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DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
GRAND FORKS REGIONAL HEARING
MARCH 30, 1995
7:30 p.m.

REPORTER: Ronda L. Pehling

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Good evening
2 ladies and gentlemen. Excuse me, I have the
3 eyes of an eagle but the arms of a penguin.

4 Welcome to the regional hearing of
5 the Defense Base Closure and Realignment
6 Commission. I'm General J.B. Davis, U.S. Air
7 Force retired. I'm one of the eight members of
8 the Commission charged with the task of
9 evaluating the recommendations of the Secretary
10 of Defense regarding the closure and realignment
11 of military installations.

12 Also here with us tonight are my
13 colleagues Commissioner Rebecca Cox, who was the
14 member of the 1993 Commission and she brings a
15 great deal of expertise to the process and on my
16 right is Commissioner Lee Kling, who also brings
17 a great deal of government service.

18 First, I'd like to thank all the
19 military and civilian personnel who has assisted
20 us so capably during our visits to Minot Air
21 Force Base and to Grand Forks Air Force Base,
22 places I've been many times before. We spent
23 all day looking at installations and asking
24 questions that will help us and prepare us for
25 the difficult decision process ahead. The

1 cooperation we received from the military and
2 the civilians in each one of the bases has been
3 absolutely exemplary and the communities -- if
4 you had to be almost not be able to see anything
5 when we left Grand Forks and drove down to the
6 Holiday Inn -- glad to see the support of the
7 communities here and in Minot. But thank you
8 very much.

9 I'd also like to acknowledge the
10 splendid assistance we've received from Governor
11 Ed Schafer, Senators Kent Conrad and Byron
12 Dorgan and Congressman Earl Pomeroy and their
13 staff, they've been superb. They've asked and
14 assisted us in many ways in the problems and the
15 challenges we have ahead. I'd like to thank
16 also President Baker for his generous
17 hospitality and this magnificent facility.
18 They've been with us the previous mentioned
19 folks, with exceptions of the president, have
20 been with us wherever we've gone in North Dakota
21 and frankly they've been great sources of
22 information to all of us and I can tell you
23 they're doing a superb job for this state.

24 The main purpose of the base visit
25 we conducted here and it's one of 54 bases, it

1 happens to be my third base, the Commissioner's
2 are making. By the way we're going around to
3 all 54 bases highlighted by the Department of
4 Defense. It's to allow us to see the
5 installations first hand. I know most of the
6 Commissioner's are like me, unless you can see,
7 feel and touch it, it doesn't mean much.

8 Numbers are wonderful but actually being here
9 makes it much better; and then we have to try to
10 assess the all important question of the
11 military value of the base. In addition to the
12 base visits, the Commission is conducting a
13 total of 11 Regional Hearings of which this is
14 the second. The main purpose of the Regional
15 Hearings is to give the members of the
16 communities affected by these closure
17 recommendations a chance to express their
18 views. We consider this interaction absolutely
19 essential because the community is one of the
20 most important inputs in the process.

21 Let me assure you that all our
22 Commissioners and staff are well aware of the
23 gigantic implications of base closure on local
24 communities. We're committed to openness in
25 this process and I assure you from the chairman

1 on down that is an absolute pledge and we're
2 committed to fairness. All the material we
3 gather, all the information we get from the
4 Department of Defense, all of our correspondence
5 is open to the public at all times. Frankly, I
6 was a non-volunteer with for this job and we're
7 all faced with the unpleasant task ahead and
8 it's painful, but we intend to carry it out in
9 the most sensitive manner that we possibly can.
10 The kind of assistance we've received here in
11 North Dakota is very greatly appreciated.

12 Now let me describe the proceedings
13 here tonight and the proceedings are the same
14 here tonight as all our Regional Hearings, the
15 Commission is assigned a block of time to each
16 state effective by the base closure list. The
17 overall amount of time is determined by the
18 number of installations on the list and the
19 amount of job loss. North Dakota has been given
20 90 minutes to make this presentation. We notify
21 the appropriate elected officials of this
22 procedure and left it up to them working with
23 local communities to determine how to fill this
24 block of time. We've been given a list of
25 persons who will speak during the North Dakota

1 presentation as well as how long they will
2 speak. To be fair to all who want to speak,
3 we'll strictly enforce those limits that we've
4 placed. We will let each speaker know when he
5 or she has one minute left and we'll ring a bell
6 when the individual's time is up.

7 After the 90 minute presentation
8 we'll take a short break. After which we have
9 set aside a period of 15 minutes for public
10 comment at which members of the public may speak
11 to issues you think are important. We've
12 provided a sign-up sheet for this portion of the
13 hearing and hope that anyone who wishes to speak
14 is already signed up. We would ask those of you
15 speaking at that time to limit yourself to one
16 minute. Difficult but necessary.

17 Let me also say that the Base
18 Closure Law has been amended since 1993, to
19 require that anyone giving testimony before the
20 Commission do so under oath. So I'll be
21 swearing in the witnesses with great trepidation
22 because some of the witnesses write the laws in
23 this land and the laws of this state, but it's
24 required by their laws, therefore, I'll comply.

25 With that, I believe we're ready to

1 begin. The first witness will be Senator Conrad
2 and with your permission, sir, I'd like to swear
3 Senator Conrad, Senator Dorgan, the Governor and
4 Congressman Pomeroy all at the same time so we
5 don't have to stop later on. So if you would
6 raise your right hand.

7 (All of the witnesses were sworn in
8 by Commissioner Davis.)

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
10 much. Senator Conrad.

11 SENATOR CONRAD: Good evening. We
12 extend a warm North Dakota welcome to
13 Commissioners Cox, Davis and Kling. We also
14 extend a welcome to the BRAC Staff. We are
15 delighted you are here. We are proud of Grand
16 Forks and Minot Air Forces Bases, proud of their
17 missions and proud of their performance. It is
18 in our national security interest to retain and
19 not realign the goals and missions of these
20 bases.

21 We invite you to compare all of
22 northern tier missile bases in making your
23 decision. We believe you will achieve the
24 greatest military value and cost savings by
25 keeping both Grand Forks and Minot as dual

1 mission bases. Grand Forks is one of only three
2 core tanker bases in the country. It's mission,
3 global reach.

4 General Folgeman, Air Force Chief of
5 Staff, has repeatedly emphasized the importance
6 of the core tanker base concept. He told the
7 commission in 1993 and I quote, "It would be a
8 wise move for us to use Grand Forks as one our
9 of our core tanker bases. Grand Forks was
10 realigned in 1993 specifically because it's
11 facilities and infrastructure were the best
12 suited for this mission. The United States Air
13 Force and the Department of Defense have both
14 concluded no other base in the country has the
15 capability to serve as a core tanker base."
16 They recommend the KC-135 Tanker Mission remain
17 at Grand Forks and we agree.

18 Minot is one of only two B-52 Bases
19 in the country. It's mission, global power.
20 Minot's bombers project U.S. power around the
21 world on a moment's notice. It is important to
22 note that our bomber force structure require two
23 B-52 Bases.

24 General Mike Low, head of the Air
25 Combat Command has stated and I quote, "We have

1 reached what I consider the bottom line on our
2 bomber force structure and must retain the
3 basing at Minot to effectively execute our
4 bomber mission in the future. The Air Force and
5 the Department of Defense have both concluded no
6 other base in the country has the capability to
7 serve as a primary B-52 base. They recommend
8 the B-52 mission remain at Minot and we agree.

9 Once the decision has been made to
10 keep the flying missions at Grand Forks and
11 Minot, it makes sense to keep the missiles here
12 as well. The reason is simple, it saves money.
13 The fact is, all of the existing missile fields
14 can perform the mission. The Air Force Base
15 Closure Briefing states and I quote, "All
16 missile units have the requisite combination of
17 operational effectiveness criteria to accomplish
18 the mission. After all, they've been doing it
19 for over 35 years."

20 Dual mission bases make good
21 economic sense, they spread base overhead over
22 two missions making effective use of national
23 defense resources. The other northern tier
24 mission bases are single mission bases or are
25 about to be. It makes little strategic or

1 economic sense to maintain them as single
2 mission bases when it's possible to have dual
3 mission bases instead. You have the authority
4 to move F.E. Warren's Minuteman-3's to Malmstrom
5 in anticipation of the elimination of the MX
6 Missile. At that point the nation would enjoy
7 substantial savings from the closure of that
8 base. Alternatively you can end the missile
9 mission at Malmstrom just as the Air Force and
10 the Department of Defense have recommended the
11 elimination of it's flying mission. That will
12 achieve nearly a billion dollars of net present
13 value savings. We submit that's a pretty good
14 trade off. Minot and Grand Forks military value
15 and substantial cost savings for taxpayers, we
16 believe that makes good sense for America.

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you,
18 Senator Conrad. Senator Dorgan.

19 SENATOR DORGAN: Let me join my
20 colleague in saying welcome to North Dakota to
21 all of you. You'll find this and have, I hope,
22 today a wonderful and friendly place to be. I
23 want to tell you that none of us are nervous or
24 apprehensive about your visit. We have a great
25 story to tell you about North Dakota, about our

1 Air Force Bases, our people and our communities,
2 and we're anxious top get started.

3 But first I can't help but observe
4 that in this very month of March, 122 years ago,
5 another fact finding group was sent here from
6 Washington, D.C. to kind of look over some
7 military bases and they came out on horseback
8 and inspected a couple of bases, said they
9 really liked what they found out here in North
10 Dakota and then told us they had to go over to
11 Montana and check on a few things over there.
12 That group was headed by General Custer. You
13 know I was just thinking, I guess it's a
14 coincidence, you're going to Montana tomorrow.
15 But you know, but things have changed and I
16 would only ask you to remember Custer's last
17 words as he left North Dakota. General Custer
18 as he left our state said, "You keep those North
19 Dakota bases open until I get back," and we kind
20 of consider that a commitment.

21 Now in about three minutes tonight I
22 want to make three serious, important points to
23 you. Point one about fairness, two about
24 military values versus budget savings and three
25 our tale of two cities.

1 First, fairness. This process to be
2 fair in my judgment requires a complete
3 evaluation of all four northern missile bases to
4 determine how best to down size our Minuteman
5 Missile strength. When you've reviewed all four
6 bases with all of the objective information
7 available, you will conclude that the two North
8 Dakota Dual Mission Air Force Bases have the
9 highest military value for the retention of both
10 their flying and their missile missions.

11 Second, military value versus budget
12 savings. The Air Force has already decided it
13 wants to keep both Minot and Grand Forks Air
14 Force Bases open. It wants to keep the bomber
15 mission and the tanker missions open and
16 available in the long term future. The
17 remaining question then is how should the Air
18 Force down size it's Minuteman Missile force.
19 Should the reduction in missiles come from a
20 dual mission base where the Air Force already
21 saved substantial money by spreading it's
22 overhead costs over two missions. No, I don't
23 think the facts will show that to be the right
24 course. The best measure of military value and
25 the best measure of budget savings, in my

1 judgment, for the taxpayers will come by keeping
2 the missiles at the only two dual mission bases
3 that will remain in these northern bay planes at
4 Minot and at Grand Forks.

5 To underscore that, just yesterday
6 the new Air Force numbers were released
7 evaluating that the present net value of
8 savings, for example, for closing Malmstrom Air
9 Force Base was \$1.4 billion. Compare that with
10 the estimate of net present value of savings
11 from realigning the missiles to either Grand
12 Forks or Minot are \$450 million. That's a \$1
13 billion difference. Parity with respect to
14 military value but giant savings for the
15 taxpayers by remaining in a dual mission base.

16 My third and last point is about our
17 cities. You'll hear tonight the tale of our two
18 cities in North Dakota, Grand Forks and Minot.
19 They're much more than just host cities to a
20 military base. They're home towns for thousands
21 of service men and service women who we work
22 with, go to school with, worship with and who
23 we're proud to call neighbors. You'll see
24 tonight how proud we are of our bases. We're
25 proud of the brave men and women who wear the

1 uniforms and protect our country and we want
2 them to continue to be part of our future.

3 There's an old saying that goes,
4 "Bad news travels halfway around the world
5 before good news gets it's shoes on." Well
6 tonight here in Grand Forks good news is going
7 to get fully addressed as we tell you the
8 compelling positive story about the two best
9 bases and the two proudest cities connected with
10 the United States Air Force.

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.
12 Governor Schafer.

13 GOVERNOR SCHAFFER: Members of the
14 BRAC Committee, members of the North Dakota
15 Legislature from Grand Forks and Minot and
16 fellow North Dakotans. Thank you for the
17 opportunity to present our views on the future
18 of North Dakota's Air Bases in Minot and Grand
19 Forks.

20 We gather here tonight with the
21 knowledge that many challenges confront our
22 state in the coming months. There's no crystal
23 ball with which to look to foretell the future.
24 But we do know that for now the future is
25 uncertain. Fortunately, North Dakotans have a

1 great trust in our nation's military leaders.
2 We are confident that they understand and will
3 remain true to the principle that the global
4 responsibility of the United States Air Force
5 demand balance, flexibility and readiness. Not
6 only do the bases play a key role in our overall
7 defense strategy, they play a vital role in
8 North Dakota's economy. Minot and Grand Forks
9 weathered the recessions of late 1980's and the
10 early 1990's, and both are on the rebound thanks
11 to jobs, manufacturing, health care and
12 telecommunications. But it goes without saying
13 that removing the 321st Missile Group in Grand
14 Forks or the 91st Missile Group in Minot would
15 have an adverse impact both financially and
16 psychologically on the communities, the region
17 and the entire state.

18 The Air Force currently provides
19 North Dakota with about \$600 million in direct
20 economic and military aide and indirect
21 assistance brings the total to more than \$1
22 billion when computing the amount of capital
23 that goes to maintain the facilities that
24 support our service men and women. Now a
25 billion dollars, I guess in Florida or

1 California may not be so much, but in North
2 Dakota those dollars are very significant.
3 Obviously the military presence has become a
4 part of daily life and the arguments for
5 retaining dual missions for both Minot and Grand
6 Forks Air Bases certainly remain strong. Civic
7 leaders in both cities have rededicated
8 themselves to the task of building strong and
9 viable communities, to strengthening local
10 resources and small businesses that serve our
11 friends in the military and providing excellent
12 education facilities to train our youngsters for
13 the needs of the future. I don't think you will
14 find better interaction or stronger ties between
15 a base and a community than you will in Minot
16 and Grand Forks.

17 Minot Air Force Base and Grand Forks
18 Air Force Base are more than military
19 installations though. They are home to
20 thousands of our friends. The personnel who
21 live and work at the bases are our next door
22 neighbors, they are best friends, they are our
23 North Dakota family. The culture diversity the
24 personnel at these fine installations bring to
25 their respective communities and to North Dakota

1 must not be under estimated. Our quality of
2 life is enhanced by their presence. The quality
3 of education in area schools is improved and our
4 quality of government is elevated by Air Force
5 interaction with elected officials both in the
6 capitol at Bismarck and on the local level.

7 Tonight we display our affection for
8 the outstanding men and women stationed at our
9 two Air Force Bases. Men and women who draw
10 their strength, their performance capabilities
11 and their values from the communities of Minot
12 and Grand Forks.

13 In closing, I again extend on behalf
14 of all the people of North Dakota a hand of
15 friendship and hospitality. The same hand we
16 extend every day to the service men and women
17 that live in our state. We humbly ask you for a
18 fair consideration in keeping our Air Force
19 Bases in Grand Forks and Minot whole and
20 integral parts of our communities. As Governor,
21 I can guarantee you that missions based in North
22 Dakota will be the best delivery of global
23 missions in the United States Air Force. Thank
24 you.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you,

1 governor.

2 Mr. Marshall, before you start could
3 I ask that table over there to rise and I'd like
4 to swear you in. Even though you're just giving
5 an introduction there may be some gems in there
6 that we want to catch.

7 (All witnesses were sworn in by
8 Commissioner Davis.)

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Mr. Marshall.

10 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you, sir.
11 Greetings. We have placed before you tonight
12 the booklets that give the overall summary of
13 what our presentation will be. It's going to be
14 done in three parts. First, we'll have
15 Ambassador Rowny. You all now Ambassador Rowny,
16 world renowned expert on the ABM. He will
17 discuss that. Followed by Robert Beckel,
18 retired General, former commander of the 15th
19 Air Force, will discuss the flying mission.
20 Next, we're going to have Jerry Goff, a retired
21 Air Force Colonel that will go into the
22 technical aspects for you and then we're going
23 to have the mayor of our city give you a one
24 minute presentation and welcome you to the
25 city. We will end with the president of our

1 university, Ken Baker, and he will discuss the
2 university and the community and I will wrap it
3 up.

4 Ambassador Rowny, will you please
5 come forward.

6 AMBASSADOR ROWNY: In the interest
7 of time rather than read my testimony to you, I
8 would like to simply summarize it. The full
9 testimony will be in your booklet.

10 You'll hear a number of reasons
11 tonight why one or another base should not be
12 closed, economic reasons and cost effective
13 reasons and so forth. I want to approach the
14 problem tonight from one standpoint only and a
15 very important one, and that is the importance
16 to our national security and the arms control
17 process. And in this respect let me say up
18 front that I think that the closure or
19 realignment of Grand Forks Air Force Base would
20 not be in the best interest of the United
21 States.

22 Now why do I say that? First, let
23 me give you a bit of back ground. For some 18
24 years I was in the arms control process and at
25 the end of the first five years I was a member

1 of the first five year review of the ABM
2 Treaty. I was then the Chairman of the second
3 five year review of the ABM Treaty, so I can
4 tell you that from this experience the Soviets
5 place a great deal of emphasis on the ABM Treaty
6 and they are rather apprehensive about any moves
7 that we might take to either violate or walk
8 away from or even amend or in any way realign
9 that treaty. It's also important from the U.S.
10 point of view because I agree with President
11 Clinton who says that the ABM Treaty is the
12 lynch-pin of our arms control process.

13 Now the ABM Treaty, which I'll spell
14 out in great detail in my testimony that's
15 written before you, states, after it was amended
16 in 1974, that there would be one base in the
17 United States and one base in the Soviet Union.
18 The one base in the Soviet Union and now in an
19 area by Russian, is Boscow. The one base stated
20 in the ABM Treaty on the United States side is
21 Grand Forks. So any idea that we will in some
22 way change the treaty opens up a whole host of
23 questions which prevents or gives an opportunity
24 rather and does not prevent mischief making on
25 the part of someone who might want to look

1 beyond the skirts of this particular treaty and
2 might want to raise questions about it. So for
3 that reason I would say that you better let
4 sleeping dogs lie and not raise this important
5 issue of what to do about the ABM Treaty. To
6 repeat, it's the one treaty and it's the one
7 base and the only base that's mentioned in the
8 ABM Treaty.

9 Now there's been some talk heard
10 about the probable closing of say 147 of the
11 silos and destroying them, keeping only 3 silos
12 open and then keep the Ballistic Missile Defense
13 with that remaining part of the base. I can
14 tell you that the experience I've had with
15 negotiating with the Soviets and the Russians
16 that they would look at that stance and would
17 think that a subterfuge, and to say well we're
18 not going to any longer defend the Ballistic
19 Missile site but only a partial part of it would
20 be not in keeping with the spirit of the
21 agreement and would be seen through pretty
22 careful -- pretty easily on the part of the
23 Russian.

24 Now you notice I keep saying the
25 former Soviet Union and now the Russians. I

1 won't go into a lot of detail on how we got from
2 the Soviet Union to the four successor states
3 and now dealing only with Russia, which is a
4 successor state. Except to say that I've
5 outlined for you in the testimony I've given you
6 how we arrived at this particular juncture. But
7 I will say that in many vicinities of the United
8 States I believe in this close linkage of our
9 arms control reduction process and the ABM
10 Treaty and they might well not ratify the Star-2
11 Treaty, which is a treaty of tremendous
12 importance, if we decide to open up questions
13 about the ABM Treaty. So from the point of view
14 of not jeopardizing the arms control process and
15 start the ratification process, again I would
16 say don't try to close or realign Grand Forks.

17 Another point that is quite
18 overlooked is that in addition to certain cost
19 of closing missile sites, the treaty protocol
20 specified that the cost of reducing the ABM
21 facilities here must be entered into. In other
22 words, you must destroy the particular aspects
23 of the ABM Treaty. Ballistic Missile Defense is
24 now of much greater importance than it was
25 several years ago even though the threat from

1 the Soviet Union, the now Russia and other
2 states, is less we have a threat from roach
3 states like north Korea, Kuwait and others --
4 not Kuwait but Iraq and others who might try to
5 launch missiles at us. So Ballistic Missile
6 Defense is an important item and it would cost
7 some \$30 million at least to destroy the
8 Ballistic Missile Defense aspects of Grand
9 Forks.

10 So therefore, from several view
11 points, one that we should not either close or
12 realign Grand Forks without very careful
13 consideration and in my opinion we should not
14 raise these issues at this crucial juncture from
15 the point of view that the ratification process
16 is such that we do not want to limit or inhibit
17 in any way our success with the ratification
18 process and third, from the costs that would be
19 undertaken to close the Ballistic Missile aspect
20 of the site I think we should not either close
21 or realign Grand Forks.

22 In summary, it would not be in the
23 best interest of the United States from the
24 national security point of view or from the arms
25 control process to close Grand Forks Air Force

1 Base or to realign. Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.

3 Mr. Beckel.

4 MR. BECKEL: Commissioner Davis,
5 Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Kling and
6 Commission staff members. I appreciate the
7 opportunity to present to you some of the issues
8 involved in the Air Force and Department of
9 Defense decision to retain a flying mission at
10 Grand Forks Air Force Base. I'm Robert Beckel,
11 former commander of 15th Air Force responsible
12 for the worldwide observation of the air
13 mobility command, air re-fueling task force and
14 also former tanker and commander. I am aware of
15 the base closure and realignment process and the
16 very difficult and important decisions that
17 confront the Commission.

18 In that light I would like to state
19 for the record that my interest in being here
20 today is to ensure that the United States
21 continues to have the best military
22 infrastructure in supporting the world so that
23 it may continue it's high standards of
24 excellence in both it's peace keeping commission
25 and wartime requirements. I am aware that the

1 future of the flying mission at Grand Forks is
2 not now before the Commission. Nevertheless,
3 the potential exists that you will be urged to
4 add the base to your list of closure bases for
5 comparison purposes by flying mission bases
6 identified for closure by the Air Force.

7 Therefore, the purpose of my
8 testimony is two fold, to support the Air Force
9 decision to maintain Grand Forks as a base or a
10 core tanker installation and to enhance it's
11 flying mission and to provide the Commission
12 with additional information during your
13 evaluation of the capacity capabilities of this
14 important northern tier flying base.

15 General Ron Folgeman, while
16 commander of the Air Mobility Command, explored
17 the importance of the core tanker base concept
18 during testimony at a June 1993 BRAC Hearing.
19 The concept is premised upon maximizing the
20 consolidation of Air Force assets on the minimum
21 number of bases while maintaining the capability
22 of meeting national and peace time mission
23 tasks. In the creation of this concept General
24 Folgeman noted that the air mobility command was
25 to be based around three structures: Two or

1 three air mobility wings with tanker and airlift
2 assets located on one base under one commander,
3 two or three core air lift bases and two or
4 three core tanker bases. General Folgeman
5 established this as a quote, "Base line of our
6 future mobility operations part of a forward
7 looking Air Force approach to deal with the
8 whole Department of Defense drawn at, our
9 associated decrease in military infrastructure
10 and looking at the fiscal realities."

11 During the same hearing General
12 Folgeman highlighted the importance of Grand
13 Forks as being, "uniquely capable of filling the
14 core tanker base prerequisites for the Air Force
15 due to it's central location, significant ramp
16 capacity and extensive re-fueling capability."

17 Grand Forks is now assigned 48
18 KC-135 Air Crafts organized into four squadrons.
19 Together with the other two core tanker bases,
20 Grand Forks allows the Air Force to realize it's
21 goal of introducing stability and reducing
22 turmoil and then certainly in it's far flung
23 tanker course. I concur with the Air Force and
24 the Department of Defense conclusion that Grand
25 Forks offers the desired combination of

1 strategic location, adequate facilities and
2 operational capacity to best serve as a core
3 tanker base. The Air Force analysis that Grand
4 Forks has distinct capability and capacity in
5 comparison to other candidate bases is clearly
6 shown by the collection of data in the Air Force
7 analysis and the recommendation book for BRAC
8 '95.

9 There are some points within the Air
10 Force Review that I would like to bring to your
11 attention in regard to the Air Force comparison
12 of Grand Forks and other northern tier flying
13 bases. For purposes of comparing a flying
14 mission, Grand Forks was grouped by the Air
15 Force in the large aircraft category. Quite
16 properly this evaluation of this category used
17 the four military valued criteria as the primary
18 determinants for facility retention. Moreover,
19 70 percent of the tanker base evaluation was
20 based upon the installations ability to
21 accomplish the tanker mission with 15 percent
22 attributed to support bomber operations and 15
23 percent attributed to the ability to accomplish
24 air lift operations.

25 With regard to it's ranking for air

1 lift missions, Grand Forks, due to it's central
2 location, has flexibility to reach both east and
3 west deployment locations at Hickam Air Force
4 Base in Hawaii and Mildenhall, England.

5 However, Grand Forks falls 68 nautical miles
6 outside the Air Force established criteria of
7 3,250 nautical miles to deployment bases to
8 receive a green rating. Malmstrom, which is
9 farther from the European base received a green
10 rating because it fell within the 3,250 nautical
11 mile distance due to proximity for pickup.

12 This category and it's established
13 criteria can be misleading and confusing.
14 Although this category was given priority in the
15 evaluation, the rationale for the 3,250 nautical
16 mile distance established by the Air Force is
17 not a particular. Therefore, I would encourage
18 the Commission to explore this further with the
19 Air Force and please note that this red rating
20 caused by 68 nautical miles short fall in this
21 category that is heavily weighted and could be
22 misleading to the commission.

23 Grand Forks has twice the ability of
24 Malmstrom to move fuel. Grand Forks pumping
25 rates are 4,800 gallons per minute, compared to

1 Malmstrom's 2,400. Moreover, Grand Forks has 26
2 re-fueling pits available, compared to the
3 Malmstrom's 21. This has significant
4 ramifications with regard to the capability of
5 the base to support high intensity, long
6 duration air tasks.

7 The current Air Force Construction
8 Standard for runways to accommodate bombers and
9 tankers is 300 feet in width. Applying the
10 runway width requirements of B-52's, it's easy
11 to understand why the Air Force Construction
12 Standard is established at 300 feet. The
13 landing gear and outriggers of the aircraft
14 leave almost no margin of error on the 200 foot
15 wide runway. The Grand Forks runway is 300 feet
16 in width and clearly meets this criteria.
17 Moreover, Grand Forks has an expansive apron of
18 almost 504,000 square feet which no other
19 northern tier base possesses.

20 Interestingly the Air Force runway
21 rate criteria in the tanker bomber airlift
22 category for BRAC '95, identified 150-200 feet
23 width requirement is adequate to perform a large
24 aircraft mission in spite of the 300 foot wide
25 construction standard. The 1992 Air Force

1 survey team analysis of Malmstrom stated that
2 they could not accept B-52's because of it's
3 runway. In contrast to that finding and the Air
4 Force Construction criteria, the '95 BRAC Air
5 Force Analysis gave Malmstrom a green rating
6 under bomber mission. Our reevaluation of this
7 rating is suggested as it significantly impacts
8 a final overall installation score.

9 Grand Forks has nine hangers with
10 the capacity of enclosing KC-135's. The 1992
11 facility study at Malmstrom indicated that
12 hangers and maintenance facilities of large
13 aircraft limited Malmstrom's ability to expand
14 their overall capacity without significant
15 military construction.

16 In conclusion I would encourage the
17 Commission and the Staff to explore some of the
18 issues I have highlighted with regard to the Air
19 Force Evaluation of Grand Forks and the other
20 northern tier flying bases. Most importantly we
21 must not lose sight of the key factors that
22 initially lead the Air Force to establish Grand
23 Forks as one of it's core tanker bases:
24 Location, facilities and capacity. I fully
25 support this decision and applaud the continuing

1 critical role that Grand Forks and it's
2 wonderful men and women play in the twin pillars
3 of the global reach, global power mission of the
4 United States Air Force.

5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you,
6 General Beckel.

7 MR. GOFF: Commissioner Davis,
8 Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Kling, members of
9 the Commission Staff, members of the greater
10 North Dakota community, I appreciate the
11 opportunity to present some additional views on
12 the Grand Forks Air Force Base Missile Field.
13 My name is Jerry Goff, retired Air Force officer
14 with more than 26 years experience in both
15 intercontinental ballistic missile operations
16 and maintenance. As the former commander of
17 missile operations and missile maintenance in
18 what is now the 321st Missile Group, I would
19 like to offer some comments both on the Air
20 Force Missile Field selection process and on the
21 capabilities of the various missile fields
22 themselves.

23 The missile field at Grand Forks Air
24 Force Base is the most recently constructed and
25 therefore, the most modern of the four remaining

1 United States missile fields. It contains three
2 squadrons of the highly capable Minuteman-3
3 Missile. The Grand Forks Air Force Base Missile
4 Field should not be inactivated due to it's
5 impact on Ballistic Missile Defense as
6 previously explained by Ambassador Rowny and
7 considered against the larger indifferences, if
8 any, in the capabilities of the missile fields
9 being considered for closure.

10 As the Air Force Base Closure
11 Executive Group determined and I quote, "All
12 missile units have the requisite combination of
13 operational effectiveness criteria to accomplish
14 the mission (they are doing it today)."
15 Unquote.

16 In an effort to differentiate among
17 the three missile fields in the missile field
18 category, the Air Force developed operational
19 effectiveness criteria consisting of five
20 unclassified items: Range, spacing, geology,
21 weather and maintainability. Various
22 subcategories in the ratings themselves are
23 classified so we cannot discuss them in this
24 forum. Nevertheless, we contend that the
25 differences between the missile fields as

1 described by one Senior Air Force Officer are
2 quote, "To close to call."

3 We urge you to review the classified
4 minutes of the Air Force Base Closure Executive
5 Group Meetings to confirm the close ratings for
6 the various missile fields. Having seen that
7 the missile fields were equally mission capable,
8 we want to know why the Grand Forks Air Force
9 Base received an Air Force red rating for
10 category 1.2 missile mission requirements.
11 Unlike the other rating systems used by the Air
12 Force which were -- excuse me -- unlike the
13 other rating systems used by the Air Force where
14 each installation is rated against a fixed
15 objective leading to a qualitative rating for
16 missile fields the Air Force conducted it
17 comparatively rather than a qualitative
18 analysis. Accordingly, each base was assigned a
19 different color: Green, yellow or red. If it
20 had been a qualitative analysis, it's probable
21 that all three of the ranked bases would have
22 received the same color rating.

23 We offer the following comments with
24 regard to the five missile field criteria.
25 Range defines the ability of the missiles to

1 reach the target base. All three northern tier
2 missile bases are launched from essentially the
3 same latitude, so the southern limit of the
4 target range is relatively equal. While there
5 may be minor differences in reaching targets on
6 the extreme eastern or western boundaries of any
7 prospective target base we believe this to be a
8 marginal distinction at best.

9 Turning our attention to spacing, it
10 has been asserted that the size and shape of the
11 missile field significantly affect the
12 survivability of the field itself and of the
13 missiles as they launch through a debris cloud.
14 The claim is that a large, more disbursed field
15 is more survivable than a smaller, more closely
16 spaced field. Further, an east, west
17 orientation is claimed for better prospects for
18 survival for successful post attack missile
19 launch than a north, south orientation. Given
20 the demonstrated accuracy of the missiles of our
21 potential adversaries, we see no advantage in
22 field size. Regardless of spacing, an enemies
23 probability of inflicting damage were directly
24 attributable to his weapon system reliability
25 and accuracy and the number of weapons applied

1 to each target.

2 Regarding field orientation. Debris
3 over the field has always posed some threat to
4 missile launch. Yet it has never been accounted
5 for in the missile crew launch procedures, we
6 wonder why it's such a great issue now. In any
7 case, launch procedures particularly those
8 potentially employed by the Airborne Launch
9 Control Center Crews who can see the field could
10 easily accommodate any concerns. Reviewing the
11 Dense Pack Theory, which was the rationale
12 behind the peace keeper missiles original basing
13 mode during the early 1980's, debris offers
14 protection from follow-up attack while
15 simultaneously forbidding us to counter attack.
16 High speed reentry vehicles cannot survive
17 debris cloud but a titanium shrouded relatively
18 slow moving missile can easily launch through
19 without missing limiting damage. For suitable
20 launch procedures we think the spacing at Grand
21 Forks Air Force Base is an asset rather than a
22 liability and merits the consideration of the
23 Commission.

24 Furthermore, the Grand Forks Air
25 Force Base Part and Launch Facility Support

1 building which houses the secondary power system
2 and is unique to the D System, ensures that all
3 surviving lost facilities will have the
4 electrical power necessary to be able to launch
5 their missiles for an extended period of time.

6 Geological considerations focus on
7 the expectation for missile fuel survival from
8 near missiles based on soil type, soil moisture
9 and shock and transmittal characteristics.

10 While it was true that dry, relatively hard,
11 rocky soil offers the potential for better
12 survivability, we wonder how realistically
13 significant this consideration is given the
14 accuracy of modern day reentry vehicles.

15 Whatever the case, we are confident
16 that the shock isolations, shock dampening
17 systems incorporated in our launch support,
18 launch control and launch facilities are up to
19 the task to protecting these critical war
20 fighting assets.

21 Weather extremes, snow and cold
22 temperatures affect all northern tier missile
23 bases essentially the same. Weather, while
24 inconvenient, is not an operational problem and
25 in no way affects the ability to launch missiles

1 on time.

2 Maintainability addresses such
3 concerns as unscheduled maintenance, cost and
4 logistics. Among the northern tier missile
5 bases Grand Forks Air Force Base was
6 comparatively placed number of three. We
7 believe this comparative rank lowering
8 overstates the case. The missile silos of Grand
9 Forks Air Force Base have had a reputation for
10 leaking. That problem has been eliminated as
11 you heard this afternoon.

12 Many of our electronic and
13 mechanical systems are the same as are installed
14 throughout the Minuteman fleet, a lot of force
15 com. equipment. And any base closing action
16 that preserves any form of the Minuteman-3B
17 system necessitates keeping open operational
18 supply and repair alive. Whether the logistics
19 system supports one squadron of 50 missiles or
20 three squadrons totalling 150 missiles, fixed
21 costs are not likely to change substantially.
22 Whatever scenes it may improve would likely be
23 due only to reduced input of reputable assets
24 and less demand for component parts. We urge
25 the Commission to investigate further the real

1 savings that may or may not obtain this
2 consideration.

3 While many of the numbers are in
4 dispute and some of the actions are classified,
5 it is beyond dispute that relocating the Grand
6 Forks Air Force Base Minuteman-3 Missiles to
7 Malmstrom Air Force Base as recommended by the
8 Air Force to be far more costly than closing the
9 Malmstrom Air Force Base Missile Field. First of
10 all, the Grand Forks Air Force Base Missile
11 Field already stations the most modern
12 Minuteman-3 Missiles thereby eliminating the
13 need to either upgrade any of the older
14 Malmstrom facilities or the need to shuttle
15 missiles between missile fields.

16 Secondly, as stated by Ambassador
17 Rowny, the United States will be required to
18 destroy all the ABM facilities now in existence
19 and collocated with the Grand Forks Air Force
20 Base Missile Field should the Commission decide
21 to recommend closure of the Grand Forks field.
22 These numbers have never been run or have been
23 computed in any of the COBRA scenarios available
24 to the Commission and clearly we think this is
25 something that should be explored.

1 In conclusion and for the many
2 reasons discussed today, we believe it is
3 imprudent to inactivate the 321st Missile Group
4 in Grand Forks Air Force Base. Such an action
5 would unnecessarily restrict the Ballistic
6 Missile Defense options otherwise available to
7 the United States. Moreover, all the missile
8 fields are highly capable of performing all
9 their assigned missions; and we believe with the
10 added costs and the ABM implications of closing
11 the Grand Forks Air Force Base Missile Field
12 should lead you to select another field for
13 inactivation. Thank you very much.

14 MAYOR POLOVITZ: Commissioners, on
15 behalf of the citizens of Grand Forks, North
16 Dakota, the place of excellence, and the region,
17 I wish to welcome you to our city. As you might
18 know, just over a year ago Money Magazine rated
19 Grand Forks as the eighth best community in
20 which to live out of the 300 largest
21 metropolitan areas in the United States. The
22 reason given by this national publication for
23 the high rating is in part due to the short
24 commute time, quality health care and low crime
25 rate. We believe the Grand Forks Air Force Base

1 has been a valuable partner in helping us
2 achieve this national ranking. Personnel from
3 the base have actively participated in community
4 life and have worked with us to achieve new
5 perspectives for the city.

6 In the interest of time I'm limiting
7 my oral comments to the Commission, however, I
8 wish to note that I have provided written
9 testimony in which I elaborate on several issues
10 including our excellent winter sports
11 activities, cultural activities, local medical
12 care and other areas in which we believe Grand
13 Forks ranks very high. We are especially aware
14 of the excellent educational opportunities
15 offered in the Grand Forks region and I will now
16 ask Dr. Baker, President of the University of
17 North Dakota to elaborate on this and other
18 issues of great importance to the high quality
19 of life in Grand Forks. Thank you.

20 PRESIDENT BAKER: Thank you, Mayor.

21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: You've got ten
22 minutes remaining.

23 PRESIDENT BAKER: Good evening
24 Commissioners. Like my colleagues up here, I
25 too have a written speech for you and it's in

1 the book and I urge you to read it. I think it
2 contains a lot of very important information
3 about the quality of this fine institution that
4 I'm able to represent and about the community of
5 Grand Forks. I'm not going to read it to you
6 tonight. Rather I'd like to be able to focus
7 just on one single, but I think absolutely,
8 critical point and that is the kind of
9 advantages and benefits that accrue to Grand
10 Forks Air Force Base personnel because they are
11 stationed in a community that has got a major
12 university.

13 You know I think that that really is
14 symbolized by where we are tonight. Look at
15 this. This is a wonderful, wonderful
16 auditorium. This is the finest auditorium of
17 it's type between Minneapolis and Seattle. Last
18 year on this very date, Commissioners, we were
19 listening to Meshadisker in a concert with a
20 beautiful Steinway Grand. That was possible
21 folks because of the University of North
22 Dakota. If there weren't a University of North
23 Dakota, there wouldn't be a Chester Fritz
24 Auditorium with all of the kind of cultural
25 opportunities that it brings to this community.

1 But there also wouldn't be a Cray YMP Computer
2 over in our Aerospace Program. The only Super
3 Computer between Minneapolis and Denver. There
4 wouldn't be the opportunities that were provided
5 in the Feast of Nations that our students
6 celebrated just three weeks ago when they
7 provided dinner in an international extravaganza
8 for 600 guests. There wouldn't be the
9 opportunity to listen to a Noble Prize Winner
10 something that we experienced in this very
11 auditorium. We had the privilege of having Joe
12 Taylor, the 1993 Noble Prize Winner in Physics,
13 on this stage making a presentation. Just last
14 week we had the 1994 Pulitzer Prize Winner in
15 Poetry that was here as part of the writer's
16 conference. That is something that this
17 University has now be been doing for 26 years.

18 My point is a simple one, the
19 University of North Dakota brings to this
20 particular community and therefore to Grand
21 Forks Air Force Base personnel, something that
22 is very special. Adds something very important,
23 if you will, to the quality of life that is
24 possible here.

25 And you know we're not just any old

1 university. We're the largest university in
2 western Montana, the Dakotas, Montana and
3 Wyoming. We're a comprehensive research
4 university, you can study just about anything at
5 the University of North Dakota. We have superb
6 programs in medicine, in law, and in business
7 and in nursing, and I could go on and on and
8 they're all undergirded by the strongest and the
9 finest Liberal Arts Program that you could
10 imagine. The center for Aerospace Sciences that
11 we have at the University of North Dakota is
12 literally internationally renowned and we
13 provided you with a tremendous amount of
14 information about that in your particular
15 document.

16 The quality here is exceptional.
17 The University of North Dakota was the only
18 university in the Dakotas and Montana that was
19 ranked in the top 12 percent in the U.S. News
20 and World Report Study, that I'm sure you're all
21 familiar with that came out last fall.

22 This is a very special institution,
23 this is a very special community. We believe
24 that we bring to this community something extra,
25 something that contributes to the quality of

1 life and we believe that that is possible
2 because there is a university here. This
3 university has forged a partnership with the
4 base, we very much look forward to being able to
5 continue that partnership in the future. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. MARSHALL: Greetings. I told
8 you that I was going to make a presentation and
9 I was going to sort of summarize what the
10 experts did, I'm not going to do that. You've
11 heard from experts, you don't need to hear from
12 some lawyer in Grand Forks, North Dakota. But
13 what you need to hear I think what everybody in
14 this room wants to tell you and that is thank
15 you. We want to thank you because we know you
16 have an extremely difficult job. I don't think
17 any of us here tonight would want your job. We
18 have a tremendous amount of respect for you
19 accepting that type of responsibility. We know
20 that it's a heart wrenching decision that you're
21 going to have to make. It's going to be a heart
22 wrenching decision for any community. It's like
23 choosing between one of your children. We have
24 faith in you, we know you will make the right
25 decision, the right decision for our country and

1 that's what we want.

2 I also want to thank all of the
3 military people and especially you, General
4 Davis and General Beckel and our good friend
5 Jerry Goff, and all the military people for what
6 you do for us each and every day, 365 days a
7 year you give us the greatest gift of all, you
8 give us our freedom and because of what you've
9 done that gives us the opportunity to be here
10 tonight in on open forum to discuss with you
11 exactly how we feel.

12 My good friend, Buzz, from Minot has
13 gone through the same thing that I've had to go
14 through in the last few weeks. So many people
15 because we hear over and over that this is the
16 mother of all BRAC's and we continue to hear
17 that you're driven by cost. I don't know how
18 many times I've been asked and Buzz has had to
19 have the same thing, "John, what is the
20 financial impact to your community?" I cannot
21 and I will not place a dollar value on our
22 friends in the military nor will I place a
23 dollar value on freedom. The freedom that you
24 have given us. I can't and I won't and I hope
25 that when you leave here that you leave the

1 state of North Dakota and you always remember
2 that none of us in this state will ever place a
3 dollar value on what you people have done for us
4 and our freedom.

5 Last time we went through this there
6 was a sixth grader from one of the schools out
7 at the base that called and she wanted to have
8 the opportunity to talk to the BRAC and I told
9 her that because of time she couldn't do it.
10 She said, "Would you tell those Commissioners
11 that my father, 17 years in the military
12 stationed here in Grand Forks, that this is the
13 happiest that my parents have ever been," and I
14 asked her why and she says, "It's because of the
15 educational system, it's because of the
16 crime -- there is none." I kept thinking about
17 that little girl and I called her father a few
18 days ago, they're still here. They're retiring
19 this July after 20 years. Her father asked if I
20 would say to you that he's been stationed at
21 eight different bases and he's going to stay
22 here because his prime reason for staying, I
23 think it's the most important to him, is his
24 family and he wants his family to be brought up
25 where there's a good educational system and no

1 crime.

2 God bless you but most of all God
3 bless America.

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Clearly North
5 Dakota has shown great courage over the years to
6 accept the strategic missions that they've
7 accepted. The community is very much welcomed
8 into their family each and every one of the
9 military members that have been stationed in
10 your great bases and so on behalf of the
11 military I'd like to thank North Dakota.

12 We normally would have a few
13 questions to ask at this point. But frankly,
14 the presentations that we've received today we
15 basically got the answers to our questions and
16 we also have, thanks to your presentations
17 tonight, taken a little homework with us, we're
18 going to have to look up some numbers. I hope I
19 can get them out safely without Mr. Custer
20 showing up.

21 Governor Schafer, Senator Conrad,
22 Senator Dorgan and Ambassador Rowny, General
23 Beckel, General Goff, Mayor Polovitz and
24 certainly President Baker, thank you very much.
25 Thank you very much for your testimony tonight.

1 You all might notice that I did not thank
2 Congressman Pomeroy cause he's up next. But
3 it's been very enlightening certainly to me as a
4 Commissioner and I can speak for my fellow
5 Commissioners and we'll take your message back.
6 The staff is here with us and we will research
7 what you've told us and rest assured we will
8 spend the time to arm ourselves with the proper
9 facts and try to come up with the right
10 decision.

11 We'll close this portion of the
12 meeting, take a six minute break and I thank you
13 for your testimony and we'll be back at 2036 and
14 for General Beckel, that's 8:36.

15 (Recess taken.)

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Ladies and
17 gentlemen, we'll start with the Minot community
18 presentation. I'd like to ask Bruce
19 Christianson, Gloria Emerson and Dan Lester to
20 please stand and raise your right hand because
21 all the testimony is now sworn by law.

22 (All witnesses were sworn in by
23 Commissioner Davis.)

24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
25 much. Bruce, I understand we're starting with

1 you.

2 MR. CHRISTIANSON: That's correct.
3 Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Cox,
4 Commissioner Kling, welcome to North Dakota.
5 This a pleasure to be here tonight and team
6 Minot thanks you for the opportunity to present
7 our comments and recommendations regarding Minot
8 Air Force Base.

9 The base is an integral part of the
10 whole Minot and the state community. Since 1957
11 when the base was established just north of
12 town, the members of the United States Air Force
13 have been welcome as our own. I'm Bruce
14 Christianson, City Councilman and Co-chair of
15 Task Force '96, E Minus Base Retention Task
16 Force. I've been active in base activities for
17 over 20 years.

18 The team members with me here
19 tonight on stage are Gloria Emerson, the
20 immediate past chair of the Chamber of Commerce
21 and Dan Lester retired Air Force Officer former
22 missilery and now director of the Aeronautical
23 University at Minot Air Force Base. In addition
24 to these team members, in the audience we have
25 North Dakota Legislators from the Minot area,

1 other members from the Minot City Council, the
2 members of the Board of Directors from the Minot
3 Area Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioners
4 and over 500 folks from the Minot and
5 surrounding northwest North Dakota area along
6 with our friends from Grand Forks.

7 You will find the bios of the
8 presenters in the briefing books just provided
9 you. Also included in these books is our
10 presentation tonight along with supporting
11 detail of the facts about the process we went
12 through to arrive at the conclusions I will now
13 present.

14 In developing our community comment
15 and recommendations we started with three basic
16 premises. The first premise, BRAC was
17 legislated to provide a mechanism to bring down
18 infrastructure commensurate with force and
19 personnel following the ending of the cold war.
20 Premise number two, the BRAC process beginning
21 with the military departments to the office of
22 the Secretary of Defense to the Base Realignment
23 and Closure Commission through the President to
24 the Congress was designed to provide the best
25 opportunity to match forces of infrastructure.

1 And premise three, the cornerstones of this
2 process of these criteria and the Secretary of
3 Defense four structure plan. It is within those
4 straightforward guidelines that we take
5 exception to an incomplete process of the Air
6 Force that led to the addition of the Minot
7 Missile Field for consideration of closure. In
8 fact, we will show that that process was
9 incomplete to the degree that the missile base
10 ranking were seriously in error.

11 After conclusion of our presentation
12 which focuses on military value, we hope to have
13 convinced you that the Minot Missile Field is
14 the most valuable of all Minuteman-3 Fields.

15 Let me address the last premise, the
16 four structure plan. As you know, General
17 Folgeman, the Air Force Chief of Staff, has said
18 that as an operational commander any time that
19 you offer me a choice between 450 of any weapon
20 systems, I'll take 500. If that were the only
21 determinant, we would agree. However, there are
22 numerous factors affecting these two choices and
23 it is not apparent to us that we would
24 necessarily make the same evaluation after his
25 review of the additional factors we will present

1 tonight.

2 That noted, the defense -- the
3 Department of Defense's Formal Nuclear Postural
4 Review concluded that the proper number of the
5 Minuteman-3 Missiles should be in the range of
6 450 to 500 to support national policy. The
7 Secretary of Defense agreed and has submitted
8 that spread as of the Department of Defenses
9 official position. The dilemma facing the Air
10 Force, the Secretary of Defense and now you, is
11 how to get from the current level of 650
12 Minuteman-3 Silos to the Secretary of Defense's
13 improved spread of 450 to 500 silos. We believe
14 there are at least two better ways to accomplish
15 this than the Air Force's recommended alignment
16 and we will present that to the Commission now.

17 Option number one, realigned F.E.
18 Warren by closing the Minuteman-3 Missile Field
19 leading to the total closure of a very expensive
20 base to maintain. The Air Force excluded the
21 entire base from their analysis because of the
22 peace keeper missile. We believe this was the
23 wrong decision in light of the Star-2 Treaty
24 plan to begin the peacekeeping process within
25 the bracket, time-frame and complete the process

1 two years later.

2 Let's look at that graphically. On
3 the top line of this graph are the key dates the
4 BRAC Legislation says that once the base closure
5 or realignment is formally approved, sometime in
6 late 1995 in this instance, the action must
7 begin within two years, 1997 and be completed
8 within 6 years, the year 2001. Under the Air
9 Force graphical plan and under Arms Control
10 agreements already negotiated, the Peace Keeper
11 will begin deactivation in 1999 to be complete
12 in the year 2003. A scant two years beyond the
13 BRAC mandated realignment.

14 This pegs the question. In this
15 year of the last BRAC once peace keeper is gone,
16 what is the military value of F.E. Warren Air
17 Force Base, a base without a runway? The Air
18 Force excluded the entire base because of Peace
19 Keeper. However, we excluded only Peace Keeper
20 in our analysis for this BRAC process. If the
21 commission were to realign F.E. Warren through
22 the closure of the Minuteman Field, the base
23 could be closed outside the BRAC process where
24 the peace keeper is eliminated in 2003. Section
25 2687 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code provides the

1 authority to close the remaining installation.

2 Option two, totally close Malmstrom
3 Air Force Base. This takes the Minuteman-3 to
4 450 silos, eliminates a dual logistics system on
5 the same base, solves a major problem. Both of
6 which we will discuss shortly, and provides the
7 benefit of greater savings of a complete base
8 closure. It is impossible to evaluate the
9 Minuteman-3 Weapon Systems without recognition
10 of the two different ground operating systems
11 the A and B Systems and the REACT modification
12 which will be probably both.

13 As you can see from the slide on the
14 bottom, Minot, F.E. Warren, 150 of the missiles
15 in Malmstrom are A System missiles. Grand Forks
16 and 50 missiles at Malmstrom have the B System.
17 You've seen both systems today and I'm sure you
18 have been briefed on the differences. Suffice
19 it to say for this presentation that the two
20 systems are significantly different as the slide
21 on the top portrays. We note four differences
22 here. I would emphasis the two systems are
23 fully capable of carrying out the mission
24 today. It is future that is the concern. This
25 in itself presents a non-optimum mix at

1 Malmstrom and F.E. Warren. Warren, of course,
2 has the peace keeper and the Minuteman-3
3 Missiles and Malmstrom has the two systems.
4 This causes the base to maintain two separate
5 training programs for both maintenance and
6 operation crews and the complexities of
7 maintaining two logistics programs on the same
8 base.

9 This leads to our first evaluation.
10 Our format will follow the familiar green,
11 yellow, red rating system as we portray a real
12 military value picture of the four bases.
13 History compels the problem, neither system was
14 procured with sufficient initial spares the A
15 System has fared far better because of the
16 decommissioning of the A System at Witam and
17 conversion of the Logistic A System Silo at F.E.
18 Warren the Peace Keeper Silos. The Air Force
19 was able to cannibalize these systems for
20 spares. But no such opportunity for the B
21 System has occurred. Which brings us to our
22 second measure of military value.

23 The REACT Mod., the Rapid Execution
24 And Combat Target modification program, is being
25 implemented to upgrade both systems with

1 increased capabilities and improve missile alert
2 facilities supportability as well as crew work
3 load and providing a better work environment.
4 And it is this modification that separates the
5 two systems even further. The A System has
6 accepted the mod. But as of today, the B System
7 is still working out minor problems and has not
8 reached the required level of nuclear surreal.
9 Because of the complexity and absolute
10 requirement for reliability, it would be
11 reasonable to anticipate that the B System REACT
12 Mod. will go through the same growing pains that
13 the A System did.

14 This brings us to our third and
15 fourth elements for measure of military value.
16 Now let's look at the missile fields
17 themselves. The Air Force ranked Grand Forks
18 Air Force Base lowest due to operational
19 concerns resulting from local geographic,
20 geologic and facility characteristics. The
21 rankings are classified and we have no ability
22 to challenge that judgment, but we are confident
23 the Commission will scrutinize it carefully. We
24 gave F.E. Warren a yellow rating because the
25 missile field spans three states and is affected

1 by environmental laws of Wyoming, Nebraska and
2 Colorado. We gave Malmstrom a red rating
3 because of the wide disbursement the Air Force
4 advantage. This disbursal costs significantly
5 more for transportation and road maintenance.
6 Since every silo in the Minuteman-3 Fleet is
7 hard enough to withstand all but a direct hit,
8 this stated disbursal advantage is really no
9 significant advantage at all. We believe that
10 the classified data the Air Force has provided
11 the Commission will bare this out.

12 Further, the geological advantage
13 assigned the Malmstrom base in question, which
14 part of the missile field. Since part of it is
15 in the mountainous region and the other in the
16 plains and is even the stated advantage
17 significant. We think not. Add to that the
18 following statement in the 1989 Environmental
19 Impact Statement for the Rail Garrison Program,
20 the installation, in other words the base, lies
21 in seismic zone two and is located in an area in
22 which a maximum credible earthquake with a
23 magnitude of 6.1, which is classified as a
24 moderate earthquake, is possible; and in fact,
25 according to the seismic zoning map contained in

1 Air Force Manual 88-3, chapter 13, which you see
2 in the bottom slide, part of the field lies in
3 seismic zone three. A zone where a major
4 earthquake can occur. Our fifth major military
5 value.

6 Our sixth measure of military value
7 is the maintenance of the very infrastructure we
8 are trying to reduce. Malmstrom is yellow once
9 again because of increased road maintenance
10 problems and difficult terrain created by the
11 disbursal of it's silos. Transporter erector
12 routes total 2,500 miles at Malmstrom, the
13 majority being gravel and only 1,170 miles at
14 Minot. In just this year alone FY-95 is
15 programed to spend over a million dollars at
16 Malmstrom and a mere 200,000 at Minot for road
17 maintenance. Not to mention the wear and tear
18 on the Malmstrom vehicle fleet and the
19 commensurate increased vehicle maintenance
20 cost. It also is much less expensive to
21 re-gravel on a per mile basis in Minot.

22 F.E. Warren we have rated as red
23 because of similar road maintenance costs.
24 Almost \$3 million in this case and all the
25 associated problems and expense of being

1 designated on the national historical register
2 and for the archaeological and historical
3 restrictions on any new construction. For
4 instance, even windows cannot be replaced in the
5 home unless they are specifically constructed to
6 match the historical period. Nor can new
7 buildings be constructed without similar
8 compliance.

9 Our seventh measure in the military
10 value involves the versatility of the base
11 supporting the missile field. We gave Malmstrom
12 a yellow for the same reason the Air Force
13 elected to close the runway. We gave F.E.
14 Warren a red because without missiles it has no
15 military value, no runway. We gave Minot and
16 Grand Forks a green rating because I will
17 point -- but I will point out Minot could have
18 easily rated a green plus here because not only
19 is it a dual use base, it's weapon storage area
20 currently accommodates both air craft and
21 missile missions and is the only Air Force Base
22 to support two legs of the nuclear triangle.

23 Our last measure of military value
24 is one of the most important measures this
25 Commission can consider in it's last round of

1 closures, the future. The ratings for Malmstrom
2 and F.E. Warren are consistent for closing the
3 runway at Malmstrom or a nonexistent runway in
4 F.E. Warren. Minot and Grand Forks are rated
5 green because they're future use should continue
6 as dual use bases.

7 We have been as objective in this
8 analysis and presentation as possible. You can
9 see from the color chart the real military value
10 of Minot is clearly superior to it's comparative
11 bases. It is our goal that we have convinced
12 you that any closure or any realignment decision
13 regarding Minuteman-3 Missile Fields would be
14 incomplete without considering all four missile
15 fields even a base with no runway.

16 I will now answer or give the
17 answers to any questions you may have? If not,
18 thank you, that concludes our presentation.

19 CONGRESSMAN POMEROY: I'm filled
20 with two emotions as I rise to close our
21 presentation this morning -- this evening. The
22 first is a tremendous amount of pride for the
23 exemplary way the North Dakota communities is
24 placed with undeniably the most awkward of
25 circumstances you could possibly have imagine

1 have conducted themselves through this day and
2 through the evening. You've made us very, very
3 proud.

4 Secondly, gratitude. Gratitude to
5 the Base Closure Commissioners and staff for the
6 day you have spent with us looking at two of the
7 finest bases in the United States Air Force.
8 The next couple of minutes I'm going to recap a
9 few of the main points we've tried to get across
10 today.

11 First of all, the appropriate scope
12 of review, the major distinction between the
13 northern tier bases, the alternatives before you
14 and finally the bases as part of the North
15 Dakota community. Each of the four northern
16 tier missile bases is fully capable of
17 performing it's function and therefore, each
18 should be reviewed as part of this process. The
19 Air Force has said it best when they indicate,
20 "All missile use have their requisite
21 combination of operational effectiveness
22 criteria to accomplish the mission they are
23 doing today." Accordingly fairness would dictate
24 we believe that all four be looked at in this
25 closure round.

1 The single most important
2 distinction between them is that two have robust
3 flying missions and two do not. Grand Forks,
4 one of three core tanker bases in the country.
5 Minot one of two B-52 Bases and you have seen
6 today the outstanding characteristics of these
7 bases that has led them to be so designated by
8 the Air Force; and that means we have dual
9 mission capability at these Air Force Bases.
10 Senator Conrad mentioned, of course, it's been
11 mentioned many times since this evening,
12 combining a missile mission with a flying
13 mission on a single base achieves the
14 operational efficiency and cost savings that are
15 simply not possible at a single mission base.
16 What the Air Force said in the last closure
17 round is equally true today as it was then, the
18 Air Force enjoys cost savings and operation
19 efficiencies by collocating air craft and
20 missiles.

21 This brings us to the part of the
22 very difficult decision before you. Does the
23 Department of Defense recommendation to realign
24 the missiles from one of the North Dakota bases
25 really represent the optimal way to reduce the

1 Minuteman-346 structure. Under the DOD
2 Recommendation, North Dakota base would have
3 it's missiles realigned to Malmstrom and the
4 result would be diminished from two dual bases
5 down to one leaving in the four structure
6 maintain on to the future at one dual mission
7 base, three single mission bases. The result,
8 lost savings, lost efficiencies and certainly a
9 greatly reduced return on investment for the
10 closure for realignment dollars spent.

11 There is a compelling alternative to
12 this proposal. You have the jurisdiction and
13 the authority to look instead at the other two
14 Minuteman-3 bases in the northern tier. The
15 alternative would either realign the Minuteman-3
16 Field at Warren or clearing away for closure
17 outside of this background or closing
18 Malmstrom. The resulting savings would be
19 significant. Hundreds of millions of dollars
20 perhaps even over a billion dollars over the
21 next 20 years while completely fulfilling the
22 four structure requirements of the Air Force.

23 Finally, we have told you about how
24 much the bases mean to us as part of the North
25 Dakota community. That is demonstrated I think

1 very convincingly by the hundreds of people from
2 Minot that would spend six hours on the bus
3 today so that they could attend the hearing
4 tonight and the outpouring of the support we've
5 seen from Grand Forks. These communities take
6 very seriously their responsibility the quality
7 hopes for the U.S. Air Force and Air Force
8 personnel benefit greatly from our supportive
9 communities, quality schools, safe neighborhoods
10 and excellent higher education opportunities.
11 But in return as John Marshall so well put, we
12 benefit tremendously ourselves from the
13 thousands of men and women that have become part
14 of our communities, many staying after their
15 tour of service and being a permanent part of
16 our community once their service in the military
17 is completed.

18 All of us here tonight are North
19 Dakotans and we're very proud of it, but first
20 and foremost we are all Americans, and we want
21 what's best for our county. That is why each of
22 us here is very, very grateful to you the people
23 as talented and committed as you will help our
24 country sort out the excruciatingly difficult
25 decision that are before us in this closure and

1 realignment round. On behalf of the great
2 people of this great state I thank you for your
3 service and wish you the very best in your work
4 ahead. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Congressman
6 Pomeroy, thank you very much for your wrap up
7 and I only hope, Mr. Christianson, that our
8 vision is as clear and our analysis is as crisp
9 as yours as we go through this process.

10 It clearly (applause) -- I was not
11 terribly concerned about the duties I was going
12 to have but I'm absolutely petrified now after
13 seeing some of these things you've presented.
14 It's not going to be an easy job and I recognize
15 that.

16 We're now ready to begin a period
17 set aside for public comment. Our intent is try
18 to ensure that all the opinions on the
19 recommendations of the secretary affect this
20 community are heard. So those individuals that
21 have signed up I would ask them to come down
22 front, the microphone is down there by the
23 cameras and we'll have one of the staff members
24 assist you in the process.

25 We've assigned 15 minutes for this

1 comment. We asked that a person wishing to
2 speak sign up before the hearing began and I've
3 asked them again to limit their comments to one
4 minute. I love being in North Dakota,
5 everybody's very punctual up here and we'll keep
6 track of the time as usual. Of course, written
7 comment or testimony of any length is welcomed
8 by the Commission at any time during the
9 process. But tonight is one minute long. So
10 for those of you that have signed up for
11 comment, would you please raise your right hand
12 and I will administer the oath.

13 (All witnesses were sworn in by
14 Commissioner Davis.)

15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Wade, will you
16 start the process, please.

17 MS. SHIDE: Welcome Commissioners.
18 I am Mary Joe Shide from Larimore, North Dakota,
19 a town of 1,400 people, 30 miles west of Grand
20 Forks. Because we consider people precious and
21 quality of life essential military personnel are
22 welcome, become part of the community and soon
23 begin to brag as we do to the point that many of
24 our air base families choose to remain or return
25 to Grand Forks to live. We offer small town

1 worth, urban vitality, opportunity for lifelong
2 learning and most of all quality of life.

3 You heard our Mayor say that Money
4 Magazine ranked Grand Forks at the eighth best
5 place to live in the country. No city ahead of
6 us has an active duty military installation
7 making Grand Forks the highest ranking city in
8 the United States with an active duty military
9 installation as part of it's community. If your
10 people are happy, they have opportunities to
11 learn and serve in leadership positions as part
12 of their neighborhoods you have a better
13 military force. The location of Grand Forks Air
14 Force Base gives you that on a platter.

15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you,
16 ma'am.

17 MR. LAFFEN: Welcome Commissioners.
18 My name is Lonnie Laffen, I live in Grand
19 Forks. I would like to speak about
20 transportation. While military installation
21 ranking perceived that transportation is a short
22 coming, we believe otherwise. Grand Forks
23 became a place because it was a transportation
24 cross service. While our river boats are now
25 used for entertainment we are still a major

1 regional transportation outlet. Grand Forks is
2 located directly on a interstate highway just
3 south of the fourth busiest commercial port of
4 entry between Canada and the United States.
5 Grand Forks is located on the largest north
6 south trade quarter between the Great Lakes and
7 the California coast. Our international Air
8 Force is a U.S. Customs port of entry and do
9 excel in the jet and commuter service. We are a
10 railroad division point and have Amtrak
11 passenger service. The Federal Express
12 Corporation shows Grand Forks as it's regional
13 hub for all air and cargo distribution in North
14 Dakota and a major portion of Minnesota. How
15 good is our transportation system when Money
16 Magazine selected Grand Forks as the eighth best
17 place to live in the United States, they ranked
18 us number one in the nation in transportation.
19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
21 much.

22 MR. LARSON: Good evening,
23 Commissioners. I am Richard Larson, the
24 superintendent of the Minot Public Schools. We
25 pride ourselves with providing quality education

1 services to students and parents on the Minot
2 Air Force Base. We recently completed focus
3 groups in the process of gathering information
4 for our school districts strategic plan and our
5 group from the base made some comments that were
6 very positive in nature when we asked them about
7 what they saw were the strengths of our school.
8 They responded: High standards in performance
9 and high test scores. In fact, our middle
10 school test scores are the highest in our
11 region. Excellent discipline and behavior, best
12 of any air base where we have been stationed.
13 Special services for handicapped students are
14 outstanding. A high level of parent involvement
15 in that their children's education and a great
16 deal of time, effort and resources placed in
17 technology with very low ratio of computers to
18 students and staff. In fact, better than in the
19 Minot city school districts themselves. Thank
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
22 much.

23 MR. GERSHMAN: Hello, my name is Hal
24 Gershman. I'm a Grand Forks businessman.
25 Welcome Commissioners and distinguished guests

1 to Grand Forks, North Dakota. Home of the North
2 Dakota Ballet Company, the North Dakota Museum
3 of Art, the Grand Forks Symphony, numerous other
4 arts groups and galleries and the Chester Fritz,
5 as you heard the finest auditorium in-between
6 Minneapolis and Seattle. If you hear it one
7 more time, you can just put your hand up. Here
8 we enjoy everything from county western stars to
9 the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Broadway road shows
10 to high quality local productions, uniting the
11 local and the visiting talent in many ways.
12 We're proud that the arts flourish here in part
13 because of the warm participation of our friends
14 at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. They're part
15 of the estimated attendance of 250,000 who every
16 year enjoy the arts of Grand Forks, North
17 Dakota. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
19 much.

20 MR. LUKENS: I'm Fred Lukens, a 23
21 year resident of Grand Forks and yes, I used to
22 be a jock. I have a comment on the exceptional
23 recreational opportunities Grand Forks offers.
24 For college sports we are the only Division I
25 athletic program in North Dakota with our hockey

1 team. UND football, men's and women's
2 basketball are annually ranked among the top
3 Division II teams in the nation. We offer the
4 best gymnastics facility in North Dakota and
5 exceptionally for our tennis facility. The
6 largest youth baseball and softball complex in
7 the state. And the only indoor Olympic size
8 swimming pool west of the Mississippi.

9 Grand Forks has over 2,000 summer
10 participants in men's and women's softball.
11 There's seven golf courses within 20 miles of
12 the area. Hunting and fishing opportunities
13 abound. Grand Forks offers great winter
14 recreational opportunities with cross county
15 skiing, snowmobiling, indoor and outdoor ice
16 skating. Beginning tomorrow Air Force Base
17 Basketball teams will join 250 teams in the
18 annual Grand-Am Basketball Tournaments. For
19 youth and adults, spectators and participants,
20 Grand Forks offers outstanding recreational
21 activities.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
23 much.

24 MR. MITTELSTEADT: My name is Rod
25 Mittelsteadt and as chairman of the Grand Forks

1 School Board I would like to say a few words
2 from the perspective of elementary and secondary
3 education. North Dakota students continually
4 rank at or near the top in math and reading.
5 Our dropout rate is the lowest in the nation and
6 the percent of North Dakota high school
7 graduates going on to higher education is among
8 the highest in the nation. Of the 9,800
9 students in the Grand Forks District over 1,800
10 are children of Grand Forks Air Force Base
11 personnel. These students enjoy the following:
12 A wealth of technology in the classroom,
13 excellent facilities, a highly qualified
14 instructional staff, 60 percent of them have
15 advanced degrees. But our schools in our
16 community have in turn benefited from the rich
17 diversity of culture, language and experience of
18 citizens and students of the base have shared
19 with us.

20 So as you consider the issue before
21 you and ponder the military preparedness and
22 economic factors, please consider also the
23 educational well being of our military neighbors
24 and their children. We are confident you will
25 find that the continued presence of Grand Forks

1 Air Force Base in it's current mission will best
2 serve your interest of all. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
4 much.

5 MR. MOLMEN: Good evening
6 Commissioners and thank you for being with us,
7 thank you for spending this day with us, thank
8 you on behalf of all North Dakotans for the
9 work. My name is David Molmen, I'm Chief
10 Operating Officer of United Hospital in Grand
11 Forks, North Dakota and I'm here to speak to one
12 of those reasons why Grand Forks is so highly
13 ranked among the communities and it's excellent
14 health care. We have a very unique health care
15 system here that's worked long in partnership
16 with excellent health care professionals and
17 facilities at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.
18 We're a community that has nearly 3,000 men and
19 women serving the health care of perhaps one of
20 the finest single campus medical facilities in
21 the entire upper region of the United States and
22 indeed many of those military people have
23 dependents who are our employees so we provide
24 excellent employment opportunities at this
25 place. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
2 much.

3 MR. CARLSON: Commissioners, my name
4 is Bruce Carlson, I'm a member of the Minot Task
5 Force '96 and also manager of Verendry Electric
6 Cooperative. We have the privilege of serving
7 the electrical needs of the Minot Air Force Base
8 and a good share of the Minot Air Force Base
9 facility. I want you to know it's not just a
10 commercial relationship but we consider them our
11 friends and our neighbors. We're also very glad
12 to have the peace keepers, armed personnel
13 carriers stopping at our convenience stores.
14 RAC serves farmers too and that's beside Air
15 Force urban notes. We have an excellent
16 relationship between the base missile
17 communication personnel and North Dakota's
18 farmers. They have mutual respect for the
19 farmers crops and mutual respect for the upgrade
20 of critical underground military communication
21 systems.

22 I moved to the Minot area last
23 summer, Commissioners, I've been well received
24 by the Minot area and by the military. It's a
25 great community, very warm and it extends a

1 welcome to newcomers, military and civilian
2 alike. It's really commended to be greeted in a
3 friendly way from a military vehicle as we pass
4 on those country roads that we share as home. I
5 came to Minot last summer from a North Dakota
6 sister cooperative and that served part of the
7 Grand Forks missile wing. I know that all the
8 nonprofit rural electric cooperatives in North
9 Dakota serving military facilities do a lot of
10 pride. Our military accounts are treated with
11 great respect and with special attention to
12 service liability.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
14 much, sir. Before I get in trouble your time
15 has expired. Thank you.

16 MR. VENACCIO: Good evening,
17 Commissioners. My name is Michael G. Venaccio,
18 and I retired from Grand Forks Air Force Base in
19 1989 and it's a pleasure to have such high
20 ranking generals listening to what retired
21 majors have to say; and I'd like to say at the
22 outset that I'm one of the growing number of
23 military personnel elected to stay here once
24 their tour of duty is over. We stay here
25 primarily because of the friendships and

1 relationships that were formed while in active
2 duty. But more than that we like it here
3 because of the quality of life, jobs and
4 education, security. In short, everything
5 you've heard tonight and I'd like to reiterate
6 for you. But more than that it's the acceptance
7 that the community both at Grand Forks and Minot
8 have shown to be active and especially to
9 retired military personnel and their families
10 and that made it very easy to make a decision
11 for retirement. Basically community acceptance
12 and the inclusion in community activities
13 intangible and that adds significantly to the
14 attitude of service personnel during an
15 assignment. And these attitudes, as you know,
16 directly translate to their duty effectiveness
17 and their ability to do their job. The sense of
18 community of Grand Forks Air Force Base is the
19 strongest of any installation they have been
20 assigned to and this enhances the effectiveness
21 of all of those assigned here. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
23 much. I didn't get where I was without
24 listening to majors so I paid a lot of
25 attention.

1 MR. SHMRAU: Good evening. My name
2 is Mark Larson and I was born and raised in
3 Minot and Minot Air Force Base was one of our
4 dependents. To borrow a line from our old
5 friend Forest Gump, you know the BRAC is like a
6 box of chocolates you just never know what
7 you're going to get." I don't what we're going
8 to get but I know what have. We have special
9 events for special people under special
10 circumstances. We annually have a Rough Rider
11 Auction where I was donated from downtown
12 Minot. People in businesses are auctioned at
13 Minot Air Force Base proposing dedicated missile
14 and bomb competition teams who represent that
15 air force base. This past year we raised
16 \$18,000. This year we have the Seventh Annual
17 Military Ball where people from Minot, Minot Air
18 Force Base and civilians from Canada come
19 together for a fun, festive and formal evening.
20 We annually have the North Dakota State Fair in
21 Minot. Here we have a day dedicated to military
22 personnel who are given special consideration
23 when presenting their military I.D. Indeed we do
24 have special events for special people under
25 special circumstances.

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
2 much.

3 MR. AAS: Commissioners, welcome to
4 North Dakota my name is Lynn Aas, I'm a retired
5 citizen in Minot. I'd like to say that I'm the
6 self-appointed representative of the many
7 farmers on which the Minuteman Missiles in North
8 Dakota and around Minot sit. My father was a
9 homesteader in 1906 about 40 miles southeast of
10 Minot on the land which he homesteaded he broke
11 richer sod with three oxen where now a missile
12 man is poised for whenever action is necessary.
13 We have been happy to have those missiles on our
14 property and I know the people of North Dakota
15 and western North Dakota have been pleased to
16 have them with you us as well. The missiles and
17 the missile crews have been good neighbors. We
18 like to think that we have been good neighbors
19 and we can continue to do so in the future. We
20 are proud of having them and we're happy to
21 welcome them and keep them. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
23 much.

24 MR. LARSON: Commissioners, I am
25 Mark Larson. I chair the Minot area Chamber of

1 Commerce. I want to just briefly remind the
2 Commissioners of the many events that we sponsor
3 with our military friends. Our Military Affairs
4 Committee meets monthly with people from the
5 base to discuss defense issues and to further
6 our relationships with the base. Our citizens
7 and our businesses sponsor quarterly awards
8 events in which outstanding enlisted and company
9 grade officers receive awards for their to gifts
10 from the business people. Twice a year a golf
11 tournament is held at the Minot Country Club and
12 then later on we host it at the Minot Air Force
13 Base and also we host the wild game feed. This
14 year was the 30th year of that game feed and
15 some of the people on that game feed have worked
16 every year at it for 30 years. The civilians
17 purchase the tickets for both the golf
18 tournament and the game feed and sponsor a
19 military guest at those events. In addition we
20 have an honorary commanders program in which
21 citizens are allowed to work with military
22 members and learn more about the base and help
23 the military learn more about our community. I
24 thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very

1 much.

2 MR. REDLIN: Friends, this evening
3 Minot is proud to be a part of the military
4 posture of the nation. We are concerned and
5 interested that a huge part of military
6 personnel and their families live in our
7 community and we believe that they have made
8 valuable contributions. We have welcomed them
9 to schools, churches, cultural affairs and
10 recreational affairs. Community theater has
11 enjoyed their talents. It's a personal pleasure
12 to host them to games and theater in North
13 Dakota Western Rodeo.

14 As the state senator, laws for
15 hunting and fishing for our Air Base families
16 have been important to us and we are glad that
17 many of the military choose Minot as home.
18 Minot is a team with our air base people to
19 develop and enjoy their full human potential on
20 a sound basis of any operation that we and we
21 want to continue. We welcome them with open
22 arms and we know that the military will receive
23 the recognition in our community that they
24 deserve.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very

1 much.

2 MS. WATNE: Commissioners, thank
3 you. I'm Darlene Watne from Minot a senator
4 from the Fifth District. Thank you so much for
5 taking the time to be here.

6 I too am a granddaughter of
7 homesteaders. I remember when the base came to
8 Minot and not everyone was for it. Now we are.
9 We've grown to love these people. We served on
10 boards with them. Our children have gone to
11 school with them. My Christmas card list is
12 long from the friends who have left. This is
13 where the hearty survive. As a Realtor we sell
14 houses to these people. Many of them are first
15 time home buyers with affordable housing and the
16 best part of it many of them stay and retire.
17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very
19 much.

20 I'd like to close these proceedings
21 by a couple things. One, as you know and I
22 don't want to preach the choir, but there are
23 eight criteria that everything is measured on
24 and we'll have to pay attention by law to that.
25 We'll also have to find that there's a

1 significant deviation from what the Department
2 of Defense submitted to it's National Defense
3 Plan.

4 Secondary, I'd like to on behalf of
5 my colleagues -- and clearly all the
6 Commissioners are not here -- to thank you very
7 much for your great hospitality of North Dakota
8 both in Minot and Grand Forks and all the
9 assistance of not only the military, the
10 military families, but the folks that assisted
11 us in seeing and hearing things both here and at
12 Minot.

13 I would like to also thank the
14 witnesses tonight for their very thoughtful
15 testimony. It was well thought out, it was well
16 put together and like I said, if we didn't ask
17 questions, it's because you provided a lot of
18 answers. You've given us a great deal of
19 valuable information tonight which we'll share
20 with on your other Commissioners but more
21 importantly we'll put our research and analysis
22 staff to work on trying to find some answers.

23 Let me say that all of us here today
24 are very impressed with the way that the state
25 and the two communities of Minot and Grand Forks

1 have handled a very, very difficult situation.
2 Instead of letting the process divide your state
3 and your communities, you have approached the
4 process in a spirit of cooperation and
5 professionalism (applause). That cooperation
6 and professionalism reflects a great deal of
7 credit on your elected officials who have fully
8 supported us here tonight, your community
9 leaders and each one of you that made the trip
10 here tonight. I recognize we're not as good as
11 the Pulitzer Prize but we're at least as
12 interesting.

13 Again I would like to personally
14 being a -- I don't ever want to say a former
15 military man, I am a military man I just happen
16 to be retired right now but for your tremendous
17 support of our families that have been
18 transients in some cases and became community
19 members in other cases, your patriotism is
20 clearly as strong as theirs and so I
21 congratulate you for it. You have a very strong
22 community leadership, you have a very strong
23 congressional delegation and you have a very
24 strong government. So my congratulations to the
25 entire great state of North Dakota. Thank you

1 very much for your courtesies. We appreciate
2 your attention and all your testimony.

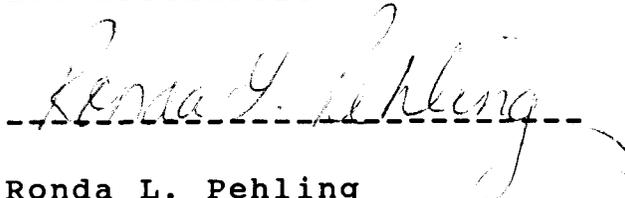
3 These hearings are closed.

4 (These proceedings were concluded at
5 9:30 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1
2 I, Ronda L. Pehling, a general shorthand
3 reporter, 123 1/2 Broadway Fargo, North Dakota,
4 do hereby certify that the foregoing eighty-four
5 (84) pages of typewritten material constitute a
6 full, true and correct transcript of my original
7 stenotype notes, as they purport to contain, of
8 the transcript of proceedings reported by me at
9 the time and place hereinbefore mentioned.

10
11 -----

12 Ronda L. Pehling
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14 P.O. Box 3165
15 Fargo, North Dakota 58108

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18 Dated this 30th day of March, 1994.
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