

Executive Correspondence
DCN 5654

United States Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
Senator Bill Frist, M.D.
Tennessee

Facsimile Sheet

To: BRAC Commissioners

Office: BRAC

Date: 7/25/05

Fax Number: 703-699-2735

Regarding: BRAC Commission

Number of Pages: 2
(including this cover)

From: Senator William H. Frist

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WILLIAM H. FRIST
TENNESSEE



United States Senate
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

Commissioners
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

As the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission continues its important work, I want to draw your attention to a matter that requires close scrutiny—the recommendation by the Defense Department to close Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota.

I have visited Ellsworth AFB and have always been impressed by its facilities, its personnel, and the support it receives from the local community. Ellsworth AFB has unfettered airspace, exceptional facilities and infrastructure, and does not suffer from the problems of encroachment that other bases now experience. In my view, Ellsworth AFB has excellent potential to serve as a multi-mission platform, or as a hub for future research, development, testing and experimentation.

The base and its units have a long, proud history of defending the Nation and advancing our national security. From the dark days of the Cold War to the Global War on Terrorism, the military personnel stationed at Ellsworth AFB have served our country well, and have always received the full and unrelenting support of the local community. Finally, I have concerns about the wisdom of consolidating all the nation's B-1 bombers at one base.

I urge you to give full consideration to Ellsworth AFB, including its unique characteristics and unlimited potential, before the BRAC Commission prepares its final recommendations. I think you will find, as I have, that Ellsworth AFB has a critical role to play in the 21st Century in our Nation's defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Frist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "F" and "T".

William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate