REGIONAL HEARING ISSUE SUMMARY

GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA
HECTOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR GUARD STATION, NORTH DAKOTA
DULTH INTERNATIONAL AIR GUARD STATION, MINNESOTA

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA / 23 JUNE 2005

MAJOR ISSUES

1. Grand Forks AFB and Hector Field embrace UAV mission
   - Provide opportunities to capitalize on active and ANG personnel and expertise
   - Grand Forks wants UAV and tanker mission; Hector requests UAV and/or fighter mission
   - Great airspace for UAV operations
   - Grand Forks had highest UAV MCI in northern region

2. North Dakota offers vast areas of unencroached land and airspace
   - Low density of commercial air tracks
   - Active partnership with surrounding communities/airport authorities

3. Realigning Grand Forks, Hector and Duluth reduces strategic presence in Northern tier

4. Removing flying mission from Hector and Duluth are detrimental
   - Reduce governor's Title 32 forces an ability to provide state services
     -- Need Air Force assets for homeland defense/security and emergency response
   - Hurts recruiting and retention
   - Personnel will likely separate or retire from ANG versus moving
   - Northern borders need protection
     -- Negative homeland security implications
   - Desire BRAC remove "no flying mission backfill" words in Hector recommendation
   - Potentially devastating economic impacts

5. Local communities provide:
   - Opportunities for research/synergy with University of North Dakota UAV work
   - Skilled workforce, with strong ANG recruiting/retention statistics
   - Outstanding quality of life

6. Deviations in BRAC process/MCI scoring:
   - Governors/TAGs were not consulted
   - Some scores were improperly tallied and/or weighted
   - ANG units "punished" for their small, efficient, "right size" relative to active units
   - Favors units in Southern United States.
   - Many changes were programmatic in nature, and should not be included in BRAC

Library Routing Slip 2005 BRAC Commission Materials
Title of Item: REGIONAL HEARING ISSUE SUMMARY
Installation or Community: GRAND FORKS AFB, ND; HECTOR AES, ND; DULUTH AES, MN
Source: BRAC COMMISSION STAFF
Certified Material? _____ yes X no
Analyst / Provider: Tim MCGREGOR Date Received: _____

- Mayor Michael Brown, Grand Forks, ND: *"Welcome to the Grand Cities"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): The men and women of Grand Forks AFB are family to the community and people of Grand Forks.

- Senator Kent Conrad, North Dakota: *"Why Grand Forks? We Embrace the UAV Mission"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): Just two years ago the Air Force selected Grand Forks to be the first base in the country to receive a full complement of the new tankers—what changed? Grand Forks was the right choice for tankers then, and now.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks): Air Force analysis showed Grand Forks Air Force Base had the highest military value of any Northern tier base for the important and growing UAV mission.

– Issue #3 (Grand Forks): Our airspace is completely uncongested. We have absolutely no ground encroachment. Grand Forks Air Force Base is surrounded by open farmland. It is ready to expand, to take new missions.

– Issue #4 (Grand Forks): There is a strategic requirement for Northern tier bases.

– Issue #5 (Grand Forks): Homeland security depends on Grand Forks.

– Issue #6 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks Air Force Base offers the opportunity for joint operations with the foremost Air Guard unit in the country, the Happy Hooligans of Fargo, North Dakota.

– Issue #7 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks has outstanding facilities. We have invested over $327 million in infrastructure over the past decade.

– Issue #8 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks is an ideal location for overseas deployments. The BRAC analysis shortchanges Grand Forks. Almost 40 percent of the score for tanker bases is made up of just one factor, distance to associated airspace, but as you heard yesterday, that has very little relevance to the operations of Grand Forks Air Force Base. As the base commander told you yesterday, 80 percent of their operations are not attached to associated airspace.

– Issue #9 (Grand Forks): The performance of the men and women of Grand Forks Air Force Base has been exceptional by any measure.

– Issue #10 (Grand Forks): The University of North Dakota School of Aerospace offers a force multiplier. UND offers unique opportunities to focus on the UAV efforts for the Air Force and other services.

– Issue #11 (Hector): Let us bring our record of excellence to the new UAV mission, and don't foreclose future opportunities for a flying mission.

– Issue #12 (Hector): Let us bring our record of excellence to the new UAV mission, and don't foreclose future opportunities for a flying mission. Fargo produces exceptionally high military value for the United States Air Force. It has much more modern facilities than most Guard installations. Fargo has access to the least crowded airspace in the United States, and the community offers great recruiting and outstanding support. These assets have generated an outstanding performance record.

– Issue #13 (Hector): The plan sent to this Commission by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force is to put a squadron of 12 Predators on the ground in Grand Forks with a combined Guard/active-duty launch team. Those aircraft would be flown from Fargo and the intelligence from those aircraft will be analyzed at Fargo. We see the future and we embrace it. We have no doubt that the Fargo Air Guard will set the standard for excellence in UAV operations.

– Issue #14 (Hector): You've also heard that the Fargo Air Guard and the Fargo community enthusiastically embrace the concept of joint operations. Fargo stands ready to support other associate relationships with Grand Forks, in UAVs or in tankers, and Fargo's UAV potential is outstanding. We have also a tremendous potential to help with homeland security.

– Issue #15 (Hector): We think they also need to maintain a flying mission in Fargo. You have also heard today that we totally disagree with the BRAC analysis that Hector ranked low in military value. How can we rank low in military value when we have the best performers in the Hooligans? How can that be?

– Issue #16 (Hector): We think this analysis just misses the mark. To sum up, first the BRAC analysis did not capture the runway just built at Hector Field. Second, Fargo rated low on military value because it did not have millions of square yards of ramp space, but you don't need millions of square yards of ramp space for a Guard unit. Third, Fargo scored low on access to ranges and training airspace. We've got, we've got the most open airspace in the United States. The Air Force analysis focused on more ranges, not better ranges.

– Issue #17 (Hector): With all of Fargo's advantages and the flaws in the military value analysis, we urge the Commission to remove the language in the BRAC justification singling out Fargo for "no flying mission backfill." It is unnecessary, it is inappropriate, and it is counterproductive. The lack of a flying mission in Fargo will hurt recruitment. It further exacerbates the gap created along the northern border by the departure of so many air bases.

– Issue #18 (Hector): The Vice President of the United States said this: "I want to express our nation's gratitude to the Air Guard's 119th Fighter Wing, whose F-16s defended the skies over Washington that morning. In a time of great peril and uncertainty, you were America's first line of defense and we'll never forget it."

- Senator Byron Dorgan, North Dakota: *"(Grand Forks) Quality of Grand Forks Air Force Base - Excellent and Underrated"* and *"(Hector Field) The proud tradition of the Happy Hooligans"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): The bases you keep open in this round are the only ones we will have two decades from now, and the bases you close or reduce in this round will not be available for the future, so this is very important. The fact is North Dakota is exactly the kind of place where we are going to have to have our bases located two decades from now.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks/Hector): The bases in North Dakota are near cities that are large enough to provide a good sense of community, but otherwise the upper great plains has some of the lowest population densities and there are simply no encroachment issues here at all.

– Issue #3 (Grand Forks/Hector): North Dakota has about the cleanest air in the country; air quality attainment is not a problem for our region, and it won't be 20 years from now.

– Issue #4 (Grand Forks/Hector): Grand Forks and Fargo are located in a region of our country with a very low density of commercial air tracks.

– Issue #5 (Grand Forks/Hector): The Air Force's methodology for scoring just didn't give much credit to the kinds of characteristics that make North Dakota's bases exceptional.

– Issue #6 (Hector): On the morning of September 11th, 2001, I stood on the lawn of the United States Capitol and, shocked by the terrorist attacks against our country that morning, I looked up into the bright blue morning sky to see the F-16s of the Happy Hooligans flying Air Force cover over our nation's capitol.

– Issue #7 (Hector): Many of the Happy Hooligans are folks who farm, they run drugstores, they teach school, they do all kinds of things in their community, but they're also members of an Air Guard unit that maintains and flies the F-16 jet fighter planes. More than that, they rank with the best fighter pilots in the world.

– Issue #8 (Hector): The 119th Fighter Wing won three William Tell competitions and two Hughes Trophies. The USA Today newspaper has called the Happy Hooligans the godfather of air superiority.

– Issue #9 (Hector): The Happy Hooligans also have an unmatched safety record. Since 1973 they've flown 140,000 hours without a single major accident. That is the longest continuous period of safe fighter aircraft operations for any Air National Guard unit, and one of the best safety records in the entire history of the Air Force.

– Issue #10(Hector): I hope that you will change the recommendation and allow the option open for the Air Force to put a manned flying mission into Fargo. This is a 20-year plan. I don't think anyone would seriously want to prohibit our best pilots from having airplanes for two decades. That prohibition must be changed, and I hope you will do that.

– Issue #11 (Hector): As for the UAV mission, finally you should know that the Hooligans are anxious to perform that mission with the same enthusiasm, the same professionalism as they have always exhibited in performing every mission.

• Congressman Earl Pomeroy, North Dakota (At Large): *"(Grand Forks) Enhancing the UAV Mission through Retaining Tankers"* and *"(Hector Field) The Air Force's military value assessment of Hector Field does not reflect its true value"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): There's a new mission for Grand Forks, the unmanned aerial vehicles. As described by General Stephen Wood of the Air Force Plans and Programs, the Air Force is moving rapidly to build UAV capacity and has determined that Grand Forks Air Force Base has the highest military value for the housing of this mission along the Northern tier.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks has no encroachment on the ground and abundant restricted airspace.

– Issue #3 (Grand Forks/Hector): Grand Forks is next door to an outstanding Air National Guard unit and adjacent to the largest University-based aerospace and pilot training facility in the country.

– Issue #4 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks provides strategic presence in the northern United States for both the tanker and UAV mission. UAV technology will aid border surveillance, providing meaningful benefits for both the Department of Defense and homeland security.

– Issue #5 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks has best supported the U.S. military's need for global reach by maintaining the highest operations tempo of any core tanker base.

– Issue #6 (Grand Forks): The realignment recommendation does not accurately reflect Grand Forks' role as the key refueling base in the nation.

– Issue #7 (Grand Forks): Almost 40 percent of the U.S. Air Force rating for tanker bases consisted of distance to associated airspace, but that airspace was overwhelmingly domestic training refueling tracks. Such a measurement skews against a base like Grand Forks. The problem with that measurement is that it doesn't reflect reality. Most refueling missions are overseas, not in domestic airspace.

– Issue #8 (Grand Forks): The UAV mission requires the very same capacities that presently support the force squadron of KC-135 tankers. The new runway, high def system, presence of crews and support personnel, the housing, the fitness center, and many other aspects of base operations will serve the UAV mission while offering capacity for additional missions at maximum savings and operational efficiencies.

– Issue #9 (Grand Forks/Hector): Crew augmentation from the Air National Guard means additional efficiencies, and only 80 miles from this Air Force base is our outstanding guard unit [Hector Field].

– Issue #10 (Grand Forks): Retention of a tanker mission fully preserves assets that exist at the base for use in technologies and missions that are coming in the years ahead.

– Issue #11 (Hector): BRAC evaluations are full of matrices and models to aid in digesting the infinite data points relevant to evaluating force structure, but in the final analysis, it's unit performance, the actual records sustained over many years of service, that's most revealing of unit importance and capacity for further contributions.

– Issue #12 (Hector): Since 1990 the Happy Hooligans have flown more than 65,000 hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident. That achievement, combined with accident-free flying in the F-4 and F-101 fighter aircraft, is the longest continuous period of safe and effective aircraft operations of any Air National Guard fighter unit.

– Issue #13 (Hector): This base is located smack in the middle of a recruitment gold mine. The performance record of the Happy Hooligans is a direct result of a culture of excellence built upon the recruitment pool of the Fargo area. This means as long as they have missions to perform, they'll continue to excel for the Air Force and for us all.

– Issue #14 (Hector): Hector has some of the best facilities in the Air Guard due to the $16.5 million in infrastructure improvements since 1999, which makes it an attractive base for future flying missions. And Hector Airport does not face the encroachment and environmental problems hurting missions of other Air Guard missions around the country.

– Issue #15 (Hector): However, a future flying mission for the North Dakota Air National Guard should not be precluded as part of this background. No other Air National Guard facility is hit with the broad restrictions that Fargo receives in the Department's recommendations. That language precludes other flying options when the F-16s presently being flown are retired. Now it is an unnecessary infringement on Air Force planning options. This language should be removed. I strongly believe that the Air Force should have the same operational flexibility for future planning for the Fargo installation that it has for all other Air National Guard bas

– Issue #16 (Hector): The Air National Guard should continue to possess a flying mission to train pilots, develop their skills with the intention of growing future UAV pilots and crews that do their current work.

– Issue #17 (Hector): Future flying mission and UAV possibilities need not, they should not be foreclosed as part of BRAC. They're best left in the future programmatic options available to Air Force leadership.

• Governor John Hoeven, North Dakota: *"(Grand Forks) The State Strongly Supports the Military and is Ready to Receive New Missions"* and *"(Hector Field) Overview: The North Dakota Air National Guard embraces the UAV mission, stands ready to support other 'Emerging Missions' or tankers, and seeks removal of the no flying mission backfill clause"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks Air Force Base and the airmen assigned are not just tenants to the citizens and elected officials of North Dakota. We are partners at every corner and

we work together to support national and local defense issues.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks/Hector): We're currently working on the creation of a Joint National Training Center in North Dakota. This air and land space initiative has been extensively briefed and has the strong support of not only North Dakota but also at the highest levels of the Air Force. This concept would transform the entire state, some 70,000 square miles, into the largest air and special forces training area in the entire world.

– Issue #3: Veteran's bonus legislation passed this year appropriated $5 million of state funds to provide every active duty, National Guard and Reserve North Dakota resident veteran with $100 for every month of deployment in the theatre of military operations.

– Issue #4 (Grand Forks/Hector): Of all Northern tier bases, Grand Forks offers the greatest potential for cooperation between active duty and National Guard forces.

– Issue #5 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks Air Force Base also offers the military access to the premier aerospace facility in the country, the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota.

– Issue #6 (Grand Forks/Hector): Grand Forks is absolutely the right location for the UAV mission to support homeland security. The Grand Forks Border Patrol Station has responsibility for over 900 miles of border from the Great Lakes through most of Montana, the longest border section on the Northern tier. The National Guard, in cooperation with the Air Force, the Border Patrol and law enforcement, will prevent problems with Posse Comitatus and secure the northern border to keep our nation safe.

– Issue #7 (Grand Forks): The military value analysis was flawed. It doesn't give proper weight to significant sections of the eight specified BRAC criteria.

– Issue #8 (Grand Forks): To eliminate all of the tankers as recommended would create a vacuum in the entire north central part of the country.

– Issue #9 (Hector): North Dakota has the highest per-capita military background of any state.

– Issue #10 (Grand Forks/Hector): We believe that the Department of Defense recommendation to leave open both Hector and the Grand Forks Air Force Base was a correct decision based on military value, but we also believe the military value analysis for both installations was flawed. It doesn't give proper weight to significant sections of the eight specified BRAC criteria.

– Issue #11 (Hector): We request that you remove Hector from the realignment list. The retirement of the F-16s was a programmatic change already in place. The Block 15 A Model F-16s at Hector are going away regardless of the BRAC process. The justification presented, that Hector ranked low in military value and that the aircraft should retire "without a flying mission backfill" has already proven incorrect with the designation of a UAV squadron. The language

"without a flying mission backfill" at a minimum must be removed from the report because it creates the inference that a flying mission at Hector may be prohibited by BRAC.

– Issue #12 (Hector): We welcome the unmanned aerial vehicle, UAV, mission to North Dakota.

– Issue #13 (Hector): North Dakota offers an opportunity unique among all 50 states for both ground and airspace training and capacity. We offer the diversity of terrain, the largest available airspace in the nation, diversity of climate, and the strong support of our citizens.

– Issue #14 (Hector): The combination of both Title 32 and Title 10 airmen provides the state and nation with greater flexibility to meet our immediate needs. As Commander in Chief of our National Guard, I have very specific concerns with how the Air Guard concerns are being addressed through BRAC.

– Issue #15 (Hector): On September 11th, 2001, the Hooligans were providing air security over the Pentagon in our nation's capitol, and at the same time, when the airport simultaneously needed security in our state, within five hours we had Air Guard personnel in place providing security to those airports.

– Issue #16 (Hector): As a centrally located border state, North Dakota has very particular needs in the area of homeland defense, which is the primary stated goal of the national defense plan.

– Issue #17 (Hector): To meet the homeland security needs of our state, we must have a flying mission. That flying mission will also support and enhance the UAV mission.

– Issue #18 (Hector): The current Air Force plan to eliminate flying missions totally in some states is shortsighted at best and does not follow the required eight BRAC criteria.

– Issue #19 (Hector): Recruiting and retention has to be a primary concern. North Dakota is one of the few states that is meeting its National Guard recruiting and retention goals. The very first BRAC principle is to "recruit and train.

– Issue #20 (Hector): The School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks will be an outstanding partner with the Air Force and the Air National Guard in the development of a UAV Center of Excellence.

– Issue #21 (Hector): We not only need that flying mission in its direct capacity for the transportation asset that it provides, but it also brings other specialties here that we need to recruit and retain in the Air Guard.

– Issue #22 (Hector): The adjutant generals from throughout the country and their association got together, took the formal position that every state must have at least one flying mission in the Guard. Some states have multiple flying missions. If the flying mission is removed from Fargo, we have no flying mission in the Guard. Every state should have at least one flying mission to meet these homeland security needs. That's the position of all the adjutant

generals nationally, strongly supported by the Guard, certainly strongly supported by the nation's governors.

- General Ronald Fogleman, USAF (Retired): *"The Air Force's Plan for Grand Forks"*

  – Issue #1 (Grand Forks): I was the individual responsible for implementing the core tanker base concept. Grand Forks Air Force Base was selected then as one of those core tanker bases, it remains that today, and it should be in the future.

  – Issue #2 (Grand Forks/Hector): In order for a military installation to be a player in a Future Total Force concept, it's got to have in its proximity a trained Guard or Reserve cadre of personnel. We have that here at Grand Forks with the operations down at Hector.

  – Issue #3 (Grand Forks/Hector): The plan for Grand Forks and for Hector is the following. Initially there will be one squadron of Predators, they are designated MQ-1s, and then the follow-on, which is the so-called Predator B, which is an MQ-9. One squadron of 12 of these vehicles will be here. The other weapon system that will be stationed here will be the RQ-4 Global Hawk

  – Issue #4 (Grand Forks/Hector): Currently in peacetime we cannot afford to have sufficient numbers of active duty crew members to fully utilize the aircraft that we have, and therefore crew augmentation is a big part of the future plan

  – Issue #5 (Grand Forks): The advantages of geographical location cannot be overstated whether you're talking about tankers or particularly when you start to talk about UAV operations.

  – Issue #6 (Grand Forks/Hector): One of the things we need to remember about UAVs is that these operations are not compatible with commercial airport operations or international airports. You saw the beautiful lack of encroachment out at Grand Forks, and you will see and hear from a very qualified group of guardsmen [Hector Field] who will be able to take on the command-and-control portion of this mission as we go down the road.

  – Issue #7 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks Air Force Base is vital to the United States Air Force in this country.

- Mayor Lynn Stauss, East Grand Forks, Minnesota: *"The Grand Cities are a Great Place for the Air Force"*

  – Issue #1 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks Air Force Base has enormous impact on not only North Dakota but also much of northwestern Minnesota.

  – Issue #2 (Grand Forks): There is very little commercial air traffic and no encroachment with land surrounding the base. The open skies and the land offer unlimited possibilities for

expansion for Air Force missions.

– Issue #3: Quality of life benefits: The cost of living is low and there are no traffic jams. The crime rate is low, and health care services are tremendous. The schools are second to none. There are many recreational opportunities.

– Issue #4 (Grand Forks): Grand Forks Air Force Base and the surrounding communities have worked together to win the Abilene Trophy award twice, demonstrating cooperation and support between communities and Air Force base.

• Senator Norm Coleman, Minnesota: *"(Grand Forks) Why the Air Force Should Stay in 'This Part of the Country'* and *"(Duluth) Reiterate why the AF should stay in 'this part of the country'"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks/Hector): We are all deeply concerned with the economic impact on both sides of the Red River if the Air Force realigns away from Grand Forks and Fargo and jobs are lost in this region.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks/Hector): Training military personnel in this climate creates superior personnel to do the difficult missions of the Air Force.

– Issue #3 (Grand Forks): We're the short route to the Middle East. The closest U.S. air hub to Beijing is not LA or Seattle, it's Minneapolis-St. Paul. The great circle route to Afghanistan or Iraq is the shortcut.

– Issue #4 (Hector): The success of our defense efforts depends on people. The North Dakota Guard has a 98 percent retention rate.

– Issue #5 (Grand Forks/Hector): I worry that so much of the realignment is pushing our military capacity south of the Mason-Dixon line and that we will lose the quality of folks that this region produces, as well as undermine the broad national support for our military's mission being generated by the citizen soldiers and those working in the Air Force base in this region.

– Issue #6 (Duluth): The Defense Department's recommendation, the BRAC recommendation is for Duluth to stay open. This recommendation is very important and should be retained in the final BRAC report.

– Issue #7 (Duluth): Of deep concern is the recommendation that the F-16s flown by the pilots in Duluth be retired in the next couple of years with no follow-on mission.

– Issue #8 (Duluth): I, and I know many of my colleagues in Congress, were rather taken aback to see the placement of aircraft in the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations at all. That is a Future Total Force issue.

– Issue #9 (Duluth): We were pleased to get a commitment from General Blum to make sure Duluth has a relevant and viable future mission.

– Issue #10 (Duluth): This part of the country grows top-notch warriors of the north, and it grows them in abundance. If we require that Duluth's planes be parked without a defining follow-on mission, the Air Force will essentially turn its back on a region that has produced one of the most outstanding units in the country and has citizens lining up at the recruiter's office.

– Issue #11 (Duluth): In these difficult times, I do not think it is wise to pull your resources out of an area which leads the country in recruiting and retention.

– Issue #12 (Duluth): Duluth has outstanding facilities, the newest hangar in the Air Force, and a brand-new consolidated maintenance complex. There's plenty of outstanding training space even at low altitudes. In fact, Duluth has more training space than Nellis Air Force Base, and it has room to grow.

– Issue #13 (Duluth): It simply doesn't make sense to move all your assets south.

– Issue #14 (Duluth): Ultimately what this community and this country needs is for the men and women of Duluth, A, to transition to a new and well-defined flying mission and, B, to keep flying F-16s until they are ready to make this transition.

– Issue #15 (Duluth): Because it is a state entity, the National Guard has unique requirements related to homeland security, national disaster response and the needs of the governor on top of their federal role. Unfortunately, many of these needs were not reflected in the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations. Therefore, my request of the Commission is that in your final report on BRAC you give the National Guard Bureau the needed flexibility to ensure that they're able to work with leaders in Minnesota to craft a follow-on flying mission for the Duluth 148th.

• Senator Mark Dayton, Minnesota: *"(Grand Forks) Grand Forks AFB is the Economic Engine for a Huge, Two State Region"* and *"(Duluth) Welcoming remarks and the excellence and tradition of the 148th Fighter Wing"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks/Hector): We rely as part of the region on those 4,000 jobs, the $380 million in annual wages, benefits, expenditures, taxes and charitable contributions. Those economic, social and human benefits are priceless in North Dakota and Minnesota, and conversely their loss would be just as catastrophic.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks/Hector): Anywhere in this country if the largest employer leaves will be hit hard by that loss and face the hard road to recovery. But it's even harder in a region like this with longer transportation routes, higher energy costs, harsher weather conditions and other adverse factors that all together make replacing 5,000 lost jobs extremely difficult.

– Issue #3 (Duluth): Duluth's future is completely separate and not competitive with Grand Forks' or Fargo's.

– Issue #4 (Duluth): The proposed changes affecting Duluth's mission and personnel are not contained in the Pentagon BRAC recommendations but rather in the Future Total Force plan which accompanied it

– Issue #5 (Duluth): In my four and a half years as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee I've experienced too many unwelcome and objectionable surprises, and this is one of the most objectionable because of its unfair and unwarranted effects on the superb men and women who comprise the 148th, so I ask you to give this and the other proposed changes contained under the Future Total Force plan a critical review.

• Mr. Hal Gershman, Grand Forks City Council President: *"Grand Forks Economy Remains Fragile"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): During the Cold War we lived at ground zero. Our city and region never winced, never whined, never flinched. It was our way of demonstrating our intense patriotism and support for the men and women in uniform and their families.

– Issue #2 (Grand Forks): In the 1995 BRAC round, we lost the 321st Missile Wing. According to government figures, that created a loss of 2,100 jobs. As that wing was being drawn down, Grand Forks and East Grand Forks then suffered the 1997 flood and fire, which many have said, including FEMA, was the largest per-capita loss due to natural causes in America's history, close to $2 billion. We lost over 1,250 homes, we lost an estimated 7,200 people, or 12 percent of our population. Those losses, compounded by the loss of the missile wing, have been incredibly difficult for our communities to absorb.

– Issue #3 (Grand Forks): We are all familiar with the perfect storm that devastated much of the East Coast in 1991. In our case, the loss of the missile wing in 1995 was our first storm. The flood and fire of 1997 was our second storm. If Grand Forks Air Force Base were to close, the Air Force estimates the loss of more than 5,500 jobs and the loss of $380 million annually to our economy. That certainly would set the stage for a perfect economic storm for our cities and rural communities. We could easily slip into a downward spiral of economic collapse.

• Mr. John Marshall, Chairman, Council on Military Relations, Grand Forks, North Dakota: *"What Grand Forks AFB Means to Us"*

– Issue #1 (Grand Forks): I'm well-qualified to turn around and tell you what I'm going to tell you. They've always been our friends out there [at Grand Forks Air Force Base] but in '97 when that flood hit us, things changed. They really changed. When that siren went off that night and our river had gone from a hundred feet to 22 miles wide, and where you ate the other night, that was all under water, ten foot of water, our whole town was, and when those sirens went off that night and we had to leave our homes and everything that we had and we had collected for

years, we had to leave, you know what that feels like? Worst disaster the country has ever had. You know what our savior was? Grand Forks Air Force Base. They were our friends before but they put their arms around us and they held us. And when we cried, they cried. And when we finally laughed, they laughed with us. We will never stop thanking our friends at that base. Because they're family.

- Mr. Dick Walstad, Chairman Fargo Moorhead ANG Support Group, North Dakota: *"Welcome"*

– Issue #1 (Hector): The Happy Hooligans of the 119th Fighter Wing at Hector Field AGS have a star-studded history that is filled with awards and recognition; a history of flying safety that is a world record and still climbing; a history that is full of innovation and leadership; a history that has raised the bar for everyone.

– Issue #2 (Hector): It provides the ten core competencies and capabilities that are recognized by the National Guard Bureau.

– Issue #3 (Hector): The 119th is not only cost-effective, it is perhaps the most efficient of all flying units because of the savings that are realized from their unequaled safety record

- Major General Michael Haugen, Adjutant General, North Dakota: *"The North Dakota Air National Guard is the best home for a Predator mission in association with Grand Forks. We also stand ready to take on other associate relationships"*

– Issue #1 (Hector): Today 3,067 members of the North Dakota National Guard have served on active duty capacity since September 11, 2001. This is the second largest call-up in the history of the North Dakota National Guard, and this represents 74 percent of our total force. As I appear before you, there are 155 members in harm's way currently around the globe. Seven of these brave volunteers have made the ultimate sacrifice in this global war on terrorism, citizen soldiers who answered their nation's call.

– Issue #2 (Hector): Guard members come from all walks of life but they are also military professionals. They are twice the citizen. That is the strength of the Guard. It is the strength of having roots in the community, the strength of having civilian skills that complement military skills. When you call out the Guard, you call out America.

– Issue #3 (Hector): The BRAC concept is sound, but its decisions should be based on assessed military value and a 20-year plan. In many of the Air Force recommendations we find subjectively weighted criteria and force structure decisions not intended for this process. Military value of the Air National Guard units and their strengths were virtually ignored, particularly as applied to the area of homeland defense and community support.

– Issue #4 (Hector): Collaboration between the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard was minimal in the BRAC process.

– Issue #5 (Hector): A major concern with the recommendation for the realignment of Hector Field is the removal of F-16s at Fargo was a programmatic change and should not have been made part of the BRAC recommendations.

– Issue #6 (Hector): Hector Field did not receive proper credit for its overall military value. The DoD criteria of application and scoring distorts the overall military value of Hector Field. It attempted to apply simple numeric formulas to a highly complex, multifaceted military environment.

– Issue #7 (Hector): The National Guard's ability to recruit, train, equip and retain at the community level are paramount to accomplishing these objectives and goals. Our current retention rate in Fargo is 98 percent. In nine of the last ten months, we have recruited, or retained rather, 100 percent of those eligible for recruiting.

– Issue #8 (Hector): Economies of the Air National Guard must be considered in concert with our 1-4-2-1 military defense strategies.

– Issue #9 (Hector): The Air Force weighting system clearly skewed the criteria to the largest Air Force bases and cities. Many of the Military Capability Index future requirements for 2025 were measured against cold war standards and not capabilities- or future-based.

– Issue #10 (Hector): We must use capabilities-based measurements. A good example is Memorandums of Agreement with local authorities and Air Force bases. We have agreements with Fargo Airport, Minot Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base

– Issue #11 (Hector): Another area of concern is the impact of this process on homeland defense, border surveillance. Now there is greater flexibility when we have a combination of Title 10 and Title 32 airmen available. Title 32 personnel, under command of the governor, are able to provide security that is not impacted by Posse Comitatus law.

– Issue #12 (Hector): North Dakota has a proud history of serving with distinction, and welcome the Predator and Global Hawk missions.

– Issue #13 (Hector): The senior leadership of the National Guard Bureau, the National Guard Association, the adjutants general and the state governors all agree there should be a manned flying unit in each state. How do we sustain a strong Air National Guard without a flying mission?

– Issue #14 (Hector): By eliminating a flying mission at Hector Field they will likely decimate the core competency and eliminate that very strength they want to leverage.

– Issue #15 (Hector): Today's trained pilots are community-based. They will need to be replaced by newly trained pilots in new locations. The result is a huge loss of experience and very large training costs.

– Issue #16(Hector): Fewer locations also degrade our ability to react quickly. We are now leaving large areas of our country uncovered, especially our northern border.

– Issue #17 (Hector): We embrace future missions.

– Issue #18 (Hector): When we talk of cost savings, consider the Air Force average of fighter aircraft lost to accidents with the same number of flying hours, seven to eight aircraft would have been lost already in the United States Air Force. We have saved approximately $130 million as a result of accident-free flying, or ten times more than the proposed 20-year savings listed in the BRAC report.

– Issue #19 (Hector): It saves money to keep Hector Field in manned aircraft. I respectfully request the Commission exercise its authority to remove Hector Field from the realignment recommendation list. The retirement of the F-16 is a programmatic change. It should not be part of the BRAC recommendation. At a minimum we request the justification language "without a flying mission backfill" be deleted. Hector Field is the only unit singled out in the BRAC report with language that specifically states "no flying mission backfill."

– Issue #20 (Hector): I know in Fargo since 2001 we have had 970 of our members volunteer and have been on active duty. They have ranged from several weeks in Fargo to several months in Baghdad and Afghanistan. We have many, many personnel who are on their second rotation.

– Issue #21 (Hector): Retention is not a problem in North Dakota in either the Army or the Air. The only retention problem I have is after 30 years I want to get rid of some of these people to make room for the younger ones and I can't. They want to stay.

• Major General A.P. Macdonald, USAF (Retired): *"The 'No flying mission backfill' justification language should be removed because it unduly constrains the Air Force and disregards the Hooligans' excellence"*

– Issue #1 (Hector): I fully support the addition of the UAV mission to the North Dakota scene.

– Issue #2 (Hector): The Air Force significantly deviated from the established norm when they developed the detailed criteria for the fighter Mission Capability Index. The deviation was to the disadvantage of the smaller, more economical Air National Guard facilities.

– Issue #3 (Hector): The detailed criteria also rates airspace supporting the mission three times, Criterias 1245, 1246 and 1266, without taking into account the mission of the evaluated base. This heavy weighting of areas that may have no mission relevance distorts the evaluation.

– Issue #4 (Hector): Many of the bases rating above Hector, which stands at 125 in the fighter MCI of 154 rated, are not now and many have never been fighter bases.

– Issue #5 (Hector): Bases with large ramps, high-capacity fuel storage, large hangars, auxiliary fields within 50 miles, and ranges and airspace that may not even be appropriate for that kind of aircraft scored significantly higher, regardless of fighter-unique requirements.

– Issue #6 (Hector): Without having the classified data available, it appears many of the criteria were arbitrary and are indefensible.

– Issue #7 (Hector): More blatantly, Hector was not recognized as having large areas of undeveloped acreage available at no cost for expansion, Criterias 1205.1 and 2, and suffers no encroachment, Criteria 1207.

– Issue #8 (Hector): Pilots are said to be very mobile since the majority of them fly with airlines. At Hector, the latest numbers show four of our pilots are presently flying with the airlines.

– Issue #9 (Hector): The Air Force is also using BRAC as programmatic actions and vice versa. Now COBRA shows no personnel actions. However, as the Headquarters USAF state-by-state installation slide 42 shows, Hector suffers a reduction through 2011 of 196 full-time and 509 drill positions. Now COBRA writes these losses off as programmatic along with the aircraft requirement, the loss of firefighters, the closure of the regional training site, and all the personnel costs, reduction-in-force costs, change-of-station costs, all of this associated with its actions, but it is actually the proposed phrase "no flying mission backfill" that causes a loss because it restricts future programmatic changes after 2007.

– Issue #10 (Hector): Furthermore, all costs are not shown. The Department of Transportation/FAA will, at airports, incur a cost of approximately $8 million for a firefighting station and its associated equipment. The Department of the Army MILCON show costs for locating of a USAR unit to Hector, as shown in the BRAC, as 7.9 million. Now accepting the Air Force BRAC savings that they give of $12.9 million as shown on COBRA as correct, but if we add the DoD costs and if we add the Army MILCON costs, I think the taxpayers are going to lose 30 million bucks out of their pocket.

– Issue #11 (Hector): If BRAC accepts the DoD recommendations, the eastern, western and southern borders will have dedicated air superiority forces. The DoD appears not to rate the teaching values; therefore, the result is a large area of our northern border with no readily available air defense resources.

– Issue #12 (Hector): Now I have been challenged to say, well, where are these aircraft going to come from to replace the Hooligans' F-16s? Realizing their removal is a result of programmatic actions, I would ask that some of the 54 F-15s being programmatically displaced from Eglin and Tyndall Air Force Base be considered.

– Issue #13 (Hector): The Air Force is also attempting a major shift in the composition of its force structure through the BRAC process rather than through programmatic actions. The

circumvention of a long-standing policy without Congressional input and oversight is unprecedented.

– Issue #14 (Hector): The possibility that the Happy Hooligans could be disbanded is even more outrageous when we consider that in any results-oriented evaluation they would rank near the top of all organizations performing a flight mission.

– Issue #15 (Hector): We are asking you to remove the "no fly mission backfill." This language is used nowhere else in the entire DoD recommendations to the Commission. No other base has been so singled out. The removal of that phrase will allow this outstanding organization to make its case to the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau for further missions after the retirement of its Block 15 F-16s.

– Issue #16 (Hector): In closing, you should not allow poorly designed, skewed evaluations that severely distort the mission capability of the organization and its base to prevent future programmatic actions that will utilize its potential to continue its superior service to our state and nation. Delete the phrase "no flying mission backfill."

– Issue #17 (Hector): A flying mission brings to each state all of those things that the Governor mentioned; firefighters, security police, medics, civil engineers. It brings a great deal of communication. In Fargo we have a 24-hour command post that's in direct contact with NORTHCOM, so the communications they provide is sometimes even overlooked. We also have the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Distribution Center.

- Mayor Bruce Furness, Fargo, North Dakota: *"Fargo is a great location for the Air Guard, and the community is critical to the Hooligans' success"*

– Issue #1 (Hector): I want to talk to you about the outstanding partnership we have with them and with the entire Fargo/Moorhead region and why the entire region is crucial to their continued success.

– Issue #2 (Hector): This outstanding fighter unit has brought great distinction to our city. They are the best of the best as you have heard; first defenders of the Pentagon and the Capitol on 9/11, Hughes Achievement Award winner, William Tell winner three times, you've heard of their incredible safety record. These top performers live, work and play in our community and are integral to our culture

– Issue #3 (Hector): Fargo is one of the fastest-growing cities between Minneapolis and Seattle. Fargo has a regional economy that is both vibrant and growing. North Dakota State University has a new and rapidly expanding Technology Research Park focusing on radio frequency identification tags, and since 2003, NDSU has been doing research on how crews flying Predator UAVs can be more effective.

– Issue #4 (Hector): All of this suggests an excellent recruiting base for the Air National Guard. 25,000 post-secondary students possessing a strong work ethic provide a pool for a very productive and reliable work force.

– Issue #5 (Hector): Our City Commission, City Planning Commission and Airport Authority are all acutely aware of the Air National Guard requirements at Hector and have taken appropriate actions. There are no encroachment issues at the airport. 3,000 acres of land has been purchased to protect the airport operations. Future Air National Guard space needs can be easily accommodated at no additional cost. The facilities themselves are excellent.

– Issue #6 (Hector): I wanted to put in two quick corrections on the BRAC data items. The first indicates that six accredited child care centers do business in Fargo. The actual number is closer to 475. The second indicates that four graduate Ph.D. programs exist in our area. NDSU alone has 56 masters degrees and 38 Ph.D. programs.

– Issue #7 (Hector): High recruitment potential, excellent facilities, no encroachment issues, expansion possibilities and a source of high quality personnel are all vital to the Air National Guard. The Hooligans are the best performing fighter unit in our national arsenal. This fact is due in large part to their location. I submit that this performance cannot be replicated elsewhere.

• Governor Tim Pawlenty, Minnesota: *"Ensuring that Governors can meet their Homeland Security and State Requirements"*

– Issue #1 (Duluth): I did submit written testimony regarding Grand Forks, and we echo and certainly strongly support the arguments that were made here on behalf of North Dakota

– Issue #2 (Duluth): We are very pleased that the Department of Defense has recommended that the Duluth Air Base stay open, but they also have noted, through a related process, that the F-16s be retired, in our view on an accelerated basis, in fiscal year 2007.

– Issue #3 (Duluth): We understand that the Block 25 F-16s are going to be retired at some point in the future but we need to make sure, if the base is going to stay open, that a follow-on mission be identified, and we did receive a good commitment, a general commitment from General Blum and General James yesterday that that would be underway for the Duluth base.

– Issue #4 (Duluth): But in terms of the process, we're concerned that we have the FTF, or Future Total Force effort, and the BRAC effort overlapping in ways that are a little concerning, or at least a little awkward, sometimes confusing.

– Issue #5 (Duluth): We hope that you would focus, as best you can in your deliberations and your recommendations, on facilities, not programs.

– Issue #6 (Duluth): We can't keep our nation-leading status, and by the way it is statistically proven, we've got the number one Army National Guard in the country when it

comes to recruitment and retention, and our Air Guard is in the very top as well, and we can't get people excited about joining and being there and being retained if we don't have a mission that's relevant to them. We can't have an Air National Guard and expect it to be high functioning when you don't have aircraft to speak of.

– Issue #7 (Duluth): It's important we also want to make sure that we reconcile some of the potential inconsistencies in the report, or at least concerns. There's a recommendation that Duluth continue on as an air sovereignty alert site, a term of art. Air sovereignty alert site. That implies certain capabilities. If you are an air sovereignty alert site and you have no airplanes, that creates a real problem.

– Issue #8 (Duluth): We also want to underline and underscore the state mission. We cannot, just from a recruitment and retention standpoint, but there's a bona fide need to have air capabilities within Minnesota to respond to those needs.

• Major General Larry Shellito, Adjutant General, Minnesota: *"Concerns regarding the BRAC process and the national security implications"*

– Issue #1 (Duluth): Governor Pawlenty and I fully embrace the base realignment and closure process.

– Issue #2: (Duluth): I am concerned because I believe the United States Air Force and the Department of Defense are using BRAC as a way to get around our time-honored process requiring Congress to review, authorize and appropriate money for defense programs. By including major elements of the Air Force's future total force transformation program under the auspices of BRAC, the Department of Defense has effectively excluded Congress from its traditional role.

– Issue #3 (Duluth): Neither my colleagues nor I, the officers in charge of implementing the enclave concept, have been afforded an opportunity to provide input. It is not clear whether the enclave base will adequately sustain combat support missions.

– Issue #4 (Duluth): Additionally, it is unclear whether these enclave bases could sustain personnel recruiting and retention at an adequate level without the attraction of a flying mission.

– Issue #5 (Duluth): The Minnesota National Guard is ranked number one in the nation for the Army recruiting and retention and ranked number three in the Air Force recruiting and retention.

– Issue #6 (Duluth): What we do know is that the Air Force Future Total Force plan contained in its BRAC recommendations signals a profound change in the way the Air Force wants to do business.

– Issue #7 (Duluth): When the Air Force made its military value determinations for the BRAC recommendations, it gave heavy weight scoring to large installations. While locating aircraft in a few large bases may seem efficient, it ignores the value of small and every bit as efficient Air Guard bases like Duluth.

– Issue #8 (Duluth): Placing the Air National Guard in our nation's communities keeps America in tune with the Air Force. Citizens learn about the Air Force and the missions it's performing from the Air National Guard citizen airmen, who are their coworkers, fellow Rotarians or neighbors.

– Issue #9 (Duluth): I urge you to look beyond the specific Air Force recommendations and examine the process. Do not let the Air Force use the BRAC process as a way to shield itself.

– Issue #10 (Duluth): The staff at the 148th have investigated BRAC cost savings with respect to Duluth, and the general conclusion is if there is a cost saving, it's basically ineffective or immaterial. It's not a material cost savings based on their analysis.

– Issue #11 (Duluth): End strength for the Air Guard in the state of Minnesota has historically been over 100 percent. That 100 percent mark is the minimum standard they have set, I would say, for the last six, eight years

• Brigadier General Ray Klosowski, USAF (Retired), Duluth, Minnesota: *"The Air Force's military value assessment of the Duluth AGS doesn't adequately reflect its true capabilities"*

– Issue #1 (Duluth): Some of the BRAC criteria that affected Duluth may not be appropriate or accurate.

– Issue #2 (Duluth): Duluth was ranked very low in military value. Subsequently, the Secretary of Defense said that Duluth was a valuable installation, and that sort of characterizes some of the criteria in the BRAC in that it can be a little bit questionable and misleading.

– Issue #3 (Duluth): Some evaluations and focus of data seem to pertain to operations and concepts that have been overtaken by time and equipment development.

– Issue #4 (Duluth): When you look at the prevailing weather conditions in the Duluth rating, it didn't do very well. We got .83 out of a possible 20.68. The whole basis for the weather category determination is an arbitrary ceiling of 3,000 feet and three miles. It has no meaning to the Air Force. We don't cancel or fly based on that recommendation. We fly down to the weather minimums. What we should be looking at in the BRAC is what kind of approach aids do you have, what kind of ILS do you have, what kind of runway lighting do you have.

– Issue #5 (Duluth): The criteria doesn't evaluate anything. Also, when you look at the BRAC criteria, why is there no evaluation for the core mission, such as the tanker mission? We are looking at an arbitrarily false criteria that doesn't have any meaning for future Air Force operations.

– Issue #6 (Duluth): The ratings for the Duluth munitions site. We did okay in the UAV business but not much in the other areas, and the rating factor for the weapon storage site may not have taken in a key critical factor, and that's quantity distance criteria.

– Issue #7 (Duluth): The storage site at Duluth is a former nuclear storage site, so it at one time held something like 20, actually 30 AIR-2A nuclear rockets. It's currently used to store all of the air defense weapons possessed by the Duluth Air National Guard, so it can support a fighter unit. The storage site also has the capability to maintain and build all the munitions that the Air Force has in the air-to-ground role.

– Issue #8 (Duluth): The proximity to low-level routes. The rating for Duluth to low-level routes looks like it's been, it's too low, based on the inability of unit personnel to provide amplifying data on these routes. Next one. Duluth has bidirectional routes. In other words, you can start at one end, finish at the other end, or start at this end and go to the other end, and the Air Force gives criteria value points based on how close those entry and exit points are.

– Issue #9 (Duluth): Proximity of supporting airspace. This one really put us back. We didn't get very much in the way of value on that. Duluth got 43 out of a possible 124 points in the total core mission areas. The airspace available to Duluth for any Air Force mission is exceptional and will support all of the core missions now and in the future of the Air Force.

– Issue #10 (Duluth): If you look at the Duluth airspaces, the green indicates the Duluth airspace volume. It's larger than Nellis Air Force Base training Air Force space, which is where red flag exercises are held and other major exercises. There may be some differences in altitude but we've got a better airspace than Nellis has in many aspects.

– Issue #11 (Duluth): Another one that is sort of glaring is the guidance on refueling. If you have airspace that does not start with an AR designator, it cannot be counted in the point value for tankers. I would suspect that we have as many tanker refuelings taking place in non-AR airspace at we do in AR airspace. Any one of those airspaces at Duluth can have a tanker in it, and they often do, so we can conduct a refueling there. So it gives some doubt to the BRAC point value for that.

– Issue #12 (Duluth): The primary importance of the airspace in Duluth, though, has been identified as a NORAD permanent homeland alert site through approximately 2010. If Duluth closes, all that infrastructure supporting that alert site will have to be turned over to a series of aircrafts that deploy for a month or two months or two weeks who bring in their own unique capabilities with that airplane, and the planned savings is going to be minimal.

– Issue #13 (Duluth): Duluth's unit strength is measured at 103 percent.

– Issue #14 (Duluth): We think that the airspace and low-level ratings are in error. We think that there's some skewed data in the BRAC measuring system, most of it probably unintentional based on cold war thinking and requirements. Rotating an airport, an air sovereignty alert system will probably overtax the reduced fighter forces. If we're going to bring

those fighter forces down, maintain our current level of capability overseas, and then ask them to go into a rotational basis, we're asking for overtasking, and I would suggest to you that we not forgot the lessons of 9/11 as far as the alert posture goes

- Mayor Herb Bergson, Duluth, Minnesota: *"What Duluth means to the AF, and what the AF means to Duluth"*

  – Issue #1 (Duluth): The 148th Fighter Wing is the ninth largest employer in Duluth. They have 327 full-time and over 900 part-time employees. For a city of our size, those are important numbers. The 148th has an annual economic impact of approximately $85.1 million. That includes 300 indirect jobs related to the 148th's work.

  – Issue #2 (Duluth): These men and women have contributed more than 15,000 volunteer hours in the surrounding community.

  – Issue #3 (Duluth): They work closely with our airport to develop safety plans and exercise for contingencies. They provide crash rescue support to civilian and military aircraft alike. Their explosives ordnance team works with local law enforcement to handle crises that arise across the area, and most importantly they protect the skies over Duluth, the largest freshwater port in the world.

  – Issue #4 (Duluth): Ironically, 400 people from the 148th couldn't be here to fight for their own jobs because they're in Iraq fighting themselves.

Tim MacGregor/Air Force Team/7 Jul 05