

August 9, 2005

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Received

General Lloyd Newton
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

Throughout your distinguished career you have had the opportunity to meet many people from all over the world. I am fortunate to be one of those people.

We first met in the mid 1970's when you were fondly referred to as Captain "Fig" Newton by your Thunderbird teammates. You were the narrator for the famed Air Force Demonstration Team and I was the Sales Manager at the local Rapid City Oldsmobile-Cadillac Dealership and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

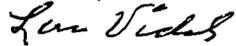
The following year I ordered 12 new Air Force blue & white Oldsmobiles to be built and delivered to our dealership for use by the Thunderbird pilots and their Crew Chiefs upon your arrival at Ellsworth AFB. You were the slot pilot at that time. The last time we met you were Major "Fig" Newton and held the position of right wing pilot. I was chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and was an honorary inspector of your aircraft. As such, I had the privilege of dining with you prior to your performance for 100,000+ Rapid City and Black Hills citizens.

I mention these things only to point out that the men and women of Ellsworth AFB still receive the strong community support today that they did 30 years ago. I hope you would agree with me that on occasion our Pentagon officials make decisions that possibly lack common sense and/or logic. I believe that putting Ellsworth on the base closure list is one of those decisions. Based on the new data and updated information that you and your fellow commissioners have recently received from our Congressional Delegation and the Ellsworth Task Force I would ask that you and the Commission strongly consider removing Ellsworth from the closure list.

On a more personal note I want to congratulate you on a stellar career while serving and defending our country. My oldest son is currently Chief of Public Affairs at McConnell AFB and I still love the U. S. Air Force, this great nation of ours, and Ellsworth AFB, that still plays an extremely vital role in keeping our country free.

My sincere thanks to you and the Commission for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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