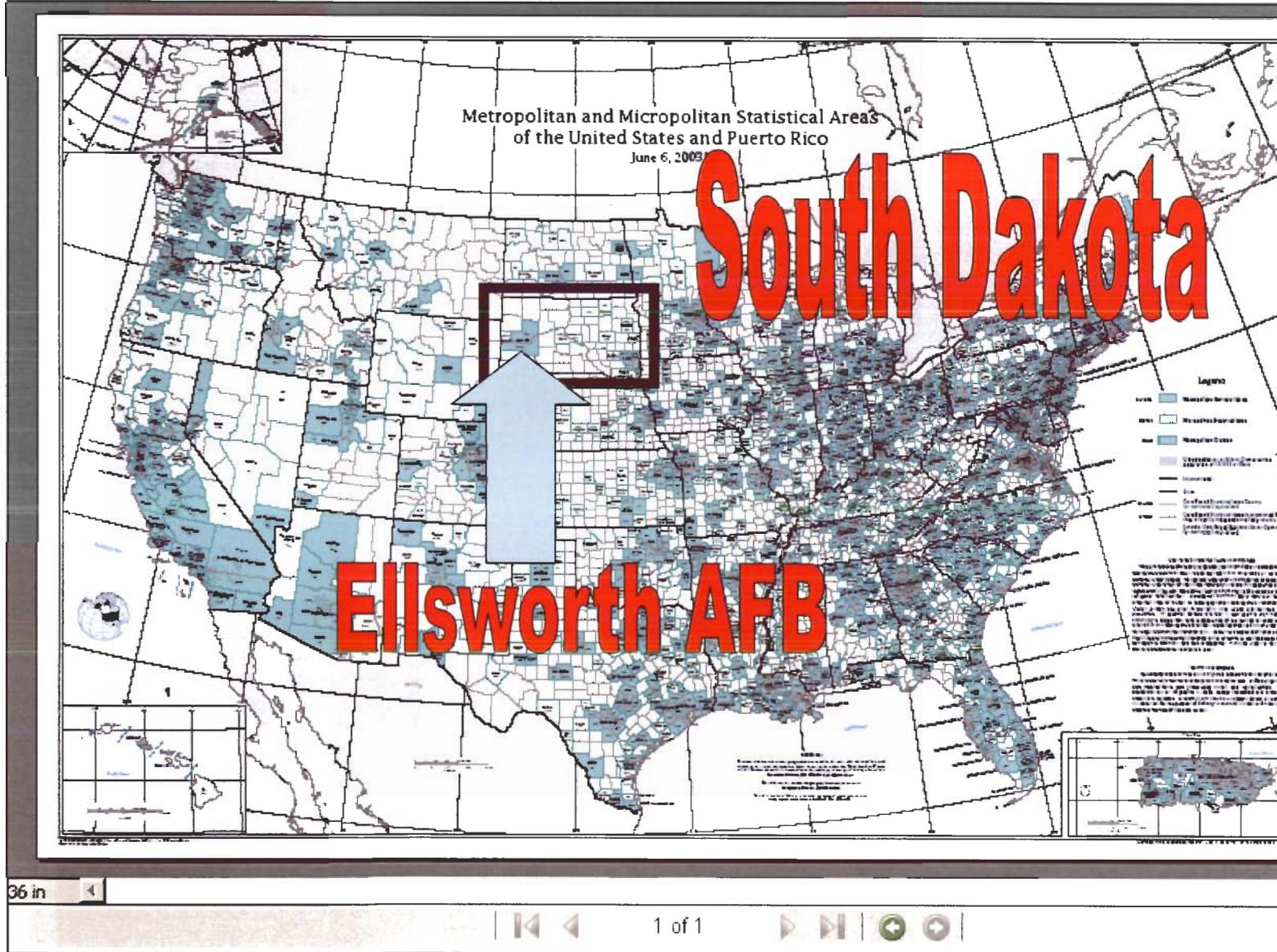
BRAC Selection Criteria

- “impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the military installation”



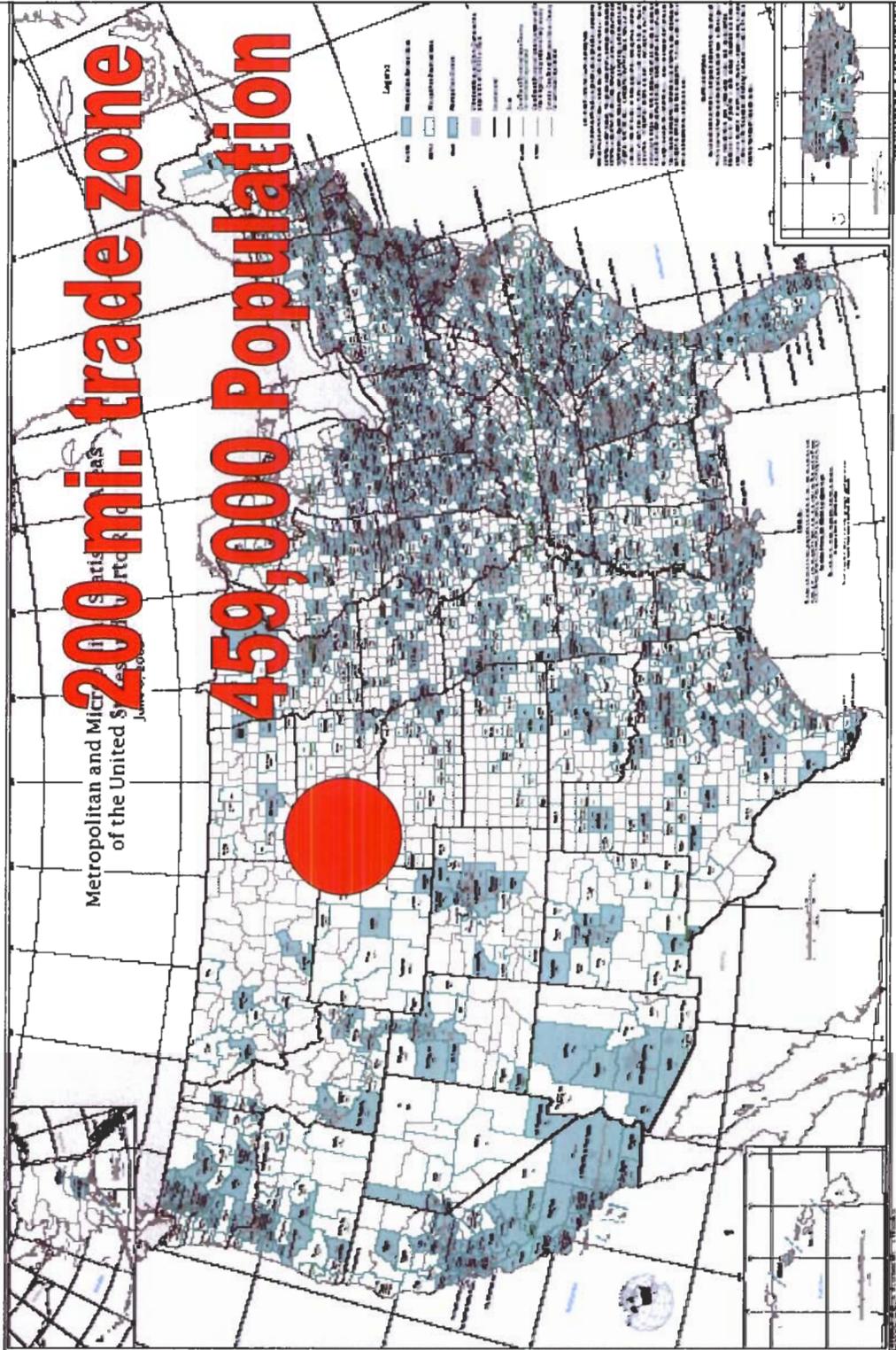
Ellsworth
Air Force Base





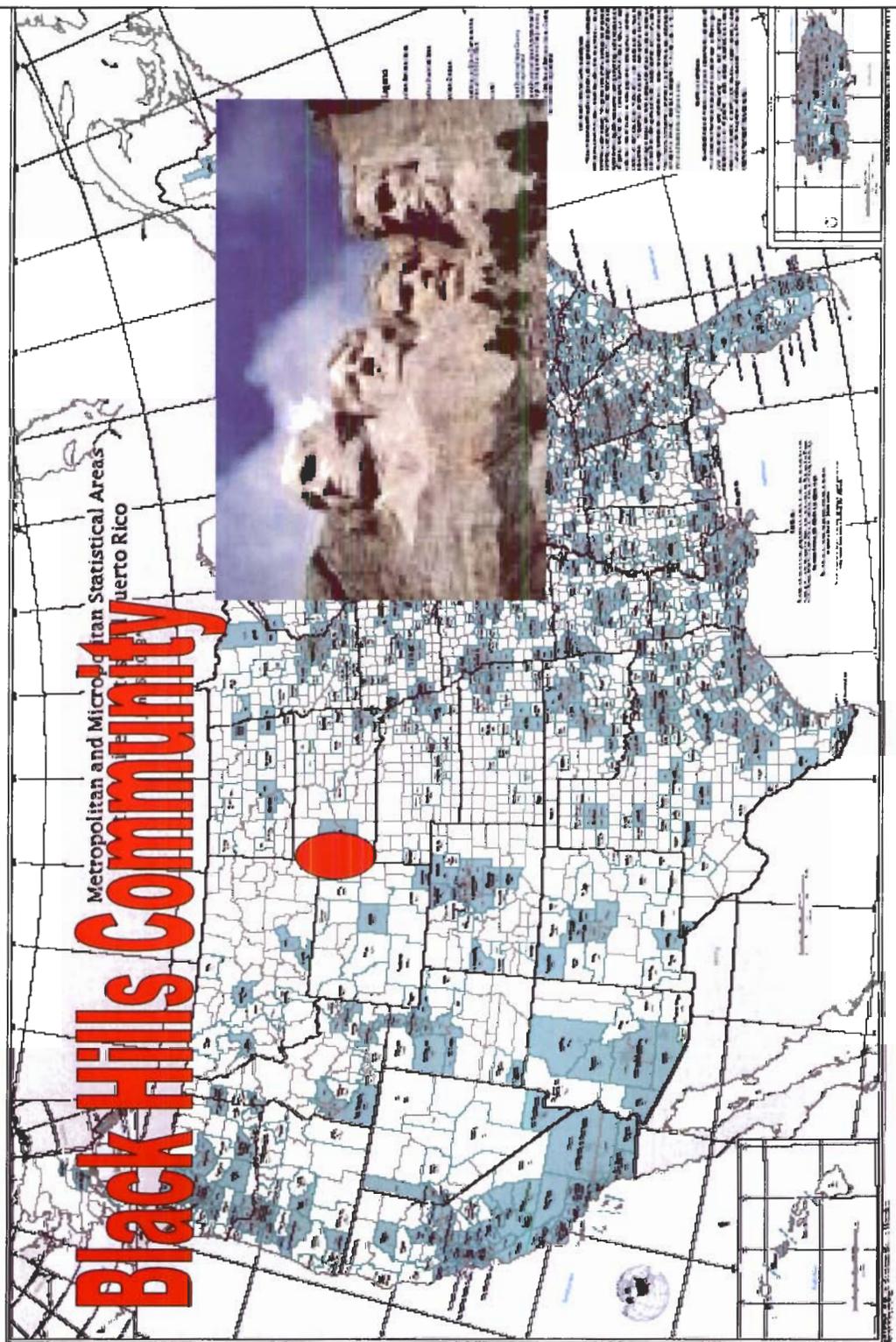
200 mi. trade zone 459,000 Population

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States
June 2000



Black Hills Community

Metropolitan and Micro Urban Statistical Areas
Puerto Rico



96 in

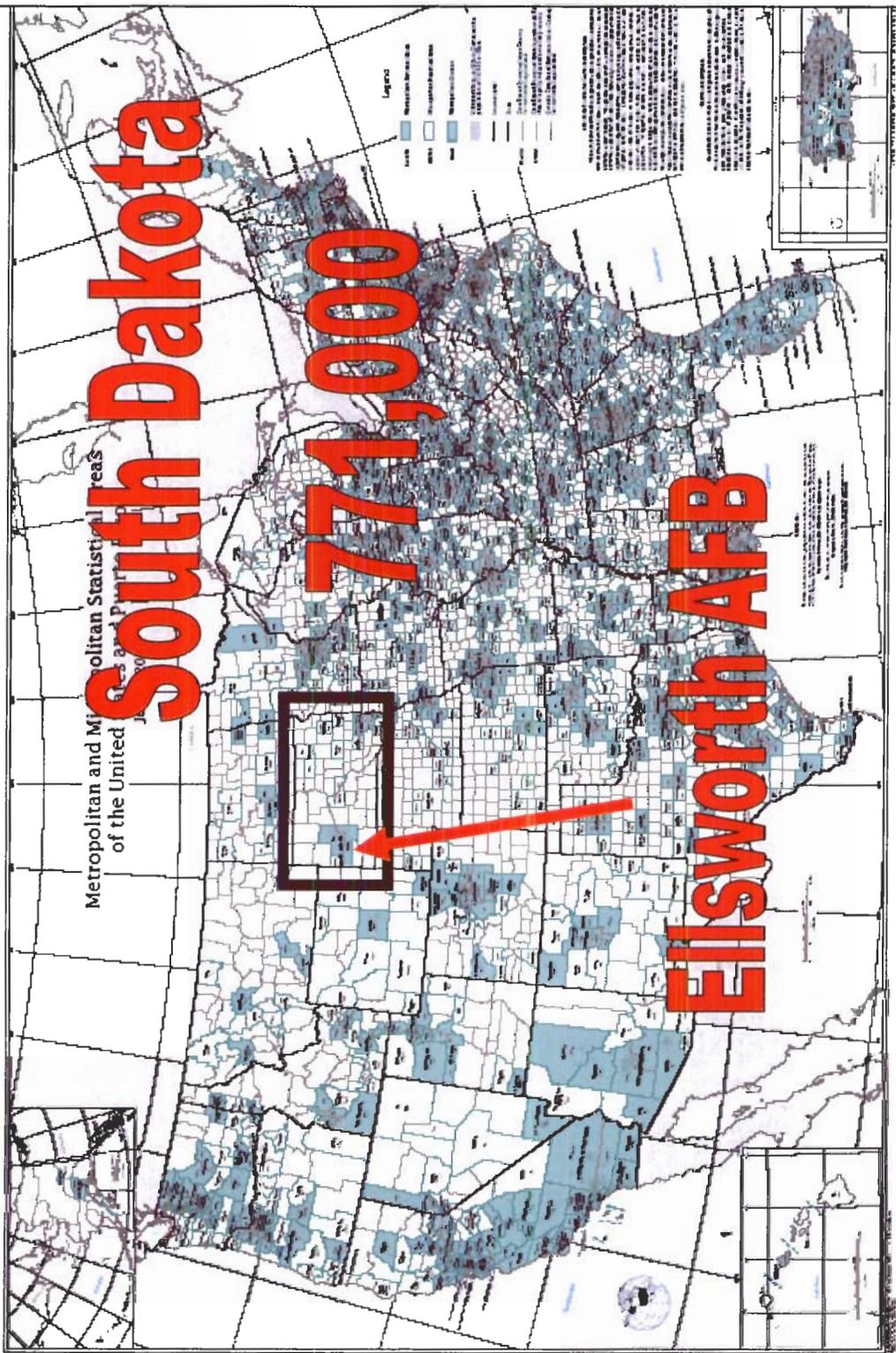
1 of 1

South Dakota

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Populated Places of the United States

771,000

Ellsworth AFB



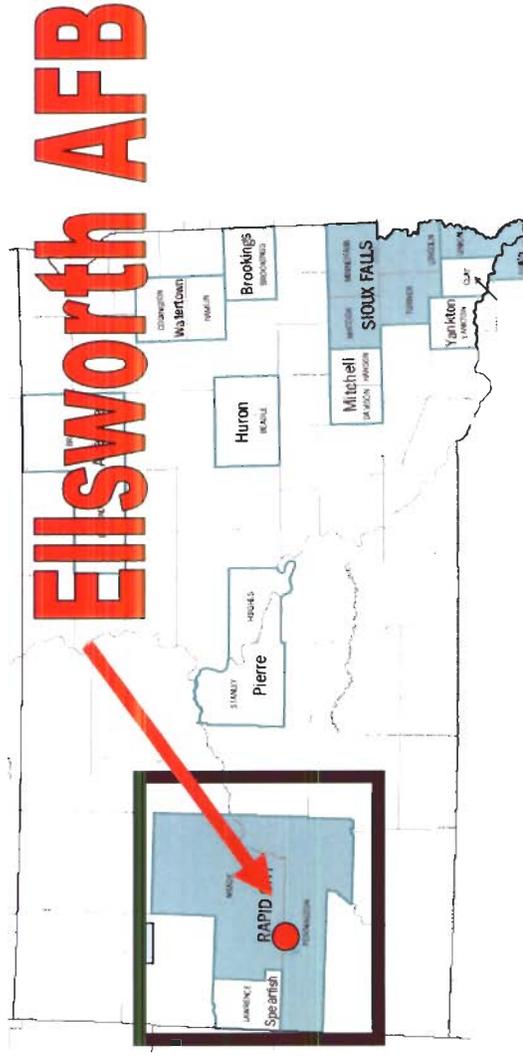
36 in

1 of 1





- Box Elder, SD 3,000
- Rapid City 60,000
- Rapid City MSA 116,000 (Pennington & Meade Co.)



Ellsworth AFB



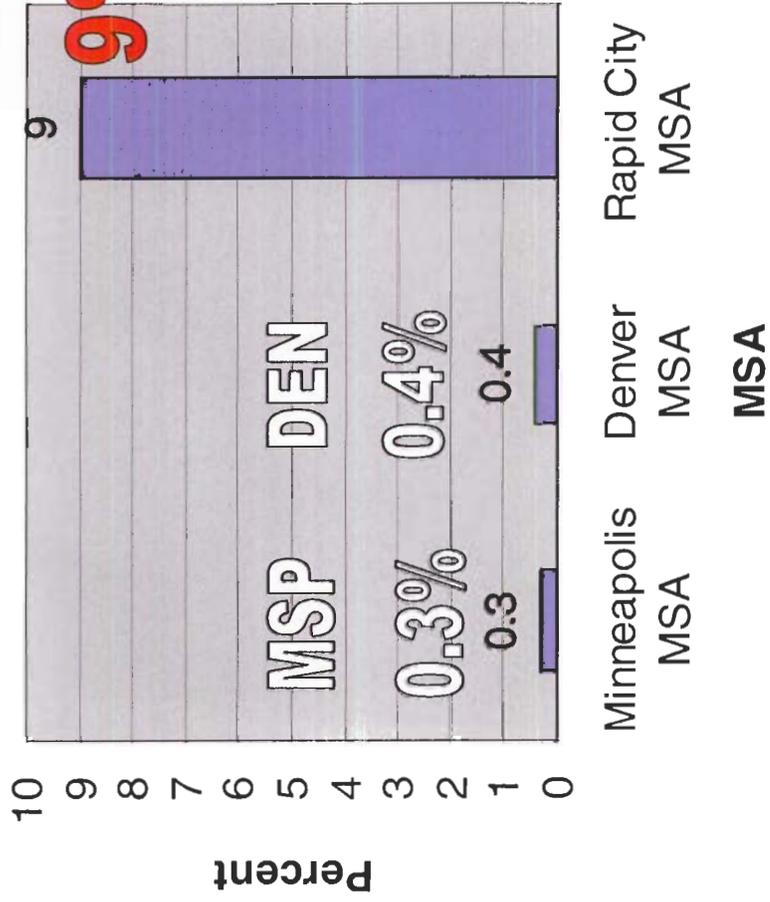
- Military Personnel 4500 (figs. rounded)
- Mil. Dependents 5600
- Civilian Empl. 1000 (w/o dependents)
- Total 11,000+

- Indirect Jobs 1,700(w/o dependents)

10,000

10,000 Persons as Percent of Population

RAP



Net OUT-migration

- 1990-2000:
- Rapid City MSA: -1300 (rounded)
-

Net OUT-migration

- 1990-2000:
- Rapid City MSA: -1300 (rounded)
- (1300 more moved *out than in* during 1990s.)
-

Net OUT-migration

- 1990-2000:
- Rapid City MSA: -1300 (rounded)
- (1300 more moved out than in during 1990s.)
- 130 persons per year net migration loss

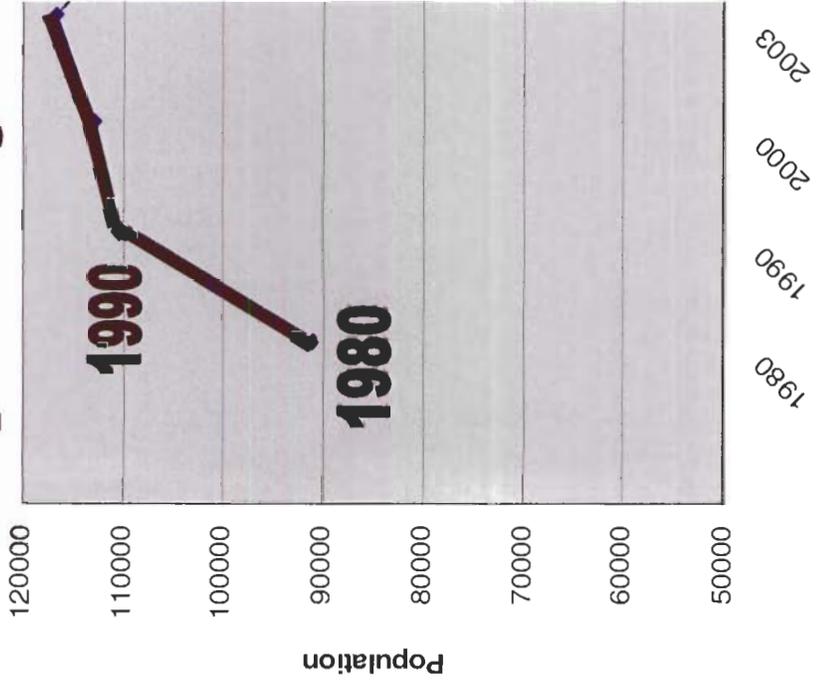
Net OUT-migration

- 10,000 Population Loss= **76 Years**
– At current rates of out-migration

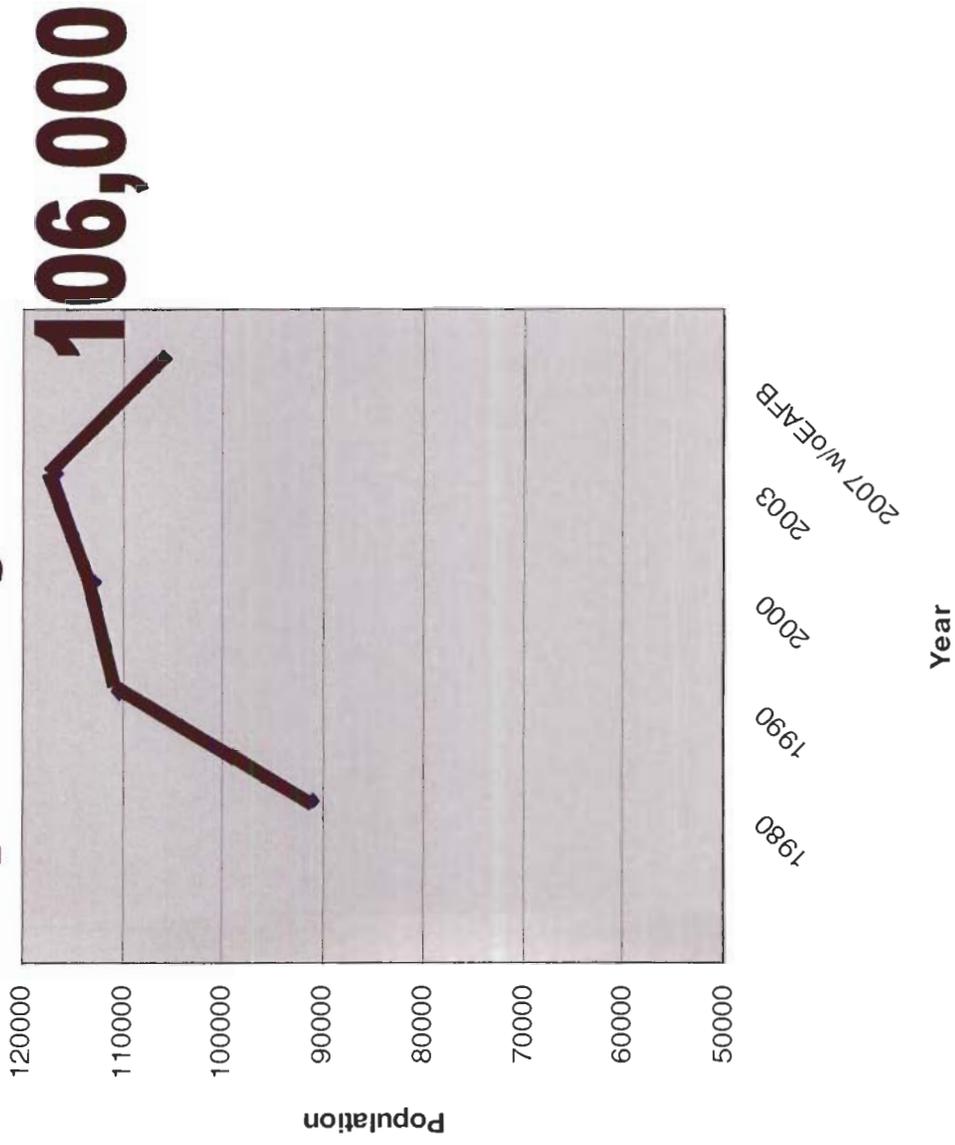


Rapid City MSA

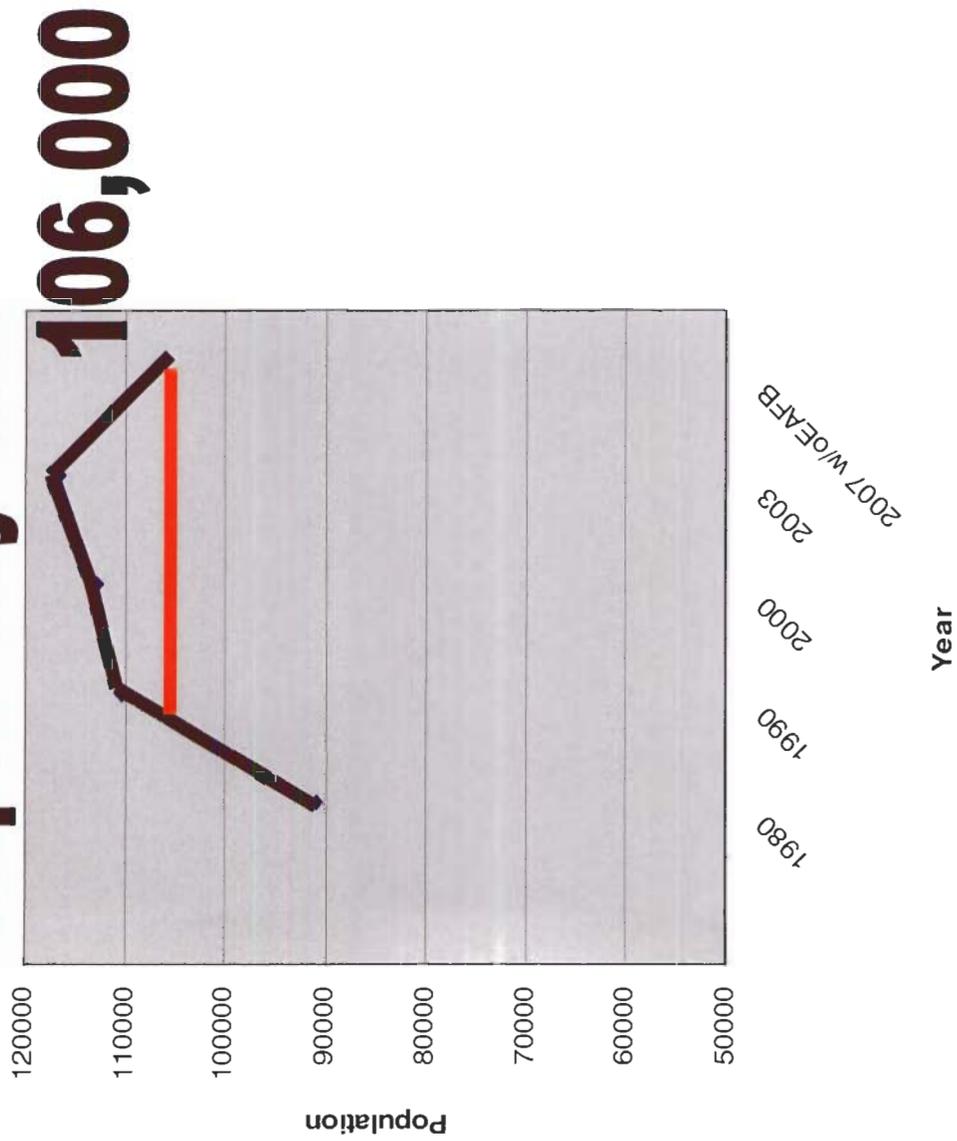
116,000
Today



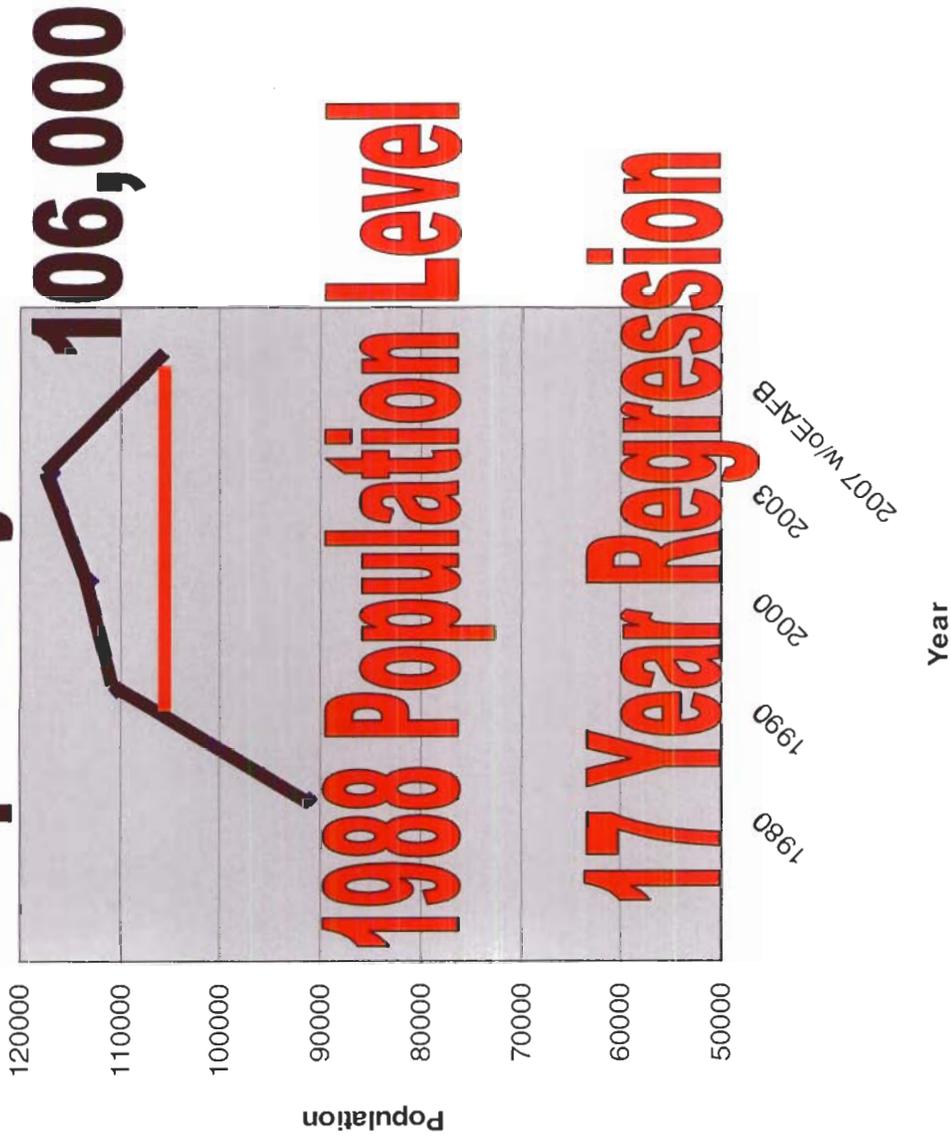
Rapid City MSA



Rapid City MSA



Rapid City MSA



Economic Impact

- \$278,400,000 Annually



Economic Impact

- \$278,400,000 Annually
- More than the annual **gross** sales of Sturgis, SD



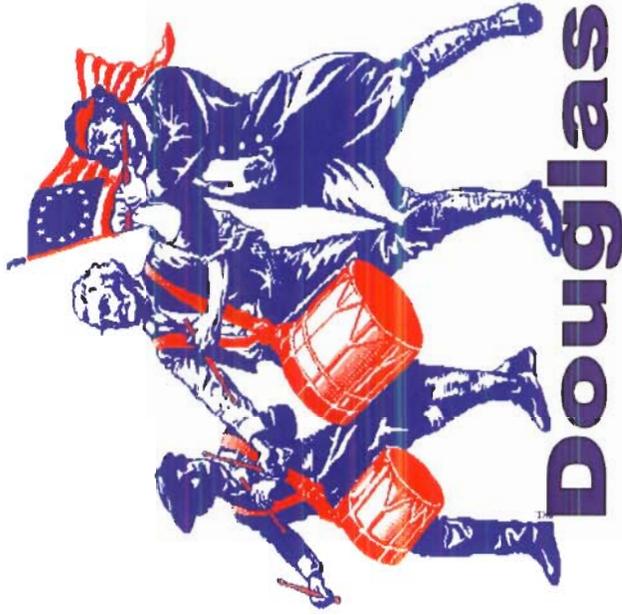
Ellsworth AFB

- South Dakota's 2nd Largest Employer



Education

- Douglas School System



**Douglas
Patriots**

Education

- Douglas School System
- 2500 Students
- 1/2 EAFB Dependents



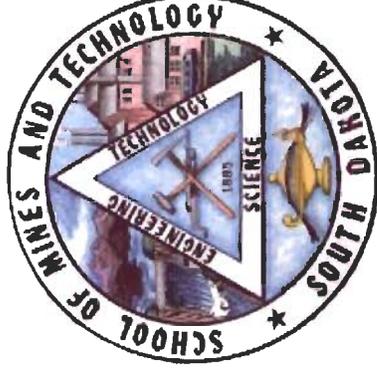
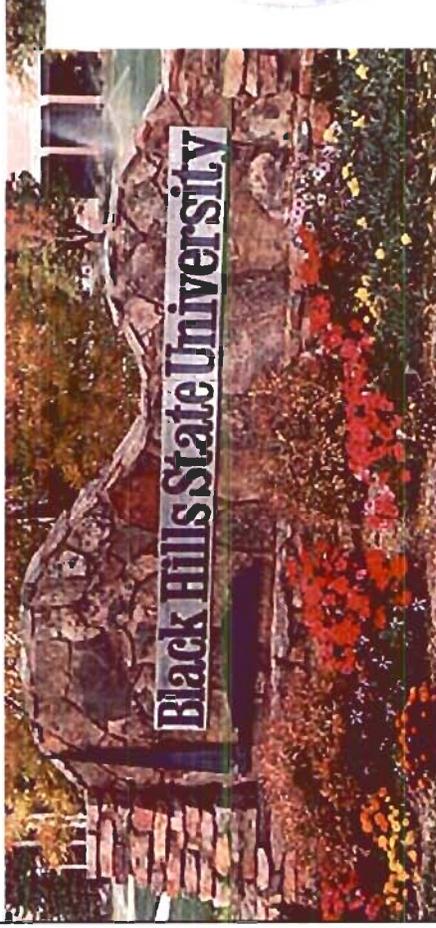
Education

- Douglas School System
- 2500 Students
- ½ EAFB Dependents
- 10/165 SD Schools



Higher Education

- University/Technical Offerings



Western Dakota Technical Institute

Services

Services

- United Way



United Way

Services

- United Way's Day of Caring (community projects)
- A one day example:



United Way

Services

- United Way's Day of Caring (community projects)
- A one day example:
- 300 Ellsworth volunteers
- 54 Community projects

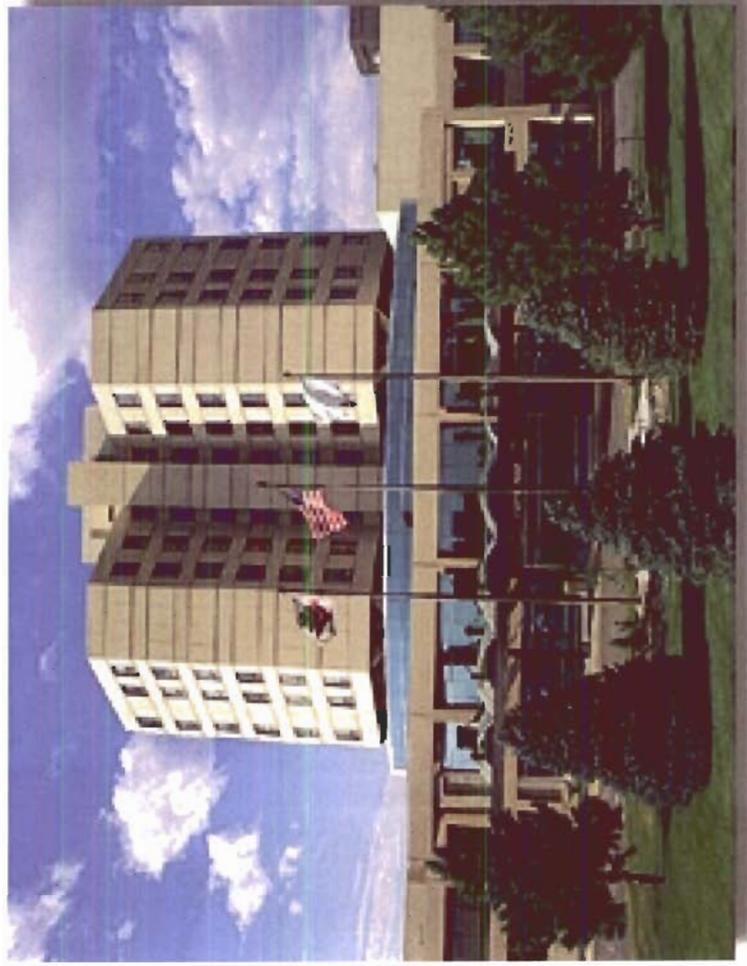


United Way

Medicine

Medicine

- Rapid City Regional Hospital:



Medicine

- Rapid City Regional Hospital:
 - 12% of births

Medicine

- Rapid City Regional Hospital:
 - 12% of births
 - 27,000 cases (5 yr. figs.)

Medicine

- Rapid City Regional Hospital:
 - 12% of births
 - 27,000 cases (5 yr. figs.)
 - \$50,000,000 gross medical charges (5 yr. figs.)

Culture



Places of Worship



Security/Safety

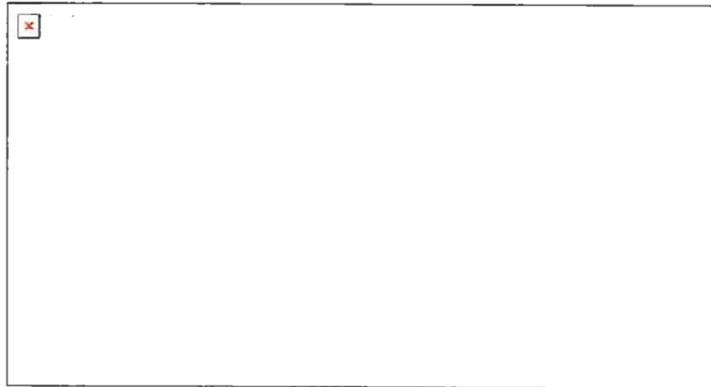
Security/Safety

- Pennington Co. Sheriff's Office:
 - 50 current employees (19%)=Former Ellsworth AFB Personnel or Dependents



Security/Safety

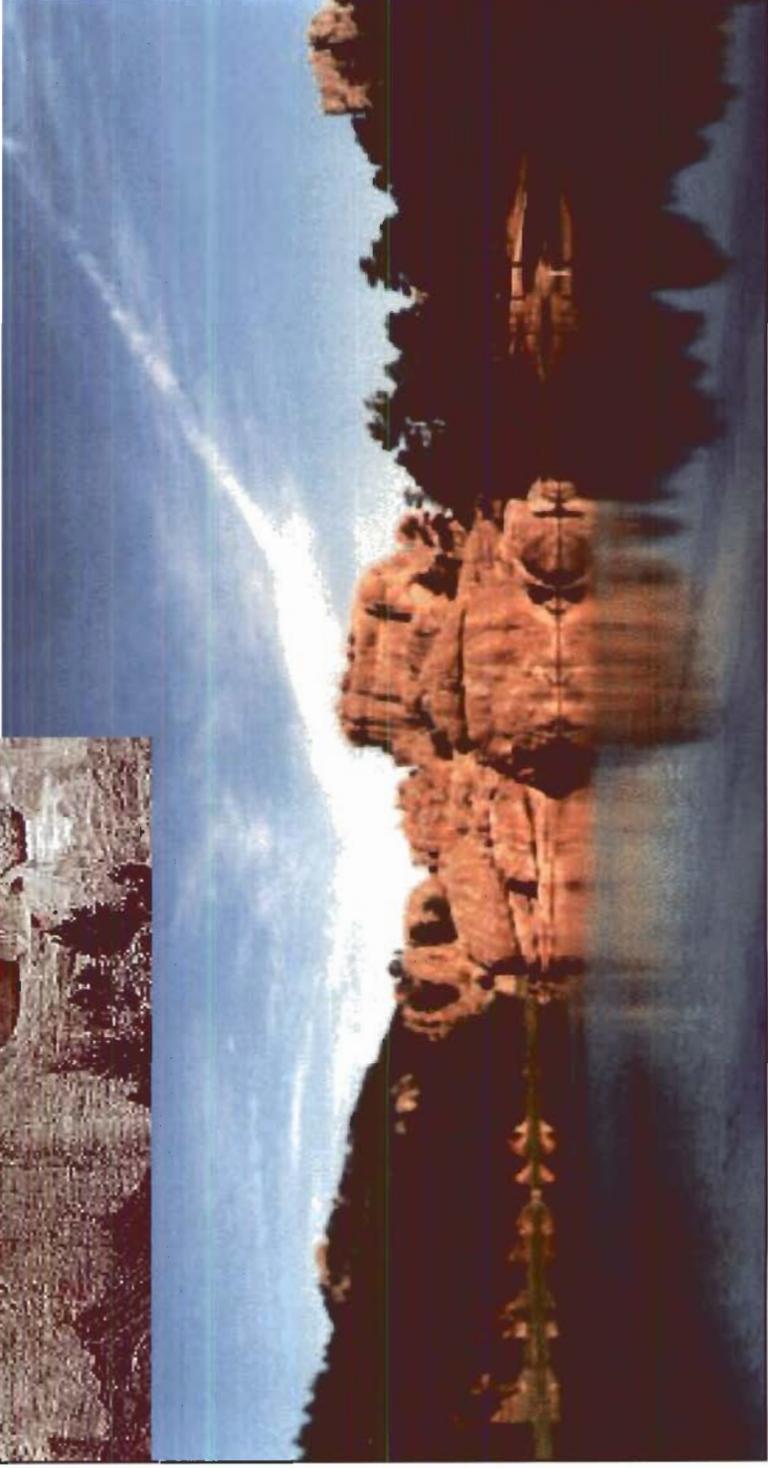
- Pennington Co. Sheriff's Office:
 - 50 current employees (19%)=Former Ellsworth AFB Personnel or Dependents
- Volunteer Fire Dept.
 - 12/28 Box Elder Volunteer Firefighters



Military Retirees



Quality of Life



Quality of Life

- South Dakota: Top 10 “Most Livable” States
 - Morgan Quitno



Quality of Life

- South Dakota: Top 10 “Most Livable” States
 - Morgan Quitno
- Ellsworth: Top 1/4 Military Communities
 - Expansion Magazine

Criteria:

- “impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the military installation”

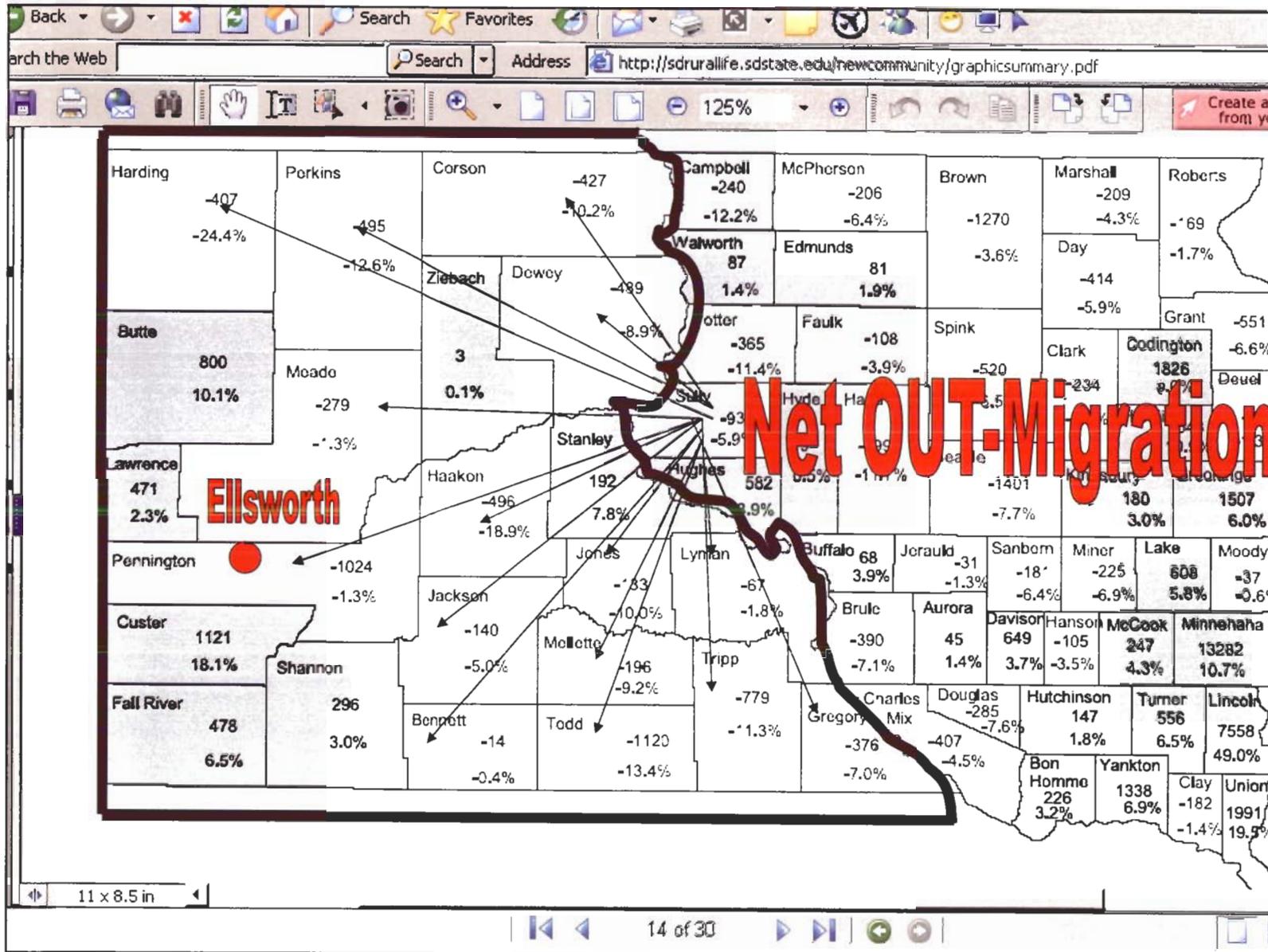




Ellsworth
Air Force Base



Thank you.



Western SD

- 1990-2000 Net Migration of 21 Counties (WR)
- 14 Net Out-Migration of -6246
- 7 Net In-Migration Counties of +3361
- Net OUT-MIGRATION of -2885

Pennington County

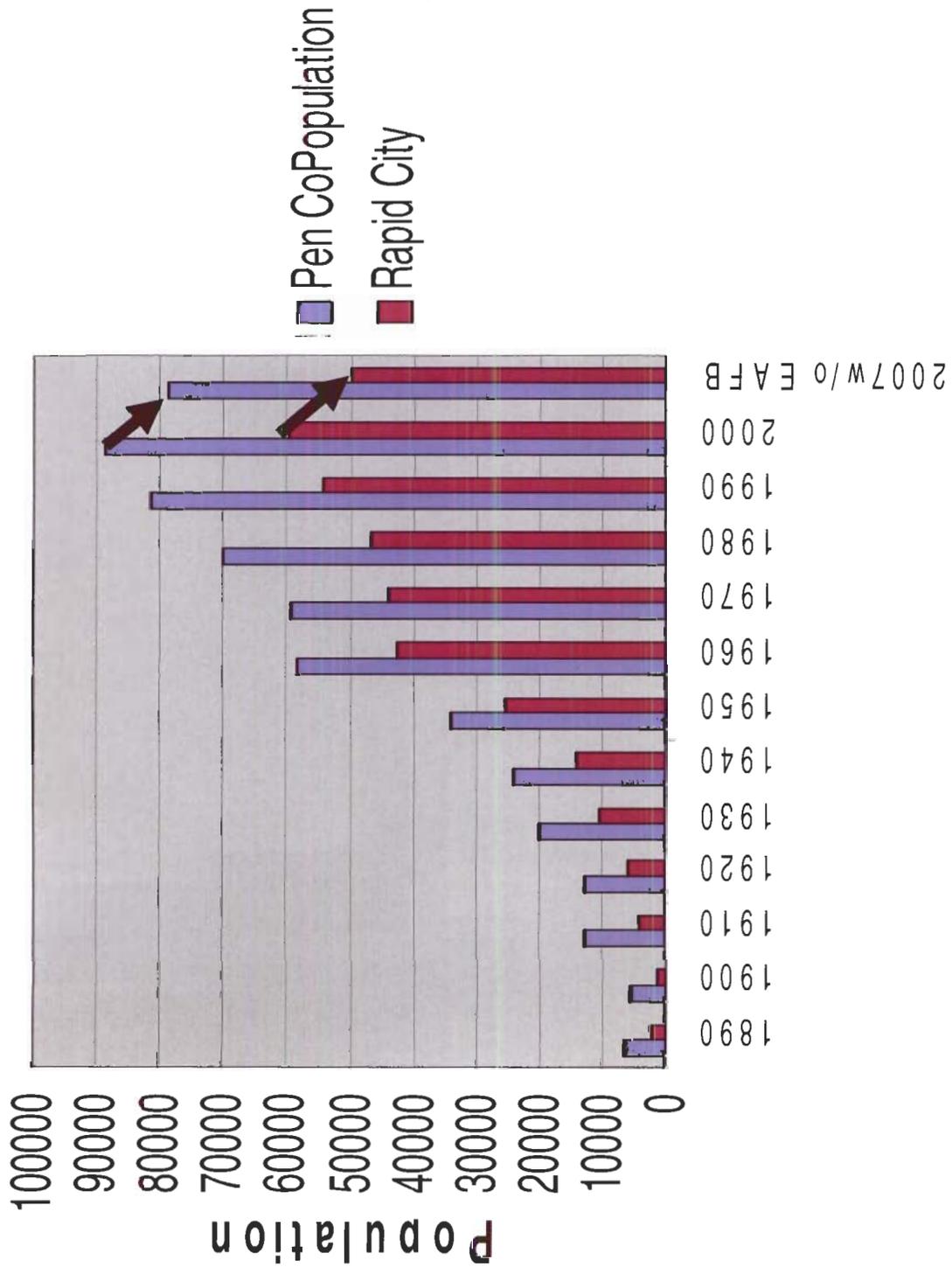
- 1990-2000: Net Out-Migration of 1024 persons.
- Out-Migration of approximately 100/yr
- EAFB Closure/loss of 10,000 in one year is 100 TIMES our normal out-migration rate.

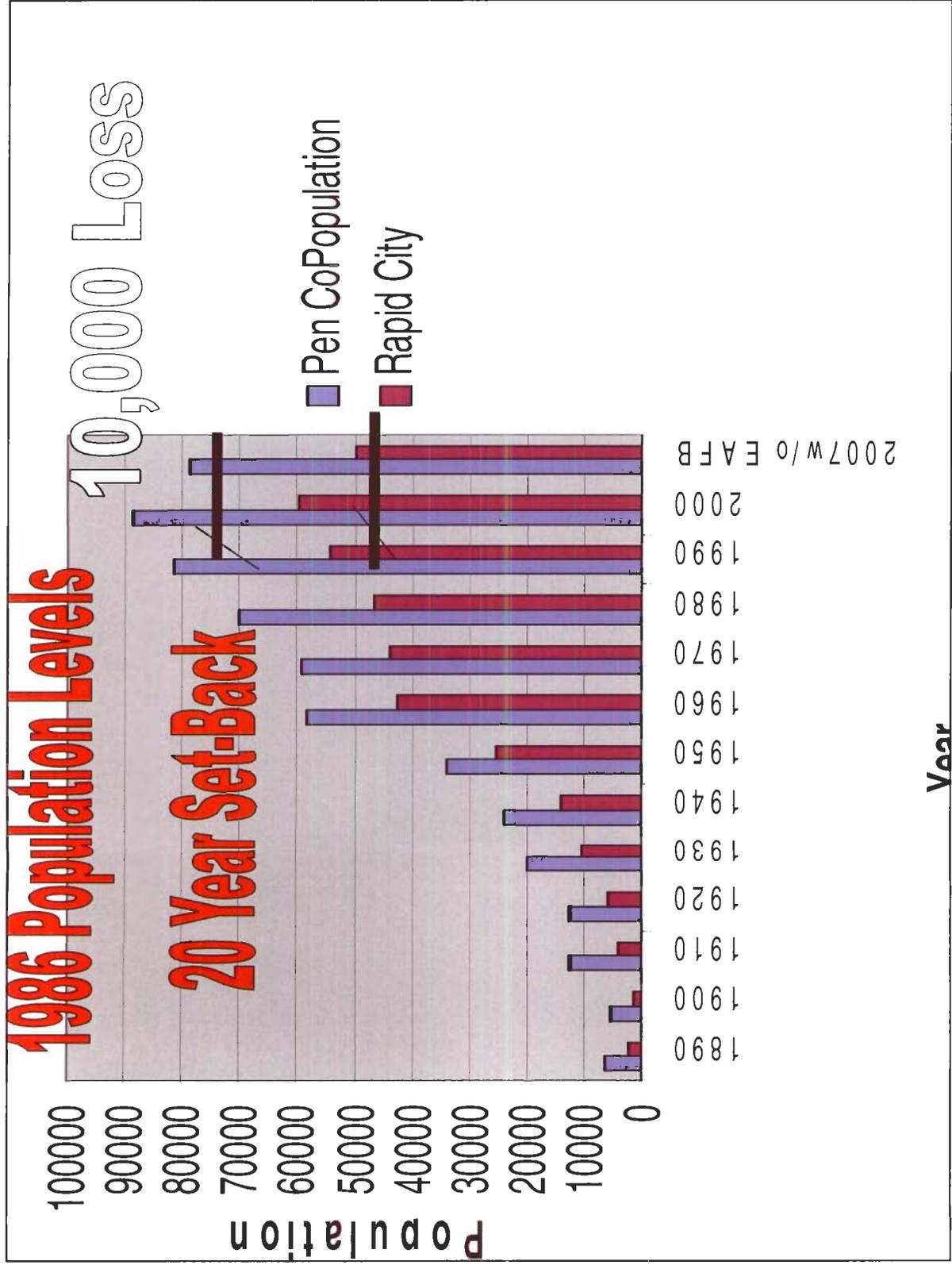
Pennington County

- 1990-2000: Net Out-Migration of 1024 persons.
- Out-Migration of 100 TIMES more than in-migration per year
- EAFB Closure in one year is 100 TIMES the annual out-migration rate.

Meade Co

- 1990=21,878
- 2000=24,253





14 10-20-04, AMT

15 Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Wash.
SOURCE: "Military Communities of Excellence Study," September 2004. Expansion Management magazine.

14,009 11,249 133

Communities With Military Populations Under 10,000

Rank	Metro Area	Military Installation(s)	Military Population	Rank Among 354 Metro Areas
1	Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, Pa.	Carlisle Barracks, New Cumberland Army Depot, New Ships Parts Control Center	3,525	2
2	Indianapolis, Ind.	Fort Benjamin Harrison	1,161	30
3	Kansas City, Mo.-Kan.	Fort Leavenworth	9,957	32
4	Altus, Okla. (Jackson County)	Altus AFB	4,612	35
5	Knob Noster, Mo. (Johnson County)	Whiteman AFB	8,736	37
6	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y.	Scottia Naval ADMBALLSTO	2,501	48
7	Cheyenne, Wyo.	Francis E. Warren AFB	7,530	57
8	Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay, Fla.	Patrick AFB	5,221	61
9	Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	Carswell AFB	2,816	64
10	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, Calif.	Vandenberg AFB	7,676	67
11	Atlanta, Ga.	Fort McPherson, Fort Gillem, Atlanta NAS	8,095	70
12	Brunswick Maine (Cumberland County)	Brunswick NAS	3,875	74
13	San Angelo, Texas	Goodfellow AFB	6,723	85
14	Rapid City, S.D.	Ellsworth AFB	8,072	87
15	Huntsville, Ala.	Redstone Arsenal	3,348	92

SOURCE: "Military Communities of Excellence Study," September 2004. Expansion Management magazine.

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Based on : see printout about
housing, etc. from Expansion
Management Mag.

Expansion Magazine

- Note from Bruce R,
- Rapid City's Rating
- Of 60 communities military communities:
- Rank #2 in schools
- 3 in traffic/commute
- 7 spouse empl
- 10 mid clas liv standards
- 14 Qual of life
- Top ¼ overall

MorganQuitno (RCJAp3,2005

Most Livable State Award 1991-2005 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Results of the 2005 Most Livable State Award

Rankings of States in Most Livable State Awards 1991 to 2005

[News Media Link](#)

See Rankings Below or Click on These Links for More Information:



[Click Here for the Complete 2005 Most Livable State Awards Publication](#)

2005 Declines for All 50 States | Methodology | Press Releases

Slide 13 of 13 Derrick Design Internet

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Most "Livable States" 2005

Missouri	22	20	25	26	19	23	18	21	19	23	28	26	24	28	29
Montana	24	27	21	32	39	33	32	32	29	31	21	21	14	24	22
Nebraska	10	1	4	6	10	9	2	2	5	5	5	6	7	4	12
Nevada	3	3	31	4	4	2	25	27	23	25	25	27	23	27	26
New Hampshire	1	1	3	3	1	7	8	1	1	7	8	1	1	2	1
New Jersey	5	5	10	10	10	17	20	12	21	23	20	12	21	23	34
New Mexico	42	41	40	46	47	47	47	45	44	46	41	45	40	42	47
New York	13	13	33	37	35	38	43	35	40	41	43	38	49	44	46
North Carolina	15	15	42	36	42	35	30	34	31	35	31	36	42	36	37
North Dakota	5	5	17	16	25	14	28	9	15	9	14	13	16	13	8
Ohio	32	29	29	25	24	25	25	27	23	25	27	29	29	33	31
Oklahoma	43	40	34	38	41	37	36	37	38	41	38	43	30	37	28
Oregon	3	27	24	27	23	21	22	18	18	19	19	17	22	12	30
Pennsylvania	3	22	27	24	30	34	33	29	30	32	34	32	33	30	36
Rhode Island	7	24	26	30	28	31	34	31	28	30	32	30	37	34	32
South Dakota	9	10	8	13	16	11	19	6	10	6	7	14	10	14	4
Tennessee	47	46	48	43	45	46	44	46	44	36	44	39	41	47	42
Texas	45	39	36	29	29	27	29	40	39	39	37	33	32	28	25
Utah	19	19	13	12	5	4	5	4	4	5	1	7	2	1	3
Vermont	3	3	7	18	15	12	14	17	13	8	17	8	11	9	6
Virginia	5	7	5	4	4	8	12	15	9	10	10	10	12	19	15
Washington	25	25	23	21	18	22	21	23	24	26	26	24	26	14	20
West Virginia	46	43	46	45	48	49	49	48	48	47	47	48	46	45	41
Wisconsin	13	13	10	11	8	6	7	5	3	4	5	2	5	10	9
Wyoming	4	6	14	8	12	20	10	20	22	18	13	28	19	20	18

The 2004 (last year) rankings for Connecticut, Oklahoma, South Carolina & Wisconsin were incorrect the first few hours this table was posted. The Connecticut ranking had been shown as 13th instead of the correct 9th and Wisconsin had been shown as 9th instead of the correct 10th.

Internet

Search the web | Address | http://www.moving.com/States.htm

Most Livable

2005 MOST LIVABLE STATE AWARD

ALPHA ORDER

2005 RANK	STATE	LIABILITY RATING	2004 RANK	CHANGE	2005 RANK	STATE	LIABILITY RATING	2004 RANK	CHANGE
1	Connecticut	38.00	1	-5	1	New Hampshire	36.45	1	0
2	Delaware	29.66	19	1	2	Minnesota	33.86	2	0
3	Florida	21.92	37	0	3	Vermont	31.73	3	0
4	Georgia	21.77	35	-3	4	Wyoming	31.61	6	2
5	Hawaii	25.02	32	6	5	Virginia	31.57	7	-2
6	Iowa	27.32	17	-1	6	Iowa	31.41	9	-3
7	Illinois	23.81	26	-5	7	New Jersey	30.80	10	-3
8	Indiana	26.11	20	-1	8	South Dakota	30.77	11	-3
9	Iowa	31.41	4	-9	9	Nebraska	30.73	12	-3
10	Kansas	26.80	11	-9	10	Nebraska	30.52	13	-3
11	Kentucky	20.48	42	1	11	Maryland	30.43	14	-3
12	Louisiana	17.25	49	0	12	Wisconsin	29.75	15	-3
13	Maine	29.36	12	-3	13	Connecticut	29.68	16	-3
14	Maryland	26.11	20	-1	14	Maine	29.36	17	-3
15	Massachusetts	30.80	14	-2	15	Colorado	28.00	18	-1
16	Michigan	30.80	14	-2	16	Delaware	27.66	19	0
17	Minnesota	33.86	2	0	17	Idaho	27.32	17	-1
18	Mississippi	16.11	50	0	18	Utah	27.14	19	0
19	Missouri	25.02	32	6	19	Kansas	26.80	11	-3
20	Montana	25.02	32	6	20	Indiana	26.11	20	-1
21	Nebraska	30.52	13	-3	21	Missouri	25.02	20	-2
22	Nevada	34.47	3	0	22	Rhode Island	25.77	24	1
23	New Hampshire	36.45	1	0	23	Montana	25.91	27	3
24	New Jersey	30.77	5	-3	24	Washington	25.07	25	0
25	New Mexico	24.03	41	-1	25	Hawaii	25.02	32	6
26	New York	24.09	33	3	26	Alaska	24.98	34	4
27	North Carolina	20.61	46	5	27	Michigan	24.47	34	6
28	North Dakota	30.43	15	4	28	Nevada	24.41	30	1
29	Ohio	23.86	29	3	29	New York	24.09	33	3
30	Oklahoma	20.37	40	-3	30	Illinois	23.91	26	5
31	Oregon	22.73	27	-7	31	Ohio	23.86	29	-3
32	Pennsylvania	23.86	29	3	32	Pennsylvania	23.86	29	-3
33	Rhode Island	25.77	24	1	33	Oregon	22.73	27	-7
34	South Carolina	20.34	48	4	34	California	22.27	35	1
35	South Dakota	30.73	10	-1	35	Arizona	22.11	38	2
36	Tennessee	19.50	56	-1	36	Florida	21.82	37	0
37	Texas	27.14	19	0	37	Georgia	21.72	35	0
38	Utah	27.32	17	-1	38	Alabama	21.00	47	8
39	Vermont	31.73	3	0	39	North Carolina	20.61	45	5
40	Virginia	31.57	7	2	40	Kentucky	20.48	42	1
41	Washington	25.07	25	0	41	New Mexico	20.43	41	-1
42	West Virginia	19.64	43	-3	42	Oklahoma	20.37	40	-3
43	Wisconsin	29.75	13	0	43	South Carolina	20.34	48	4
44	Wyoming	31.51	6	-2	44	Texas	19.93	39	-6
45					45	West Virginia	19.64	43	-3
46					46	Tennessee	19.50	46	1
47					47	Mississippi	17.25	49	0
48					48	Louisiana	17.25	49	0
49					49	Mississippi	17.25	49	0
50					50	Mississippi	16.11	50	0

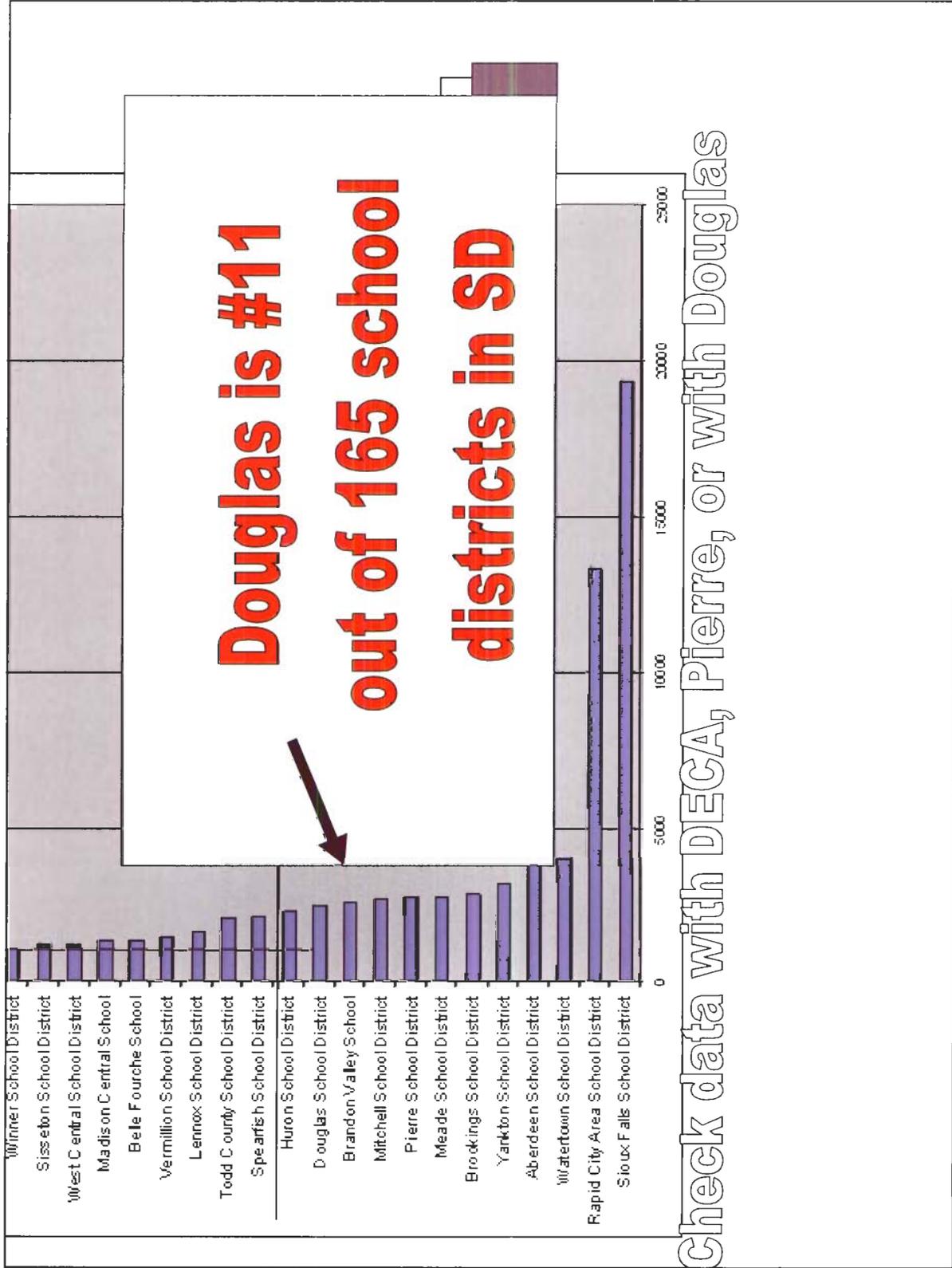
South Dakota

METHODOLOGY: To determine a state's "Livability Rating," each state's rankings for 44 categories were averaged. The scale is 1 to 50, the higher the number, the better. Data used are for the most recent year in which comparable numbers were available from most states. All ratings were given equal weight. States with no data available for a given category were ranked based only on the remaining factors. In our book, data are listed from highest to lowest. However, for purposes of this award, we inserted rankings for those factors we determined to be "positive." Thus the state with the highest median ranking in the book (ranked 1st) would be given a number 50 ranking for this award.

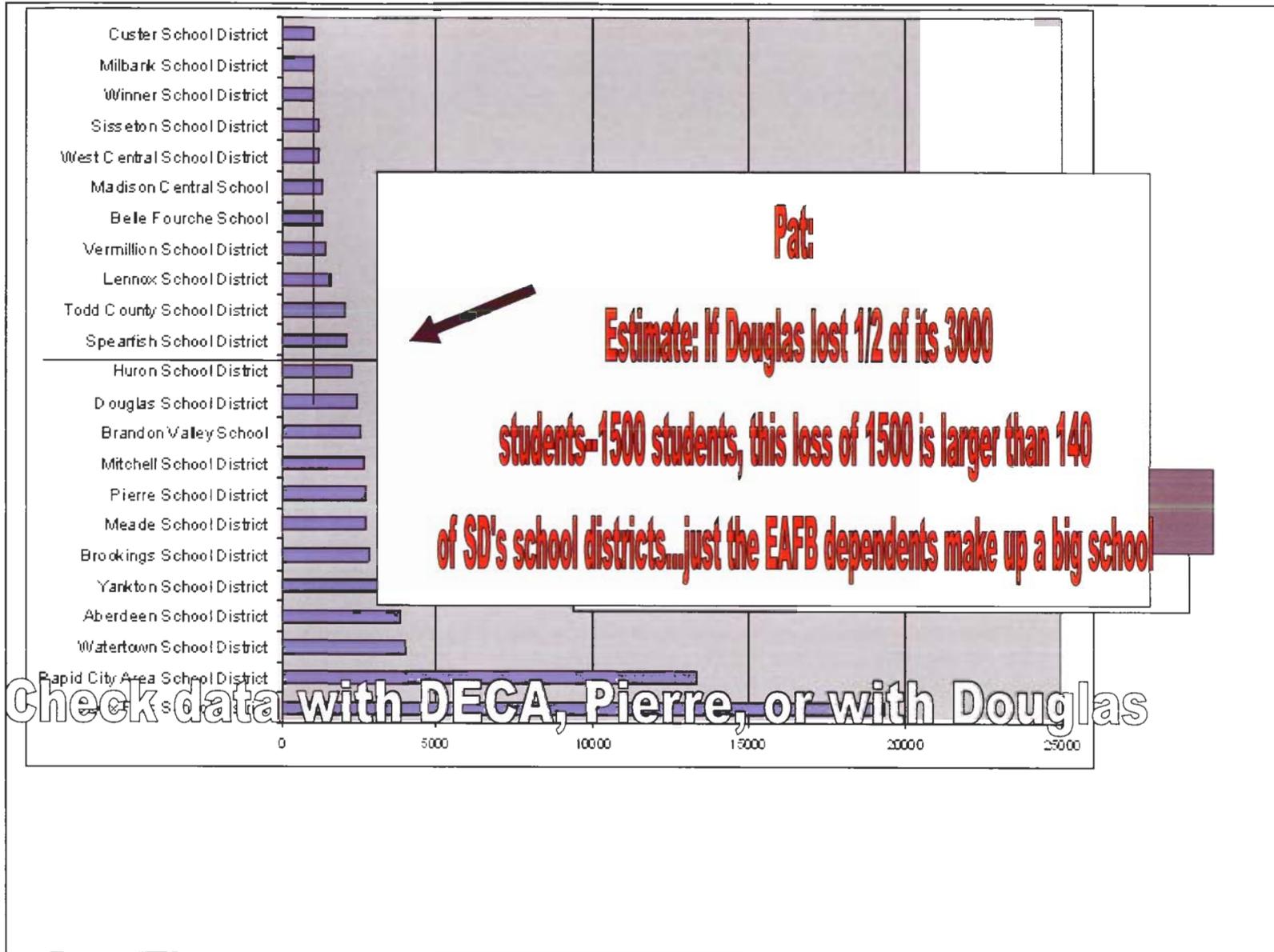
"1" is Most Livable, "50" is Not

2005 MOST LIVABLE STATE AWARD

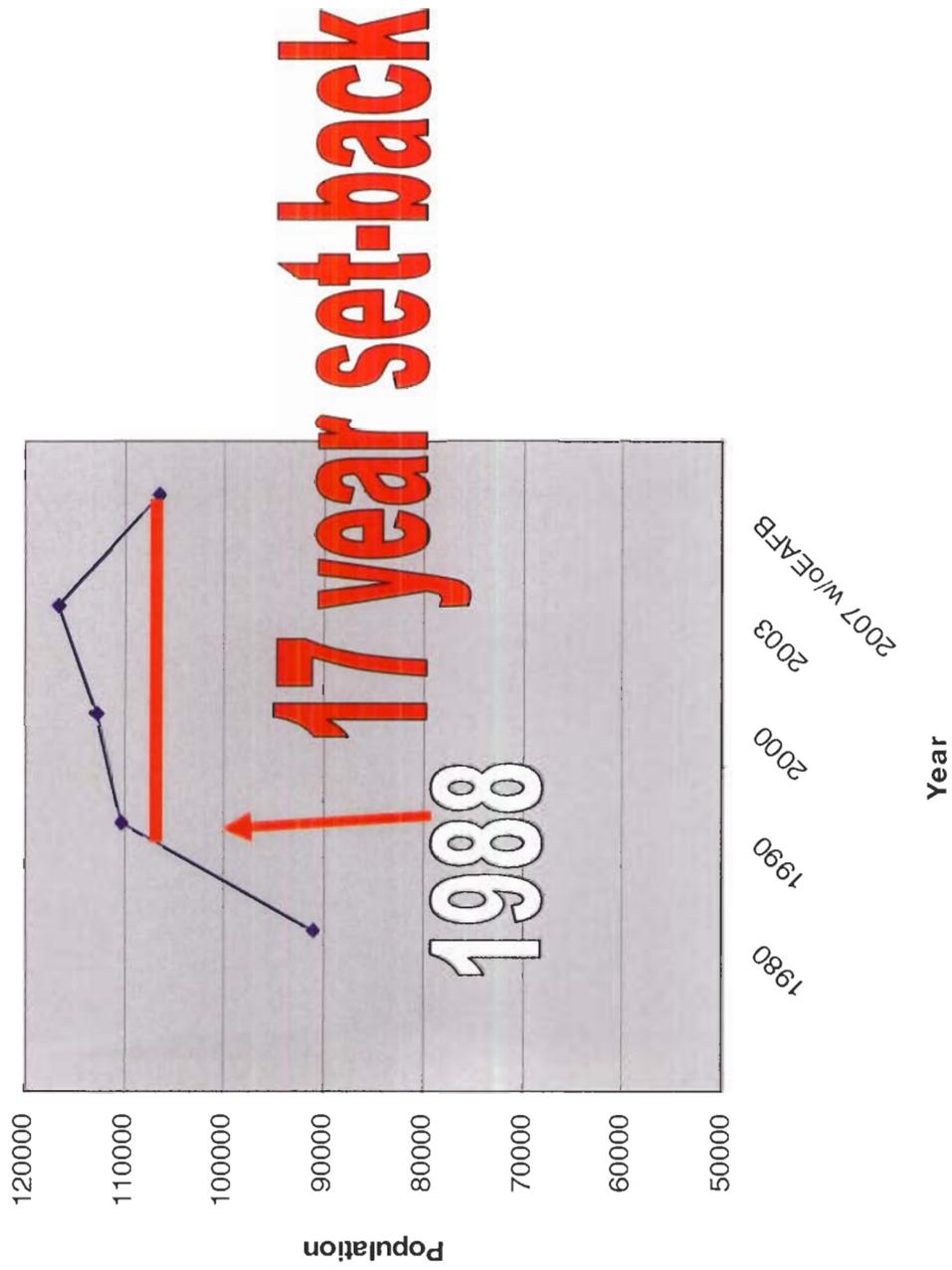
STATE	LIVABILITY			RANK ORDER				
	RATING	2004 RANK	CHANGE	2005 RANK	STATE	LIVABILITY RATING	2004 RANK	CHANGE
Alabama	21.00	47	8	1	New Hampshire	35.45	1	0
Alaska	24.98	31	4	2	Minnesota	33.86	2	0
Arizona	22.11	38	2	3	Vermont	31.73	3	0
Kansas	19.25	44	-4	4	Wyoming	31.61	6	2
California	22.27	36	1	5	Virginia	31.57	7	2
Colorado	28.00	23	7	6	Iowa	31.41	4	-2
Connecticut	29.68	9	-5	7	Massachusetts	30.80	16	9
Delaware	27.66	18	1	8	New Jersey	30.77	5	-3
Florida	21.82	37	0	9	South Dakota	30.73	10	1
Georgia	21.77	35	-3	10	Nebraska	30.52	8	-2
Hawaii	25.02	32	6	11	North Dakota	30.49	15	4
Idaho	27.32	17	-1	12	Maryland	30.25	14	2
Illinois	23.91	26	-5	13	Wisconsin	29.75	13	0
Indiana	26.11	20	-1	14	Connecticut	29.68	9	-5
Iowa	31.41	4	-2	15	Maine	29.36	12	-3
Kansas	26.80	11	-9	16	Colorado	28.00	23	7
Kentucky	20.48	42	1	17	Delaware	27.66	18	1



Check data with DECA, Pierre, or with Douglas



Rapid City MSA



-10,000





JIM McKEON

As you have heard in the testimonies provided, we have pronounced differences with the Secretary's recommendations and offer to you that Ellsworth Air Force Base should not be closed. Rather, it should be retained for basing the currently assigned B-1B squadrons and that you designate it as the strategic base of presence in the north central U.S. for assignment of the "emerging mission" now identified as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Further, we recommend you consider Ellsworth for the basing of Tanker missions being realigned from the region or retained for basing of C2ISR or Space missions in which it ranked fifth and tenth, respectively, in MCI scoring. The basis of our recommendations are:

1. The Air Force recommendation to consolidate all B-1B aircraft at one base with one runway violates Air Force Principle #7 as contained in Department of the Air Force Analysis and Recommendations BRAC 2005 (Volume V, part 1 of 2) Air Force Basing Considerations 1.7.1.7 "Insure long range strike bases provide flexible strategic response and strategic force protection."
2. In contrast, the Air Force has not recommended the consolidation of any other Legacy Aircraft Principle.
3. Air Force officials have testified to the Commission that Ellsworth's current bomber mission capability is diminished by training range access; however, the metric on which that measurement is based does not consider the quality of the training available on the range or the average sortie time required to accomplish identical mission requirements.
4. Ellsworth's Powder River MOA is 7 to 8 minutes from Ellsworth's runway, has a ground or surface to unlimited ceiling operations area and allows a training mission to be flown in a duration of 3.8 hrs. versus the same mission flown at the proposed consolidation base which has less vertical space and requires an additional .7 hours of flight time. The result will be less quality training at an estimated additional 14 thousand dollars per mission.

5. As the aircraft assigned to Ellsworth constituted 82% (686 of 832) of the missions flown in the Powder River MOA in the past year and the Air Force has stated its intent to maintain the Powder River MOA, either it will continue to be used as a primary B-1B MOA or be grossly underutilized. If B-1B missions from the consolidated base use the range in the future, the added cost per mission is estimated at \$100k --- an estimated \$68.6m annually or \$1.3 billion over the next 20 years.

6. The Air Force recommendation to assign the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle mission to a strategic base of presence in the north central U.S. other than Ellsworth Air Force Base is inconsistent with the findings of the Environmental Assessment for Global Hawk Main Operating Base Beddown as determined by the March 2001 Air Combat Command finding that Ellsworth Air Force Base is the only base in the region suited for the mission.

7. The Air Force recommendation to realign Tanker Assets to bases ranked lower than Ellsworth's fifth position in Tanker MCI scoring is inconsistent with the Military Value Criteria Number 1 --- Current and Future Mission capabilities.

8. An analysis of the Air Force MCI ratings of the three bases positioned to be retained as a strategic base of presence in the north central U.S. rated Ellsworth 1st in six of eight categories (Bomber, Airlift, Tanker, Fighter, C2ISR and Space). Each of the other bases only ranked first in one category each. In point-of-fact, Ellsworth ranked no lower than second in the other two categories. Accordingly the recommendation to close Ellsworth Air Force base is inconsistent with Military Value Criteria #1 as relates to Future Mission capabilities.

Before our Governor, Mike Rounds closes our testimony, I would like to recap the salient points with which General Mike Loh opened our testimony.

First. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #1 in recommending the consolidation of Ellsworth's consistently higher rated B-1B operations at a base that maintains a lesser operational readiness rate; thereby impacting training, readiness and warfighting.

Second. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #2 in that the recommended closure of Ellsworth will relocate the aircraft that constitute 82% of the use of the immediately adjacent air space (Powder River MOA) to a base at least two hours flight time away; thereby either increasing operational cost or reducing mission effectiveness.

Third. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #3 in that the reduced use of the Powder River MOA will either increase the cost of operations per mission flown from out of the area or cause it to be abandoned for use by future total force requirements.

Fourth. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #4 in that the cost to operate the entire B-1B fleet will exceed the cost of maintaining two bases, each of which with the capacity to accept future force beddowns.

Fifth. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #6 in that of the three bases in the north central U.S., considered for strategic presence retention, the recommended closure of Ellsworth will eliminate the most highly rated base for realigning tanker aircraft or the beddown of future force missions such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, C2ISR or emerging missions such as the Airborne Laser.

Sixth. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #6 in that of the three bases in the north central U.S., considered for strategic presence retention, the recommended closure of Ellsworth will more severely impact the existing communities in its vicinity than the one being recommended for retention for an "emerging mission."

And

Seventh. The Air Force substantially deviated from Criteria #7 in that the recommended closure of Ellsworth will relocate B-1B assets to base that has a lesser current Plant Replacement Value and will have a lesser infrastructure and overall capacity even after the proposed facility projects identified for construction are completed.

MIKE ROUNDS

MC: Commissioners, to conclude our testimonies before you, I would like to present to you one of the few Governors who has flown in the front seat of a B-1B bomber as it was put through its paces in our Powder River Training Area. He knows of what he speaks and is as closely associated with our state's National Guard as any Governor can possibly be.

Commissioners, Governor Mike Rounds.

Commissioners Skinner, Bilbray and Coyle... Thank you very much for coming to South Dakota.

We all appreciate your hard work and the extra efforts you are making to thoroughly understand the Defense Department recommendations and the nation's response to them. The time you have spent visiting Ellsworth and listening to us is very, very much appreciated.

As Governor, it has been my privilege to meet the men and women who fly the B-1B bombers and provide all the support that keeps these bombers in top condition to defend our country. I know first-hand how professional and conscientious they are.

There aren't enough words in the dictionary to describe how proud we are of them and what they do for us. We are grateful to have them living and working here in South Dakota. We appreciate them more than anyone can imagine.

With this morning's base visit and the testimony presented to you this afternoon, I believe you have the information you need to conclude that the Air Force and the Secretary of Defense substantially deviated from the military value criteria required to recommend a base for closure.

Internal Air Force evaluations clearly show that Ellsworth Air Force Base has the infrastructure and other qualities needed to be the only B-1B base.

But, the argument should not be one base versus another base. The bottom line is— for the defense of our people, America needs the B-1B on more than one base so that the B-1B is not vulnerable to a single attack or a natural disaster.

The B-1B dropped over 40% of the munitions in Afghanistan and 34% of the munitions in the initial push in Iraq.

The B-1B's vital mission of defending and protecting Americans should not be placed in jeopardy by deploying it on only one base that has only one usable runway for the B-1B. America needs two bases and two runways.

We also need more than one base and more than one usable runway so that natural disasters, storms, weather and other things that temporarily close a base don't cause a delay in our B-1Bs responding to a call for immediate action.

Hickam Field and battleship row at Pearl Harbor. Clark Field in the Philippines on the same day. They were all concentrations of resources in just one place which allowed the enemy to successfully attack us.

The proposed consolidation of 65 or more B-1B bombers at one base brings into question the entire assessment process that refuses to recognize the need for redundancy in protecting this country.

When the principle of redundancy has not been followed, our nation and other nations have suffered terribly. Therefore, please don't allow this principle to be abandoned.

Looking through the factors that led to the recommendation to put all the B-1Bs at one base, why wasn't the importance of redundancy a factor?

How many points would Ellsworth and other bases have gained if the importance of redundancy for this and other vital weapons systems been recognized and in the scoring system?

I'm not a military planner.

But, if you ask a veteran of Pearl Harbor,
If you ask a commander in the Korean War,
If you ask a helicopter pilot from the Vietnam War,
If you ask any of our soldiers from the Gulf and Iraqi Wars, or
If you ask the moms or dads of those soldiers,
I don't think any one of them would tell you that that it is good idea to put
ALL our B-1B bombers in one location instead of two.

The Air Force also erred when it testified on May 17th that Ellsworth could
not handle all B-1B aircraft. In fact, Ellsworth has the space to house
71 large aircraft. The Air Force also underestimated the total square
footage of the available ramp space by 20%.

But, gentlemen, we are not asking for Ellsworth to be the only B-1B base.
America needs two bases, not one, for the B-1B mission.

Even though the Defense Department wants to close Ellsworth, the Air
Force will still continue to use both its ground and airspace presence
in an estimated 320,000 square miles of the Upper Great Plains
extending from Montana to Nebraska.

This airspace is some of the most open and uncluttered airspace in the
United States... and it is only 7 or 8 flight minutes away from
Ellsworth.

In your difficult deliberations, you are evaluating sites for both current and
future missions. Many future missions will include joint active-
reserve component operations as expressed by the Air Force in its
May 17th testimony.

I believe the people of this region can provide the personnel needed for a
blended wing of B-1B aircraft, as well as enough personnel for any
other future missions.

The South Dakota Army National Guard is at 96% of its authorized strength
and has a retention rate of 87%.

The South Dakota Air National Guard is at 102% of its authorized strength
and has a 95% retention rate.

Both of them rank in the top 5 in comparison to the other 54 states and territories in recruiting, retention and attrition measurements.

We want to participate in joint active-reserve operations.

In summary, the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Ellsworth puts a critical national defense mission into a vulnerable position where all the B-1Bs could be destroyed by a single attack or a natural disaster... or they could be delayed in responding by something as simple as bad weather.

The recommendation also ignores the capacity of both bases to continue the B-1B mission and perform additional future missions.

The Defense Department also ignores the desires of people in this region to serve in joint active-reserve missions.

I strongly recommend that you reject the recommendation to close Ellsworth.

I hope you will also direct that the current B-1Bs remain to provide redundancy in our total B-1B mission.

I would also ask that you consider adding new missions at Ellsworth to fully utilize the base's under-reported capacity.

Nobody's perfect. This Defense Department recommendation to close Ellsworth is a mistake made by good people who were trying to do their best.

But, now, you have the opportunity to correct it. For the defense and protection of the people of America, we hope that the BRAC Commission will correct this mistake.

I'd like to add just one more thing.

As the Commander in Chief of South Dakota's Army and Air National Guards, I am grateful for the B-1B's reliability and effectiveness in killing the enemy and pushing the enemy back to minimize the face-

to-face combat that my South Dakota soldiers have encountered overseas.

Our B-1Bs should not be put in a vulnerable position that might allow all of them to be destroyed or delayed in responding to protect our soldiers on the ground.

If that happens, we are less protected here at home and so too are the soldiers we send from our hometowns to fight our enemies in foreign lands.

Thank you.

CLOSING

MC: Chairman Skinner, Commissioner Bilbray and Commissioner Coyle, as we prepared for this hearing we came to realize that it would be both complex and lengthy. The delayed release of information hampered us in preparing a more concise argument. We would have liked to have more time to do so but we realize you are on an accelerated schedule and believe it was best for you to visit both Ellsworth and with us here in Rapid City.

We deeply appreciate the courtesies you have extended to us, the endurance you have exhibited and your acceptance of the monumental task placed before you.

We will be in contact with your staff members in the coming weeks and available to you as needed,

Again, thank you for your service to our country.

We stand ready for any questions you may have.

After Questions.

This concludes our presentation but since this is a regional meeting, a representative from Wyoming will now make their presentation.

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION**



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No. 133

Senate

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE'S 28TH BOMB WING

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the men and women of Ellsworth Air Force Base's 28th Bomb Wing and join them in their celebration of the Air Force's and the bomb wing's 50th anniversary.

This is a wonderful time to reflect on the remarkable role the U.S. Air Force and the 28th Bomb Wing have played in our national security and to look toward the future at the growing importance air superiority will have in maintaining the peace around the world. These past five decades have provided countless successes and great memories for the men and women who piloted, maintained, and provided oversight to the numerous important missions of the U.S. Air Force. Our country owes all who have served a debt of gratitude.

The 28th Bomb Wing was born in August 1947 when the Strategic Air Command organized the wing at Rapid City Army Air Field, later renamed Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD. In 1949, the 28th participated in the first of a long line of historical missions when B-29's flew a 90-day show-of force mission during the Soviet blockade of Berlin. At the start of the cold war, the B-29's gave way to B-36 Peacemakers in 1950 as the 28th provided an umbrella of security for NATO countries.

The crews of the B-36 were dedicated to their missions--primarily reconnaissance and to gather photographic and electronic information. However, according to B-36 crew chief Bill Shoe-

maker, they did everything from drop haybales to stranded livestock during the terrible winters of 1949 and 1950 for Operation Haylifts; transport Thanksgiving turkeys to soldiers in Greenland; attend the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and take a member of the royal family on a short flight. The ability to perform any job, and do it well, was the hallmark of the B-36 crew and a trait that has been reflected in the personnel of the 28th throughout the years.

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Sitch spent 6 of his 26 years of military service at Ellsworth Air Force Base as part of the 28th Bomb Wing -- 1951-55, 1974-76. 'In the days of the '36 and as part of the 28th, that was the closest group I had ever been in. There was a lot of competition among the squadrons, but there was a lot of camaraderie too. We looked out for each other.'

Jet technology changed the face of aeronautics, and the all-jet B-52 Stratofortress started replacing the Peacemakers in 1957. The 28th Bomb Wing played an important role in the Vietnam war, flying both bombers and tankers for 9 years.

Over the next 20 years, Ellsworth Air Force Base became a vital component of our country's defensive strategy as the 28th assumed the bomber role in the Strategic Projection Force. The B-52 mission expanded to include sea reconnaissance, surveillance, and conventional operations from forward bases, and Ellsworth Air Force Base's reach extended to a number of hot spots overseas.

Don Strachan spent 10 years as a member of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base. He recalls a time when the B-52's participated in an operation titled Airborne Alert, in which one-third of the entire B-52 fleet was expected to remain airborne at all times between 1957 and 1960. 'Some of the wings couldn't handle it, but the 28th filled in. We never failed to meet our commitment. It was like family. We supported everyone extremely well. The esprit de corps was unmatched. There was a great deal of sharing among the crews. People would come in and observe our operations.'

Strachan and Shoemaker recalled conducting maintenance on planes in desperately cold temperatures. While stationed with the B-36's in Greenland, Shoemaker recalled, 'It was so cold, you couldn't do anything. We worked under the lights on ramps. It was so dark all the time.' Strachan said maintenance crews worked in chill factors that were 100 degrees below zero. 'Nothing stopped the 28th,' said Strachan.

Fred Hurst spent six different stints totaling 19 years at Ellsworth Air Force Base as a member of the 28th Bomb Wing.

For many years, he served as president of the 28th Bomb Wing Reunion Association and was recently succeeded in the position by Strachan. Hurst spent 30 years of military service, working in maintenance on B-29's, B-36's, and B-52's and retired from military service as a chief master sergeant. He retired last year as a civilian worker and advisor on B-1B operations. Hurst says the 28th Bomb Wing has always been admired for its professionalism and efficiency. 'It is a good wing. It's been at the top for so many years as far as performance goes. It has a great safety record. Whenever someone had a problem, everyone and his brother tried to help him.'

Mike Isaman spent a total of 15 years at Ellsworth Air Force Base over two stints. As a member of the 28th Bomb Wing, Isaman said teamwork was key to the success of any operation, as well as to the success of the Wing and the Base. 'We were all friends. Everyone looked out after each other. It was a team. It worked together. They all stood together. We would do anything possible

for other crews and squadrons.'

The Air Force introduced the next generation of bombers, the B-1B Lancer, in 1987, and once again, the 28th took the lead in housing the sleek new bombers. Adding to its already storied combat experience, the wing deployed both tanker and airborne command post aircraft to Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Following action in the Persian Gulf, B-1's were taken off alert, and the world began to settle into the post-cold war era. The 28th Bomb Wing, successful in protecting the United States for five decades began the transition from the strategic role to an all-conventional mission.

Once again, the 28th shone brightly as the bomb wing successfully participated in the congressionally directed operational readiness assessment known as Dakota Challenge in 1994. The 77th Bomb Squadron was activated at Ellsworth Air Force Base in April 1997, and the 28th Bomb Wing will continue to stand tall as the 'Pioneer of Peace for the 21st Century.'

I strongly support the B-1B program and share the view of the Air Force that the B-1B is the backbone of our bomber force. It deserves this reputation because of the versatility, efficiency, and effectiveness of the craft. To the flight crews as well as the ground support, administrative staff, security personnel, base support, and hospital personnel who served and continue to serve as part of the 28th, I salute and commend your efforts. The active duty members, families, and retirees have forged an unbreakable bond with the communities of Box Elder and Rapid City.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those associated with Ellsworth and the Air Force for their impressive efforts and for their commitment to South Dakota and the United States. I know they have had an illustrious past, and I know they will continue their success in the future. Their missions will continue, although modified to fit the requirements of the post-cold war world, and I have no doubt that they will continue to be the 'first to fight with decisive combat airpower that achieves the aims of the combatant commander's campaign' as their mission states. Best wishes for another 50 years of pride and success.

**Letters (of Support) to the Rapid City Journal Editor
Re.: Ellsworth Air Force Base**

Letters to the editor, 5-24

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/06/17/news/opinion/opin203.txt>

Wait and see

I will admit that the closing of Ellsworth came as a shock to me. But you cannot point your finger at only John Thune.

You have to remember that there are three people in Washington representing the people of South Dakota. Thune is not the only person who was fighting to keep the base open.

If I am correct, Sen. Johnson has been in Washington a lot longer than Thune has. It is not right that Tim Johnson and Stephanie Herseth stand back and let John Thune take all the blame.

You also must remember that President Bush can still come through for Thune and decline the list next fall. All we can do is wait and see and hope Bush does come through.

In the meantime, give John a break!

MITCH JOHNSON
Rapid City

Work together

I was greatly impressed with the press conference held Friday (May 14) by our D.C. delegation and Gov. Rounds regarding Ellsworth. They appear to be working hand in glove for the cause.

Sen. Johnson set the tone with his serious and mature discussion of the issue. Sen. Thune similarly expressed his disgust with the Pentagon's decision. Our senators, along with Rep. Herseth, calmly but sternly laid out their plan to prove Ellsworth should remain, pointing out the potential for growth. Gov. Rounds was equally impressive with his grasp of the situation.

I'm proud of our state's leaders ability to stay calm yet adamant in their attempts for the future. Now if only the partisan political types and left-over remnants of the Daschle machine would just do the same!

Let's show the world that South Dakotans have what they don't: people who work together to make things happen instead of whining about who's to blame while sitting on the sidelines giving their two cents instead of working towards a solution! Let's remember to pray for our delegation and elected leaders at all levels as these discussions take place.

STACEY WOLLMAN
Rapid City

Letters to the editor, 5-26

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/06/17/news/opinion/opin201.txt>

Like Pearl Harbor

The ships and planes at Pearl Harbor were aligned in orderly fashion to the satisfied perfection of the attacking Japanese. We learned a vital lesson that day but which has been lost in our nation's current leadership.

There's no doubt of the need for increased efficiencies within the military, but placing military assets in fewer and fewer installations is national suicide - exactly the NWO agenda.

Via the contrived "war on terror" and sanctioned open borders with Mexico and Canada, terrorists are infiltrating with immunity and spreading sleeper cells and networks across our nation for the appointed time of destruction. China and North Korea are poised to reduce our cities to nuclearized ash within minutes. Whether via suitcase, ICBM or biological, the end game justifies the means of delivery and the wanton wasting of our people, cities and nation.

Once the BRAC bases are closed and dismantled, there will be no time to rebuild them to counter the approaching apocalypse, which will easily eliminate the proposed cost-efficient, super-sized, orderly-aligned bases ... just as Pearl.

For the supposed savings of billions, millions will be incinerated, diseased and starved to death by the "compassionate conservatism" of this NWO-aligned administration.

LOREN E. PEDERSEN

Best assignment

I was very saddened this past week to see Ellsworth AFB on the BRAC list. I was stationed at Ellsworth from March 1983 to October 1986 and have very wonderful memories of it.

Ellsworth was a very busy place then, supporting multiple missions (bomber/tanker/airborne, command and control/missiles). The capabilities of the base are, without question, immense.

But the best thing I remember was the "quality of life" my family experienced. We felt more welcome and at home in the local community than in any other assignment I had in my 20-year military career.

I hope when the BRAC members visit, this "intangible" benefit to the troops' quality of life is brought to their attention. The commission members need to understand what a jewel

of an asset the Rapid City/Ellsworth community is. To lose it would be a crying shame.

I am writing my congressman and senators here in Texas to point out what a mistake it would be to close Ellsworth. Dyess AFB is safe no matter what, but Ellsworth must be saved.

MICHAEL W. LYONS
Helotes, Texas

Letters to the editor, 5-29

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/06/17/news/opinion/opin199.txt>

Not partisan issue

The possible closure of Ellsworth Air Force Base should not be a partisan issue. Sen. Thune, Sen. Johnson and Congresswoman Herseth are united to try to reverse this decision, for which each should get credit.

Regardless of party affiliation, we should also unite and work with our congressional representatives and others to convince the BRAC commission and the president that Ellsworth's inclusion is a mistake for many reasons.

Foremost are the numerous crucial roles it has played since 1942 and must continue to play in the defense of this nation, especially in a time of grave dangers from new enemies.

On further analysis and reflection, those who will make the final decision may reach the common-sense judgment that putting our entire B-1 bomber fleet in one location to save a comparatively small amount of money is penny-wise but pound-foolish. In the meantime, playing the blame game is divisive and counterproductive.

The great reformer mayor of New York, Fiorello LaGuardia, once said that there is no Republican or Democratic way to put out a fire. There is no purely partisan way to save Ellsworth, either, so let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.

JOHN C. QUINN
Rapid City

Letters to the editor, 6-5

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/06/17/news/opinion/opin189.txt>

Support officials

I am so very proud to be from the state of South Dakota where Republican Sen. Thune, Democratic Sen. Johnson and Democratic Rep. Herseth have joined forces with our Republican Gov. Rounds to save our state's second-largest employer. I emphasize their party affiliation to show their non-partisanship when a major South Dakota issue arises. This is the way government should work.

I agree with every comment Sen. Thune, Sen. Johnson, Rep. Herseth and Gov. Rounds have made about this issue. I will do everything I can to help.

I hope every state legislator, county official and city official will agree with me and get behind these fantastic people who represent our state of South Dakota just as we all do.

As in the past, I am supporting Ellsworth and I always will.

ALICE MCCOY
Rapid City

Letters to the editor, 6-9

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/06/17/news/opinion/opin185.txt>

Show the BRAC

Twenty years ago my husband and I, now both retired Air Force, were stationed at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX. Goodfellow turned up on the BRAC list then for suggested closure. Several other bases nearby, Lowry in Colorado was one, were also on the list. Goodfellow supported a large training mission but there was also, and still is, a large retiree population which added to the phenomenal relationship with the surrounding community.

When BRAC members came, there was a campaign to impress them many different ways. One was how we greeted them. The visitors left the airport for an approximately 10-mile ride into town and were continuously, and I mean continuously, greeted along the route by a patriotic display of pride and "ownership" of the base by people waving flags and signs of support and cheering, both military and civilian. It mattered. Goodfellow remained open. When the BRAC visited Lowry, they were greeted by a measly delegation of flag wavers at city hall. Lowry was closed.

If we are sincere about "saving" Ellsworth, it might behoove us to demonstrate this to the BRAC. Imagine driving Highway 44 lined with a show of support unequalled by any other base on the list.

LIZ RUNQUIST
Rapid City

Thanks for friendship

My wife Sue and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful people we have interacted with during our tenure at Ellsworth AFB over the past three and a half years. The communities of the Black Hills area have opened up to us in a manner we have never before experienced in the Air Force. Our family has been blessed by the diverse richness of this beautiful area, as well as the warmth of its people.

As we continue our journey in the Air Force at another location, we will always remember the great experiences we have had here, and the wonderful lasting friendships we have made. We are so thankful for your welcoming manner in every area: from our church home downtown, to the many local organizations we were privileged to become a part of, to friends who opened their homes and hearts to us. We will miss you all.

This community has so much to offer and offers so much. We are blessed to have been a part of your lives; thank you for being part of ours.

Col. JOSEPH BROWN
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB

Letters to the editor, 6-10

Need both bases

I am very concerned about the proposal to close Ellsworth AFB and station all the B-1Bs at Dyess AFB. It's very risky to "put all one's eggs in one basket." Such a move invites any possible aggressor to try to take all of them out at one strike, be it a terrorist attack, or possibly a nuclear armed long range missile. To the best of my knowledge, we have not yet developed our planned missile defense to counter the latter, and I do not think even that it would be 100 percent effective.

Of further vital concern is the real possibility of serious or total destruction of Dyess AFB by a tornado. That would be possible at Ellsworth, also, though less likely. Of course a blizzard could cripple Ellsworth for a few days, although not comparably to the havoc a tornado could cause at either base.

I therefore strongly urge that we support the Department of Defense's keeping both Ellsworth and Dyess Air Force Bases as B-1B operating sites.

JOHN F. WELCH
Col. USAF (Ret.)
Rapid City

Letters to the editor, 6-12

Use base for Army

I can see that the mission of Ellsworth can hardly justify keeping the base open as 29 B-1s can easily be combined with other operational missions. However, I have been to the base four times this year; almost all of the buildings on the base are less than 10 years old and some of the base housing is only a couple of years old. This year much of the roads are closed for new construction. I wonder if the new construction is required to be finished before the closure.

If a person protests a problem, they should have a solution. Mine is that they are returning 70,000 to 100,000 troops back from Europe. With 5,000 acres, and an almost new base why not have your Ellsworth task force quit fighting a lost battle and pick a new road and have the base realigned into an U.S. Army base. With the runway, rapid deployment could still be available to the Army. And the area and hills are rich in Army history, (albeit not necessarily in the best light).

GENE W. MURPHY
Major, USAF, Ret.
Papillion, Neb.
30-year former resident of South Dakota

Set record straight

Let's set the record straight about Sen. Thune and Ellsworth.

During the 2004 campaign, it was Sen. Daschle who was made a big deal over his alleged ability to keep EAFB open. I don't recall Thune pumping his chest out like Daschle. He only responded to the misplaced braggings of an out-of-the-majority senator who could only offer other people's money as a reason to vote for him.

I think Ellsworth has a vital contribution to make to our defense, and I also agree with those who question the wisdom of putting all our eggs in the Dyess AFB, TX basket. But I'm not in charge at the Pentagon.

I saw Ellsworth go from a busy four-wing base when I arrived there in 1990 to a comparably sleepy one-wing base which had lost nearly half its personnel. We survived that without batting an eye.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Ellsworth doesn't exist for the economic benefit of South Dakota, but for the defense of this great nation. If it is determined that Ellsworth isn't the best contributor to that defense, then it should go.

Using EAFB for political mileage against Thune isn't doing anyone any good either.

BOB ELLIS
Rapid City

Letters to the editor, 6-13

Back Thune's efforts

How hard would you fight to preserve the income that supports your family? If someone was threatening to take it away, would you go to the mats, pull out all the stops, go into the attack mode to keep food on your table? Of course you would.

That's what John Thune is doing. He's going to the mats with the administration and the Defense Department to keep his South Dakota family alive and well.

Let's quit all the negative talk and concentrate on the positive things we can do to support Sen. Thune and his efforts to save Ellsworth. After all, the battle he's fighting is all about us and the future of South Dakota.

GALE HOLBROOK
Rapid City

Bad time to close

It seems that I remember that President Ronald Reagan and Gorbachov got together for world peace. At that time in the world the Middle East was being tamed down with the loss of its presidents. The whole idea of world peace came down to "down sizing" our

From: <Hayhur4@aol.com>
To: <brampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/15/2005 12:37:03 PM
Subject: Ellsworth Closure !!

Dear Sir!

I'm concerned that Ellsworth AFB is being considered for closure. It is one of the few bases not surrounded by a growing city, which would hampers growth, creates noise complaints, and friction with local governmental entities.

Moving to Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene, Texas, will create exactly that!

My previous home was in Sacramento, California, where both McClellan AFB, Mather AFB, and Sacramento Army Depot were closed due to enroachment by industrial and/or home developments!

This is not the case of Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota !! KEEP IT OPEN !

Sincerely,

Paul Herman Hayhurst
USAF Retired
International Paper Co. Retired

From: <C4xsr@aol.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/11/2005 7:55:28 PM
Subject: Ellsworth AFB

Dear Sir,

To even think of closing Ellsworth AFB, is one of the biggest mistakes of our time.

I was stationed there in the 50'S, when we were ready to go. With an air craft B-52 on the hot pad at all times of the day 24-7.

Just look at the figures and the loss of security of our nation. we should be adding B1B Bomber bases so we will not be vulnerable to one strike on our only B1B Bomber base left then in Texas.

Sometimes, I believe that the people that are involved in these decisions are not informed to the extent they should be. We can not continue to be a self defending country by weakening our defense. I am sure the people involved in weakening our defenses are scaring the HELL out of the countries that depend on our defenses.

Respectfully
Ronald R.Cafourek
Veteran USAF
AF17430376

From: <bunkie34@cox.net>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/15/2005 7:35:09 AM
Subject: Keep Ellsworth AFB Open

Dear Bruce Ramelberg,

I am writing in regard to the Pentagon Plan for closure of Ellsworth AFB.

This would be a very bad decision at this time.

With all the terrorist acts going on through the world – why would you put all B-1B aircraft in one location??? A terrorist can even figure that one out.

Ellsworth is a terrific facility with state of the art features that would cost a lot to replace at another location.

I was stationed at both South Dakota and Texas. I would prefer South Dakota duty – ten times of Texas!!

Please keep Ellsworth AFB OPEN!!

Thank you.

ls\ Dale Bunkers, 533 Elm St. Granville, Iowa 51022

16 June 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: 28th WING ASSOCIATION,
PRESIDENT, EAFB TASK FORCE,
BRAC COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: The Proposed Closing Of Ellsworth AFB

I'm writing today with deep concern over the proposed closing of Ellsworth AFB. I have heard that our B-1b Bombers will all be stationed in one location, Dyess AFB, and that a squadron or so will be based in Turkey. As for Dyess, that's a good idea beings most people in congress have forgotten about Pearl Harbor. We must not have learned very much from it and need to repeat history to learn more. As for basing a squadron in Turkey, is that really necessary due to the B-1b being a long-range bomber, that was the original intent of this aircraft!

The commission also states that by closing Ellsworth AFB, the government will save so much money annually. Wouldn't it be wiser to consider how much the government is spending on The National Guard units in South Dakota? You have the Air Guard at the Sioux Falls Airport, The Helicopters at the Rapid City airport, the army guard in Rapid City, Sturgis, and Huron and that's only few of the 13 or more units in this state. It would save the government and the state just as much or more to consolidate these at one location, Ellsworth AFB. Just the two flying units alone would save the federal government funding if that's what they really want to do. Plus it would flow along with the military theme of uniting the services, "Joint Task Forces".

According to BRAC, they are looking to close northern tier bases. Wouldn't it be more feasible to look at North Dakota where there are two bases within two-hundred miles of each other, wouldn't it be more logical to deal with that issue. Ellsworth AFB also services the retired community throughout the five state regions of North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Minot and Grand Forks are so close to each other they compete with each other. When it comes to climate issues winters in the Rapid City area are only half of what North Dakota gets in relation to extreme cold and snow.

As for fuctionability and logistics, Ellsworth AFB has one of the newest and largest runways enabling any aircraft to land and takeoff from; it has more clear airspace than any other base in the US, and has space for expansion for multiple weapon systems. Logistically Ellsworth AFB is centrally located inside America and is less susceptible to attack from any direction, unlike Dyess AFB which is less than 5 minute flying time from the Golf Of Mexico and less than twenty minutes from the Pacific Ocean, whereas Ellsworth AFB is at best 60 minutes. It takes an alert crew 5-plus minutes to get air-born to provide any response from attack.

Darin A. Perkins Sr. Ret. MSgt, USAF
Aircraft Engine Technician

From: Donald Berg <dnjberg@webtv.net>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/14/2005 6:33:44 AM
Subject: Closing Ellsworth AFB

Gentlemen;

As a member of the 28Wing Assc. I feel that closing Ellsworth Air Force Base is a Big Mistake. I strongly disagree of the idea of putting all of the B-1 bombers in one place. To me, that is asking for trouble, and makes it easier for the Terrorist to destroy our fleet of B-1's.

My time at Ellsworth was from 1953 -1956. Those years were a very important time with the SAC command. We were one of the Top Bases in everything we were asked to do, and the Base still has that Tradition of being one of the Best.

I think trying to save dollars when it comes to defending our country is a Big mistake. Lets save it somewhere else.

During our Reunions, we tour the Air Force Base at Rapid City, and it has been updated and in A-1 condition. Lets save Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Leonard D. Berg
Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246

From: "betty" <bmoore27@sc.rr.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/14/2005 12:34:14 PM
Subject: Re: 28th Wing Association Letter

Mr. Bruce Ramelberg,

The following states my feelings about the possible closing of Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota. I have various reasons to oppose the closure of this Base. My husband started his Air Force career at Ellsworth so I am familiar with some of the things maintenance people had to endure. Ellsworth AFB should be preserved because the troops stationed there are very well trained; they have experience in working on airplanes in all types of cold and freezing temperatures which most Southern bases never incur. These troops are all weather troops and can perform their mission anywhere on earth. Ellsworth AFB has always been know for their Operational Readiness performances. I feel as if Ellsworth protects the top cap of our country with very capable and willing personnel.

Ellsworth AFB has continued to modernize various facilities on the Base with up-to-date improvements. The Base is, for the most part, self contained and the military folks can be satisfied knowing they have every-

thing available when they need it. The local community of Rapid City and surrounding areas have always had a good rapport with the military complex and they appreciate our forces being there to offer protection.

With its long history of quality performance and protecting the Northern part of our country, I strongly urge the Base Realignment and Closure ((BRAC) Committee to reevaluate their decision and keep Ellsworth AFB open for continued use.

Betty L. Moore
Wife of dec/CMS Samuel F. Moore



From: "Jimmie B." <phoenix7@rap.midco.net>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/20/2005 11:01:33 PM
Subject: Please Keep Ellsworth AFB Open!

20June 2005

Dear BRAC Commission,

PLEASE SAVE ELLSWORTH AFB YOU KNOW IT IS THE SMART THING TO DO AND THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!!

IT IS THE MORAL THING TO DO! THINK OF THE ECONOMIC DEVISTATION TO FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES IN THIS AREA!

DON'T FORGET THE RETIREES!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!



Jimmie, Julie, and Mike Beal

—
No virus found in this outgoing message.
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Version: 7.0.323 / Virus Database: 267.7.4/16 - Release Date: 6/15/2005





An experimental version of the F4U Corsair first flew in May of 1940. It was the first American fighter to exceed 400 mph. The Corsair played an important role in the Battle of the Solomon Islands, the invasions of Gilbert, Ellice and the Marshall Islands, as well as the retaking of the Mariana Islands and the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

85 Timberwood Circle
Campbellsville, Ky. 42718
June 15, 2004

Bruce Rarnelberg, President
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, S.D. 57707-2530

Sir,
We were very much dismayed to learn
Ellsworth was on the "hit list" for
closure.

We are asking you not to close Ellsworth
for the following reasons.

(1) By closing Ellsworth and transferring
all the B-1 Bombers to Texas would
be a mistake because it seems to us it
could end up like Pearl Harbor, "all of our
eggs in in one basket".

(2) Ellsworth has diversified weather which
makes it possible for crews to get
training in all kinds of weather.

(3) Ellsworth has the new buildings
which it needs plus there is a
new modern runway of 13,500 ft
at the base. In addition to all of
this there is plenty of Air Space!



An experimental version of the F4U Corsair first flew in May of 1940. It was the first American fighter to exceed 400 mph. The Corsair played an important role in the Battle of the Solomon Islands, the invasions of Gilbert, Ellice and the Marshall Islands, as well as the retaking of the Mariana Islands and the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

- (4) Ellsworth is only seven minutes from the bombing range in Wyoming. Since the price of jet of jet fuel has escalated this is another reason to rethink our closing of Ellsworth.
- (5) Ellsworth is the only Air Base in S. D. and many Air Force families have chosen to remain in S. D. after their retirement to reap the benefits.

For the reason we plead with you to keep Ellsworth active for our "National Security"

Sincerely yours,
Lt. Col. and Mrs. Allen J. Wayne
U. S. A. Retired

113 Woodland Road
Malden, Massachusetts
02148

June 15, 2005

Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P. O. Box 2530
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709

Dear Mr. Ramelberg:

This letter is in response to Donald Strachan's request to 28th Wing Association members to comment in favor of preserving Ellsworth AFB. He cites many reasons for not closing Ellsworth, with which I concur.

As a citizen who responded to our country's call to service after the sneak attack and near complete destruction of our fleet and base at Pearl Harbor, I am appalled at the Pentagon's wrong-headed decision to place Ellsworth AFB on the list for closure, — and in so doing place the country's entire B-1B fleet of aircraft in one location.

I am one person, among many, who has taken to heart our nation's WWII slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor". It would be wise and prudent for the BRAC Committee to also remember.

Veteran, (1943, 1944, 1945) WWII, and
seventeen months, Korean Conflict,
RB-36 crew at Ellsworth AFB.

Respectfully,
Araig S. Yerdumian
Araig S. Yerdumian
Member, 28th Wing Association

**Raleigh H. Watson, D.D.S.
8 Academy Court
Berryville, Virginia 22611**

Telephone (540) 955-2183

June 17, 2005

Mr. Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Mr. Ramelberg;

Please consider the following as the proposed closing of Ellsworth AFB is discussed:

It would be most unwise to place all of our "eggs" in one basket, the "eggs" in this case being the B-1 bomber. Surely it is foolhardy to not have these important aircraft dispersed in different areas of the country. To have the entire fleet vulnerable at one base seems to be inviting disaster.

The personnel at Ellsworth are well trained as an all-weather force, and are the only ones so trained at this time in the entire Air Force. From my own experience some half century ago, I know that the personnel at Ellsworth are capable of operating in all temperature extremes, in heavy snowstorms, and in the heat of summer.

The area around Ellsworth contains more clear airspace than is found at any Air Force facility of like size and capability.

Since its establishment in the early 1940's, Ellsworth/Rapid City AFB has enjoyed extraordinary support from the local community. This must be considered a real asset to the function of the mission of the base as the personnel feel this support, and consequently enjoy a heightened morale level.

I urge that all possible steps be taken to ensure the continuance of Ellsworth AFB as a fully operational part of our defense system.

Sincerely,
Raleigh H. Watson, DDS

From: "Nellye Anne" <nmeintsma@msn.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/18/2005 12:58:43 PM
Subject: Re: BRAC and letter President 28th Wing Association

My View: Seward M. Meintsma, Lt. Col. (USAF (Ret)

Served Ellsworth AFB May 1951 to May 1959

1. I concur fully with reasons cited in the President of the 28th Wing Association's letter.

2. Cost Savings: Seriously in doubt. Any consolidation of units, equipment and aircraft at one installation will require additional expansion of facilities and personnel housing.

3. Vulnerability: While we call the Cold War over, a threat to our security is not. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld himself has been blunt about China's military spending. He said "Since no nation threatens China, one wonders why this growing (military) investment." The answer is that rather than feeling threatened, China intends to threaten others, especially the United States. The book by late Constantine Menges PhD entitled China, the Gathering Threat, writes that China has defined America as its main enemy and has nuclear weapons that can reach the United States. Others with hostility to the U.S. are North Korea and Iran who also pose a threat not unlike the cold war period when the Soviet threat by long-range bombers during the late 50s and early 60s when EAFB was defended by fighter aircraft on alert and a perimeter surface-to-air missile defense system. Further to decrease vulnerability two 52 squadrons were dispersed to Amarillo and Sheppard AFB where either entirely new facilities were built or expanded. To abandon a base that meets mission requirement facilities, housing, etc., leaves a question of cost savings. If we have learned anything from past experience or history, putting "all our eggs in one basket" does not appear to be rational. Also, a terrorist attack within our borders against a military base, perhaps remote, but a possibility to be reckoned with.

4. I am not familiar with the status of the long-range missile network around Ellsworth but I suspect there are facilities that are either in use or can be updated for use.

5. The favorable community support is also a primary factor in retaining Ellsworth AFB.

6. I am firmly convinced that a closure of Ellsworth AFB is neither in the best interest of our national security nor defense cost savings.

Seward M. Meintsma

From: William L Hiller <billhiller@juno.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/07/2005 10:42:08 PM
Subject: Ellsworth A.F.B.

Mr. Ramelberg;

I would like to let some of my thoughts be known concerning the base closure. I was stationed there in aircraft maintenance for a total of eleven years, from that base I was deployed several times and never to a warm country, my point is, having trained in a cold climate I was well prepared for the weather and working conditions of Korea, we will not always go to desert environments. I believe it is imperative that we maintain a cold weather Base such as Ellsworth for development of equipment and training.

I do not think it is good policy to have all of our B-1 aircraft on the same base, dedicated saboteurs, now referred to as terrorists will always find a way to over come security.

Our Northern borders deserve a certain amount of attention and this base is well equipped to supply that. Ellsworth is a world class base with the latest technology and facilities.

It does not encroach on any civilian developments or air space , it has one of the best runways in the aviation world and it has abundant room for expansion or other facilities that might be needed in coming years.

There are many other things that should be considered but I would suggest one more, the local community is very supportive of the base and its assigned personnel.

William L. Hiller
M/Sgt Ret. USAF

From: "Bob & Nancy Keppel" <alnabob@pacbell.net>
To: "Bruce Raimelberg" <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>, <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/31/2005 2:04:02 PM
Subject: Ellsworth AFB (BRAC meeting)

May 31, 2005

The Base Realignment and Closure Committee, (BRAC) must have the common sense to understand that the mere thought of closing of EAFB would have disastrous consequences on the defense of our country. No one in their right mind would even think about concentrating our first line of defense on one edge of our country to try to defend against enemy attacks from all points of the compass.

Ellsworth EFB was planned for just such a defense and is strategically placed where it can be the most effectively used against any attack on our country. It is strategically placed in an area that has ample room for growth, easily accessible for maintenance and repair, good weather (no hurricanes, tornadoes, etc) no surprise actions from the oceans, such as missiles launched from submarines or ships at sea. Early detection would allow ample time for Ellsworth air crews to be airborne before enemy airborne missiles could reach them.

Ellsworth AFB can be easily defended and there are no known or substantial objections to having the base in its present location.

Food, supplies, transportation, rail lines are easily accessible and their location and climate are not objectionable to the people who are assigned to, or work at the air base.

In other words, there are no good or valid reasons to relocate the Air Base to any other location. Please leave a good thing alone.

Robert D. Keppel

4302 Bellmawr Dr.

Livermore CA, 94551

alnabob@pacbell.net



From: "CLARENCE BIGGAR" <BIGGARC001@hawaii.rr.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/31/2005 3:01:37 PM
Subject: Ellsworth Closing

Aloha Bruce; I am writing this at the urging of a childhood friend and classmate, Bill "Shorty" Holding. I don't know if it will help, but please feel free to use my name in your quest to keep Ellsworth open.
Clarence Biggar

CC: "BILLY HOLDING" <shortyhold@aol.com>



From: <shortyhold@aol.com>
To: <BRampelb@Firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/28/2005 11:08:33 PM
Subject: Fwd: Base closings

This message from B36 Era And Cold War Aviation Forum on DelphiForums.com was forwarded to you by WILLIAM16472.

You can view it in the context of the entire discussion by going to:
<http://forums.delphiforums.com/B36Forum/messages/?msg=651.33>

To view WILLIAM16472's Profile, visit
<http://forums.delphiforums.com/dir-app/showprofile.asp?uname=WILLIAM16472>

===== WILLIAM16472 says to you =====
 Sent Friday, 5/25/05. From a B-36 site " Cold War Aviation Forum"
 Shorty...Too close this base a disgrace. Flew in our Convair B-36 from there. "My field of dreams" Visit the Veterans cemetery out along I -90
 Tell the crews who have rested there for fifty better years, gave their lives! They were there for us in the cold war. The inter continental missiles, and recently the Asian conflicts. A moment with General Ellsworth would be fitting before your decision.

=====Forwarded Message=====

Forum: the B36 Era And Cold War Aviation Forum
 Subject: Base closings
 From: Shorty (WILLIAM16472)
 To: (BOB36GNR)
 DateTime: 5/28/2005 12:40:53 PM

Sort'a answered your own question there Bob.....Running over these postings... final decision? Everything in Ellsworth's favorable survival.Including our lengthy runway. A cold weather operational combat ready wing. Years ago exposing our military readiness to the ruskies ? as well theirs to ours ? Best of any enemy of our country at least having somewhat knowledge of where, what and how to respond? Thank heavens we were ready in the 'cold war years'. Decided that contest with a mighty showing of some 385 B-36's aircraft. Never using hostile strenght. No need too. That 'Armada' speaking for itself. Timly times by General Curtis LeMay..... Await the politicians final decision . Should no matter, have no bearing on our contined Re-unions of the 28th Bomb Wing!!!
 Bill(S)Holding

Edited 5/29/2005 12:40 am ET by Shorty (WILLIAM16472)

=====
 DelphiForums.com: Home to the Web's most vibrant online communities. Explore more than 100,000 Forums or create your own at <http://www.delphiforums.com>
 =====

From: John Welch <jawelch@rushmore.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/29/2005 1:59:24 PM
Subject: Base Realignment and Closing

Dear Bruce,

I am sending the following message to each of our representatives in Congress, and to President Bush:

Dear _____,

I am very concerned about the proposal to close Ellsworth AFB and station all of the bib's at Dyes AFB. It's very risky to "put all one's eggs in one basket." Such a move invites any potential aggressor to try to take out all of them in one strike, be it a terrorist attack, or possibly a nuclear armed long range missile. We have not yet deployed our proposed missile defense system to counter such an attack.

Of further concern is the very real possibility of serious or total destruction of Dyes AFB by a tornado. That would be possible at Ells worth also, but less likely. Of course a blizzard could cripple Ells worth for a few days, but would not nearly so critically as a tornado could at either base.

I therefore urge you to support keeping both Ells worth and Dyes Air Force Bases as operational BIB operating sites.

Sincerely,

John F. Welsh
Col. USAF (Ret.)
2933 Country Club Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702-5218

From: "Carroll Cooley" <cool2@qwest.net>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/30/2005 10:28:11 AM
Subject: Ellsworth A.F. Base

Dear Bruce Ramelberg

I understand that Ellsworth A.F. Base is on the short list for closure. I feel this action would not be in the best interest of our national security for several reasons. Ellsworth guards the northern approaches to the lower 48 states, it is the shortest route to potential enemies like No. Korea, China or even Russia. As long as this country needs manned strategic bombers, the northern base at Ellsworth provides the shortest response time to those areas of the world.

Secondly, to place all our B-1 bombers in one location in Texas is not a wise move, remember Pearl Harbor. Another issue is weather conditions where aircraft, crews and maintenance are trained to operate in all types of weather including Artic type conditions.

I served at Ellsworth for over 3 years in the era of the B-36 and B-52 and I recognize the value of manned bombers and weapons to protect this country from strikes from over or near the polar routes to our heartland and for counterstrikes if necessary.

Please don't close Ellsworth in the interest of our national security and ability to counterstrike.

A strong and powerful America is what is keeping the rest of the world from attacking our homeland. Let's do everything within our power and ability to keep it that way.

Carroll F. Cooley
15630 N. 20th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85022
602-482-0272
cool2@qwest.net

From: <Hermling@aol.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/31/2005 8:48:13 AM
Subject: Don't close Ellsworth AFB

Dear Committee Members:

Please don't close Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

All this downsizing of bases is a serious mistake. We are undermining our own national defense. Ellsworth has served this country valiantly for over 50 years and is a great asset to our national defense. Now, more than ever, we need to maintain a strong military.

Ellsworth has more clear airspace than any other site in the country. It is a modern facility with a great work force. We need Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Linda Wegner Hermling
child of Capt. Roy S. Wegner
Killed in B-36 crash at Ellsworth AFB in 1954

From: "Rich Lathouwers Sr" <rill@jackpine.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/30/2005 9:44:24 PM
Subject: To the Department of the Air Force and Pentagon Officials 5.doc

Answer, reply related to pending closure of EAFB

To the Department of the Air Force and Pentagon Officials
5/30/05

It has recently been brought to my attention that it is being considered to close Ellsworth Air Force Base and moving it's bombers to Dyess Air Force Base in Texas. I personally don't agree with this thinking. This consolidates all the B1 bomber forces at one location. What is this? The covered wagon theory?

Back in the days of the covered wagon this did make sense. Granted it may not make economical sense to keep the B1 force separated. But if most or all of the B1's are rendered totally useless in one stroke, then it doesn't make economical sense to consolidate either? Never forget that one time we suffered the embracement of the total loss of a fleet in the past. It nearly cost us our demise. We should never set ourselves up to let History Repeat Itself Again. Please make note of a few of the other economical reason that can off set some of the consolidation thinking .

- There is More Clear Air Space around Ellsworth than any other site in the USA.
- Ellsworth is a very modernized facility with a 13,500 foot runway or over 2 1/2 mile long runway
- It is only 7 Minutes from the Bombing Range in Wyoming.
- With current Jet Fuel prices, the B1 uses 4700 gallons of fuel an hour, it should be a serious consideration to keep the Bombers at Ellsworth.
- Space for any type of needed expansion is available at Ellsworth.
- They have an extremely appreciative and supportive civilian community.
- * It's a base that is Centrally located in the USA, with room for other missions.
- The troops are well trained, and are all weather people which means they can quickly adapt and be capable of performing their mission anywhere on Earth that they might be deployed.
- * This might be harder to say about those based at southern command bases.

I'm not promoting Ellsworth because I was once stationed there. But it just makes good military sense not to put all your eggs in one basket. I'd like to sight an observance on my part.

I don't want to condemn the Navy and or their reasoning but before building any more Super Carriers, I would consider building twice as many smaller aircraft carriers. Seeing that one missile these days can put a Super Carrier out of commission, it seems logical that more and smaller, is the logical thing to do in the future.

If it ever comes to pass that a nuclear attack would rear it's

horrifying head. Everything might be a mute note.

But even in a worse case scenario of a nuclear attack, it stands to reason that the more dispersed you are the more likely it is to still have forces left to launch an attack and to protect the home land from an aggressor.

As a veteran of the armed services I would like to go on record with the following.

That the closing of Ellsworth Air Force Base and the consolidation of all the bombers of this type into one location is careless and reckless. It's so irresponsible that it borders criminal intent to demise our national security, our homeland security, and right now could lead to weakening our defense posture as a world power. Especially if this fleet were taken out due to it's consolidation.

Our country has shown that our biggest weaknesses are as follows, our arrogance, and our trust of fair play.

Thoughts like, "That could never happen to us? No one in their right mind would ever dare?"

In this day and age we can not afford to put our guard down. We must have the tools available to attack and to fight back with authority. A strong offense is a strong deterrent. This is what kept us out of Nuclear War.

Making the B1's or any weapons system an easier target doesn't adhere to even common sense.

Richard Lathouwers Sr. Former USAF, 28th Bomb Wing Veteran , and Viet Nam Veteran.

PS Consider the far reaching aspects of consolidation and our national security. Don't allow history to repeat.



From: <Williamscarbroug@aol.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>, <ShortyHold@aol.com>
Date: 05/30/2005 6:37:20 PM
Subject: Save Ellsworth

I am noting receipt of your 28th WING ASSOCIATION , inc MESSAGE .. and taking the liberty to make some comments. Hopefully they have meaning and value in your process. I am fully aware that my service covered a period time span from 1949 thru 1958.. and all my background is result of following public releases ..

It would be wise to consider that your note almost completely imphasizes a time period that has passed us by.

The B 1 Bs have already been for all intents and purposes been written off the books. They were considered obselete the day they released them for Wing activation.

This does not mean that protecting them is not a good idea... what it does mean that some where in reserch and developing is intirely new concepts and tools to defend our country.

Defense stradeegy will be based primarily on the newer weapons.. Which does mean the maintenance and facility cost have been balanced against this newer defense concept.



Your DEFEND ELLSWORTH concepts need be based upon how ELLSWORTH can be of value for our future defense.

There is evidence that secret underground facilities have been built all over the USA for this new stradeegy.. There is no place on earth that has a better geology for this type of program. Holes have been plugged into the turf all over the area for missile silos..which becomes a data base for building fall back positions should U S A have troubles defending our turf. It ius my understanding that Oil probes have identified a granite sheet that is hard to penetrate .. that covers much of the plateau area out west in your area.. A possible ideal site for underground bases , supported by the ELLSWORTH complex.

Artic and winter training.. That was evident in the 50s when I had to go through crew training to prepare to walk out of SIBERIA .. (Evidence of how much faith they had in a obselete B 36) Certainly Ellsworth has value in this area.. We were there as stop gap cannon balls til the new tools could be brought on line.. Thankfully it worked.

Global position.. could be a plus for ELLSWORTH.. Far enough inland to be something of a minor problem for a CHINESE offense.. Plus something else

there is not a lot of infrastructure to be worth the cost of modern guided munitions.



As a very old guy I know my limitations and value..I do not have a west point or annapolis education.. however I have spent a lot of personal interest time reading what was publically

available.

I tend to think that you will be wasting your time trying to defend the Ellsworth that is.. when the effort that is required is proving the ELLSWORTH that can be..

Unfortunately it is doubtful that many of you will have adequate access to our potential DEFENSE STRADEGY studys for the time period 2000 to 3000.. and this is the data base you need to work from.

Politically your vote numbers work against you.. something you already are aware of.. You are going to need to put together area wide associations to sell the protective value of having a valueable target in the relatively empty plateau areas.. Not a pleasent thought however it is one you can sell to our cities that have millions of folk that can die with a few bombs , or become disorganized by terror tactics. It also provides activities that will cost our enemys more than they can afford to devide there efforts. The apparrently REAGAN concept against the SOVIETS.. and that is not entirely over with yet..

I applaud the fact that you have opened a defense.. and hope it works.. but you have to defend it on data that supports its future value to our defense planners.

I suppose I could mention more thoughts however I do not feel that the words of a obselete, very old S/Sgt will get anymore attention than I did for a number of YEARS before the VA appeals boards. I finally did get a little notice apparrently just to slap the knat off there arms..

I will write the letter you request.. however you are aware that though ALABAMA most likely broke even with brack .. our words will only get polite reconition if at all.

The beltway power structure is very close to springing its traps .. and we are being unendated by the weapons produced by the mothers of the outside world .. also a populace that is unaware of our history nor even apparrently gives a damned.

I wish you success . and will do as I can.

William D Scarbrough S/Sgt 28th Wing
1950-- 1956 .. (years USAF total near 9)



From: <JimHeld406@aol.com>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/03/2005 2:59:13 PM
Subject: Ellsworth Air Force Base

In my view, closing Ellsworth AFB is not in the best interest of the defence of the United States

I was assigned to Ellsworth in 1959 when the 28th Wing was split. One squadron moved to Wichita Falls Texas and another to Amarillo. I was lead to believe this was to scatter the B-52's so all our resources would not be in one basket so to speak. I believe that was sound judgement then and I feel the same about putting the B-1's in one location.

Having been stationed at Ellsworth for about 10 years, I am well aware of the appreciation and support the civilian community has towards the base.

I can not envision that closing the base could save money with the millions of dollars that have been spent in the infastructure the last number of years.

I really feel that closing Ellsworth is not in the best interest of the United States.

Sincerely,



CMS James F. Held (USAF Ret)
P.O. Box 84
Clyde Park, Mt. 59018

28th Wing Association Inc. member.



From: Boe Simpson <rainboe@hisnet.org>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/05/2005 8:11:20 AM
Subject: Base Closure - Ellsworth AFB

Dear Mr. Ramelberg,

It is very disturbing to me to hear that the Pentagon is planning to add Ellsworth to its base closure list. We are in a war for survival against the most brutal evil enemy this country has ever faced in its history and this is no time to try to save money when defending our country should have the highest priority.

I was stationed at Rapid City AFB, a SAC Base, later renamed after General Richard Ellsworth (who was killed in a RB-36 crash) from May 1952 to January 1954. Ellsworth personnel are well trained, all weather people, capable of performing their mission anywhere on earth, and this cannot be said of southern command bases.

It would be a strategic blunder to transfer all of the Ellsworth B-1B aircraft to Texas which would result in our entire B-1B fleet being in one location. Do we want "all of our eggs in one basket"? I think this would be very foolish especially to us senior citizens who remember Pearl Harbor.

Ellsworth is a very modernized facility and could easily handle additional Air Force units. Instead of closing it why not make it a composite base which makes a whole lot more sense to me?

As President of the Ellsworth Task Force and a resident of Rapid City, you are in the best position to argue against the closing of the base.

Please give it your best shot.

Sincerely,
Everitt W. Simpson
13562 W. 24th Place
Golden, CO 80401
USAF-Dec. 1951-Dec. 1955

CC: <finserx@enetis.net>



From: "Jerry Pattison" <scubajgp@earthlink.net>
To: "Bruce Rampelberg" <brampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 05/28/2005 2:15:00 PM
Subject: Ellsworth

BlankHello Bruce. My name is Jerry Pattison. I was stationed at Ellsworth 1955-56. A great AF experience!

I would point out that in addition to benefits summarized by Don Strahan, the VHB (Big Hangar) is a unique structure. I have seen 2 RB-36's and a C-124 in there at one time. I believe it will accommodate 2 747's as well. Good to have if the US is to outfit the 747 with lasers. Out of sight of satellite snoops.

Good luck in your efforts.

Jerry



From: "Terry Harpster" <skoal33@nntc.net>
To: <BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com>
Date: 06/04/2005 3:37:49 PM
Subject: Ellsworth closure

Mr Ramelberg

I am writing to protest the closing of Ellsworth, this base is very important to the people of South Dakota & the nation.

We do not need to place all B-I's at one base to be cost effective, I feel two bases is to few, but one is very dangerous to the nations security, what if someone got a lucky strike on the facility?? GOD forbid!!

I am in favor of the smaller non productive outposts being closed/consolidated, it makes sense, but closing the large productive local economy boosting bases is pure nonsense. We lost a few to many of these in the past and the cost and man power reductions have shown up in our present force, as we are totally stressed to the max.

Put me down as a loyal ex 28th BW person from the Viet Nam era living in Nebraska that feels very sad about loosing a part of my family.

Thank you

Terry G. Harpster

RR. 1 Box 83

Ewing, NE 68735

Ellsworth AFB Closure

Impact upon local scouting programs

1. Loss of Cub Scout and Boy Scout unit organization and leadership along with the majority of non-military membership within the base area (Box Elder).
 - a. There is little leadership within the area to support youth programs in the Box Elder area once the base closes.
 - b. Probable solution would be to "hire" a leader to run the programs (very expensive)
2. Leadership losses would be felt throughout Western SD and Eastern WY.
 - a. Training staff
 - b. Activities staff
 - c. Camp staff
 - d. Unit leadership
3. Native American outreach would be negatively impacted
 - a. Base provides stability within existing "traditional" programs. Stability allows efforts within NA community to move forward. The base closure would likely negatively impact the ability to continue at current levels (1,600+) of our outreach within the NA community on and off the reservation
4. Base activities
 - a. Loss of access to facilities for training, education, and exposure of scouting youth to military hardware, facilities, and programs would be significant for both AF (recruiting) and BSA
 - i. Merit Badge Midway (impacts 300+ individuals annually from 3 state area)
 - ii. Camporee's (impacts 300-500 individuals every 3-5 years from 4 state area)
 - iii. Pack/Troop visits/tours (impacts numerous individuals monthly from multi-state area)
 - iv. Order of the Arrow conferences (impacts 200 individuals every 4 years from 4 state area)
5. Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch (MMSR)
 - a. Projects have been an on-going resource, maintaining and improving this 160 acre camp.
 - b. MMSR attracts over 2,000 participants annually. Most participants come from SD, ND, WY, MT, CO, NE, MN, IA, but some come from all 50 states and overseas.
 - c. Without well built and maintained facilities these individuals will cease coming to the Black Hills. There would be a loss of tourism dollars and scouting dollars.
 - i. Lack of these dollars would impact scouting overall over \$500,000+ annually
 - ii. There could become an elimination of scouting, or a major reduction, within the Black Hills without these dollars to support it. There are no dollars locally/nationally to replace this loss!
6. Loss of retirees
 - a. Many retirees volunteer in the various Pack, Troops, Teams, Crews and Learning for Life programs. The loss of these volunteers would have significant negative impact on the overall programs. Many programs would have to be reduced/eliminated.
 - b. Loss of retirees would come as some move away and without the base here to feed new retirees into the system within 20 years most military retirees would cease to exist within the Black Hills.
7. Loss of cash donations directly to BSA and indirectly (United Way)

June 14, 2005

Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P. O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Bruce:

The reasons given in your letter with the preservation of Ellsworth Air Force Base are very clear to anyone who has been stationed here.

For sixty-four years Ellsworth Air Force Base has served the entire United State of America in a manner that none other can compare.

During the past sixty-four years I have been stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base four times; back in 1944 I took B-17 crew training at Rapid City Army Air Base. After World War II, I was stationed as Commander of the Air Force Reserve Unit in this community. During this time, we flew AT-6's and AT-11's and did everything to keep our hand in a good training program.

In 1951 the Reserve Unit was called to active duty and was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base during the Korean War.

In 1953 I was transferred to Korea and participated in that conflict.

Enough said about my qualifications for the Air Force to be extremely happy to have a Base the quality that Ellsworth Air Force produces. I strongly agree with your reasons, i.e., more clear airspace than any area in the United States—a fact well recognized. So far as flyable time availability, it is unlimited at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

I do not recall ever having to "stand down" a mission for weather or any other reason.

There are few or likely none in the United States with a 13,500 foot runway which is capable to "take off" on that runway.

Rapid City is my home, place of my birth and I have lived here most of my life except for Air Force duties in the past.

There is no community in the United States that civilians are more supportive of this Air Base for sixty-four years.

How anyone in the Defense Department has the capability to even think about closing this facility is extremely incomprehensible.

Page 2--Bruce Ramelberg, President, Ellsworth Task Force

As noted above, I have flown in and out of Rapid City Army Air Base, Rapid City Air Force Base, Weaver Air Force Base and Ellsworth Air Force Base. I recall serving General Richard Ellsworth and He was a perfect "match" for this Base named in his honor.

I truly think there is no Air Force Base in the United States that is comparable to Ellsworth Air Force Base in anyway one can visualize.

If there is anyway you find necessary to visit with me about this letter, please contact me, phone 605-341-4699 or a note to my address below.

MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE TAKE ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE OFF THE "BASE CLOSURE LIST".

Sincerely,

Marvin D. Beach
Marvin D. Beach
Lt. Col. Air Force Retired
916 City Springs Road
Rapid City, SD 57702

MDB/lb
cc: President George W. Bush

A few thoughts reiterated on EAFB closing from some one who has been there and done that:

Dear Bruce,

The format may be off, but I don't think the thoughts are. I stopped in your office today, knew you were a very busy man and didn't expect to 'catch you napping' anyway. The reason for this note ----my wife, Darlene and I will be gone when the BRAC people are here, also your receptionist said that you did accept 'previous military' thoughts. This note won't make the base closing any different, but I think that SOMEONE should sound off to the contrary. By the way, I'd be the Parade Marshal for the cause if there were such a thing!

First of all, if EAFB closes, we will survive. How about the rest of the country? After VE Day, 1945, The head of the Department of Defense, then called the War Department headed by, I think, Eric Johnson, got all the Armed Services together at their bases for a Radio Address. He said that we had just won a war to end all wars, never be another like it, and that it was time to turn the swords into plowshares, etc., and that is just what we did. I remember and saw brand new aircraft being cut up as scrap aluminum in the spring of 1947. There were other branches of service that had the same happen to them----in other words, we couldn't punch our way out of a paper bag----because the swords were just not there. The Commies declared open season on Korea but Harry Truman said, No, you aren't going to do that!! I was recalled when the fracas started, sent to Korea, and flew aircraft that were actually taken out of the JUNK YARDS of Clark Field, Phillipines, and Kadena, Okinawa. We had nothing to fight back with because of the destruction after WW 2. (And I'm not even a Hawk!!)

So, we built up and built up, many US boys sacrificed their lives just to hold off the intruders-----after Korea, we went thru the same degradation of arms-----to a low point. The Cold War really took off and here went the build up again. I spent 3 1/2 years of the 'best part' of the Cold War in Europe and I don't remember that it warmed up any! Viet Nam came along and the same thing happened, from a low point came a terrific buildup and supply line to feed. I guess the point is that the American People are going to have to LEARN that the Military is here to stay and that their pocketbooks will have to stand the cost. Now about this cost. Is it not better to bring the military services up to a level and keep them there than to go thru the ups and downs we have had before?

Were you around when the infamous Pearl Harbor Sunday Morn happened? The battleships were all lined up in military order all the Japs had to do was to line up their aircraft with the battleships, strafe and/or drop a bomb and they'd hit SOMETHING. How does this compare to the present situation? If all the B-1's, KC-135's, C-130's, etc., etc., are 'lined up' at one base for each type, one good round placed in the proper spot does the job. This is the 'eggs in one basket' line of thought. Modern aircraft/military 'swords' do not have to be destroyed to be ineffective, just delayed a few hours!! Surely, someone has thought of THAT!!

I have a lot more 'thoughts', but you get my drift and now it is in writing. It probably won't do any good, but I think the powers that be are NOT USING THEIR GOD GIVEN HEADS!! Are they naive enough to think that the Mid East fracas will end all the world's trouble spots? Do they know a lot more than they let on? Do they think that China is our friend? How about ----North Korea----again??

'Nuff said,


Gerald E. Teachout (Jerry) Phone (605) 787-7001
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)
15411 Deerview Road
Piedmont, SD 57769

6-05-2005

TO THE BRAC COMMITTEE:

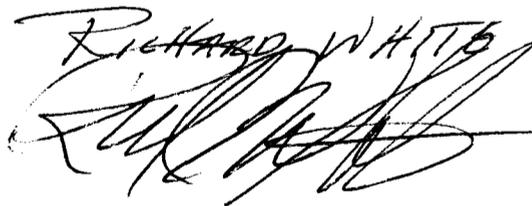
I, A VETERAN OF THE KOREAN WAR WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW MY FEELINGS OF THE CLOSING OF THE ELLSWORTH A.F.B. WHERE I SERVED WITH PRIDE.

- 1) THE LOCATION OF THIS BASE HAS MANY ADVANTAGES TRAINING AND ENDURING ALL WEATHER SITUATIONS.
- 2) CLOSE TO BOMBING RANGE 7 MINS. WITH FUEL AND FUEL BURNED PER HOUR SHOULD BE YOUR NUMBER ONE CONCERN.
- 3) CONSIDER THE LAND FOR EXPANSION AND CERTAINLY IF NOT EXPANSION, THEN CONSIDER THE CLEAREST AIRSPACE ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.A.
- 4) PUTTING ALL EGGS IN ONE BASKET, OR ALL PLANES AT ONE LOCATION DOES NOT SEEM STRATEGIC TO ME.
- 5) THE LENGTH OF THE RUNWAY THAT COULD HANDLE THE PEACEMAKER B-36 SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN, AS WELL AS TH V. H. B. DYESS A.F.B. DOESN'T HAVE A HANGER SUCH AS THIS.

I HAVE NOT LIVED IN THE RAPID CITY AREA AND I HAVE HAD NO PERSONEL CONTACTS WITH ON DUTY SERVICE MEN OR WOMEN ^{IN OR AT ELLSWORTH A.F.B.} SINCE BEING DISCHARGED IN 1956 TO BIAS MY THINKING.

HOWEVER I KNOW HOW MUCH BETTER A MECHANIC BEING AT THIS LOCATION MADE ME.

THANK YOU.

RICHARD WHITE


June 13, 2005

Bruce Ramelburg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P. O Box 2530
Rapid City, South Dakota

I strongly support keeping Ellsworth Air Force Base open and operation ready for many reasons.

I am a veteran recalled to EAFB for service in 1950 and 1951. This was during the cold war in the days of the RB36 and later the B 52. The runways were constructed long enough and thick enough to accommodate any piece of equipment in the Air Force. There is clear air space with quick and short access to the bombing range in Wyoming for a saving of Jet fuel.

We do not want our fleet of B-1B aircraft all put in one place in Texas. This would invite serious trouble.

I have returned to EAFB on a regular basis for visits and to attend 28th Bomb Wing reunions and am always pleased to see how the AFB has been modernized and kept in readiness. I think their readiness and their record in our latest conflict is proof that EFAB should definitely remain open.

Sincerely,

Neal F. Osborn

Neal F. Osborn
2025 Flint
Elk Falls, Kansas 67345
Phone 620 329 4434

cc: Donald D. Strachan, President 28th Wing Association

May 29, 2005

Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P O Box 2530
Rapid City SD 57709-2530

Dear Mr. Ramelberg;

Perhaps the cost of jet fuel and the close proximity to the bombing range in Wyoming will provide a saving greater than what can be achieved by closing Ellsworth Air Force Base.

All bases do not need to be and should not be located in southern areas of the United States. As a former aircraft mechanic during the B-36 days at Ellsworth, I was assigned to dock 3 of the 28th Periodic Maintenance Squadron. Dock 3 was outside the VHB hanger. We were able and capable of performing our jobs in the heat and the cold. Wars in the future may require working in less than ideal weather conditions. My point is aircraft maintenance can be performed in all sorts of weather, not just the southern states.

It seems to be an inefficient use of tax dollars to upgrade the main runway only a few years ago and now close the base. What do you do with 13,500 feet of 5 feet thick concrete if you don't operate bombers off it?

An uncluttered air space is a definite advantage during times of aircraft emergencies. If a plane needs to land quickly due to an emergency, the fewer planes in the air that a controller needs to handle, the better.

I am by this letter indicating my opposition to closing Ellsworth Air Force Base to achieve a possible tax saving.

Sincerely,


Wayne Madsen

George K. French, Tigt Retired

99 Jesse Broome Lane
Chickamauga, GA 30707-7805
(706) 375-3407

May 29, 2005

Dear Mr. Ramelberg,

I think closing down Ellsworth AFB would be a great disaster for the United States. Not only is the Air Base close to Russia, it would be a disaster in closing it down because the alert time would be increased from any other base South or west, East of the Air Base. The time it would take to respond to any attack on the United States. The Area would give any person or persons a greater time in bombing the US. Our time to respond would be increased two hours longer. I think Bush has rocks for brains. He just don't think about other people except him. I for one wish he would change his mind. He can care less because he can't run for any other office and he just is trying to pass any stupid law.

Sincerely, George K. French

Signature *George K. French*

5/28/05

Mr. Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
PO box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Bruce:

I'm writing in response to the proposed closing of Ellsworth Air Force Base. I was stationed there in 1952-53 assigned to the 28th FMS as a flight line instrument mechanic.

It's true that Ellsworth played a vital part in protecting our country over these many years as base for the Strategic Air Command. The B-29, B-36, B-52 and A-1 bombers and their dedicated crews and support people protected this country during the Korean War, The Cold War, The Viet Nam War, Desert Storm and Iraq.

That was in the past, so now we must face the future and the future is money. How can we cut out military short, or how can we compromise our security to save taxpayers money (I doubt that any savings will go toward reducing taxes)? From the standpoint of security is it smart to place the entire B-1 fleet in one place especially in these times? NO. Does it save money try to bring a sub standard command up to peak efficiency when there's one at Ellsworth ready to go? NO. Does it make sense to walk away from a base that has been completely modernized at a cost to the taxpayers of millions of dollars? NO. Does it save dollars to fly aircraft half way across the country for bombing practice when we have bombers stationed seven minutes from the bombing range? NO (Fuel is expensive at 41,000 gallons an hour). Is it smart to cram more high performance aircraft into crowded air space when there's more open airspace at Ellsworth AFB? NO (This pertains to safety not dollars but it's the same). Given the space for expansion , the length of runway and the new modern facility at Ellsworth then the command at Dyess AFB should be moved to Ellsworth? YES. They got it backwards!

Several more observations;

The population in the area have for years given their full support to the personnel and goals of Ellsworth AFB

If Senator Tom Delay had come from South Dakota rather than Texas would this be happening? NO.

You can be assured that if the Senators and Representatives from my state support this closing they will no longer have my support.

Sincerely:

Charles Wenk
PO Box 605
Winfield, Il 60190

5/28/05

Mr. Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
PO box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Bruce:

I'm writing in response to the proposed closing of Ellsworth Air Force Base. I was stationed there in 1952-53 assigned to the 28th FMS as a flight line instrument mechanic.

It's true that Ellsworth played a vital part in protecting our country over these many years as base for the Strategic Air Command. The B-29, B-36, B-52 and A-1 bombers and their dedicated crews and support people protected this country during the Korean War, The Cold War, The Viet Naum War, Desert Storm and Iraq.

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You can be assured that if the Senators and Representatives from my state support this closing they will no longer have my support.

Sincerely:

Lawrence Lasseter (S/Sgt)
32200 Military Rd. S. Apt S201
Auburn, WA 98001-5124

Bruce Ramelberg
Ellsworth Task Force
Box 2530
Rapid City SD.

5-31-05

I am writing to let you know our feelings on Ellsworth being considered for closing. We retired in this area so we could use our benefit's the base offers. We shop the commissary, BX, and we use the Hospital. My wife frequents the gym (which is outstanding) the craft shop w/ ceramics, stain glass and wood work. We use the movie theatre, recreation center, service station, shoppette and the guest quarters to accomodate the out of town company we get through out the year. These items are very important to us and we use them almost daily.

Other reasons more to the mission of the base:

All B-1B should be station at Ellsworth, we have room to expand with wide open spaces.

Ellsworth troops are well trained and perform their missions with the very best and they have many trophies to show for it.

More clear airspace.

Very modernized facility with a 13,500 ft. runway.

Only (7) minutes from the bombing range in Wy. A savings on jet fuel.

Base housing is all new with new ones being built now.

Ellsworth has a lot to offer and the surrounding area is very nice with I-90 and Rapid City close.

Please do what you can to keep us up and running. We want our base to stay open.

Sincerely,

Delbert Hvitved and wife Kathy
Retired Master SGT U. S. A. F.

Delbert Hvitved
Kathy Hvitved

John F. Welch
2933 Country Club Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702-5218

jawelch@rushmore.com

May 30, 2005

Bruce Rampelberg
PO Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Bruce,

I sent the following letter to each of our Congressional Representatives and to President Bush:

Dear _____,

I am very concerned about the proposal to close Ellsworth AFB and station all the B-1B's at Dyess AFB. It's very risky to "put all one's eggs in one basket". Such a move invites any possible aggressor to try to take all of them out at one strike, be it a terrorist attack, or possibly a nuclear armed long range missile. To the best of my knowledge, we have not yet deployed our planned missile defense force to counter the latter, and I do not think even that would be 100% effective.

Of further concern is the very real possibility of serious or total destruction of Dyess AFB by a tornado. That would be possible at Ellsworth, also, though less likely. Of course a blizzard could cripple Ellsworth for a few days, although not comparably to the havoc a tornado could cause at either base.

I therefore urge you to support keeping both Ellsworth and Dyess Air Force Bases as B-1B operating sites.

Sincerely,

John F. Welch
Col. USAF (Ret.)

Yours,


John F. Welch

2277 Oyster Bay Ln., #1305
Gulf Shores, AL 36542-4048
May 31, 2005

Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Re: Ellsworth AFB Closing

Dear Mr. Ramelberg,

Having served at Ellsworth AFB from January 1955 to October 1958, I feel the closing of Ellsworth is a large mistake.

I realize things have changed in almost 50 years, but some factors have not. While I was at Ellsworth, the 28th Bomb Wing went on TDY's to Guam, Alaska, and Hawaii. We were able to work in different temperatures and climates because we had the right equipment. Not all wars are going to be in the dessert.

Pearl Harbor was a lesson to be learned about putting all planes in one location.

Ellsworth has the room for all kinds of missions. As the Real Estate people say: "location, location, location!"

Remember the missiles came in the late 50's. Who knows what new weapons will arrive in the next 50 years.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Alanko

To whom it may concern;

My husband Archie Willis was stationed at the Air Base beginning in 1952. Later in the year I traveled by train to Rapid City & we were married a few days later. While living there our three eldest children were born at the base hospital. At the time I first came to Rapid City, I thought they should give it back to the Indians as it was small & outside of the town the landscape was so desolate. After living there for a time, we grew to like the area very much. Now with the base being threatened with closure, there won't be a commercial reason for any new business to locate in Rapid City. There will only be tourism during the summer months. The city is bound to suffer the loss of business & the now profitable companies will close. The town will undoubtedly shrink as some people will leave the area to find work elsewhere.

While we were living there, the town fathers or Indian Agents rounded up all of the Indians living in tent city on Rapid Creek and sent them back to the reservation. So, maybe after the Air Force leaves they will give the land back to them.

My suggestion would be; If they have to consolidate to have the money to fight terrorism, why not transfer Dyess Air Force Base to Ellsworth Air Force Base. Rapid City is much more desirable than Abilene, Texas. And its northern location seems better situated for the early warning system. I believe it's nothing but politics--kind of like the redistricting they do in Texas

Donna Willis
5 Humes Rd
Weston, MO 64098

Donna Willis
Archie Willis

Rapid City, South Dakota
June 3, 2005

Mr Bruce Lamberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
Rapid City, S.D.

Gentlemen:

My husband spent many years here at Ellsworth AFB - we saw much growth and many improvements over the years. He was with the 28th Bomb Wing here. I am still a member of 28th Wing Association which sponsors a Reunion every 2 years for former AF personnel who were once stationed here. We have had 300 to 500 at reunions.

I believe that EAFB should remain open and keep the B-1's that are here. It is a bad idea to put them all at one base - the whole fleet could be wiped out very easily. Also B-1's from Ellsworth played a very big part in the Iraqi war - bombing Baghdad and other critical areas. The whole Midwest area would be left with very little protection if EAFB closes.

We have a modernized facility here with a 13,500 ft runway - would have room for other missions also, plus classroom space, very modern dorms and messhalls.

We know Rapid City is not as large as Sioux Falls with 100,000 but if Rapid Valley (which is not annexed yet) and lots of growth to south and west of Rapid City could be counted we would be at least 150,000. Plus Box Elder.

All of this area has always been very supportive of Ellsworth AFB - in fact the Base is important to and supported by the whole West River Area. There are also many retirees who depend on the facilities that we are allowed to use at the base. (I am one of them) My husband is deceased.

Please reconsider and keep Ellsworth AFB as an operating B-1 Base!!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
Joyce Amerson
28th Wing Assoc.
widow of Glenn Amerson
retired MSgt with 25 Yrs
Service

Mr. Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P. O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Bruce:

I would like to see Ellsworth Air Force Base preserved because the troops stationed there are well trained for all types of weather, capable of performing their mission anywhere on earth, and this cannot be said of troops stationed in Texas or other southern bases.

Also there is more clear airspace at Ellsworth than any other site in the USA, it has very modern facilities with a 13,500 foot runway, is only 7 minutes from the bombing range in Wyoming and jet fuel is expensive at 41,000 gallons per hour. There is also a large amount of space for further expansion of the facility and room for other mission. The community there is extremely appreciative and supportive of the base and its personnel. Ellsworth played a big part in the Iraqi war by sending B-1 bombers over there.

Trying to save dollars by the Pentagon is of no use when the defense of our country is more important. Please save this base so we do not have another Pearl Harbor inside the USA.

Very sincerely yours,



Robert A. Russell
Ex USAF member stationed at
Ellsworth

Dear Mr. Rampleberg:

Please add my name to the list of citizens in opposition to the Ellsworth Air Base closure. I am a member of the 28th Wing Association, Inc. an Air Force veteran, serving for three years at Ellsworth Air Base, and a former radio announcer at KOTA Radio in Rapid City. My wife is the former Karon Stone of Wall, SD.

I support the reasons to keep Ellsworth open as iterated by Donald D. Strachan, President of the 28th Wing Association in his letter to our members.

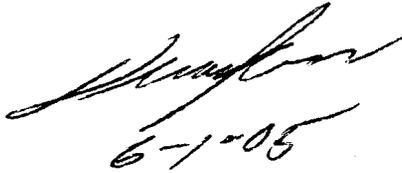
The base closure committee (BRAC) should be made aware that Rapid City, SD still has wide open spaces. So many bases in urban areas face opposition from encroaching home developments and complaints of air traffic noise, fear of armaments etc. The residents of the Rapid City area have always welcomed the technology of the US Air Force. They even allow us to marry their daughters!

America's need for security surely should extend to the less populated areas of the West. As a resident of Tucson Arizona, I know of the problems Davis Monthan Air Base faces from the encroaching development, and we are a border area prone nearly unrestricted to human invasion from the south. That base is safe. Most Texas bases are safe.

My comments will be forwarded to my state Senators, McCain and Kyle whom I have known personally as a Legislative District Chair of the Republican Party in Arizona. My Congressman, Raul Grijalva is more interested in an open borders and shame on American agenda so I won't bother wasting 37 cents on him.

Best wishes, I miss the great folks of Rapid City.

Duane Krause
General Manager
Tucson Estates, an age 55 retirement community



6-1-05

June 11-05

Bruce,

I believe in a strong military
the location of Ellsworth is of prime concern
as it is away from major population.

I can be expanded without any problem.

I object to putting all the planes at one
location, which could lead to a disaster.

Sincerely
Don Guertin

Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, S.D. 57709-2530

Dear President Ramelberg:

I am the widow of Major Herbert Trost and we lived on the base for five years.

I know that my husband felt that Ellsworth AFB was a great place to be stationed. I can only give my views to you and that is that all men need to have their families close by and not only that, but to have things for them to do. Those wonderful mountains on one side of Ellsworth and the plains on the other, grants many activities, both educational and entertaining for families. Rapid City, also, is a great community. A man needs to know his family is happy and growing up in a solid and wonderful environment. With that knowledge, he can perform his duties very well.

What would happen to the memorials that have been made in memory of those who lost their lives while stationed at Ellsworth?

Please do not close Ellsworth AFB.

Sincerely,

Eloise H. Trost
Eloise H. Trost

5-30-05



Charles W. Damm
1104 Johnson Ave
Marysville CA 95901-3518

6 JUNE, 05

DEAR BRUCE,

ALONG WITH MANY, I AM PERSONALLY CONCERNED THAT ELLSWORTH IS ON THE BRAC LIST FOR CLOSING. I KNOW FIRST HAND OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ELLSWORTH, AS I SPENT A TOTAL OF 14 YEARS. OFTEN ELLSWORTH WAS CALLED UPON TO HELP OTHER UNITS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE US. TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER OR OTHER REASONS THAT PREVENTED THE COMPLETION OF THE MISSION AT HAND. ELLSWORTH WITH ITS GOOD CORRY AND CENTRAL LOCATION PROVIDES.

THE BASE HAS THE FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE MANY AIRCRAFT UNDER COVER TO INCLUDE ONE OF THE LARGEST MONOLITHIC HANGARS IN THE WORLD THAT WOULD PROVIDE COVER FOR MANY SMALLER AIRCRAFT OR 2003 OR 747 SIZE AIRCRAFT. MOST OF THESE STRUCTURES ARE IN GOOD OR EXCELLENT CONDITION. MUCH ON BASE HOUSING IS IN PLACE. THE OVERALL STRUCTURES ON THE BASE ARE MODERN AND AVAILABLE TO THE COMMANDERS AND THE AIR FORCE FOR CONTINUED UTILIZATION.

AS AN AIR FORCE RETIREE OF 21 YEARS I BELIEVE A RE-LOOK IS IN ORDER. AS A TAX PAYER I WOULD

WOULD HATE FOR ELLSWORTH TO
BE CLOSED. THERE IS SO MUCH ROOM
FOR EXPANSION AND AN INCREASED
MISSION RATHER THAN TO CLOSE THIS
FACILITY. AS AN AFTER-THOUGHT I
REMEMBER NO OTHER BASE THAT
ENJOYED THE SUPPORT OF THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY AND A CONCERN
FOR THE WELLBEING OF ONE-
ANOTHER. TRUPLY THERE WAS GOOD
RAPPORT BETWEEN MILITARY AND
CIVILIAN. I AM THANKFUL FOR
THE TWO TOURS TO HAVE BEEN
AT ELLSWORTH AND RAPID CITY,

SINCERELY
Charles D. [unclear]
USAF RETIRED
CHIEF MASTER SERGE

6/7/05

Dear Sir:

As a member of 28th Bomb wing back in the "50+60" was surprise to here of Pentagon idea of closing Ellsworth. I was on base for the 36 an 52 Aircraft but I think the B-1B should stay at Ellsworth

Beside I have many fond memory of living in Rapid City for a total of 20 yrs. Rapid City will dry up with ~~no~~ Base. And where will the 28th wing Reunion have its get together Also I have 5 girls an one boy all born at Ellsworth all by product of 10 yrs on Base "haha" So please Reconsider Mr. Bean Counter Ellsworth is really important to us all
S/sgt 28th Field Maintenance

Yours truly

Kaluhn Beilheimer

28TH WING ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 3092
RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ATTENTION: 28th Wing Association Members

The Pentagon is trying to close Ellsworth AFB and they have placed it on the list.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee is coming to Rapid City to meet with the Ellsworth Task Force which is fighting this decision.

It is imperative that you all become involved in this fight if we are to convince this Committee that transferring all of the Ellsworth B-1B aircraft to Dyess AFB in Texas is a strategic mistake similar to that which happened at Pearl Harbor. This move places the entire B-1B fleet in one location.

There are many other reasons to preserve Ellsworth AFB as well. One of them being that EAFB troops are well trained, all weather people, capable of performing their mission anywhere on earth, and this cannot be said of southern command bases.

We had proof of this when they came to EAFB for their Operational Readiness Inspections and failed until the EAFB personnel helped them to pass their replay.

We need your comments in favor of preserving Ellsworth to help convince the Committee to override the Pentagon bean counters that are trying to save dollars which are of no use when defending the country is paramount.

Please write a short letter summarizing your view of this situation. Address it to:

Bruce Ramelberg, President or Email BRampelb@firstwesternbank.com
Ellsworth Task Force
PO Box 2530 or Fax (605) 348-0012
Rapid City SD 57709-2530

- Other Reasons:
- * More clear airspace than any site in the USA.
 - * Very modernized facility with a 13,500 foot runway.
 - * An extremely appreciative and supportive civilian community.
 - * Only (7) minutes from the bombing range in Wyoming and Jet Fuel is expensive at 41,000 gallons per hour.
 - * Space for expansion of the facility and room for other missions.

These letters must be here before June 21, 2005 so let's get cracking and save this Base from extinction.....

Donald D. Strachan, President 28th Wing Association

June 11, 2005

Bruce Ramelberg
President
Ellsworth Task Force
P. O. Box 2530
Rapid City, CA
57709-2530

Dear Bruce:

My wife, Ellen, and I are in full support of your efforts to save Ellsworth AFB from closing. We both attended the last 28th Wing Association reunion and very much enjoyed sharing some special time with old AF buddies but the most rewarding part of the visit was to share some special times with the AF men and women currently serving at the base. They are extremely qualified and committed to protecting this great Nation. The base is located in an ideal area for remote operations, access to bombing ranges and is much appreciated and supported by the local residents. The best benefit that I remember was the experience to perform our duties in every season of the weather which prepared us for missions to AK, Guam and other areas of the within the USA.

I had the pleasure of serving at Ellsworth for three plus years from 1952 to 1956. I also had the one time opportunity of attending the bases renaming to Ellsworth by President Eisenhower. My position was airborne radio operator on a RB-36 crew and I flew out of Ellsworth for hundreds of hours serving my country.

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to help your fine organization in your efforts to keep Ellsworth AFB open and productively serving this great Nation.

Most sincerely


Al Hains
A/IC AF19451357
717 SRS
28th SRW

June 7, 2005

Mr. Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Mr. Ramelberg,

Please review the following reasons for keeping Ellsworth Air Force Base open and active:

1. Troops are well trained for carrying out their mission anywhere in the world.
2. Strategic location. (Remember Pearl Harbor)
3. Cost effective in saving fuel on training flights.
4. Very modernized facility with a 13,500 foot runway.
5. An appreciative and supporting civilian community.
6. Space for expansion of facility and more room for other missions.

Please prioritize the reasons for closing or not closing Ellsworth AFB with Political being the last reason.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Kenneth E. Cobble
USAF SMSgt. Ret.

June 13, 2005

Bruce Ramelburg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P. O Box 2530
Rapid City, South Dakota

I strongly support keeping Ellsworth Air Force Base open and operation ready for many reasons.

I am a veteran recalled to EAFB for service in 1950 and 1951. This was during the cold war in the days of the RB36 and later the B 52. The runways were constructed long enough and thick enough to accommodate any piece of equipment in the Air Force. There is clear air space with quick and short access to the bombing range in Wyoming for a saving of Jet fuel.

We do not want our fleet of B-1B aircraft all put in one place in Texas. This would invite serious trouble.

I have returned to EAFB on a regular basis for visits and to attend 28th Bomb Wing reunions and am always pleased to see how the AFB has been modernized and kept in readiness. I think their readiness and their record in our latest conflict is proof that EFAB should definitely remain open.

Sincerely,


Neal F. Osborn
2025 Flint
Elk Falls, Kansas 67345
Phone 620 329 4434

cc: Donald D. Strachan, President 28th Wing Association ✓

June 9, 2005

To Whom it may concern:

I have just learned of the intended action that is being considered by the Pentagon Relignment and Closure Committee. (BRAC)

I am strongly against the thought of considering the possibility of closing the Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, South Dakota.

This excellent facility and the crews operating out of the base have served America for a good many years. The location is an ideal multi-weather training facility with a long runway built for extra heavy-duty air-craft.

The continued use of this facility, because of its location, away from a centrally located base, I believe, would be a military advantage.

I was assigned to this base and served my years in electronic maintenance until discharged.

Being aware of this facilities value, I am respectfully requesting re-consideration of any closure action.

Sincerely

Raymond D. Cunningham

8747 Candlelight Ln.

Lenexa, Ks. 66215

BRUCE RAMELBERG, PRESIDENT,

6 JUNE 2005

ELLSWORTH TASK FORCE,

P.O. BOX 2530

RAPID CITY, SD 57709-2530

DEAR SIR: I WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE TACTICAL 28TH WING BUT WAS
ASSIGNED TO BASE FINANC, 28TH ABSD, WADRON NOV 48 TO JUN 55. FOLLOWING
ARE MY COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER:

1- HOW MANY PANEL MEMBERS ARE TEXAS?

2- TEXAS HAS MANY LARGE BASES; WHY CROWD ANOTHER WING INTO DRESS AFB?

3- WHY HAVE WE SPENT MILLIONS UPGRADING BASES ONLY TO FIND OURSELVES AT
THIS SUDDEN CLOSING ATTEMPT? THIS WHOLE THING SMACKS OF POLITICS.

PLEASE EXCUSE MY PRINTING; I HAVE MACULAR DEGENERATION IN BOTH EYES AND WILL REACH
93 IN NOV. GOOD LUCK WITH THE PANEL.

Alma F. Fager, 2ND LINDSAY RETIRED



a note from...

To whom it may concern

We were stationed at Allworth
A.F.B for 11 yrs and the
best part of our lives, was
spent there.

Husband was gone alot,
being in SAC and went
to D.V. alot.

The families was like
our family because we
were all away from home,
and only had each other.

Nina Morganti

(over)

Base housing was very nice
The base treated us very
good & took care of plural
& families always.
There was always alot to
do there & had alot to offer.
Have been back for several
years, for reunions.
The people in town were
always very nice to us.
So please do not close
Allworth A.F.B. Its a
wonderful base & town.

Sincerely
Nina Morganti
2804 John Dr
Amarillo,

why money must be saved and used more efficiently. Waste in our government is a real problem. It is difficult to accept the possibility that a needed asset is now on the chopping block, while waste is rampant in other areas. Take the case after some of these programs that pay people to do nothing - also that give huge sums to other countries who then continue to hate us. We don't need to get rid of EAFB - we need to get rid of politicians who can't figure out who to get rid of, fat and waste.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Peterson
28 Rock Creek Dr.
Mtn. Home, Ar
72653

(AF 16313699)

June 1, 05

To whom it may concern
This letter is in regard to the possibility to close EAFB as a cost control measure. This has not been familiar with this but not as much on a current basis - I was at EAFB when it had RB 36 in the '30's. But I believe that I know enough about the merits of the plan and its capitalization to have a strong opinion about its possible closure. I am not going to go thru all of the reasons because I am sure that you have heard them many times already. And I am sure that Mr. Rasmussen has seen reasons certainly not open to the public. But I am very sure that EAFB plays a very important role in the defense of our country. I am sure that there are many reasons

R

May 21, 2005

★ Dear President Ramelberg,
★ My husband, Edward M. Roman, Jr.
★ passed away Jan 2, 2003. He was trained
★ at Ellsworth Air Force Base. He was
★ loyal to the base as he proudly
★ served his country for four years.
★ In later years, Ed attended almost
★ every reunion in Rapid City. He
★ loved this area and the towns
★ at Ellsworth.

★ It would be a tragedy to see
★ Ellsworth AFB close down as EAFB
★ troops are well trained more than
★ other bases as I have heard.

★ EAFB is an excellent location
★ where trainees can do their
★ training in all four seasons and
★ it is close to the bombing range
★ in Wyoming than it is from Texas.

★ Another reason is, it is safer
★ not to "put all eggs in one basket."
★ It is better to have a few places
★ for the B-1B fleet.

★ There are more reasons such as
★ clear airspace, space for expansion,
★ modernized facility with long
★ run way, and the list goes on & on.

★ Sir, I would appreciate your
★ consideration in preserving Ellsworth
★ Air Force Base. I thank you for taking
★ time to read this letter - and being
★ the leader of this project -

Sincerely,
Blanche

May 31, 2005
2621 Meadowview
Jefferson City, MO
65109

Bruce Ramelberg, President
Ellsworth Task Force
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709-2530

Dear Mr. Ramelberg,

I believe it would be a big mistake to close
Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The transfer of all the B-1B aircraft to Texas
would place the entire B-1B fleet in one place,
thus all the aircraft would be destroyed if the base
were attacked.

The EAFB troops are very well trained and can perform
their mission anywhere in the world.

EAFB has more clear airspace than any site in
the U.S. and there is space for expansion. Also,
the community is very supportive of the base.
It is our hope this base can remain open.

Yours truly,
Willard Carter

May 31 - 2005

To Ellsworth Task Force,
Bruce Kamelberg

Dear Sir:

I write to you about my
concern for EAFB closure.

What a foolish idea!!

Here we have an all-weather
Base with great training facilities
and wide open for expansion if
needed.

I know it's a cold Base in
winter. I worked Flight Line
Mechanics in 1951-1953 on
RB 36's.

But putting all your eggs
in one basket sounds - well - dumb.

Let's be sensible here, with
terrorism on the loose, why
would anyone bunch up the
B-1B's in one place.

From Ellsworth we can strike
anywhere with great accuracy.

My vote is to leave well
enough alone.

Maybe Texas needs more jobs
but so does So. Dak.

Besides the community support
is second to none.

I rest my case - - -

Ray Blomberg
Greenwood WI 54437

Pg. 2.

says he wants!

Of course Texas is Bush's home ground
so perhaps he and his Co-horts have
a deeper objective in closing these
bases.

I do have one question. If the
closure does occur what becomes
of the installation and the valuable
land it sits on?

Respectfully,

Jaxet H. Young

(Widow of C/M Sgt. Charles R. Young Sr.)
(Service 1939-1961)

May 30th, 05

Bruce Ramelberg, Pres.
Ellsworth Task Force.

Sir,

I am replying to the letter sent by the 28th Wing Assoc. regarding the possible closure of Ellsworth A.F. Base. I very much doubt that my opinion and concern at this disturbing news will be of little value tho.

I can remember when the facility was the Rapid City Air Field. We lived in single unit houses on a dirt road leading to Box Elder on old Hi. 16. I believe it is the main entrance now. There were a few fighter planes, P-38's etc. Then it became Rapid City Air Force Base with B-36's, 29's & a start of SAC. It later became Ellsworth AFB, named in honor of Brig. General Richard Ellsworth and of course it is now home to B-1B's.

Millions have been spent over the years making Ellsworth a source of continued strength and protection besides the economic value to entire western area.

Some of the excuses for closing base is cost then that is so ridiculous it would be laughable if not so serious. The cost of maintaining a military base is nothing compared to one day of fighting in Iraq, plus the higher cost of personnel.

There is an old saying "don't put all your eggs in one basket" as it would be if Ellsworth military is relocated at Dyess AFB, Texas. One terrorist assault could obliterate the entire facility.

Every program should have "back up" teams. That's why there should be bases in all areas to share security that Bush continually

June 13, 2005

Dear Sir.

With the increase in Terrorism in our Country and abroad, I think that it is a bad idea to put all B-1B aircraft in one place. One missile could wipe out most of the fleet.

Ellsworth has good housing for lower grade airmen which helps retention.

There are no big cities with hundreds of aircraft taking off and landing, which makes training safer for the B-1B.

There are a lot of recreational facilities close by for the airmen on their time off. A happy airman is a good airman.

Saving Ellsworth is a must

Thank you
Selvin R Haugen
SM Sgt (Ret)



From The Desk Of
Leo C. Hundtoft

MR RAMELBERG,

ELLSWORTH AFB
SHOULD REMAIN OPEN.
IT IS A GOOD LOCATION
FOR THE B-13.

IT WOULD REALLY
HURT THE ECONOMY OF
THIS AREA IF IT IS
CLOSED.

P.S. I WAS STATIONED
HERE AS A B-36 FLIGHT
LINE MECHANIC 1951-1954.

"Veterans Serving Veterans" *LCH*

To Whom This May Concern
BAAC Commission:

My name is Sheridan Clayton,
address 609 Westwind Rd, Box Elder, Idaho
57719, phone 605-923-5331 my age is 68, I
worked on Ellsworth AFB, at the Base
Hospital. I have worked there for 10 years,
But also work at the Commissary. Have
worked Altogether at the base for 18 years.
My husband is retired from there. I stand
to lose a lot from the loss of the base.
We pay state + federal taxes, not on
Welfare or Medicare.

I feel there are many missions
that this base can handle. There are many
many things that this ~~base~~ base can do.

I love my job both of them. I
enjoy meeting many people that come to
base the stories they tell me from
being here before. If I loose my job
I don't know what I will do. Who will
hire an old lady at my age? Will I
be able to start over?

Please keep our base open.

Thank You
Sheridan Clayton

Anthony McDaniel

2440 Reservoir Rd

Rapid City S.D. 57703 605-716-0686 58yrs

IF Ellsworth AFB closed it would be a Tremendous AFFECT TO my & my Families Life. ~~and~~ I personal would lose my income of 14yrs. Being Retired military would not have the privilage of The commissary BX (Base Exchange) Recreation of The base. Majority of my income pays Fed & Loc. TAXs. We do most of our shopping downtown. Most bussens in the local area Have low wages AT my AGE it will be almost impossible to get another Job. The Job I AM doing now at The Base I service Transite Aircraft going From coast to coast The Flight Crew Really Appreciate The Base's Location to Refuel & Service Their Aircraft. My personal Appion it would inconvenience The Air crew alot to close This Base. special when there is only one Base in S.D. Other states Have anywhere From ~~3~~ 3 TO 45 base in There state. I Just feel That it would be a big loss if They closed Ellsworth AFB.

Ret MSgt. Earl G. Anderson
3713 Brooke St.
Rapid City S.D.

20/06/05

My self & wife have been
stationed at Ellsworth AFB for 20
years & stayed to work & make
this our home. We raised 4 children
& depended on my job to carry
over into retirement years. I have
worked at the base for 19 years
& was hoping to finish my years
to come there.

For the security, & the community
cannot stand to close Ellsworth
AFB.

We depend on Ellsworth for
everything. hospital, medical
commissary, etc.

TO old to start over

Ret MSgt
USAF Earl G. Anderson

6-20-05

Ella C Smith
233 Mockingbird
Box Elder Rd 57719
605-923-2244

61 yrs

If the base closes I will no longer have a job as Director of Housekeeping at the Base Clinic resulting in loss in income of \$2500 and health insurance (7500⁰⁰) also my Union Pension contributions of \$746 per year. I couldn't even begin to find comparable employment. Also I have lived here all of my working years (since 1951) have seen lots of changes but I feel the move of the B-1's would jeopardize the safety of our country. Sort of like if all the eggs get put in one basket and it is dropped or sat upon all is gone! The B-1's all at Dyess would just be that. And very vulnerable to an enemy attack via Mexico or the west coast. Also one good tornado could wipe them all out.

Our community has already suffered a loss of businesses to help keep the Base open. Please don't make this worse. Thank you for your consideration to keep Ellsworth open & give our Country the protection it needs.

Ella C Smith
m. 6/20/05

Cathy Straver
4908 W Main St.
Rapid City SD
Age 43

06-20-05

1. My loss of a job!
2. My health and welfare will be gone.
3. I would have to start all over again.
4. I love my job and do not want to lose it. If Ellsworth AFB closes, it would be the end for me. This job, at the base hospital is a great place to work, and it pay very good about 23,000 a year. Looking for another job in Rapid City would mean a huge pay cut for me.
5. Please do what is necessary to keep this base open. It would be awful for everyone, if they closed Ellsworth.

Sincerely Yours
Cathy Straver

Carrie Winegar

705 E. Anamosa St Apt 303

Rapid city, SD 57701

(605) 718-0779 30

Dear BRAC,

I feel that if the base closes that it will hurt South Dakota. The base helps train and bring new people here. A lot of people will loose their job and families will have to struggle to find jobs. I really enjoy working on base and be around the military. We need to keep the base here Rapid city, would be different without it. The base does bring money into Western South Dakota. I feel that Dyess doesn't need to get all the B-1. Please Consider to keep the base open.

Sincerely,

Carrie Winegar

Carrie Winegar

BRAC Commission

James Clayton
609 Westwind Rd
Box Elder, SD. 57719
605-923-5331 - Age 60

To Whom It May Concern

I retired in this area mainly because of closeness to Ellsworth AFB and the availability to use some of my military benefits after serving 26 years from the Old Nam conflict through Desert Storm.

I hope you seriously consider not affecting some of my military benefits by closing Ellsworth.

My family and I used the Base privileges to Commissary, BX, Barber Shop, Lau Season, Service Station, Base fishing ponds and other available resources on Ellsworth.

My wife ~~was~~ currently works on Base and with her loss of income (approx \$4,000 Annual) and over 118 pension credits for over 10 years of service.

This pension currently equates to over \$6,000⁺ lost.

The loss of my hospital/clinic benefits & other savings from BX, Commissary etc would adversely affect my living in Retirement from 26 years of Military Service.

We live within a mile of the base and to be forced to drive elsewhere for medical and other necessities would affect my living costs.

I strongly consider the lost benefits to not only me but many other retired Military Personnel who use Ellsworth

Sincerely,
James Clayton - Retiree

Dear Members of the BRAC Commission,

My name is Audrey Saffel, I work at the Medical Group on Ellsworth, AFB. Should Ellsworth be closed, not only will I be without a job at age 54, my pension would be drastically cut, and my health and life insurance would no longer be in effect. Finding a new job with a pay scale and benefits that equal or even come close, to what I have now, I believe will be impossible and will create a hardship on myself and my family.

I would kindly ask that you look closely at Ellsworth's closure and please reconsider. Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,
Audrey J. Saffel

6-20-05

I'm Scott Helms AND I LIVE AT
125 WESTGATE RD #101 BOX ELDER, SD 57719
PHONE # 923-5027 47 YEARS OF A

BECAUSE I WORK AT THE HOSPITAL IN
HOUSEKEEPING LOSS OF INCOME WOULD BE \$26,000.00
A YEAR. BUT ALSO I WORK AT BOWLING CENTER
AND GOLF COURSE ON BASE WHICH EQUALS AROUND
\$4000.00 A YEAR.

I WILL LOSE MY PENSION, INSURANCE.

MY LIVELY HOPE REVALUES AROUND THE
BASE. BEING 47 YEARS OLD AFTER 29 YEARS
OF WORKING DEAD END JOBS, I FINALLY GOT
A JOB THAT WOULD HELP WITH A RETIREMENT
AND INSURANCES.

WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER KEEPING
ELLSWORTH FROM CLOSING. BECAUSE OF NOT
ONLY MYSELF BUT OTHERS AS WELL

THANK YOU

SCOTT HELMS

DEAR BRAC COMMISSION,

MY NAME IS RONALD KAMINSKI, I AM A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABORERS' UNION OF NORTH AMERICA. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ELLSWORTH AFB BEING CLOSED. I AM NOT ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOSS OF JOBS, LOSS OF REVENUE, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY THE LOSS OF PROTECTION OUR AMERICAN FAMILIES PAY FOR EVERYDAY.

WE ARE IN A WAR, OR AT LEAST THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION TELLS US WE ARE, AND IF THIS IS TRUE, WHY WOULD WE EVEN HAVE THE AUDACITY TO THINK ABOUT CLOSING BASES IN THE UNITED STATES. I DON'T WANT TO SOUND HARSH WHEN I SAY THIS, BUT THIS SITUATION IS NOT ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR COUNTRY, ITS ALL POLITICS.

WE ALWAYS LOOK TO SAVE TAX DOLLARS, BUT JUST THIS ONCE LETS THINK ABOUT SAVING THE PROTECTION WE NEED FOR OUR COUNTRY. MAYBE IF WE CUT FUNDS THAT WE SEND TO OTHER COUNTRIES WE COULD DO SOMETHING FOR AMERICA.

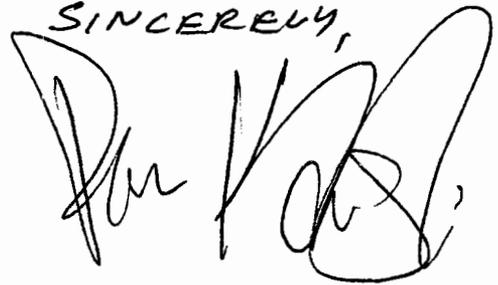
AS ALWAYS WE THINK ABOUT OTHERS AND NEGLECT THE VERY PEOPLE THAT WORK EVERYDAY TO PAY TAXES AND HELP TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY A GREAT PLACE.

IF WE ARE SO WORRIED ABOUT THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND WE ARE
REALLY IN A WAR, A WAR ON TERRORISM,
THEN THE RIGHT THING TO DO WOULD BE
TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES, THE FAMILIES THAT
PAY YOUR SALARY, AND KEEP ELLSWORTH AFB
OPEN.

I HOPE THAT YOU THINK ABOUT NOT
ONLY EVERYONE IN SOUTH DAKOTA, BUT EVERYONE
IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN YOU MAKE
YOUR DECISION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan K. [unclear]". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John M. Williams
809 E. Yulett St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

Honorable Commissioners!

I Am A military VETERAN RETIRED AFTER 20+ YEARS
IN THE AIR FORCE. I ALSO WORK FOR A PRIVATE
CONTRACTOR SERVING MILITARY AIRCRAFT MAKING A
LIVING WAGE.

I AM WELL AWARE HOW MILITARY NEEDS
AFFECT MANY DECISIONS IN THE PROCESS OF
REESTABLISHING BUDGETARY PRIORITIES. I REALIZE
THAT IS THE PRESENT OVERARCHING EMPHASIS IN
YOUR JOB.

ON A MORE NATIONAL SCOPE I WOULD LIKE
IN YOUR DECISION ABOUT PLACING OUR NATENS
FLIGHT OF B-1B AIRCRAFT IN ONE LOCATION,
AT DYESS AFB TX, DID ANYONE CONSIDER VIOLENT
WEATHER? ONE C-17 TORADO THEORETICALLY
WIPE OUT ALL B-1B AIRCRAFT IN A FEW MINUTES.

ON A MORE PERSONAL POINT, I HAVE ALWAYS
PLAYED BY THE RULES, I FEEL IN A WAY AS A
MILITARY RETIREE, I AM BEING ABANDONED. WE AS
A GROUP WERE PROMISED MANY YEARS AGO, THAT IF
WE PUT UP WITH THE DANGER, LONG HARD HOURS AND
FAMILY SEPERATION, WE WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF.

MY FAMILY AND I HAVE DEPENDED ON THE
BASE HOSPITAL AND PHARMACY FOR YEARS. OUR RELATIVELY
LOW RETIREMENT PAY IS OFFSET BY THE COMMISSION & PAY HEDGE.

Cont: - AS PART OF THE COMPENSATION FOR AN SERVICE,

I WAS FORTUNATE TO GET A JOB FROM MY EMPLOYER
AT ELLSWORTH AFB, THAT OFFERS A RELATIVELY HIGH WAGE
FOR THIS AREA. MY COLLEAGUES AND I WILL BE LEFT
UNEMPLOYED, ALL OF US ARE IN OUR MID 50s. THE EMPLOYMENT
POTENTIAL FOR US IS VERY LIMITED. THERE IS NO WISH BY
COMPANIES TO MOVE THEIR OPERATIONS TO ELLSWORTH AFB.

WE HEAR OF SUCCESS STORIES OF COMMUNITIES
IN OTHER AREAS THAT RECOVERED AFTER A
BRAC CLOSURE. ALL OF THESE HAPPY SCENARIOS
WERE NEAR LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS. IT'S
OVER 400 MILES TO THE NEAREST METROPOLITAN
AREA FROM HERE. WHAT IS TO BECOME OF US?

SOME PEOPLE WOULD POINT OUT THAT MILITARY
RETIRES HAVE MEDICAL COVERAGE THROUGH
TRICARE. IT IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, HOWEVER,
MANY LOCAL DOCTORS DO NOT LIKE IT AND
SOME WILL NOT TAKE ON TRICARE PATIENTS.
TRICARE IS SLOW TO PAY AND THE RE-EMBURSEMENT
RATE IS THE LOWEST IN THE NATION. THE
NEAREST MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITY IS FE. WASHINGTON
AFB AT CHEYENNE, WY. ^{300 miles} THE NEXT NEAREST IS
MINOT AFB, ND 400 MILES. WHAT WILL WE GET
MILITARY CARE?

IN CONCLUSION, WE PAY TAXES, FED & LOCAL,
CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY, AND WE FULLY
SUPPORT OUR ^{NATION'S} EFFORT AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

IN MY VIEW, CLOSING ELLSWORTH WOULD SEEM
LIKE A GOOD WAY TO SAVING MONEY IN THE SHORT TERM.
WHAT ABOUT OUR FUTURE ADVERSITIES? CHINA? NORTH
KOREA? OVERSEAS CLOSURES? SECURITY? JAPAN WILL LIKE

To. BRAC Commission

I'm a retired Air Force Majt. who is still working on Ellsworth AFB. I work for DCS Inc. at Base Ops. We take care of all the cross country flights that come to Ellsworth. We refuel and launch and do maint. on those AC. If you close the base not only will I lose my job those cross country flights will have to go some were else.

My family and I came to Ellsworth in the Fall of 1988. I reitiered from the A.F. in April of 2001 and we stayed here to work and support our base. I like my job at Ellsworth. My wife works for the local school. If you close the base my job $\frac{1}{2}$ of our income will be gone and my wife could also lose her job with the school. Our son also works at the Ellsworth B.X. and he would lose his job. That's three of us losing ~~our~~ our health and welfare funds. This would set us back alot, and at my age (48) I'm not ready to start over.

Help Us Keep Ellsworth Open

William Heintz
4837 Ave A
21000 Ellsworth ME 04703

Thank
You

Laborers' International Union of North America
Local Union # 205
122 East Sioux Ave.
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 15, 2005

To: BRAC

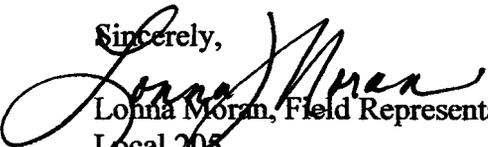
From: Lonna Moran, Field Rep. Local 205

RE: Ellsworth AFB Closure

To whom it may concern;

We as the Local 205 of Pierre, South Dakota find that the closure of the AFB is a detriment not only to our Local 205, our great state, but most importantly to those families directly involved with the closing. Local 205 also has interest in the AFB with union paying members. The closing is affecting the webbing of businesses across the state. Our question and vow to you sirs and madams is that, "What and how can we help fight the closure of our proud AFB!" Contact us anytime at 605-224-0464 or 605-222-1201. It's time we all become UNITED once again.

Sincerely,


Lonna Moran, Field Representative
Local 205
122 East Sioux Ave.
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 17, 2005
515 Franklin St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-721-9932
DVDSeals@Yahoo.com

Senator Tim Johnson
PO Box 1098
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Tim,

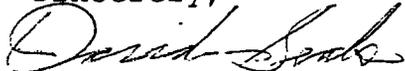
Thanks for your letter of June 8, about the closing of Ellsworth. I appreciate your courteous response, even though we disagree about it. I also respect you as the only member of Congress with a family member serving in the War; as I have a nephew doing his second Tour in Iraq as well - PFC Travis Seals with the 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Armored Brigade.

I'm taking the liberty of enclosing your letter to the publisher and editor of the Rapid City Journal, who have refused to cover the BRAC's decision with an unbiased balance by printing almost no local opposition. Along with other anti-war citizens the Journal has ignored our perspective. While they run scores of big front-page stories supporting the Chamber of Commerce's point of view supporting Ellsworth, they have ignored a letter to the editor I wrote, and others in the community have told me they've been ignored as well.

As the only real daily newspaper of record in the region, we need them to show at least the same balance and courtesy that you have, so that we can have a democratic forum of candid discussion about this important matter. Back in april 2003 the editorial page editor refused to run even a short letter I wrote, citing a Red Cross report on CNN and ABC that a bomber from Ellsworth killed scores of civilians in Baghdad in a failed attempt to get Saddam. After several weeks of heated debate in their editorial department, the editor Peg Sagen overruled him and said my facts were accurate and they were obligated to print the letter - even though the editor emailed me and said I could go protest at the front gate of Ellsworth if I didn't like it!

At that time of course 70% of the public supported the war effort; now the latest poll says 59% of americans are opposed to the war. And still the Journal refuses to print balanced and unbiased local news about people here who don't think the closing of Ellsworth has anything to do with national defense. They continue to ignore my letter and a Forum article, and any independent and journalistic analysis of a simple fact which everybody knows - this is about money, jobs, the local economy. Let's be honest, Tim. B-1b Lancers are obsolete against guerrillas throwing grenades in Falluja and Kandahar, and everybody knows it.

Sincerely,



David Seals

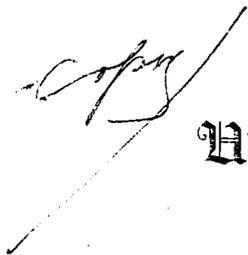
cc: RC Journal
SD Peace & Justice Center, Watertown

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

June 8, 2005

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279.

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Mr. David Seals
515 Franklin Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701-4617

Dear David:

Thank you for contacting me about the possibility of Ellsworth Air Force Base closing. I appreciate hearing from you about this important matter.

Although I realize you disagree, I believe that the Department of Defense recommendation to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to close Ellsworth was short-sighted and not in the interest of our national defense. As the backbone of our bomber fleet, the B-1 bombers stationed at Ellsworth have flown missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, B-1s were integral in liberating Iraq by dropping more than half the satellite guided munitions on critical targets, including command and control facilities, bunkers, and surface-to-air missile sites.

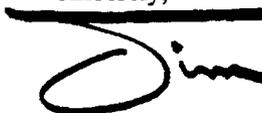
In addition, Ellsworth is a world-class military installation that is not threatened by urban encroachment or congested air space. Since the last round of base closures, Ellsworth has received nearly \$140 million in military construction projects in preparation for this BRAC round. As a member of the Military Construction Appropriations subcommittee, I have helped to direct more than \$75 million to Ellsworth, including funding for new buildings and military housing. Rather than closing, I believe Ellsworth is well positioned to receive additional missions.

I have already taken steps to ensure that Ellsworth has a fair fight. Immediately following the announcement, I contacted the BRAC Commission to offer my assistance as the Commission reviews the Secretary's recommendations. Furthermore, I joined Senator Thune and Representative Herseth in sending a letter to BRAC Commission Chairman Anthony Principi, underscoring our concerns about this round of base closures and inviting the Commission to hold a field hearing in Rapid City. As a result, the Commission agreed to hold a hearing on June 21st, which will allow the community to demonstrate the invaluable contribution Ellsworth makes to our national defense.

While we must be realistic about the likelihood of removing the base from the closure list, South Dakota and our national security certainly deserve careful consideration as decisions are made about Ellsworth's future. In the unfortunate event that Ellsworth closes, I believe the infrastructure upgrades at the base will be an attractive incentive for companies to develop Ellsworth for business opportunities and investment in the Rapid City economy.

Thanks again for contacting me, and please keep in touch!

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson

TPJ/bdm

Now is not the Time.

We, the undersigned citizens of South Dakota, express our deep and heartfelt support for Ellsworth Air Force Base.

We believe that South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force base makes a critical contribution to our national defense. Ellsworth has not only sustained unprecedented levels of operations in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but in 2004 contributed \$278 million to local economy while generating a substantial number of civilian jobs. Senator Tim Johnson knows "Ellsworth is critical not only to our national defense, but to the economic livelihood of the Rapid City area."

We also ask that the current rounds of base closures be postponed until clear plans are presented to bring troops back from overseas operations.

Now is not the time to close Ellsworth.

Date

Full name
City/Zip Code

Comments

2005-06-20 19:34:05

Kim Ellison
Fort Worth 76133

My husband was stationed at Ellsworth and we plan to move back with our family. South Dakota is a beautiful place and it would be a shame to close down Ellsworth Air Force base, it means so much to everyone to keep it open

2005-06-20 19:07:01

Stephen Flute
Lower Brule 57548

2005-06-20 19:00:28

Lorie Zacher
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

South Dakota needs Ellsworth, not having it would crush the economy of South Dakota!

2005-06-20 18:21:30

Jeff Callaway
Rapid City - 57701

2005-06-20 18:15:33

cathy kerr
rapid city, SD 57701

2005-06-20 18:00:26

Terry Coon
Brookings SD 57006

I am in the air national guard

2005-06-20 17:59:31

Heather Coon
Brookings SD 57006

My husband is in the air national guard

2005-06-20 17:43:04

Dana & Diane Fuller
Chadron, NE 69337
We believe Ellsworth Air Force Base is vital to our national security.

2005-06-20 17:29:08

Robin Bult
Box Elder 57719
Closing Ellsworth is going to hurt the economy of our area... NOW IS NOT THE TIME

2005-06-20 17:19:47

Judy Callaway
Rapid City 57701

2005-06-20 17:14:44

Joan Stellman
Rapid City 57701

2005-06-20 17:14:19

lisa marshall
rapid city/57701

2005-06-20 16:47:07

Karen Cook
57701

Save our base.

2005-06-20 16:42:54

Fern Bol
57701

Please keep our base open.

2005-06-20 16:28:29

Ross Yost
Webster, 57274

Keep Ellsworth AFB open!

2005-06-20 16:27:03

Andrea Eisenberg
Sioux Falls/57105

2005-06-20 16:00:25

Shane Peiper
57005

2005-06-20 15:59:45

John Heberling
Spearfish/57783

2005-06-20 15:59:18

**MSGT Robert Bly
57077**

Even though many companies such as UPS or Fed Ex. and Lockheed may be looking at this base for possible purchase if it closes, this would be a great in-justice to the people of South Dakota. Two bases with bombers is an absolute must! You never put all yo

2005-06-20 15:57:36

**Marie Heberling
Spearfish/57783**

2005-06-20 15:46:33

**Linda Rhodes
Rapid City, SD 57702**

2005-06-20 15:07:22

**JASON ZIEGELDORF
BRANDON 57005**

2005-06-20 15:03:16

**David Marvel
Huron 57350**

2005-06-20 14:52:37

**Tom Martin
Rapid City / 57702**

I do not support the closing of Ellsworth for many economic and strategic reasons. This needs to be re-visited and another outcome should be reached. How can we consider scaling back our military while we are at war (with no apparent end in sight)?

2005-06-20 14:51:01

**Amber Dandurand
Sioux Falls SD 57104**

2005-06-20 14:39:19

**Glenn P. Neuf
Box Elder, SD 57719**

2005-06-20 14:18:51

**Allison Wipf
57702**

2005-06-20 14:16:42

**Justin Boerboom
Sturgis 57785**

2005-06-20 14:04:08

**Mitch Mudlin
Rapid City 57702**

2005-06-20 13:42:09

Carol Jacobson
Rapid City/57702
All of the B1s in one base is a horrific idea in these times of war!

2005-06-20 13:33:50

don duncan
flandreau sd 57028

The people of

2005-06-20 13:32:21

Bern & Sarah Ailts
Sioux Falls, SD

2005-06-20 12:44:32

Lisa J Marshall
Rapid City/57701

2005-06-20 12:01:47

William Kahler
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-20 11:40:35

Raymond Graff
Rapid City, SD 57709

2005-06-20 11:37:15

Sharon R. Turner
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-20 11:35:01

Albert C. Turner
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-20 11:18:05

Thomas Fisher
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-20 11:09:15

Kimberly Lawton
Rapid City SD 57702

2005-06-20 11:00:44

Richard McGrath
Piedmont 57769

Keep the base open, please!!!!!!!

2005-06-20 10:57:20

Robert O'Brien
rapid city 57703

Why downsize military during a war?

2005-06-20 10:46:20

Sueann Turner
Box Elder 57719

I work at Ellsworth and my son attends douglas schools. Ellsworth is directly responsible for my livelyhood.

2005-06-20 10:46:02

kathleen stark
rapid city, sd 57701

2005-06-20 10:09:59

Larry Gehrke
Box Elder SD 57719

2005-06-20 10:05:51

Larry Gehrke
Box Elder SD 57719

2005-06-20 09:52:50

Jeffrey Hay
Vermillion/57069

2005-06-20 09:26:57

Shari Mestes
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

2005-06-20 09:22:53

Jessi Haugen
Colton, SD

2005-06-20 08:24:14

Lucas Steiner
Queidersbach, Germany 66851

2005-06-20 08:12:13

Isabell Shoup
Black Hawk/57718

2005-06-20 08:04:52

Dennis Shoup
Rapid City/57718
I believe it is wise to keep military bases scattered.

2005-06-20 07:37:12

Tyler Beisch
Vermillion 57069

2005-06-20 07:14:42

William Schneider
Rapid City 57701

No bases should be closed during a time of war . If Daschle was still in we would'nt have this problem.

2005-06-20 06:20:25

Rhonda Clark
rome, ny

2005-06-20 04:40:13

Dolores Mercurief
rapid city, 57701

Closing Ellsworth would increase lack of security and defense to our country!

2005-06-20 02:59:54

WAYNE W. BECKLER
RAPID CITY/57703

I SERVED MY TIME AND SELECTED THE ELLSWORTH AFB AREA TO RETIRE- DON'T LET US RETIRED MILITARY BE A FORGOTTEN FACTOR KEEP ELLSWORTH AFB ACTIVE FOR THE PAST-PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF USAF MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE PROUD TO SERVE

2005-06-20 02:56:07

JEAN M. BECKLER
RAPID CITY/57703

REMEMBER THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS THAT THE RETIRED MILITARY MEMBER AND FAMILY RECEIVE AT ELLSWORTH AFB.. WE NEED TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THIS DECISION.

2005-06-20 01:41:19

Kevin Stuart
Rapid City 57701

2005-06-20 00:12:18

Diane Pinckney
Fredericksburg 50630

2005-06-19 23:56:30

Ryan Pinkowski
Rapid City/57703

2005-06-19 23:43:36

Don Hague
Box Elder/57719

2005-06-19 23:26:00

Kerry Larson
McLaughlin/57642

I believe the closure of EAFB is bad for SD, Bad for the US and bad for the military preparedness of the US.

2005-06-19 23:22:06

bradley horst

box elder 57719

2005-06-19 23:02:07

Wayne Ivey
New Underwood, SD 57761

2005-06-19 23:01:15

Judy Ivey
New Underwood, SD 57761

2005-06-19 22:47:09

Patrick Millar
57342

2005-06-19 22:31:04

Felicia Alspach
Madison/57042

2005-06-19 22:29:41

Jeremy Holien
Ellsworth AFB 57706

2005-06-19 22:25:24

Dana Jolman
Ellsworth AFB/57706

2005-06-19 22:16:45

Marlyn Pomrenke
Estelline SD 57234

2005-06-19 22:15:30

harold flack
rapid city,57703
we need ellsworth to remain open for our country's defense.

2005-06-19 22:14:57

Jerry Kuck
San Diego CA 92123

Keep the base open!

2005-06-19 22:05:37

Susan Baker
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-19 22:01:03

Daniel Menefee
57701

2005-06-19 21:59:33

Angie Collignon
Hot Springs, SD 57747

2005-06-19 21:47:21

Mark Severson
Clear Lake, SD 57226

The closure of Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota would hurt the state financially and economically and hurt the school district that houses the Military families children.

2005-06-19 21:30:33

gordon nesheim
huro, s.d. 57350

2005-06-19 21:27:11

Laurie B. Burney
Rapid City/ 57703

2005-06-19 21:10:00

Felicia Ewing
rapid city/57703

2005-06-19 21:08:08

William Ewing
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-19 21:07:50

Richard Small
57312

2005-06-19 21:00:32

Chuck beauprey
Rapid City SD 57703

2005-06-19 20:36:11

Dennis Peoples
57701

2005-06-19 20:34:46

Angel DeWaard
Mitchell 57301

2005-06-19 20:33:32

Doug DeWaard
Mitchell 57301

2005-06-19 20:33:02

Rebecca Johnson

57106

We need Ellsworth open for the airmans sake as well as our economy

2005-06-19 19:59:34

john Cerwinske
Sioux Falls Sd

Please keep Ellsworth open . It is vital to SD And Americas Defense

2005-06-19 19:26:55

Michael Eggleston
Box Elder/57719

2005-06-19 18:55:02

Vicki Rodness
Fort Pierre 57532

I definately agree that now is not the time!!

2005-06-19 18:52:46

Helen Turnquist
Winner SD 57580

PLEASE do not close Ellsworth

2005-06-19 18:48:33

Leonard Jordan
58601

2005-06-19 18:45:32

Eric Forrette
Brookings, SD 57006

2005-06-19 18:42:51

martin hix
madison sd 57042

keep the pride alive !!!!

2005-06-19 18:42:47

Lyle Milbrandt
Rapid City 57702

Bad idea basing all B-1's at one location, Doesn't Rumsfelt remember Pearl Harbor, he should have been in that war!

2005-06-19 18:19:14

Christy Robb
Rapid City, 57701

Let's consider the future of our country, and how essential not only Ellsworth, but all of our military bases; are going to be in our continuing fight against evil.

2005-06-19 17:59:57

David Best
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-19 17:50:32

Mitchel Best
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-19 17:38:52

Emily Burtz
Winner 57580

2005-06-19 16:58:52

Ryan Story
sioux falls, 57103

2005-06-19 16:50:18

Dustyn Adams
Rapid City/57701

Save Ellsworth!

2005-06-19 16:30:43

Lauren Grebinger
Box Elder/57719

2005-06-19 16:29:15

Dirk Grebinger
Box Elder/57719

I cannot believe that Ellsworth is even being considered as a base to close. With our perfect location & plenty of room I think that they should move the tankers from Grand Forks to Ellsworth and keep the B-1's.

2005-06-19 16:08:27

Allen Mohr
Redfield/57469

2005-06-19 16:06:30

Marlene Lemon
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Doesn't make sense to close Ellsworth during war time.

2005-06-19 15:35:30

Bryan Brummet
Rapid City/57702

2005-06-19 14:59:32

Gary and Connie Heldt
Brookings 57006

2005-06-19 14:41:02

Marie Sugden
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-19 14:37:12

Marsha Timm
Elkton, SD 57026

I feel that EAFB makes a valuable contribution to US military operations. It would be

detrimental to our national defense to close this base and send the B-1 fleet elsewhere. Isn't it smarter to have two bases with different climates, training areas,

2005-06-19 14:28:11

Michelle Rose
Box Elder 57719

2005-06-19 14:12:27

les mcclanahan
custer, sd 57730

2005-06-19 13:57:00

Don Atkinson
Rapid City, S. D.

I am an Air Force Retiree with 30 years of active duty. Ellsworth is important to the national defense. Because of work commitments I can't attend the BRAC but I would if I could.

2005-06-19 13:53:15

Bill Shermer
Rapid City 57701

The Ellsworth Air Force Base is ideal because of the free air space for training.

2005-06-19 13:51:52

Ted Severson
Rapid City, SD 57702

2005-06-19 13:49:40

Rebecca Bartel
57350

2005-06-19 13:49:27

Pat Shermer
Rapid City 57701
Ellsworth is strategic for our nation as well as our state!!!

2005-06-19 13:42:09

Dahl McLean
Spearfish/57783

2005-06-19 13:38:31

DENNIS PRESTON
MITCHELL 57301
WE SHOULD NOT HAVE ALL B-1,S AT ONE PLACE

2005-06-19 13:35:52

Paul Close
Sioux Falls/57105

2005-06-19 13:33:48

Taryn Lundquist
Rapid City 57702

I am not a registered Democrat voter, however I definitely support this cause for my

community and my country.

2005-06-19 13:17:02

Joanne Rouleau
Rapid City SD

2005-06-19 13:12:26

Tim Burckhard
57006

Don't put all of your egg's in one basket.

2005-06-19 13:10:33

Shan Elias
Watertown 57201

Having a military base near the nation's most recognizable monument, sends a very powerfull unspoken message to those who are not fond of the U.S. , that we are here, we are ready, and we are watching.

2005-06-19 13:07:22

Jennifer Rice
57701

2005-06-19 12:46:05

K. Mach
Burbank, CA/91504

2005-06-19 12:11:45

Eric Townsend
Milbank/57252

2005-06-19 11:53:08

Kimberlay Nelson
Sturgis 57785

I think this is a terrible time to close any bases/will do anything to help this from happening

2005-06-19 11:52:45

Kimberly Miller
Spencer, 57374

2005-06-19 11:46:25

Dorothy Overgaard
Centerville, SD 57014

2005-06-19 11:42:35

Stanley Pitts
Sioux Falls 57103

2005-06-19 11:40:17

Linda Nation
Rapid City 57701

2005-06-19 11:27:58

Steve Morford
Spearfish, SD 57783

2005-06-19 11:27:02

Jene Melton
Spearfish 57783

2005-06-19 11:22:39

Brendon Sato
Tea/57064

2005-06-19 11:21:42

Heidi Sato
Tea/57064

2005-06-19 11:07:54

Rick Tutud
Black Hawk/

We should have learned from Pearl Harbor. Dont put all our eggs in one basket. We need
Ellsworth AFB as the other B-1 base.

2005-06-19 10:28:39

Tyler Sampson
57702

2005-06-19 10:27:24

Desi Sampson
57702

2005-06-19 10:26:42

Diane Huntley
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-19 10:18:33

Carl R. Cundy
Custer, 57730

2005-06-19 10:12:53

Edward Brennan
57702

2005-06-19 09:49:08

Daniel Letsche
Vermillion

2005-06-19 09:47:38

Susan J. Cronkhite
Sioux Falls 57106

2005-06-19 09:46:52

Cordelia M Hickstein
Pringle SD

2005-06-19 09:37:27

Annette Staples
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-19 09:34:05

Everett Baker
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
will vote against republicans in the future

2005-06-19 09:30:15

Michael Birgenheir
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-19 09:26:34

Richard Fuhs
Parker, SD 57053
I am a retired Air Force Security Police Officer. I served at Ellsworth when we still had two wings there. Closing Ellsworth and placing all our B-1's at Dyess creates an incredible security risk.

2005-06-19 09:22:53

Nicole Zielinski
Indianapolis 46236

2005-06-19 09:18:26

Lucille Battey
57702

2005-06-19 09:14:40

john gillaspie
hot springs

2005-06-19 09:12:52

barbie
hot springs

2005-06-19 09:07:52

Todd Herr
Webster 57274

2005-06-19 09:00:46

Elizabeth McCamey
Rapid City, 57702

2005-06-19 08:59:10

michael wilburn
rapid city/57703

2005-06-19 08:58:49

Wesley N. Kelley
Brookings 57006

2005-06-19 08:58:43

Ray & Ruth Reynolds
Black Hawk 57718

2005-06-19 08:51:11

Jim Kallas
Belle Fourche/57717

2005-06-19 08:46:37

Leola Konrad
Tripp, S. D. 57376

2005-06-19 08:22:08

Nathan McNutt
Incirlik AB Turkey 09824

I have been trying to get orders to Ellsworth, I finally have and now they are going to close it.

2005-06-19 08:18:50

George L. Lieb
Big Stone City, SD 57216

2005-06-19 08:16:58

Jeanette Stearns
Belle Fourche 57717

2005-06-19 08:12:04

Jerry Siemonsma
Hartford, SD 57033

Save Ellsworth for SD

2005-06-19 08:05:38

Lawrence Venner
Pierre, SD 57501

2005-06-19 08:05:16

Amber R Butler
Black Hawk 57718

2005-06-19 08:04:26

Karen Lidel
Sioux Falls,57105

2005-06-19 08:03:34

Amber Butler
Black Hawk 57718

2005-06-19 08:03:09

Philip Pulse
Bloomington, MN 55437

2005-06-19 08:02:46

David Butler
Black Hawk 57718

2005-06-19 08:02:08

Nancy Pulse
Bloomington, MN 55437

2005-06-19 08:01:56

Tamara Y. Butler
Black Hawk 57718
our life style depends on EAFB. Please rethink this closer!

2005-06-19 08:01:35

Senator Frank Kloucek
Scotland South Dakota 57059
Please keep Ellsworth as on of the best, most viable, airforce bases in the nation

2005-06-19 07:51:10

Ken Griffith
Mitchell 57301
We the people of United States NEED Ellsworth !!! This base has served us well and will keep
on serving us if you let it !!

2005-06-19 07:50:38

Lavonne Durant
Carthage 57323

2005-06-19 07:28:32

Kent R Baldwin
Mitchell SD 57301
closing Ellsworth will cause great economic depression to the Rapid City area and the entire
state of South Dakota

2005-06-19 07:22:36

Vi Schneider
Tyndall, SD 57066

2005-06-19 07:20:43

Greg Schneider

57066
this is definitely not the time to do any base closings

2005-06-19 06:59:58

Duane Osterloo
Emery 57332

2005-06-19 06:41:18

Jeff Mathis
Wentworth/57075

2005-06-19 06:39:54

gordonwanttie
aberdeen s d

2005-06-19 06:38:18

David Allard
Rapid City / 57702

2005-06-19 04:03:11

Jesse Thompson
Harrisburg 57032

2005-06-19 03:04:24

Ron Koistinen
Watertown, SD 57201

2005-06-19 01:46:27

Joe Jones
Rapid City/57702
Ellsworth closure does not echance National Security!

2005-06-19 01:40:04

Joshua Pinckney
57105

I believe this to be a terrible idea to close down Ellsworth. We need all our support available in this time of uncertainty. Closing Ellsworth would cause SD's economy to take a hit as well.

2005-06-19 01:28:26

Eric Sandhurst
Sioux Falls 57103

Save Ellsworth

2005-06-19 01:23:27

Marvin Long
92545

2005-06-19 01:16:59

Rita Fenner
Redfield 57469

2005-06-19 00:40:15

Rickie Bickle
Rapid City 57701
Don't put all the B-1B's in one place. (Easy terrorist target)

2005-06-19 00:36:05

Brandon Woehl
brookings

2005-06-19 00:25:40

Mark Smith
57078
If you want another Pearl Harbor on your hands go right a head and close the base. If you don't, keep this base OPEN. This is war suicide if you close Ellsworth.

2005-06-19 00:24:59

Dawn M. Andrews
Vermillion 57069

2005-06-19 00:18:02

Lance Wald
Box Elder, S.D. 57719

2005-06-19 00:12:33

Elbert Johnson
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-19 00:08:05

Marian Johnson
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-19 00:04:19

Joseph Bryant
Sturgis 57785
now and never will there be a time when Ellsworth should close

2005-06-19 00:03:45

Mitch Johnson
Rapid City / 57702

2005-06-19 00:02:16

Elbert Johnson
Rapid City 57702

Closeure of EAFB is poor decision

2005-06-18 23:48:20

Jon Lere
Rapid City SD 57703

2005-06-18 23:44:53

JOHNNY BARTON
BOX ELDER 57719

2005-06-18 23:28:47

Laurie Trescott
Sturgis 57785

Save Ellsworth!! Please!!

2005-06-18 23:25:40

Diann Sallee
Custer 57730

2005-06-18 23:24:41

Steve Sallee
Custer, 57730

2005-06-18 23:08:46

Erin Greene
Rapid City 57702

I can't imagine Rapid with out Ellsworth. I know so many people whose lives have been enriched by that base and I wish they would change their minds.

2005-06-18 23:06:36

Robert E. Anderson
Sioux Falls 57103

2005-06-18 23:01:07

Douglas Lee
Mission, SD 57555

2005-06-18 22:48:07

Sherry Breitreutz
Dell Rapids 57022

2005-06-18 22:45:22

Tim Breitreutz
Dell Rapids, 57022

2005-06-18 22:28:56

Kevin Ellis
Rapid cit

2005-06-18 22:27:46

Jeremiah Johnson
57006

I don't think the request for clear plans for withdrawal is realistic, but shutting down Ellsworth is a very poor decision, both militarily and economically.

2005-06-18 22:25:12

Lloyd Earley Jr

Sturgis 57785

Ellsworth needs a new mission.

2005-06-18 22:23:54

Ed Statler
Brandon 57005

2005-06-18 22:14:11

Terry Way
Yankton 57078

2005-06-18 22:10:10

Heather TerMeer
Madison/57042

2005-06-18 22:07:06

Jason Kemnitz
Dell Rapids 57022

2005-06-18 22:06:34

Kevin Fedler
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-18 22:05:29

Sonya Fedler
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-18 22:04:34

Matt Kreber
Rapid City/57701

2005-06-18 22:03:26

norris Oerter
Hendricks, Mn. 56136

2005-06-18 22:01:27

barbara oerter
hendricks, Mn. 56136

Our bombers should not all be kept at one base, as would be the case if Ellsworth closes. Please
rethink this!!!

2005-06-18 22:00:33

Dennis Anthony
Rapid City 57701

In basic training we were told not to put all your eggs in one basket. Why put all the B-1s in
one location?

2005-06-18 21:58:56

Robin Erickson
sioux falls sd 57104

In my eyes- I believe it was not the greatest idea to go to war in the first place. But since we have our guard should remain on a high level. We should not lower our level of security in any way at this time and point. I don't choose to see 911 twice

2005-06-18 21:56:44

Debra Vinton
Box Elder 57719

2005-06-18 21:49:59

Charles Johnson
Aberdeen 57401

2005-06-18 21:48:29

Marlys Mutschelknaus
Wagner, SD 57380

2005-06-18 21:41:19

Clark Thares
Rapid City, SD

2005-06-18 21:38:55

JOE FERBER
rapid city 57702

2005-06-18 21:37:04

Mike Valland
Rapid City, SD

Ellsworth AFB has always been an important part of national security and will/must continue to be a part of our nation's national security.

2005-06-18 21:26:00

Dee Saxhaug
Sioux Falls 57106

2005-06-18 21:20:24

Lyle Gooden
Sioux Falls, 57108

2005-06-18 20:50:32

Lynn A Hanson
Aberdeen SD 57401

2005-06-18 20:37:21

Connie Junker
Garretson, 57030

US Government~ you're not just taking away an Air Force base you are taking away jobs of a lot of South Dakotans, and also a big part of the State of South Dakota..let's stop and think

2005-06-18 20:36:27

Blake Simpfenderfer

Wall 57790

Closing Ellsworth would not only devastate the area but the whole state and several surrounding states. PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE ELLSWORTH!

2005-06-18 20:34:17

Kay Walter
Huron 57350

Save the Base

2005-06-18 20:31:59

Aaron Andera
32223

2005-06-18 20:30:42

Lisa Evans
Rapid City/57702

2005-06-18 20:27:23

Laura A. Jacobs
Hartford, SD 57033

2005-06-18 20:26:15

David A. Jacobs
Hartford, SD 57033

2005-06-18 20:17:30

Lisa Halbert
Milbank 57252

2005-06-18 20:16:57

Marilyn Siemonsma
Hartford, SD 57033

2005-06-18 20:12:53

Larry Sutton
Sherman/57030-2123

2005-06-18 19:56:52

Linda Rogers
rapid city/57703

2005-06-18 19:56:04

Patty Stover
rapid city/57701

2005-06-18 19:51:16

Terry Plucker
Centerville/57014

Ellsworth has been the innovator that kept the B1 operational, it was the 28th BW that made

the conventional bomb rack operational, not Dyess. Dyess has lost more aircraft due to environmental conditions that Ellsworth. Why close the better B1 Base?

2005-06-18 19:46:21

Douglas Brusseau
Elk Point/57025

2005-06-18 19:36:55

Jerry Haas
Dell rapids 57022

KEEP THE BASE OPEN

2005-06-18 19:29:44

jeff huisken
rapid city 57702

2005-06-18 19:16:59

Holly Koster
Chamberlain / 57325

2005-06-18 19:13:04

mark jerred
elk point,sd 57025

2005-06-18 19:11:14

James Heeren
North Sioux City,57049
Keep the base open it is a matter of national security.

2005-06-18 18:56:36

Gerakd Jordan
Chubbuck 83202

I was born and raised there in Rosebud, but coming and going to Rapid City. Seeing that big base, it shows me how much protection we have. So I say keep the base open. Because if it closes then we lose as a nation, not just a base.

2005-06-18 18:56:15

Leonard STECKLEY
GEDDES,57342

2005-06-18 18:54:03

Griffin Granberg
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

2005-06-18 18:51:32

Lori Withy
Sioux Falls SD 57104

2005-06-18 18:47:53

Dennis Cokeley
57106

2005-06-18 18:41:56

David Fransen
Aberdeen, SD 57401

2005-06-18 18:35:22

Paul Ten Haken
57103

2005-06-18 18:34:01

Paul Zweifel
57106

2005-06-18 18:30:38

korey kirschenmann
rapid city/57701

2005-06-18 18:19:15

Jennifer Olson
Piedmont,57769

Do not close Ellsworth!

2005-06-18 18:17:37

Genice Rodne
Hartford 57033

2005-06-18 18:16:31

Robert Dickson
Rapid City
we need Ellsworth to protect our countryIf we let Bush

2005-06-18 18:14:33

Bev Ketterling
Leola, South Dakota

2005-06-18 18:08:24

sandra beck
Brandon 57005

2005-06-16 14:17:34

Michael Quinlivan
Sioux Falls 57103

2005-06-16 00:03:02

Alycia Krcil
Wagner, 57380

2005-06-15 14:50:43

George Dettmer
Ft. Madison, Ia. 52627

My nephew is stationed at Ellsworth and is buying a house in Rapid City. He wants to stay there

2005-06-15 12:13:16

Barbara Warren
Rapid City 57703

Save the Base

2005-06-15 12:11:17

Paul Warren
Rapid City 57703

Save the Base

2005-06-14 23:54:57

Robin Adams
Manilla 51454

2005-06-14 23:02:48

paul lenzen
55367-0051

2005-06-14 18:35:37

Tammy Bowen
Michigan City 46360

2005-06-14 16:31:12

Terri Seljeskog
Rapid City/57702

2005-06-14 16:26:07

Eric Seljeskog
Rapid City/57702

2005-06-14 13:06:52

Joan Thompson

2005-06-14 13:05:02

Jackie & Joe Thompson
Ft. Madison, Ia. 52627

Please keep Ellsworth AFB open, it has Much value for the U.S. It keeps us safer and we feel comfortable. It takes too many jobs away from our citizens. Thank You.

2005-06-14 10:19:10

Lisa Miller
EAFB SD

2005-06-13 23:16:24

Daryl Greene
Spokane, WA 99202

With you 100%

2005-06-13 14:56:24

LuAnn Stukerjorgen
Box Elder, Sd

2005-06-12 03:24:20

M. Slaughter
Sioux Falls/57105

2005-06-10 23:12:41

Christopher Berdahl
Sioux Falls/57108

2005-06-10 14:07:57

Rebecca Paul
Rapid City 57701
Ellsworth is part of the livelihood of Rapid City and Rapid City is part of Ellsworth's livelihood.

2005-06-10 00:03:57

Jenae Andersh
Wagner 57380

2005-06-09 11:42:18

Cynthia Hague
Sturgis/57785

2005-06-08 22:13:31

Jamie Woods
Wagner/57380

2005-06-08 19:52:21

Patti Ronfeldt
Lake Andes 57356

2005-06-08 17:59:44

Steven C Knutson
Princeton, MN
This is my wife's hometown. We visit often and use my retired benefits.

2005-06-08 14:44:21

William Reuter
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-08 12:53:46

Rena Ecker
Standish, 48658

2005-06-08 11:24:16

Gary Monson
Webster 57274

2005-06-07 20:59:15

Tracy Mathis
Hermiston/97838

2005-06-07 20:58:43

Robert Mathis
Hermiston/97838

2005-06-07 13:25:29

Jessie France
57706

2005-06-07 06:27:54

Lance Moran
Sioux Falls 57106

2005-06-06 22:15:01

Andrew Gibson
Sioux Falls/57103

2005-06-06 19:06:20

Andrew Wojtowich
Rapid City, SD 57701

I Retired at EAFB in 2001. Last 11 of my 20 AF years were at EAFB. My kids were born there. I've worked at EAFB for a contractor since 2001. If it closes, I'm out of a job. Good paying jobs here are slim. DO NOT CLOSE ELLSWORTH!!!

2005-06-06 16:51:59

Bethany Jones
Sioux Falls 57106

2005-06-06 15:55:50

Lance Weber
57785

We need this base....it is vital to the National Security and essential to economy in the Black Hills area.

2005-06-06 15:38:12

R. T. Kirchgasser
Palmetto, 30268

Keep it open for the good of the whole state

2005-06-06 15:05:45

John Travis Havener
Rapid city SD 57703

2005-06-06 14:34:08

Connie Hieb
RC SD 57709

It is not wise to put all our eggs in one basket. We have a great location here, we do not have to worry about air traffic, we are protected by our proximity to our boundaries of the US. It would devastate the economy here which is already strained.

2005-06-06 14:12:05

Laura Laughlin
Piedmont/57769

I believe that Ellsworth plays a vital role not only within our community, but in our country. I grew up a military brat, and of all the military bases I ever lived on, Ellsworth still stands out today as my favorite.

2005-06-06 13:18:41

Marc Feinstein
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

2005-06-06 12:56:59

MARK HAINES
RAPID CITY, SD 57703

2005-06-06 12:55:12

SHIRLEY HAINES
RAPID CITY, SD 57703
WE LOVE THE BASE AND SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO KEEP IT!!

2005-06-06 11:03:16

James Gordon Harris
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

2005-06-06 10:39:34

Todd Miller
Rapid City 57701

As an Air Force veteran I believe this base is critical to mission effectiveness. History has a way of repeating itself and we don't want another Pearl Harbor where all of our critical assets are in one location awaiting a single attack to be destroyed.

2005-06-06 10:03:03

Sue Ann Lang
Sioux Falls 57108

2005-06-06 08:31:35

Laurie A Martell
80521

Having grown up in Rapid City and the Air Force, Ellsworth AFB is an important location within the USA for National Security

2005-06-06 08:29:30

Jason Lind
Hermosa 57744

Putting all of our bombers in one place is not a good idea. It's kind of like investing all of your retirement in Enron. Something bad happens and it's all gone.

2005-06-06 08:05:11

Eastlyn Carson
SF, 57103

2005-06-06 07:33:44

susan butler
49912

2005-06-06 07:10:39

Lynne Doom
Wagner, SD 57380

2005-06-05 22:50:32

Orland Geigle
Pollock, SD 57648

2005-06-05 22:31:33

Connie Doud
Box Elder, SD 57719

South Dakota is the 2 lowest paying states in the US. Take Ellsworth and we will be number one!

2005-06-05 21:24:36

Ron R. Roland
Rapid City, SD

2005-06-05 20:49:08

Shirley Jenks
Sturgis 57785

2005-06-05 20:41:09

linda g. johnson
sioux Falls 57108

2005-06-05 20:21:10

Alysha Novachich
57380

2005-06-05 20:21:06

Evelyn Pullen
Rapid City, SD 57701

2005-06-05 20:20:28

Kelsey Doom
57380

2005-06-05 20:08:47

Rachel Doom
Brookings 57006

2005-06-05 18:32:20

R Buchele
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-05 17:37:08

Stacie Knutson
Princeton/MN

2005-06-05 17:36:21

Ryan Knutson
Princeton/MN

2005-06-05 15:10:04

howard pfaff
sioux falls s.d.

2005-06-05 15:04:11

Joseph Hylla
Rapid City 57701

2005-06-05 12:02:47

Sarah Gilbert
57350

2005-06-05 12:02:16

Rich Engels
57033

2005-06-05 11:11:53

Jon Kotzea
Sioux Falls, 57106-0202

2005-06-05 09:52:35

Ashley Alsup
Black Hawk 57718

Please

2005-06-05 06:28:54

Dixie Anderson
Rapid City/SD 57703

I am a member of the civilian workforce at Ellsworth. I feel closing the base would be wrong especially at the time of war overseas. Closing Ellsworth AFB would be taking jobs, etc away from the Rapid City area. Ellsworth AFB not only has the air space

2005-06-05 02:50:02

Richard LittleHawk
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

2005-06-04 23:40:13

Kim Nearhood
Rapid City, 57701

2005-06-04 22:20:56

Jeff Radel
57064

2005-06-04 21:35:42

Nancy Dowding
Rapid City, SD 57702
Putting Ellsworth AFB on the closure list looks political and unfair to me.

2005-06-04 20:24:35

Becky Kelley
Sioux Falls, 57105

2005-06-04 18:56:29

Amanda Price
Box Elder, 57719
Let's look to the states that are gaining...Wyoming, Texas, and Florida all gain, (Cheney, Bush, and other Bush). Tell me BRAC was not politically motivated! Ellsworth has been a superbase before and it can be again.

2005-06-04 17:25:24

Trenten and Sandra Petersen
Ellsworth AFB, 57706

2005-06-04 17:13:29

Laura Hall
Rapid City, SD
I think it's a grave mistake to move the B-1's to Dyess which isn't as capable and will have to be expensively altered to accommodate the Bombers.

2005-06-04 17:13:04

Dixie Zebroski
Gettysburg 57442
The whole state of SD will be greatly affected if Ellsworth is closed!!

2005-06-04 16:17:49

Stanley Hall
Rapid City 57702
Ellsworth AFB, is a Modern State of Art Base don't waste the

2005-06-04 15:40:08

Lisa Sherrodd
Hermosa 57744

2005-06-04 15:04:28

Patricia Ohnemus
Spearfish 57783

2005-06-04 14:31:27

Kathy Warren
Greenville, TX 75401

2005-06-04 14:19:31

David Warren
Bruce Crossing, 49912

2005-06-04 14:18:27

Robin Symes
Bruce Crossing, 49912

2005-06-04 14:10:51

Mark Butler
57719

2005-06-04 14:10:32

Michelle Butler
57719

2005-06-04 14:00:31

Ronda Roderiques
Rapid City, 57703

wife of retiree

2005-06-04 13:59:04

Stanley Thomas
Box Elder, 57719

Retiree

2005-06-04 13:57:40

Vince Horne
Rapid City, 57709

As a worker with disability at Black Hills Workshop we rely on base contracts for our employees.

2005-06-04 13:53:12

Jeff Roderiques
57703

I don't want to go to another base to get medical as a retiree!

2005-06-04 13:43:45

Sonia Larson
Sioux Falls/57106

2005-06-04 13:07:37

David Cohen
Rapid City/57701

2005-06-04 12:47:03

David C. Van Buskirk

Sioux Falls 57103

2005-06-04 12:40:51

Melanie Sekellick
RC, 57701

I am a local realtor & husband is stationed at Ellsworth. The base closure is a disaster to us personally and professionally.

2005-06-04 12:38:52

Dennis Murray
Rapid City, 57701

Recent transplant to RC. Ellsworth is RC

2005-06-04 12:36:43

Pamela Murray
Redondo Beach, CA

My family lives in RC, SD, and are at Ellsworth. The community needs the diversity that Ellsworth lends to the area. It does not fit the criteria (at all) for closure. Living in LA, I daily see what bases DO fit the closure criteria.

2005-06-04 11:45:42

Peg Berggren
Sioux Falls 57110

2005-06-04 11:35:23

William & Maria Parsons
Sturgis, 57785-1712

Retired AF and rely on medical

2005-06-04 11:16:57

Joe Klubek
leavenworth 66048

2005-06-04 11:09:01

Audrae & Huston D.Howard
Sturgis 57785

2005-06-04 10:49:17

Virginia Harrington
Sioux Falls 57108

2005-06-04 10:44:37

Dan Wessels
Rapid City 57702

2005-06-04 10:27:36

Patricia McCray
Rapid City 57703

2005-06-04 10:22:04

Trevor Bryan

Rapid City 57701

2005-06-04 10:21:40

Colette Goetz
Sedro Woolley 98284

I'm not sure if you allow out of states to sign. I lived in Rapid City for 13 years and still feel strongly about not closing Ellsworth.

2005-06-04 09:51:29

Leah Piersol Crain
Sioux Falls 57105

2005-06-04 09:49:37

Pam North
huron S. Dak.

2005-06-04 09:21:50

Bennie F. Castleman
Sturgis, SD/57785

This is my wifes e-mail address

2005-06-04 09:19:38

Ronald Kirchgasser
Rapid City, SD 57703

Closing Ellsworth AFB would make SD the only state with no military installation. Not fair to rural America!

2005-06-04 09:17:33

LaVonne R. Castleman
Sturgis, SD/57785

2005-06-04 09:14:00

Mary Jones
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

2005-06-04 08:45:32

Eugene Pearson
New Underwood 57761

Remeber Pearl Harbor? Don't put all your bomber in one location. Also closing EAFB will distroy this area.

2005-06-04 08:44:57

Joe Ratigan
Rapid City/57702

2005-06-04 08:03:20

Ginny DeJager
Rapid City SD 57701

"W" is just doing this to make sure "his" state is safe in the future from Base closing along with WY and FL, and doesn't care or is too stupid to think about what is good for the Air Force.

2005-06-04 08:02:51

James DeJager
Rapid City SD 57701
Voting for "w" was one of the dumbest things I ever did

2005-06-04 08:01:19

Ginny DeJager
Rapid City SD 57701
"W" is just doing this to make sure "his" state is safe in the future from Base closing along with WY and FL, and doesn't care or is too stupid to think about what is good for the Air Force.

2005-06-04 07:45:43

Buster King
Rapid City, 57703

I'm a Republican

2005-06-04 06:56:56

Scott Hed
Sioux Falls/57103

2005-06-04 06:13:56

Mary Paulsen
Quinn, 57775

2005-06-04 05:37:18

Marjorie Milnes
Tunkhannock 18657
Our son works on Ellsworth and we find it a very necessary base for our military to maintain.

2005-06-04 03:08:40

BOBBI MERTENS
Rapid City SD 57702
Ellsworth needs to stay in SD, for freedom's sake!!!

2005-06-04 00:01:12

Joan Michel
Sioux Falls

2005-06-03 23:38:38

Susan Hebrard
Rapid City 57702
Where will I get my medical care if the base closes? There is no other military facility for treatments and medicines in the region. Will TRI-CARE be available and controlled locally as if they were a military PCM?

2005-06-03 23:36:07

Thomas Paulsen
Wakonda 57073

2005-06-03 23:32:34

John Hebrard
Rapid City 57702
Why close one of the best ran and well maintained bases in the USA? Not only are you taking away one of the major employers in the state, you are removing the only source of medical care for thousands of retirees and their families in the region.

2005-06-03 23:08:28

Chris Christianson
Rapid City, SD 57702
Republicans and Democrats both must realize the importance of retaining Ellsworth Airforce
Base.

2005-06-03 22:47:04

Andy Carlson
Beresford/57004

2005-06-03 22:39:15

Sandy Swenson
Buffalo 57720

2005-06-03 21:36:35

Linda Barker
Sioux Falls 57105

2005-06-03 20:55:02

Ryan Kannas
Hartford 57033

2005-06-03 20:41:37

Holly Boltjes-Johnson
Hartford, SD 57033

2005-06-03 20:02:50

mary christensen
Rapid City SD 57702

2005-06-03 17:19:36

Robert Sorensen
Sioux Falls 57105

2005-06-03 16:40:43

Luiz Rens
Sioux Falls, 57108-4909

2005-06-03 16:33:23

Sheila Flynn
Sioux Falls 57105

2005-06-03 16:10:56

Kevin Brady
Vermillion 57069

2005-06-03 15:43:12

**Ben Nesselhuf
57069**

2005-06-03 15:27:50

**Marilyn Hisgen
Rapid City, SD 57702**

2005-06-03 14:47:08

**Karen Stevens
Sioux Falls, 57103**

2005-06-03 14:16:23

**Eric Dressing
Sioux Falls/ 57103
Ellsworth is one of the keys to South Dakota's economy and future.**

2005-06-03 13:53:36

**Robert Stevens
Sioux Falls**

2005-06-03 13:37:08

**Donna Yocom
Brookings 57006**

2005-06-03 13:34:26

**Eileen Van Soest
Sioux Falls 57105
Without full disclosure by the DOD and the White House, how can we adequately advocate for
keeping Ellsworth open? This information should be made available to the public!!**

2005-06-03 13:34:22

**Hildegarde Krumm
Sioux Falls 57105**

2005-06-03 12:24:01

**Sue Aguilar
Sioux Falls 57103**

2005-06-03 11:49:22

**Bernadette Borszich-Usera
Sturgis, SD 57785
For once, let us rise above the mentality of red state/blue state/west river/east river and stand
together in this great cause of saving Ellsworth AFB.**

2005-06-03 11:31:43

**Ellen Bishop
57703**

2005-06-03 10:29:22

Eric Meland

Rapid City/57701

2005-06-03 10:28:51

Michelle Meland
Rapid City/57701

2005-06-03 08:41:23

Linda Barker
Sioux Falls 57105

2005-06-02 17:01:29

Jahnel Knippling
Sioux Falls 57107

2005-06-02 16:58:47

Roger Berggren
Sioux Falls

2005-06-02 16:13:49

Linda Barker
Sioux Falls, SD 7105

2005-06-02 15:57:29

Pauline poletes
Sioux Falls 57105

2005-06-02 15:04:55

Sheldon Osborn
Sioux Falls 57106

2005-06-02 14:55:46

Lisa Engels
Hartford 57033

RESOLUTION NO.: 05-37

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REMOVAL OF ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE FROM THE LIST SUBMITTED BY THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION

WHEREAS the Department of Defense has completed its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission process and has recommended that Ellsworth Air Force Base in western South Dakota be closed; and

WHEREAS in 2004 Ellsworth Air Force Base provided an annual economic impact of an estimated \$278.3 Million and is the second largest employer in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS Ellsworth Air Force Base is one home of the B-1 Bomber, a vital asset in our national defense capability; and

WHEREAS the BRAC Commission will hold a Regional Hearing in Rapid City on June 21, 2005; and

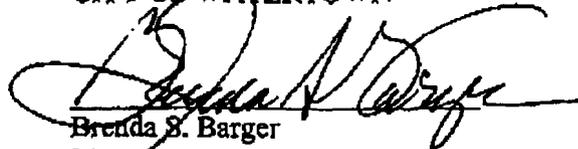
WHEREAS Governor Mike Rounds has urged all of South Dakota to demonstrate to the BRAC Commission the importance of Ellsworth Air Force Base to its citizens

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Watertown that we collectively speak with one voice in urging the BRAC Commission to remove Ellsworth Air Force Base from its recommended closure list; and further request our congressional delegation urge President George W. Bush to submit a BRAC list to Congress which does not include Ellsworth Air Force Base; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the Regional Hearing on June 21, 2005 in the Civic Center Arena in Rapid City; this Resolution be presented to BRAC Commission Chairman Tony Principi to be incorporated into the Commission proceedings.

Dated this ~~20th~~ day of June, 2005.

CITY OF WATERTOWN


Brenda S. Barger
Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracy D. Turbak, CPA
Finance Officer

(SEAL)