

Grand Forks Regional Hearing of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission



**Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND
Hector International Airport Air Guard Station, ND
Duluth International Airport Air Guard Station, MN**

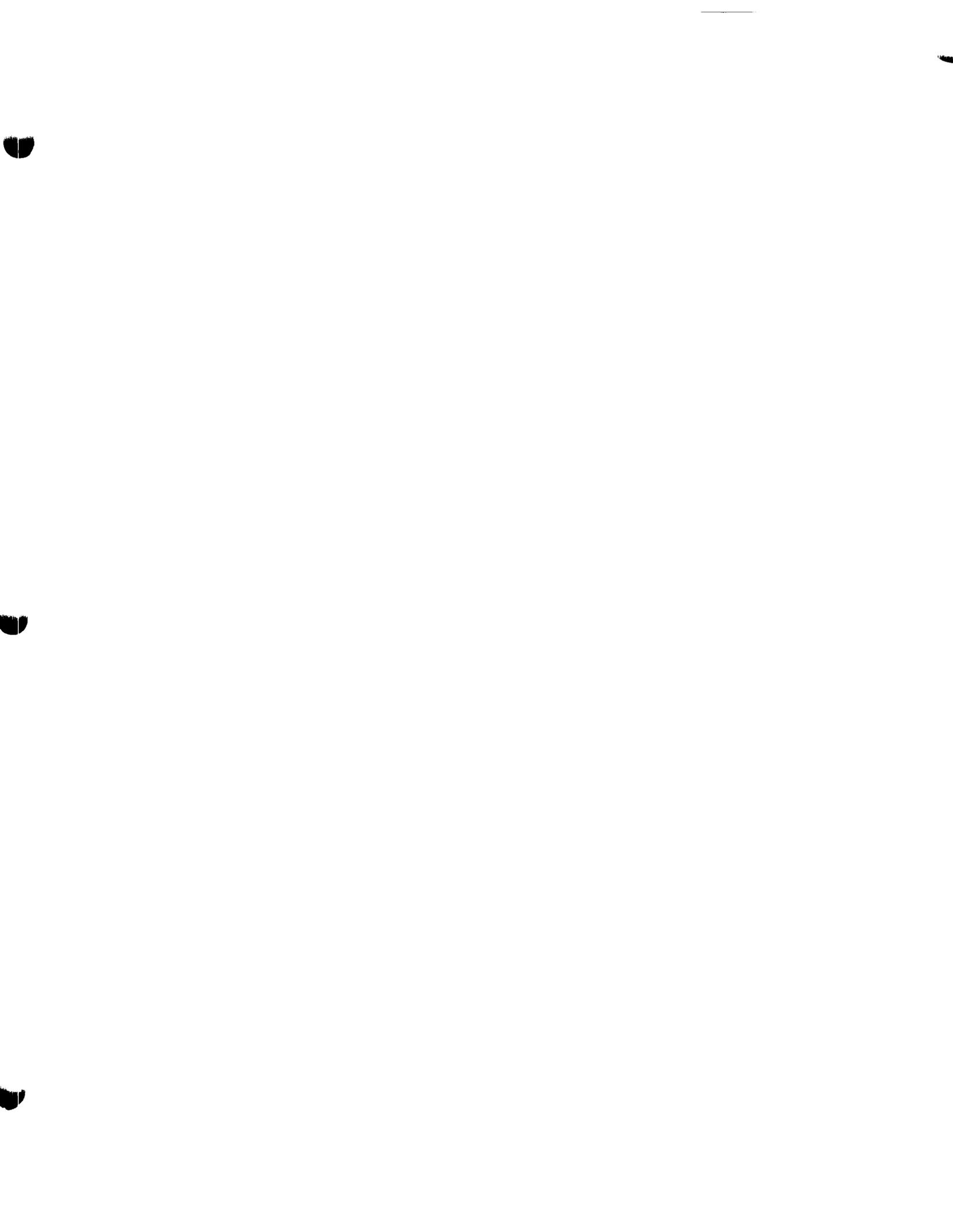
Chester Fritz Auditorium
University of North Dakota
June 23, 2005

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Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND Tab A
Hector International Airport Air Guard Station, ND Tab B
Duluth International Airport Air Guard Station, MN Tab C



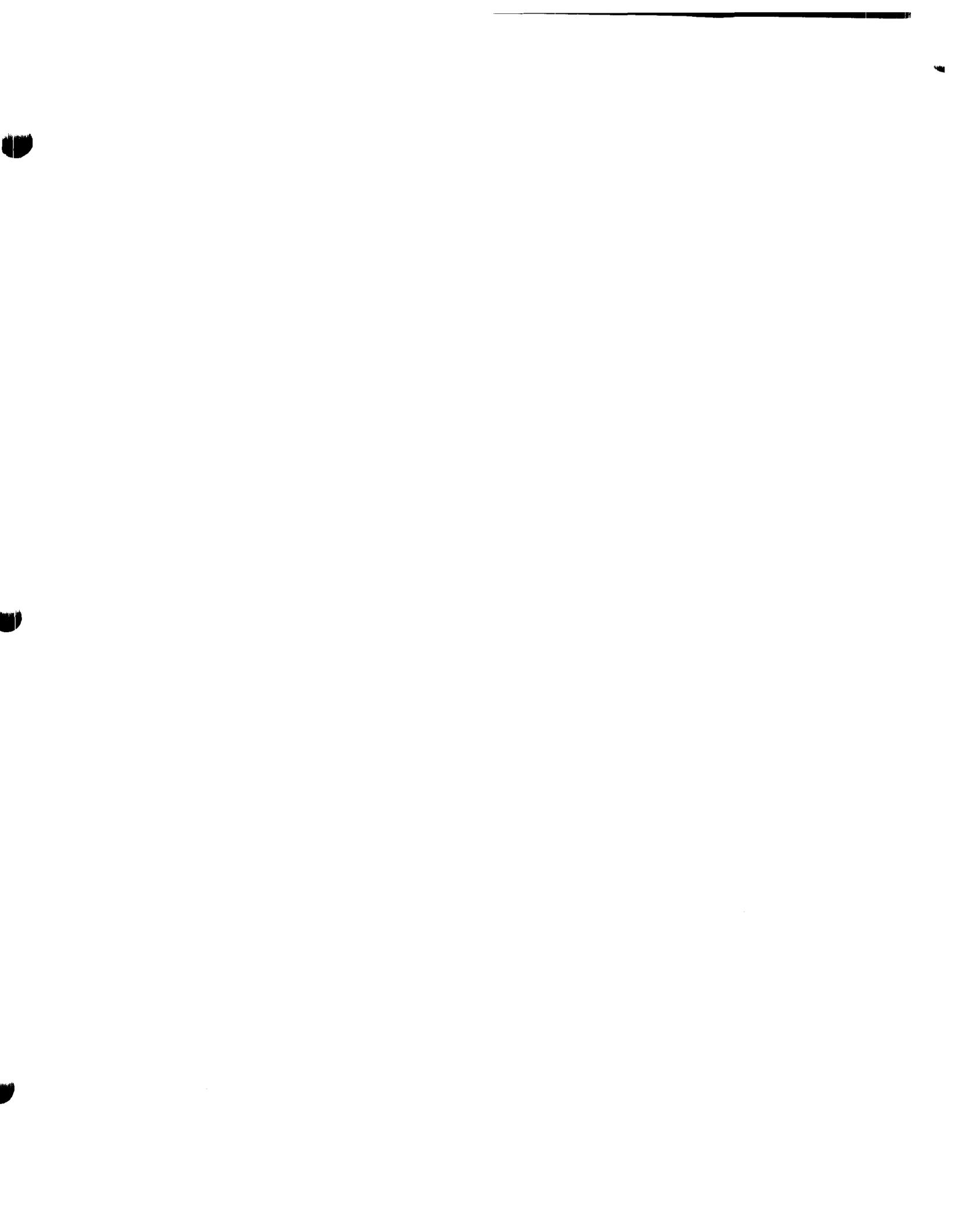


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Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission**

Grand Forks Air Force Base

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Grand Forks Air Force Base

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Statement of Michael R. Brown, Mayor of Grand Forks, N.D.

Good morning. I'm Michael R. Brown, Mayor of Grand Forks.

On behalf of the city of Grand Forks, welcome to all the Grand Forks Air Force Base friends and supporters here with us today. What an awesome show of support. Thank you.

Welcome to the elected officials and citizens from throughout the region. From North Dakota and Minnesota, this Air Force Base is a part of each and every one of our communities. The men and women who serve here make us proud every day and every day we're proud to call them family.

I'd also like to welcome everyone from the Fargo area and all around the state. What an impressive demonstration of the solid partnership we're eager to continue.

Most importantly, I want to personally welcome the Base Realignment and Closure Commissioners. We're pleased the commission agreed to hold this hearing.

Dr. Philip Coyle III was a senior official in the Department of Defense from 1994 to 2001.

Welcome Dr. Coyle.

Mr. James Bilbray is a former Democratic House member from Nevada and was a member of the Armed Services committee. He also served on the Board of Visitors for both the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Military Academy.

Welcome Congressman Bilbray.

Mr. Samuel K. Skinner was Secretary of Transportation and later Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush. As Secretary, he developed many innovative successes including the "Open Skies" policy. Open skies. . . you'll feel right at home here!

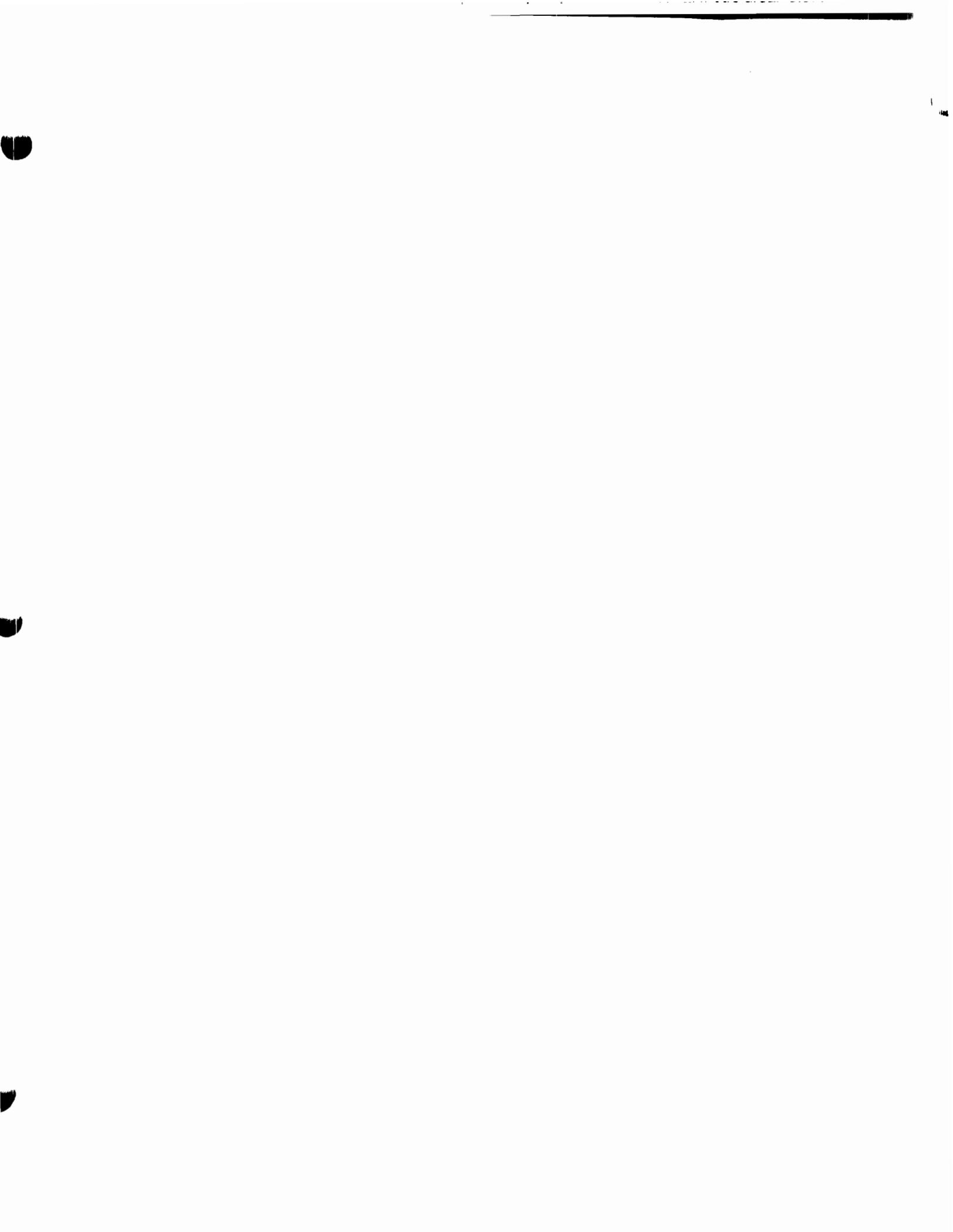
Welcome Secretary Skinner.

Gentlemen, you bring a wealth of expertise to this process. We're honored you are here with us and have full faith in your abilities. The City of Grand Forks is at your service.

This hearing is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the quality of the Grand Forks Air Force Base, our regional community, and the relationship between the two.

My father was an Air Force jet mechanic so I know what it's like to travel around the world from base to base. As someone who served as an ICBM Missile launch officer and a Doctor at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, I learned firsthand the reason why so many former Grand Forks Air Force Base personnel have chosen this region as home: We're family.

Ladies and gentlemen, please help me give a warm family welcome to Commissioners Philip Coyle, James H. Bilbray and Samuel K. Skinner.





**Grand Forks Regional Hearing
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Grand Forks Air Force Base

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Statement of Senator Kent Conrad

[Slide 1: Cover] Thank you, Mayor Brown.

[Slide 2: Welcome BRAC] We have three members of the BRAC Commission with us today. Mr. Samuel Skinner, the former Secretary of Transportation. Dr. Philip Coyle, former Assistant Secretary of Defense. And former Congressman James Bilbray of Nevada. We know that each of you is making personal sacrifices to serve on this commission. We appreciate your service to our country. Only the best come north.

And thank you to all the people of Grand Forks and Fargo who have come to join us. The relationship between Grand Forks Air Force Base and our community is incredibly strong and rich. This show of support is a demonstration of our respect for the men and women of the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

We are very proud of Grand Forks Air Force Base, proud of its mission, and proud of the performance of the men and women who serve there. We strongly believe it is in our national security interest to retain the base and to strengthen it by making it the home for a family of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles as well as other emerging missions. We also believe that there are sound military justifications for retaining a core group of the KC-135 tanker fleet at Grand Forks.

[Slide 3: Why?] You have already asked the critical question: Why keep Grand Forks open?

[Slide 4: Tanker Roadmap] Let me start that answer by pointing out that just two years ago, when the Air Force unveiled its tanker roadmap, it selected Grand Forks to be the first base in the country to receive a full complement of the new KC-767s. Just two years ago, the considered military judgment of the Air Force was that Grand Forks was the best place in the world to place new tankers. So I would suggest that the Commission should start answering that question by asking the Air Force, "What has changed?"

But to answer your question more specifically, let me give you 10 compelling reasons to keep Grand Forks Air Force Base:

1. [Slide 5: UAV] The Air Force analysis showed Grand Forks AFB had the highest military value of any Northern tier base for the important and growing UAV mission.

[Slide 6: UAV] This message was underscored in Secretary Dominguez and General Jumper's June 7 memo to the Commission.

2. [Slide 7: Uncongested Airspace] We have unfettered and uncluttered airspace as this photo of air traffic in the United States graphically demonstrates.

3. [Slide 8: No Encroachment] We have no ground encroachment, unlike some of the bases that are slated to receive tankers from Grand Forks.

4. [Slide 9: Military judgment] The DoD BRAC justification reports that, "Military judgment argued for a continued strategic presence in the north central U.S."

[Slides 10-12] As this animation indicates, Northern tier bases have been dramatically reduced in previous BRAC rounds.

[Slide 13: GF to Mass] There is now no major Air Force Base between Grand Forks and Massachusetts.

5. [Slide 14: Intel bill] Homeland Security depends on Grand Forks AFB. The intelligence bill passed last year and signed by the President calls for a northern border initiative to include UAV overflights, a network of advanced sensors, and advanced software to strengthen Northern border security. That law contemplates a central United States Northern border Air Force Base.

6. [Slide 15: Painting] Grand Forks AFB also offers the opportunity for joint operations with the foremost Air Guard unit in the country – the Happy Hooligans of Fargo. As you know, the Hooligans were the first unit to provide protection in the skies over our nation's capital on September 11, 2001, as this picture depicts.

[Slide 16: GF-Fargo] The Fargo Air Guard are only 80 miles from Grand Forks AFB. They are prepared to contribute personnel to joint operations of UAVs based at Grand Forks. They are also prepared to jointly operate tankers out of Grand Forks.

7. Grand Forks has outstanding facilities.

[Slide 17: \$327 million] We have invested over \$327 million in infrastructure over the last decade.

[Slide 18: Runway] Yesterday, you saw the new runway under construction. Pavement condition was over 14 percent of the military value analysis – and Grand Forks' score was based on the old runway. You should take the new runway into consideration.

[Slide 19: Squad Ops] In the last several years, the Air Force has built four new, state of the art squadron operations buildings.

[Slide 20: Housing] Grand Forks has been the largest recipient of Family Housing money in the entire Air Force -- \$131 million since 2003. The new houses being built are the largest and finest in the Air Force.

[Slide 21: Fitness Center] There is also a world-class fitness center, a new commissary, [Slide 22: Dining Hall] and a new dining hall.

These improvements have helped to keep Grand Forks the "Crown Jewel of Air Mobility Command."

8. [Slides 23-24: East & West Deployment Routes] Grand Forks is a nearly ideal location for overseas deployments, as these maps show. Grand Forks and McConnell are the only tanker bases that can efficiently support deployments both to the east and to the west. In almost every case, Grand Forks offers faster trip times than McConnell, thanks to great circle routes.

[Slide 25: Deployment Comparison] We offer shorter trips to the Middle East than the other bases.

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. Location is crucial. But this approach to measuring the value of a base's location ignores the way a base operates in a war.

9. [Slide 26: First, First, First] The performance of the men and women of Grand Forks AFB has been exceptional. They were the first wing in the air over Afghanistan, the first wing to set up a base on the ground, and the first wing to conduct combat air refueling operations in that fight. Grand Forks continues to produce like no other installation.

[Slide 27: Trophies] Three months ago, the base won the Spaatz trophy for the best refueling squadron in Air Mobility Command. The wing has won the Solano Trophy as the best wing in AMC. And Grand Forks has twice won the Abilene Trophy for community support.

10. [Slide 28: UND Aerospace] The University of North Dakota School of Aerospace offers a unique opportunity. The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force believe – and I quote – that UND “offers some unique opportunities to focus on the UAV efforts for the Air Force and other services.” UND Aerospace could become a Center of Excellence in UAV development and operations. No other base can offer that.

[Slide 29: 10 Reasons] To conclude, there are ten compelling reasons that this Commission should both affirm the Air Force decision to keep Grand Forks open by basing a family of UAVs here and modify that recommendation to keep a core group of tankers at the base. These are:

1. Military value for the UAV mission;
2. Unfettered and uncluttered airspace;
3. No ground encroachment;
4. The strategic requirement for Northern tier bases;
5. The synergy between the base, Homeland Security, and the Smart Northern Border Initiative;
6. Joint operations with Fargo’s Air Guard;
7. The outstanding facilities that make Grand Forks the Crown Jewel of AMC;
8. The location advantages of Grand Forks for tanker deployments;
9. The outstanding performance of this base that was first, first, and first in Afghanistan; and,
10. The linkage with UND Aerospace.

These are compelling reasons to keep GF operating. The appropriate conclusion of this commission is to affirm the Air Force’s plans for the UAV mission and assign a core group of tankers to Grand Forks. Our other presenters will make this case in more detail.

Now, let me turn the floor over to Senator Byron Dorgan.

SUPPORTING

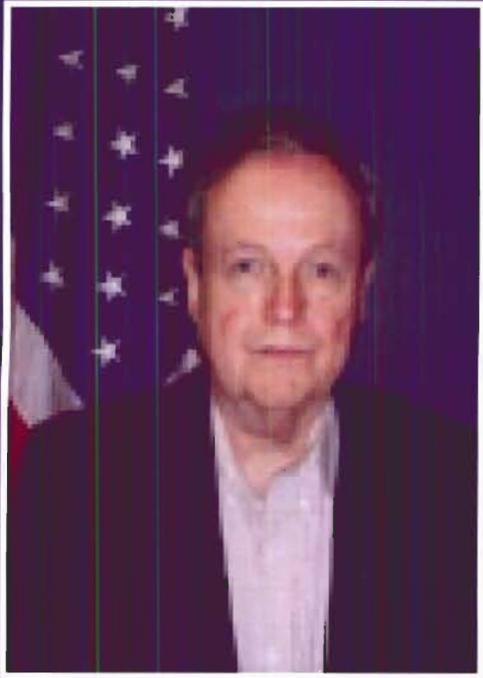
Grand Forks Air Force Base



Testimony to the BRAC Commission
Regional Hearing

Senator Kent Conrad

Welcome to North Dakota



Hon. James Bilbray



Hon. Philip Coyle



Hon. Samuel Skinner

Why Grand Forks?

GFAFB Slated to Receive First Full Wing in 2003 Tanker Roadmap



U.S. AIR FORCE

Tanker Transformation



Integrity - Service - Excellence

What's Changed?

“Of our Northern tier bases, Grand Forks ranked highest in military value for the UAV mission”

Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND, McConnell Air Force Base, KS

Recommendation: Realign Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota. Distribute the 319th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135R aircraft to the 126th Air Refueling Wing (ANG), Scott AFB, Illinois (12 aircraft)--which retires its eight KC-135E aircraft; the 916th Air Refueling Wing (AFR), Seymour-Johnson AFB, North Carolina (eight aircraft)--which will host an active duty associate unit; the 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB, Florida (four aircraft)--which will host a Reserve association with 927th Air Refueling Wing (AFR) manpower realigned from Selfridge ANGB, Michigan; the 154th Wing (ANG), Hickam AFB, Hawaii (four aircraft)--which will host an active duty associate unit; and the 22d Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, Kansas (eight aircraft)--which currently associates with the 931st Air Refueling Group (AFR). Grand Forks will remain an active Air Force installation with a new active duty/Air National Guard association unit created in anticipation of emerging missions at Grand Forks.

Realign McConnell Air National Guard (ANG) Base by relocating the 184th Air Refueling Wing (ANG) nine KC-135R aircraft to the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field AFB, Kansas--which will retire its eight assigned KC-135E aircraft. The 184th Air Refueling Wing's operations and maintenance manpower will transfer with the aircraft to Forbes, while the wing's expeditionary combat support (ECS) elements will remain at McConnell.

Justification: Grand Forks (40-tanker) ranked lowest in military value of all active duty KC-135 bases. However, **of our Northern tier bases, Grand Forks ranked highest in military value for the UAV mission (43-UAV).** Military judgment argued for a continued strategic presence in the north central U.S. (Grand Forks is one of the last remaining active military installations in the region). Military judgment also indicated the potential for emerging missions in homeland defense, particularly for border states. Therefore, Grand Forks is retained as an active installation, but realigned to distribute its KC-135R force structure to bases with higher value for...

“Grand Forks AFB provides a strategic presence in the north central United States and received the highest UAV score of any Air Force location within the region”



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



07 JUN 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION (HONORABLE ANTHONY J. PRINCIPI)

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Recommendation to Realign Eielson AFB, Alaska and Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you information on the U.S. Air Force vision for Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska and Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota and the significant role these installations will play as the Air Force implements its Future Total Force.

The Secretary of Defense accepted Air Force recommendations to realign, but not close, Eielson and Grand Forks AFBs. Our recommendations, while somewhat unusual as they did not permanently assign additional aircraft to these bases as part of realignment, considered the long-term military value of both installations. During our May 17, 2005 testimony to your commission, we attempted to convey our vision for these bases and the important contributions they will make to the Air Force's ability to confront the new and evolving threats of the 21st Century.

Attached are two papers describing this vision more clearly. We hope you and the members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission will find this information helpful.

John P. Jumper
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Michael L. Dominguez
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

Attachments:

1. Background Paper on Eielson AFB
2. Background Paper on Grand Forks AFB

BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

REALIGNMENT OF GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA

PURPOSE

Provide Air Force Vision for Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota realignment and how this base will contribute to Air Force Future Total Force (FTF) missions and initiatives.

DISCUSSION

Grand Forks AFB provides a strategic presence in the north central United States and received the highest UAV score of any Air Force location within the region. Establishing a cold weather UAV center is necessary to advance training and system development to ensure these vehicles can be operated worldwide, all weather, and under a wider set of operational circumstances – much like the conditions encountered in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Vast amounts of airspace over limited populations make Grand Forks AFB well suited for this mission. We will work with the Federal Aviation Administration and the state of North Dakota to create operating airspace where appropriate and necessary. Furthermore, the University of North Dakota's Aerospace Studies program, which is located at Grand Forks, offers some unique opportunities to focus on the UAV efforts for the Air Force and other Services. North Dakota also gives us UAV location closer to the east coast without the difficult issues of jet route and air traffic avoidance and density. A snapshot of air traffic in North Dakota repeatedly shows few traffic decongestion requirements – a valuable location for the future employment of remotely piloted vehicles.

Specifically, the Air Force strategic vision for Grand Forks AFB is to become a home to a “family of UAVs,” with associated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support functions. In cooperation with the North Dakota Air National Guard (ANG), the Air Force would establish a Predator MQ-1 ANG unit with an Active Duty Associate unit to backfill F-16 retirements at Fargo's Hector Field. The initial configuration could be a split operation with the ground control and intelligence analysis functions operating at a location selected by the North Dakota ANG and with the airframes and launch recovery element located at Grand Forks AFB. Growth of this mission will include transition to the Predator MQ-9, eventually add the Global Hawk UAV with the Grand Forks Tanker realignment, and FTF emerging missions and associations at both locations.

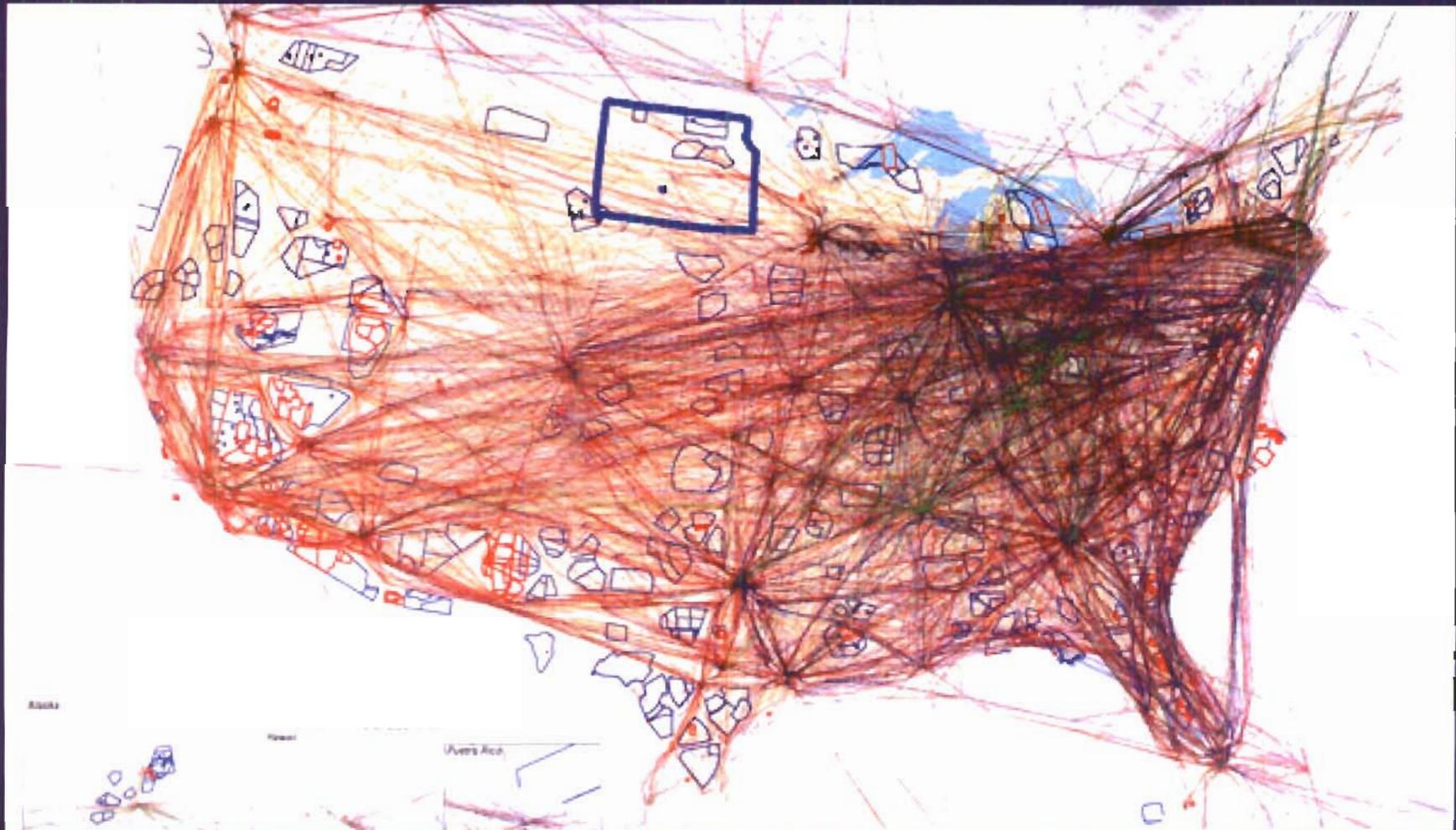
CONCLUSION

Realigning and retaining Grand Forks AFB affords the Air Force the opportunity to take advantage of Future Total Force integration initiatives to capture highly skilled Airmen for emerging mission requirements. The decision to reduce force structure in North Dakota provides the opportunity to ramp up UAV capabilities.

Lt Col Roelofs/HAF/XPFDF(703) 588-5410/03 June 2005

Memo and Background Paper to the BRAC Commission on Grand Forks AFB and Eielson AFB
from Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff – June 7, 2005

North Dakota Airspace: Uncongested



No Encroachment



Grand Forks Air Force Base

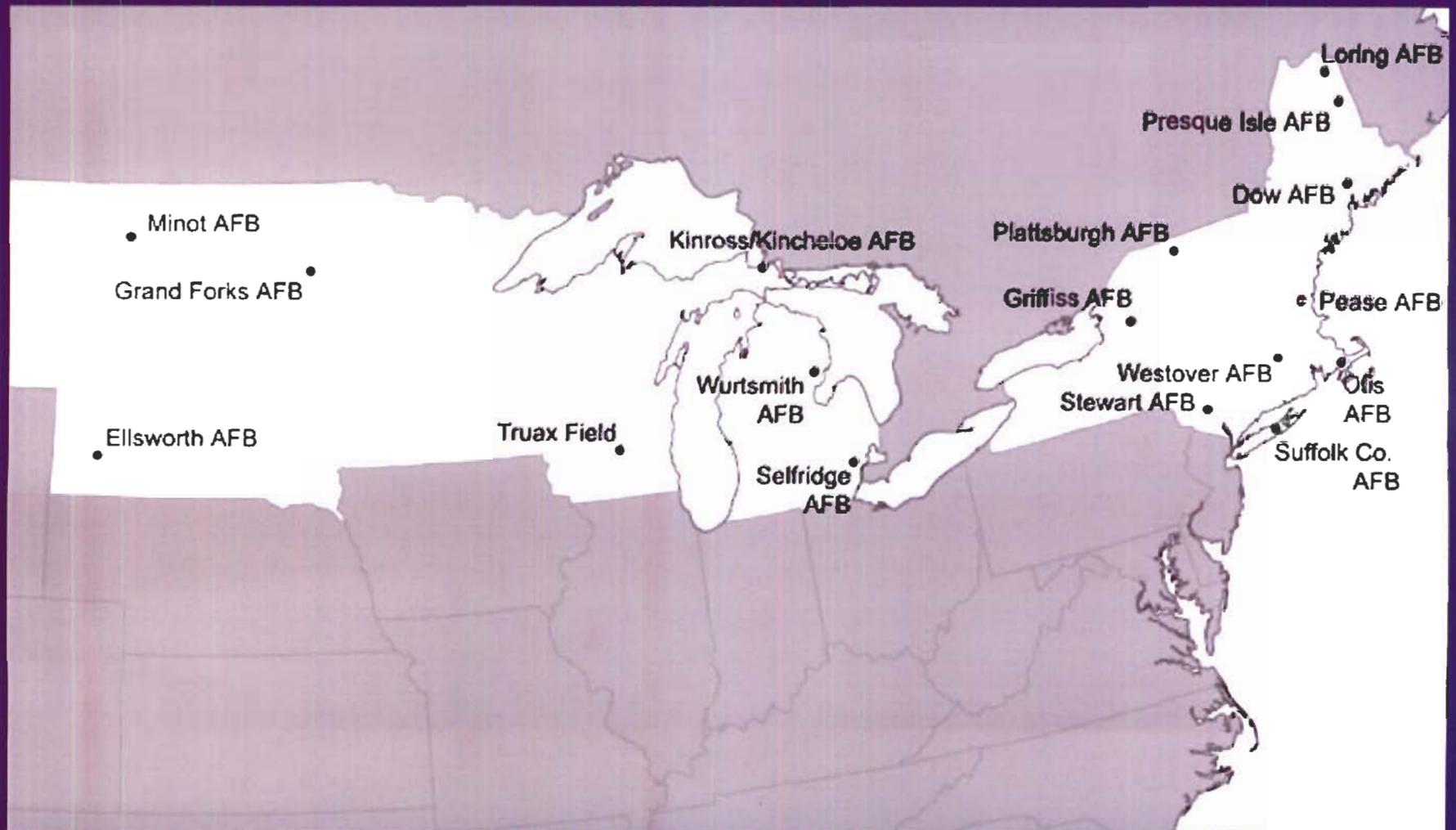


Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
To receive eight tankers from GFAFB

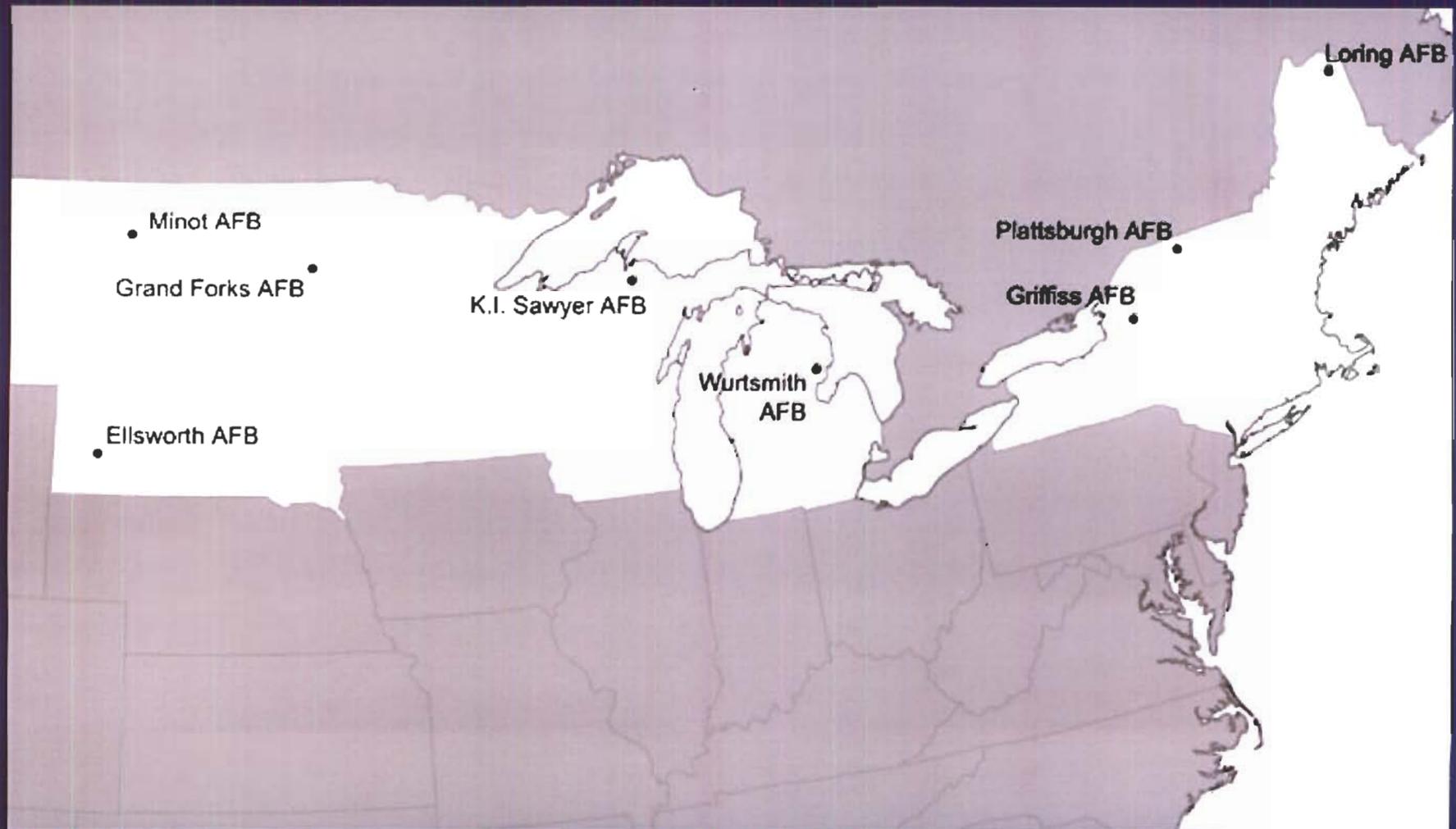
“Military judgment argued for a continued strategic presence in the north central U.S.”

- DOD Report to the BRAC Commission

Major Active Duty U.S. Air Force Bases (Northern Region, Flying Mission), 1958



Major Active Duty U.S. Air Force Bases (Northern Region, Flying Mission), 1991



Major Active Duty U.S. Air Force Bases (Northern Region, Flying Mission), 2005



**Grand Forks is the Only Active
Air Force Installation from Minot to
Massachusetts**

Homeland Security Depends on a Northern Tier Base

118 STAT. 3732

PUBLIC LAW 108-458—DEC. 17, 2004

(2) AVIATION DEFINITIONS.—The terms “air carrier”, “air transportation”, “aircraft”, “airport”, “cargo”, “foreign air carrier”, and “intrastate air transportation” have the meanings given such terms in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) SECURE AREA OF AN AIRPORT.—The term “secure area of an airport” means the sterile area and the Secure Identification Display Area of an airport (as such terms are defined in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations).

49 USC 114 note SEC. 4082. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—BORDER PROTECTION, IMMIGRATION, AND VISA MATTERS

Subtitle A—Advanced Technology Northern Border Security Pilot Program

8 USC 1712 note SEC. 5101. ESTABLISHMENT.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may carry out a pilot program to test various advanced technologies that will improve border security between ports of entry along the northern border of the United States.

8 USC 1712 note SEC. 5102. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIRED FEATURES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall design the pilot program under this subtitle to have the following features:

(1) Use of advanced technological systems, including sensors, video, and unmanned aerial vehicles, for border surveillance.

(2) Use of advanced computing and decision integration software for—

(A) evaluation of data indicating border incursions;

(B) assessment of threat potential; and

(C) rapid real-time communication, monitoring, intelligence gathering, deployment, and response.

(3) Testing of advanced technology systems and software to determine best and most cost-effective uses of advanced technology to improve border security.

(4) Operation of the program in remote stretches of border lands with long distances between 24-hour ports of entry with a relatively small presence of United States border patrol officers.

(5) Capability to expand the program upon a determination by the Secretary that expansion would be an appropriate and cost-effective means of improving border security.

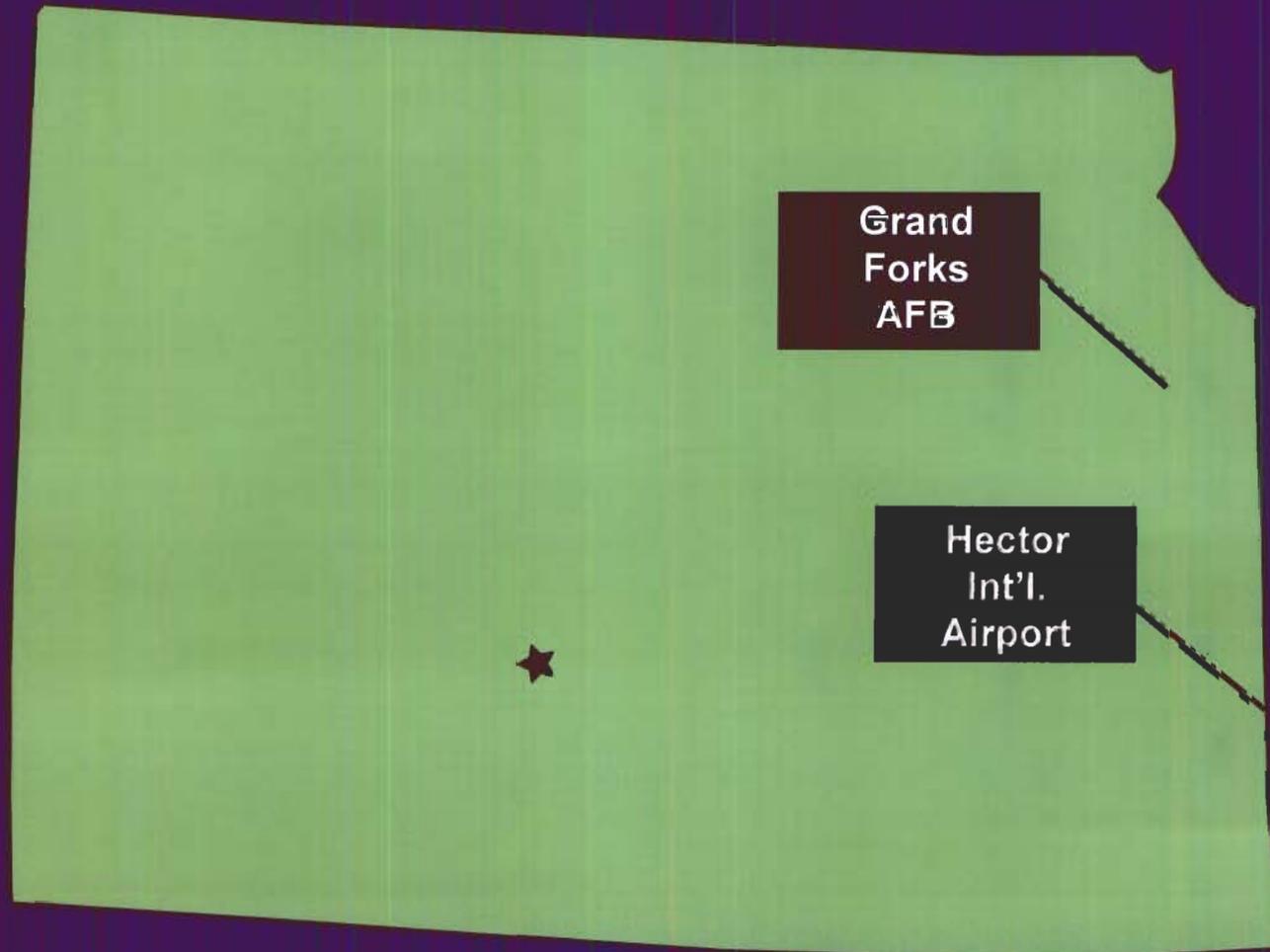
(b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the operation of the pilot program under this subtitle—

(1) is coordinated among United States, State, local, and Canadian law enforcement and border security agencies; and

Opportunity for Joint Operations with the Air National Guard



GF Air Force Base only 80 Miles from Fargo Air Guard



**\$327,000,000 in Infrastructure
Investment at GFAFB
Since 1995**

Outstanding Infrastructure



New Runway

Outstanding Infrastructure



Four New Squadron Operations Centers (AMUs)

Outstanding Infrastructure



**\$ 131 Million in new Family Housing since 2003;
Most of any Air Force Base**

Outstanding Infrastructure



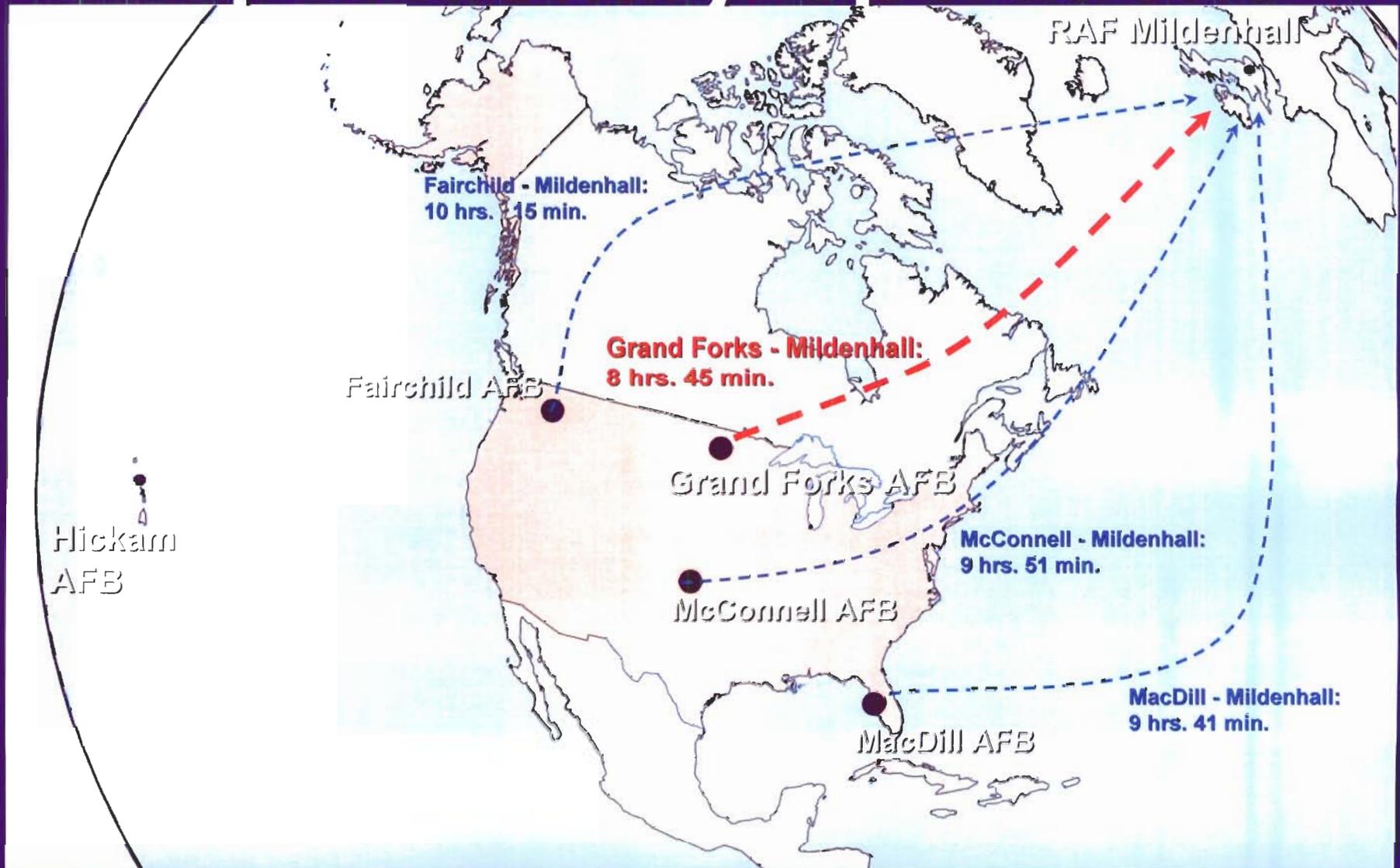
World Class Fitness Center

Outstanding Infrastructure

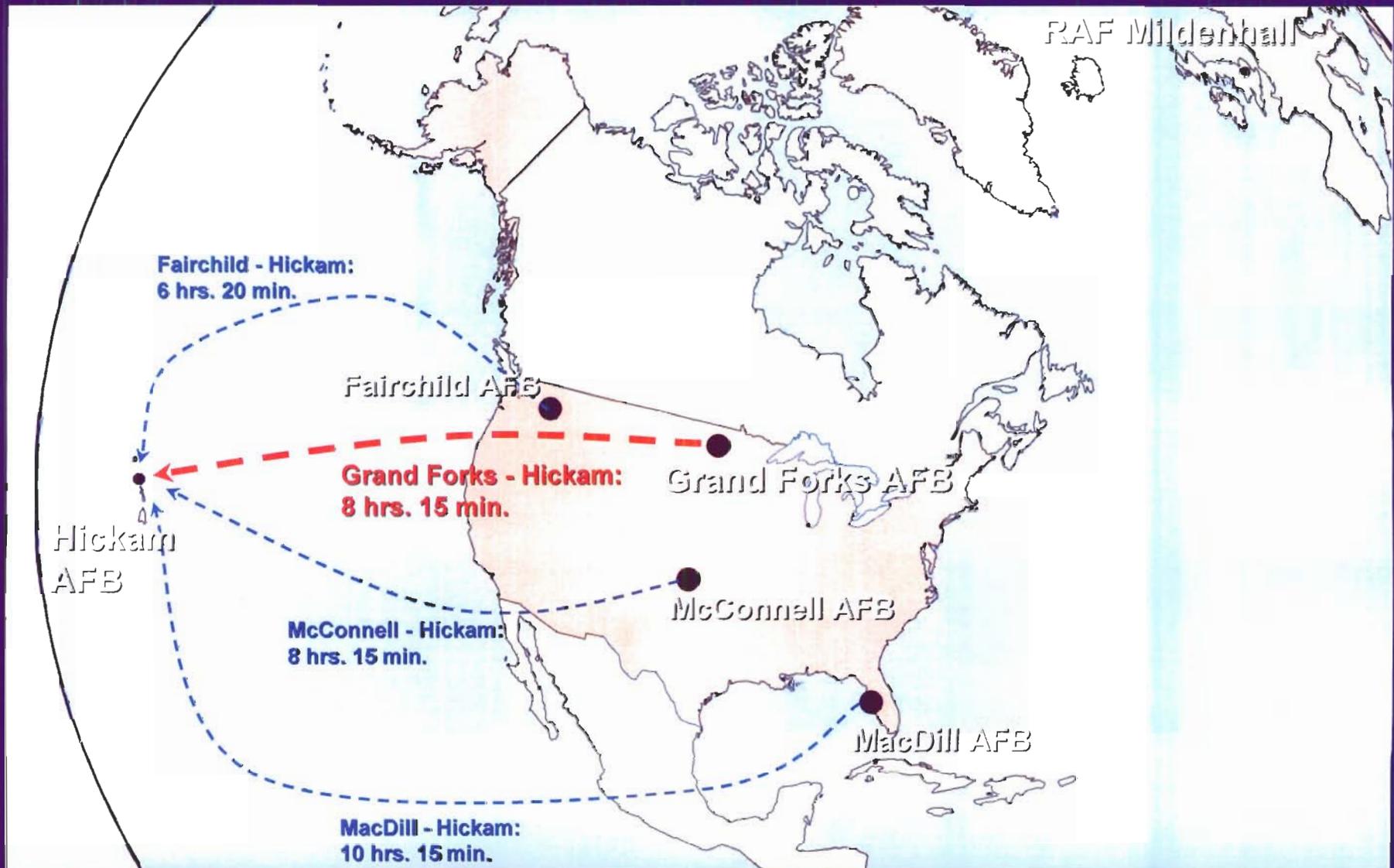


Brand New Dining Hall

Location is Excellent for Expeditionary Operations



Grand Forks AFB is Best for Overseas Deployments



Grand Forks AFB: Clearly the Best for Deployments

To RAF Mildenhall:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Grand Forks AFB | 8 hrs. 45 min. |
| 2. MacDill AFB | 9 hrs. 41 min. |
| 3. McConnell AFB | 9 hrs. 51 min. |
| 4. Fairchild AFB | 10 hrs. 15 min. |

To Hickam AFB:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Fairchild AFB | 6 hrs. 20 min. |
| 2. Grand Forks AFB | 8 hrs. 15 min. |
| McConnell AFB | 8 hrs. 15 min. |
| 4. MacDill AFB | 10 hrs. 15 min. |

To Iraq:

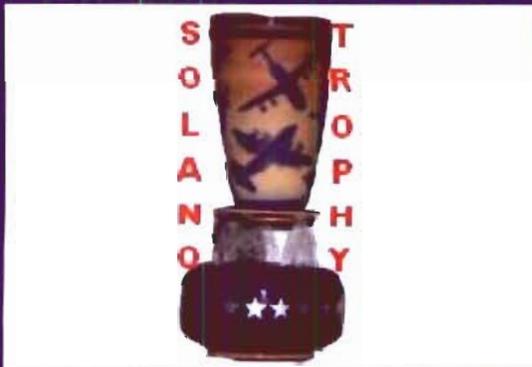
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Grand Forks AFB – Baghdad | 6,300 mi. |
| 2. Fairchild AFB – Baghdad | 6,700 mi. |
| 3. McConnell AFB – Baghdad | 6,950 mi. |
| 4. MacDill AFB – Baghdad | 6,960 mi. |

In Operation Enduring Freedom, Grand Forks Air Force Base was

- First on the Ground
- First in the Air
- First over Enemy Territory



Grand Forks Air Force Base: Superb Performance



**Solano Trophy
(Best Wing)
2003**



**Abilene Trophy
(Community Support)
2004**



**Spatz Trophy
(Best Squadron)
2004**

Opportunity for UAV Center of Excellence



UND Aerospace

Why Grand Forks?

1. Military value for the UAV mission;
2. Unfettered and uncluttered airspace;
3. No ground encroachment;
4. The strategic requirement for Northern tier bases;
5. The synergy between the base, Homeland Security, and the Smart Northern Border Initiative;
6. Joint operations with Fargo's Air Guard;
7. The outstanding facilities that make Grand Forks the Crown Jewel of AMC;
8. The location advantages of Grand Forks for tanker deployments;
9. The outstanding performance of this base that was first on the ground, first in the air, and first over enemy territory in Afghanistan; and,
10. The linkage with UND Aerospace.



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Grand Forks Air Force Base

**Chester Fritz Auditorium
University of North Dakota
June 23, 2005**

Statement of Senator Byron Dorgan:

North Dakota - The Ideal Home for Air Force Bases

Intro slide

- I join my colleagues from North Dakota and Minnesota in welcoming the BRAC Commission and its staff to North Dakota.
- You follow in the footsteps of other prominent groups that have come to North Dakota to examine local conditions. They include Lewis and Clark's expedition and George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry. I would note that General Custer was in good health when he saddled up and left for Montana.
- But we are especially glad you've come today to see and hear why we are so proud of the Grand Forks Air Force Base and the Happy Hooligans at the Hector Air Guard Station.
- Senator Conrad has already told you that North Dakota welcomes and embraces the Air Force's proposal to make Grand Forks a major base for UAVs. During the next hour or

so you are going to hear in some detail about why Grand Forks is exactly the right place for that mission.

- But for the next few minutes I want to talk about what makes Grand Forks Air Force Base and the Happy Hooligans in Fargo so valuable to our country regardless of what aircraft are based there. And I will explain why we believe their full value is not reflected adequately in the Military Capability Index, or MCI, ratings the Air Force gave Grand Forks and Fargo in the BRAC process.
- As you consider the future of North Dakota's bases, remember that this BRAC Round will need to serve the Department of Defense for the next 20 years or more -- until at least 2025.
 - The bases you keep open in this round are the only ones we will have 20-30 years from now.
 - And the bases you close or reduce in this round will not be available to us ever again. The nation will not be able to reconstitute the real estate and facilities that the Air Force gives up in this round.

(Map of Air Force installations: Which bases will we need in 20 years?)

- The fact is North Dakota is exactly the kind of place where we are going to want to have our bases located in the year 2025 or 2035.
- Why? Because North Dakota has the specific characteristics that we need for our military bases. It has those characteristics now, and it will still have them twenty years from now. Let me explain.

Chart: North Dakota: The ideal home for Air Force bases.

- I think you will agree the needs shown on the screen are exactly what North Dakotas offers as a home to Air Force bases. And let me show you how North Dakota's military communities -- Grand Forks and Fargo -- meet those needs exactly.

(Map of US population density- North Dakota: Low Population Density)

- One of DoD's priorities is to have air bases in areas with relatively low population density and with no encroachment issues that could restrict operations.
 - A number of our military bases in the U.S. are now located near major population centers which limit the hours of flight operations because of local community complaints about noise. And that problem is going to grow in the future.
 - 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 have some of the lowest population densities in the country and there are simply no encroachment issues here at all.

(Aerial photo showing open land around Grand Forks AFB)

- This aerial photo shows what you should have seen from the windows of your airplane yesterday: Grand Forks AFB is surrounded by farmland. Encroachment isn't a problem in North Dakota now, and it won't be a problem twenty years from now.

Chart: Air Quality is crucial.

- It is becoming more and more important that our air bases should be located in areas where there are no air quality issues that could restrict operations. This doesn't always get a lot of attention.

- But Nelson Gibbs, the Air Force Assistant Secretary for Installations, Environment and Logistics, has told Congress that “*Considerations related to air emissions may supercede readiness as a key driver in basing and operating decisions.*”
- That is because adding aircraft or new weapons to many bases may require added emission capacity that is difficult or impossible to obtain.
- About eighty-five Air Force installations are located in areas that do not achieve minimum air quality standards. That means the Air Force may not be able to deploy additional systems at those bases in the future.

(Chart - Air Quality Map of the US)

- This map shows that North Dakota has about the cleanest air in the country. Air quality attainment is not a problem for Grand Forks or Fargo. And it won't be 20 years from now.

(Map of US Airspace and Air Routes: North Dakota: Uncrowded Airspace)

- Our air bases should be located where there is plenty of uncrowded airspace for training and routine flight operations.
 - This map was used in Air Force's BRAC briefings. It was a big factor in the decision to keep Grand Forks open. As you can see, Grand Forks and Fargo are located in region with a very low density of commercial air tracks. Flights are almost never cancelled at Grand Forks Air Force Base or Hector Air Guard Station due to air traffic control restrictions.
- You are probably asking yourselves: If North Dakota's bases are so perfectly situated, why didn't they get higher MCI scores?

- Good question. We went into the BRAC process confident that our bases would do well. After all, Pentagon and Air Force officials repeatedly assured us -- and they probably assured you -- that encroachment and air quality would be major drivers in BRAC decisions.
- In fact, Grand Forks Air Force Base received perfect scores for air quality attainment, lack of mission encroachment, and lack of air traffic control restrictions. And Hector Air Station's scores were almost perfect.
 - But instead of playing a major role in the BRAC process, those factors played almost no role in the process.
 - They only accounted for 10.3 out of a possible 100 points for the tanker mission, and only 9.94 points out of 100 for the fighter mission.

(Chart: The AF shortchanged ND's military value)

- 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.
 - Encroachment counted only 2.08% of a tanker bases score.
 - Air quality accounted for only 1.35% of the score.
 - Air traffic control restrictions accounted for only 6.9% of the score.
- So, at best, an Air Force tanker base with absolutely no mission encroachment, no air quality issues and wide open uncongested airspace would only get a 10.3% percent scoring advantage over a base that is hemmed in by residential encroachment, has restricted flight operations because of local noise concerns, cannot beddown additional aircraft due to air quality attainment problems, and suffers a lot air traffic control delays.
- That kind of scoring makes no sense to me.

- The Air Force cannot buy lack of encroachment. It cannot buy wide open airspace. It cannot buy clear air or air quality attainment. Yet the weight the Air Force gave those considerations was almost inconsequential in its scoring of Air Bases.

(Chart: Grand Forks AFB...a valuable location)

- The fact is North Dakota's bases have what the Air Force needs. And we believe that we can and will be a proud host to our military for decades to come.
- Finally, let me repeat what Senator Conrad has said: North Dakota welcomes the proposed UAV mission for Grand Forks Air Force Base.
- There is no better place for it. And whatever mission is assigned here, you can be sure it will be done better here than anywhere. That's not a boast, but rather a promise.

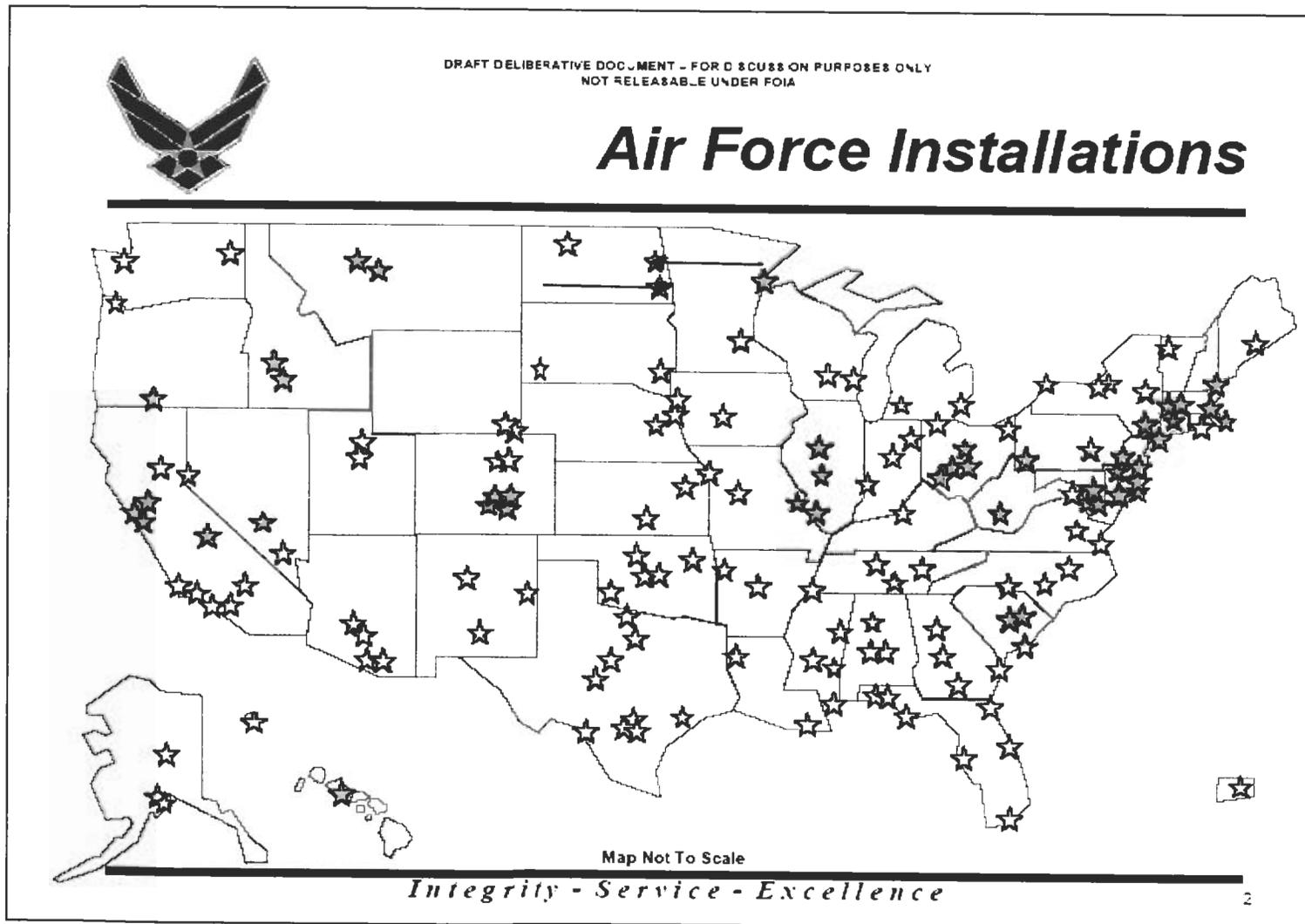


North Dakota: The Ideal Home for Air Force bases

Senator Byron Dorgan

Testimony to the BRAC Commission Regional Hearing
June 22, 2005

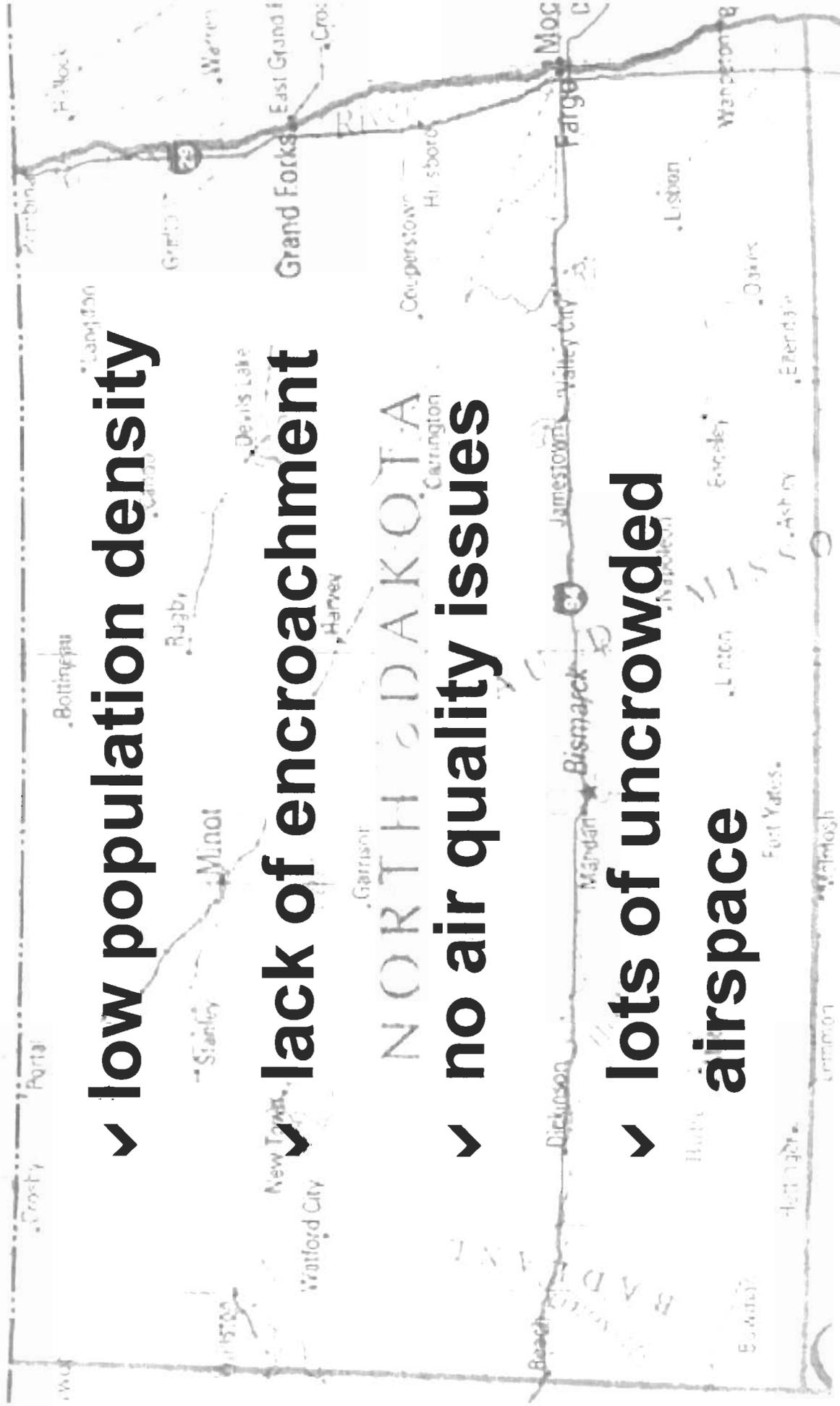
BRAC: Which bases will we need in 20 years?



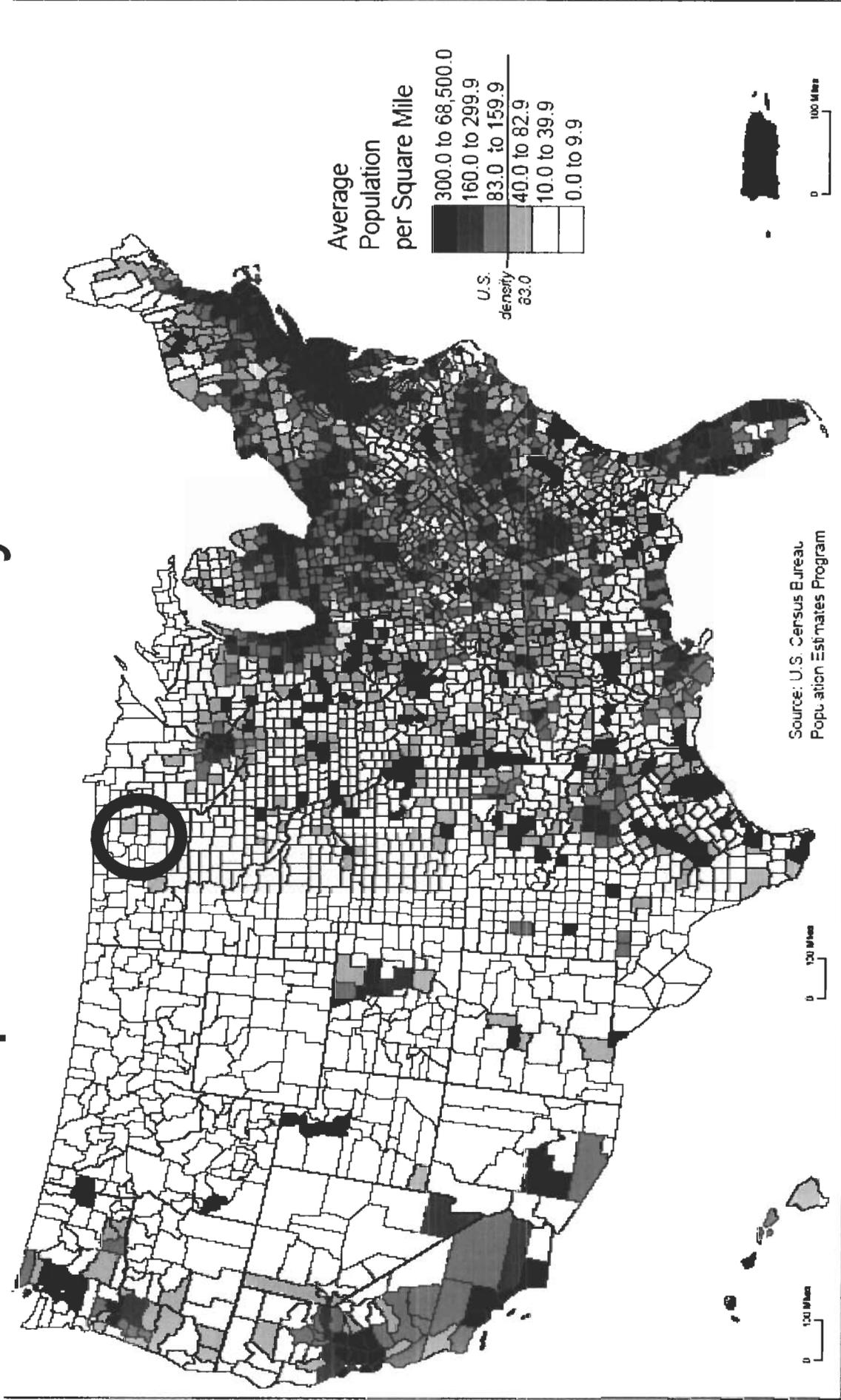
North Dakota: The ideal home for Air Force bases:



- ✓ low population density
- ✓ lack of encroachment
- ✓ no air quality issues
- ✓ lots of uncrowded airspace



North Dakota: Low Population Density



North Dakota's bases: Free from encroachment





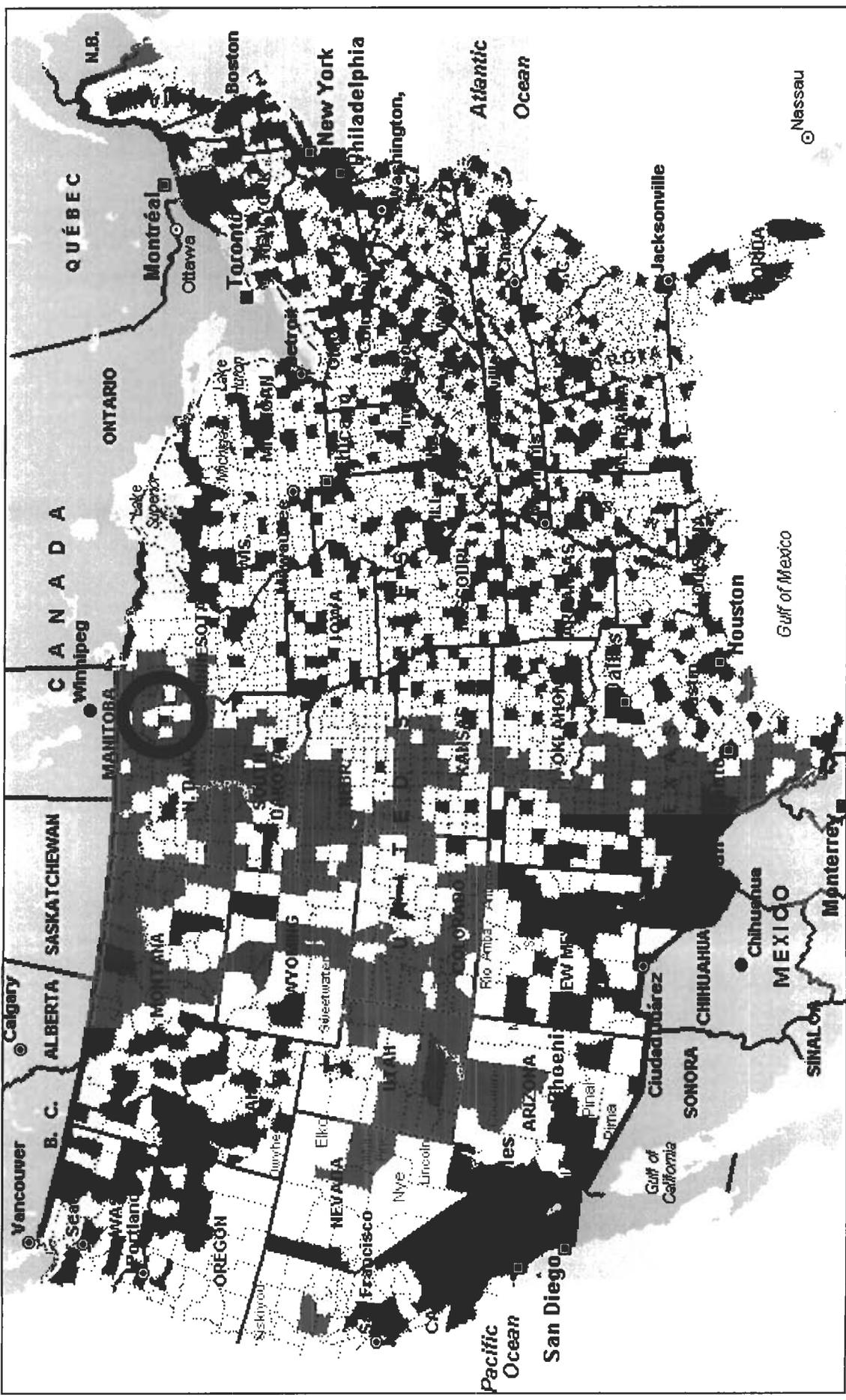
Air quality is crucial

“Consideration related to air emission may supercede readiness as a key driver in basing and operating decisions... Bases operating in areas not attaining air quality standards may not be available as alternatives for new missions irrespective of their operational value.”

Mr. Nelson F. Gibbs USAF Assist Sec for Installations, Environment & Logistics
before the HASC subcommittee on Readiness, March 13, 2003.



North Dakota: No Air Quality Issues



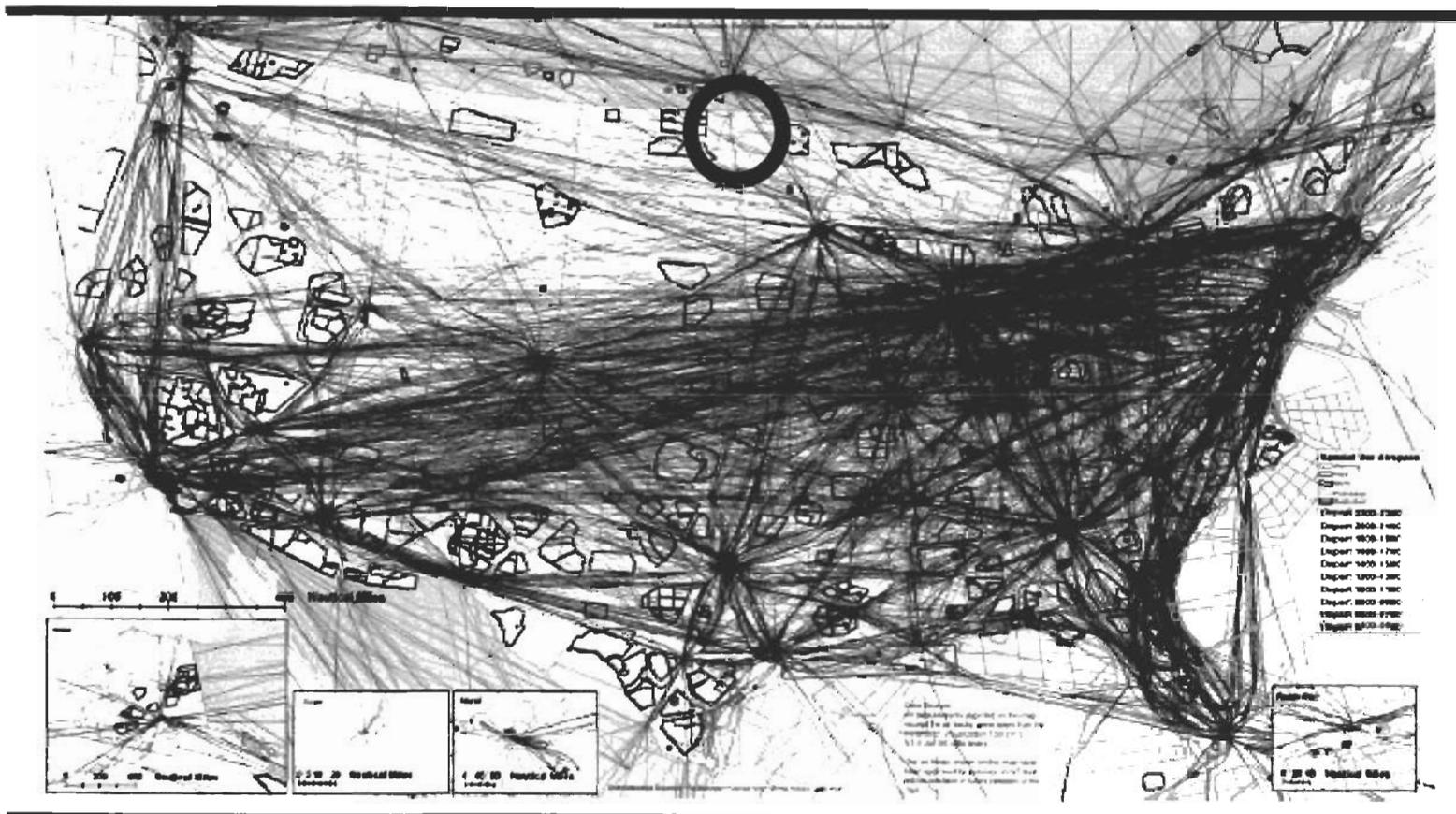


North Dakota: Uncrowded Airspace



DRAFT DELIBERATIVE DOCUMENT - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
NOT RELEASABLE UNDER FOIA

Airspace Considerations



Integrity - Service - Excellence



The Air Force shortchanged North Dakota's military value

OUT OF A POSSIBLE 100 POINTS

MISSION ENCROACHMENT = 2.08 pts

AIR QUALITY ATTAINMENT = 1.35 pts

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DELAYS = 6.90 pts

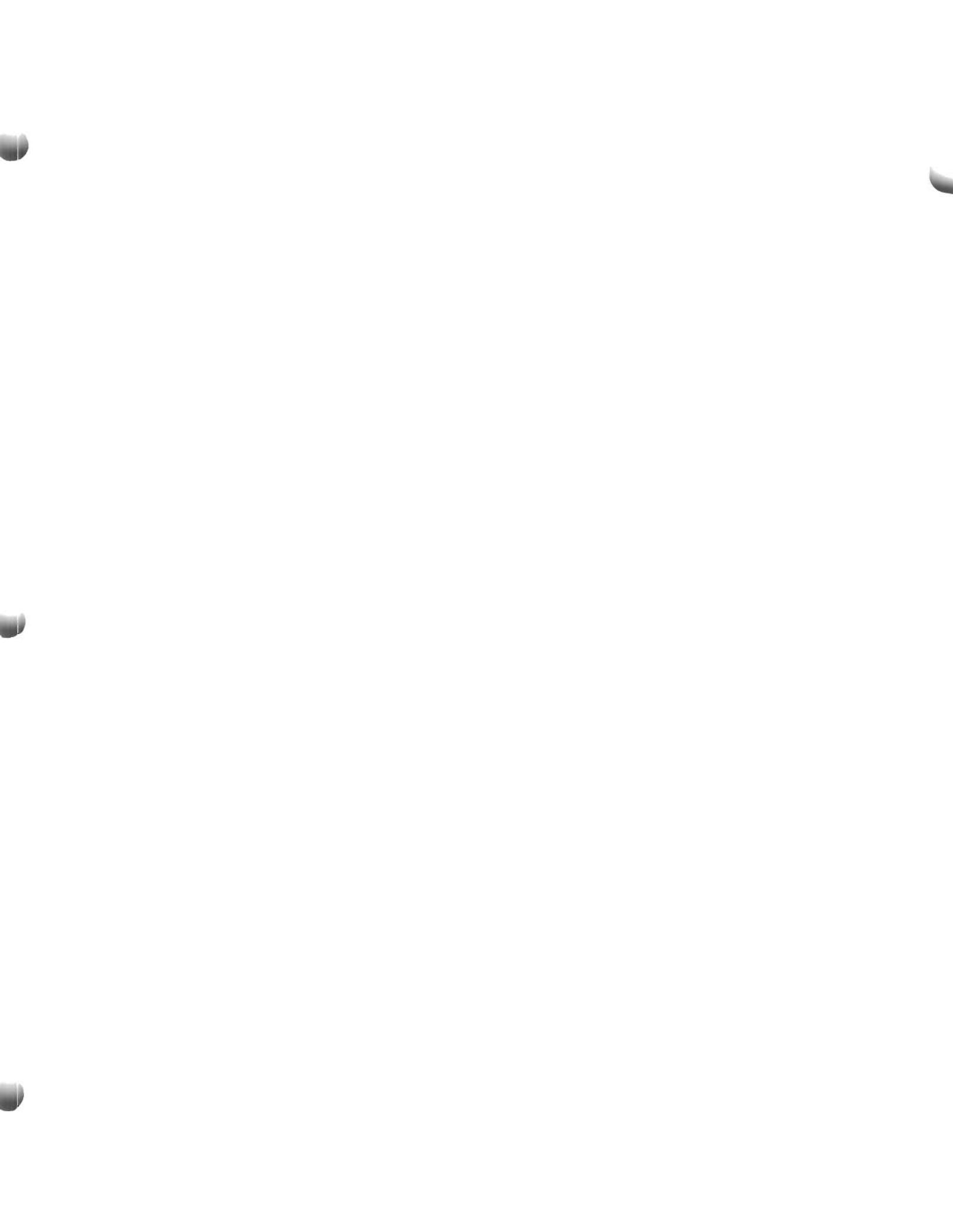


“Grand Forks Air Force Base provides...a valuable location for the future employment of remotely piloted vehicles.”



- ✓ “vast amounts of airspace over limited populations”
- ✓ “without the difficult issues of jet route and air traffic avoidance and density”
- ✓ “few air traffic deconfliction requirements”

Source: June 7, 2005 memo from Acting Secretary Dominguez and General Jumper to Chairman Principi





**Grand Forks Regional Hearing
of the
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission**

Grand Forks Air Force Base

**Chester Fritz Auditorium
University of North Dakota
June 23, 2005**

Statement of Rep. Earl Pomeroy

[SLIDE 1: Air National Guard at Hector International Airport in Fargo]

- Secretary Skinner, Secretary Coyle, and Congressman Bilbray.
- Again, we thank you for your service to our country by serving as Commissioners in this vitally important BRAC round.
- We are proud for this chance to tell you about our Happy Hooligans – the award winning pilots and crews of the 119th Fighter Wing.
- In summary, our view is that the Department of Defense decision to base a UAV mission in the Grand Forks area is well supported and offers terrific potential to fully develop the capabilities of this highly promising war fighting technology. However, we feel the restrictive language about future flying missions is unfair, unwise, and needs to be removed.

[SLIDE 2: How Best to Measure the Value of Installation?]

- The central fact underlying both points involves the sterling record of this remarkable unit. The BRAC evaluations are full of matrices and models to aid the digesting of infinite data points relevant to evaluating for force structure. But in the final analysis, it

is unit performance, the actual record sustained over many years of service, that is most revealing of unit importance and capacity for future contributions to the force structure.

- The performance of the people in this place is truly remarkable.

[SLIDE 3: How Best . . . : Performance]

- Consider this: Since 1990, the “Happy Hooligans” have flown more than 65,000 hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions. That achievement combined with accident free flying in F-4 and in F-101 fighter aircraft is the longest continuous period of safe and effective fighter aircraft operations for any Air National Guard fighter unit. Over 160,000 accident-free flying hours and eight Air Force Outstanding Unit awards. That is real value.

[SLIDE 4: How Best . . . : People]

- This record reflects a culture of excellence sustained year after year because the unit has been able to continuously bring into its ranks highly qualified and motivated individuals committed to serving their nation and state. This base is located smack in the middle of a recruitment gold mine with a Metropolitan Statistical Area population of over 170,000 including over 25,000 college students, 3,000 engineering students at North Dakota State University alone.
- The result is a feeder system of highly qualified recruits capable of complex mission assignments and bringing considerable talent to the unit mix in joint operations with the Grand Forks Air Force Base.
- In short, the performance record of the Happy Hooligans is a direct result of the culture of excellence built upon the recruiting pool of the Fargo area, which means as long as they have missions to perform, they will continue to excel for the US Air Force and for us all.

[SLIDE 5: How Best . . . : Place]

- Complementing this culture of excellence are some of the best facilities in the Air Guard due to \$16.5 million in infrastructure improvements since 1999, making it an attractive base for future flying missions. Hector Field does not face the encroachment and environmental problems that are hurting the missions of other Air Guard units around the country. Currently, special use airspace for the military comprises nearly a quarter of the airspace above North Dakota. Furthermore, civilian administrators at Hector International Airport and the city of Fargo have cooperated closely with the Guard regarding land use planning.
- Indeed, it is important to note that the infrastructure available in Fargo is perfectly suited to the needs of an Air National Guard base – including sufficient ramp space.

[SLIDE 6: Air National Guard in Fargo: Proven Military Value]

- We are excited about the partnership advanced by the Air Force as capacities at the Grand Forks Air Force Base are combined with the Happy Hooligans here in Fargo in executing the UAV mission. The assets of the Grand Forks and Fargo bases, from airspace, to infrastructure, to unit capability for such a sophisticated assignment lend themselves so well to this mission.
- However, unique to all other Air National Guard facilities, the programmatic flexibility of the Air Force is restricted when it comes to Fargo by language which eliminates other flying options when the F-16s presently being flown are retired. This restrictive language is an unnecessary infringement on Air Force planning options and need to be removed.
- I strongly believe the Air Force should have the same operational flexibility for future planning for the Fargo installation it has for all other Air National Guard bases. There is nothing from the facts on the ground which compels this unique language from BRAC to future Air Force planners, and it is ill-advised to single this base out for this limiting language.
- The Air National Guard should continue to possess a flying mission to train pilots and develop their skills with the intention of growing future UAV pilots and crews through their current work. A UAV scenario such as described by the Air Force would require 70 pilots. Fargo's Air National Guard unit stands ready to supply many of those pilots and begin the training for the next generation of Air Force UAV operators.

[SLIDE 7: Performance + People + Place]

- We have excellent facilities, including modern buildings and infrastructures, abundant air space and a brand new runway. We have ramp space appropriate to the requirements of an Air National Guard unit. We are the only flying unit serving the state of North Dakota.
- A future flying mission for the North Dakota Air Guard should not be precluded as part of BRAC.
- Indeed, as the UAV mission – still in its formative years of innovation – develops it is highly possible the co-location of UAVs and a flying mission will be found to be the optimal basing strategy in order to maintain pilot flight hours and experience and other complimenting synergies. These possibilities need not and should not be foreclosed as part of BRAC. They are best left in the future programmatic options available to Air Force leadership.
- Thank you again for your service to our nation. We invite you back often in your individual capacity in the years to come.

- With the missions assigned to Fargo and Grand Forks, we believe you will be seeing in the years to come the future of the United States Air Force as it becomes an operational reality for our nation.



Grand Forks Air Force Base

**Rep. Earl Pomeroy
Base Realignment and Closure
Hearing
June 23, 2005**

UAVs in Grand Forks: Location, Location, Location

Location: Northern tier border region

Location: No encroachment and abundant airspace

Location: Proximity to outstanding Air National
Guard unit

**Use All the Value:
How Can We Best Create Synergies and
Cost Efficiencies for the Military?**

“ . . . reconfigure our current infrastructure into one in which operational capacity maximizes both warfighting capability and efficiency.”

Base Closure kick-off memo,
November 15, 2002
Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld

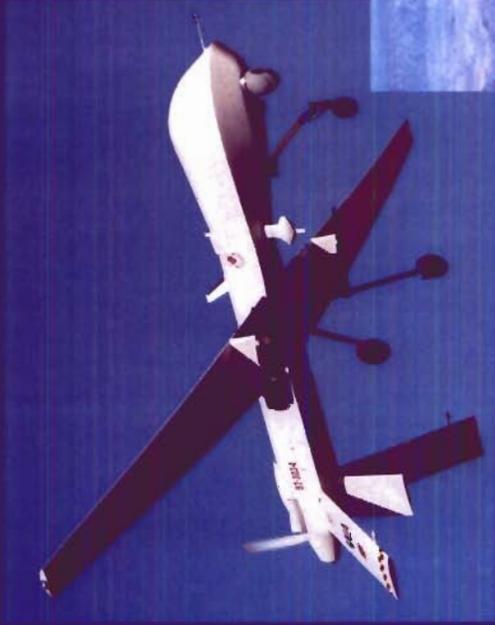
Use All the Value: Consider the Tanker Mission

Less than 100 personnel are required to keep one squadron of tankers flying.

Crew augmentation from the Air National Guard will ensure maximum mission capability.

A host flying unit will maintain a presence for expeditionary use and emerging missions and technologies.

Grand Forks is UAV Ready

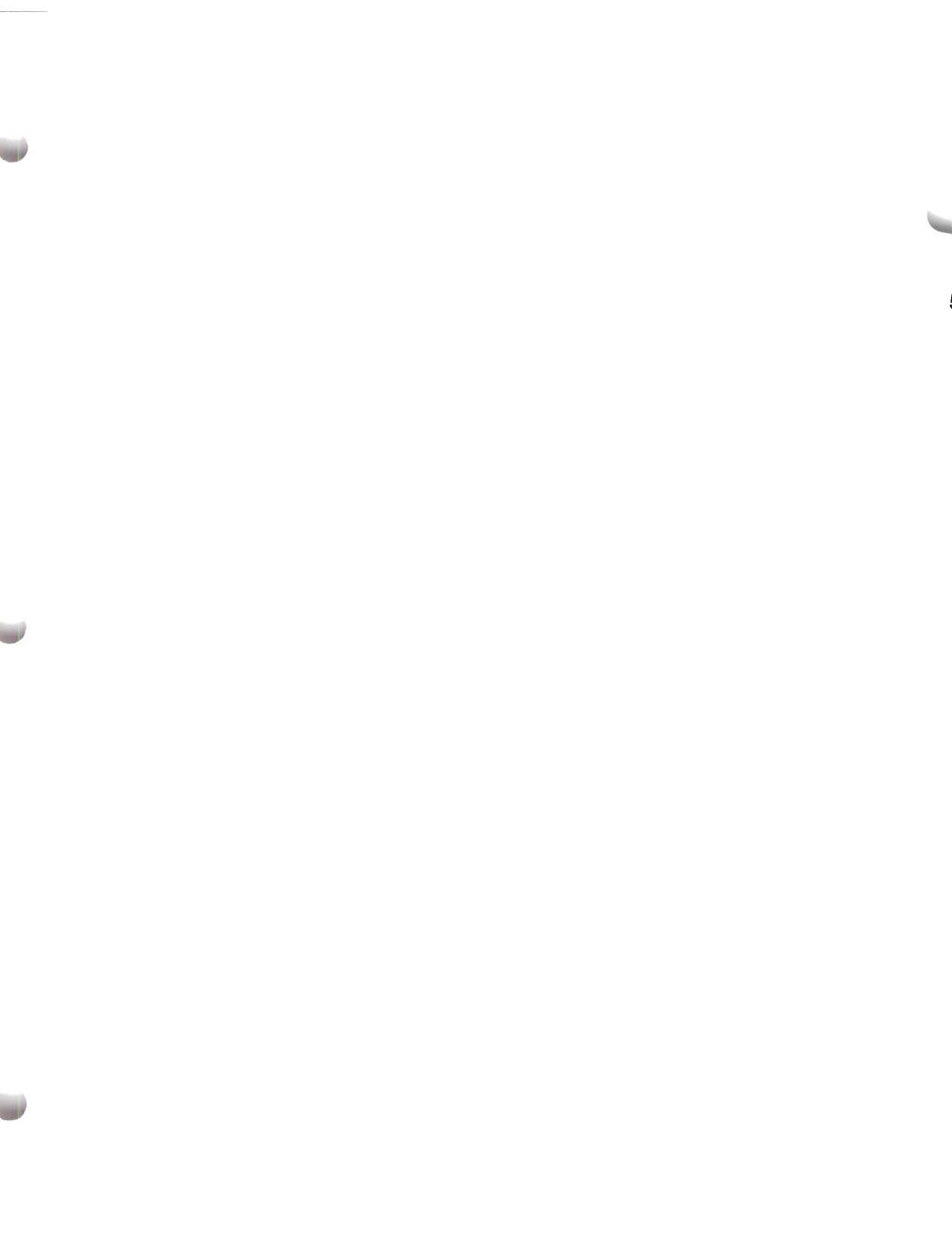


*Use
All the
Value*



*Unmanned
Aerial
Vehicles*







— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

Testimony of John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota
BRAC Commission Hearing
Grand Forks, North Dakota
June 23, 2005

I am John Hoeven, Governor of North Dakota. 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 and at every corner work together to support both national and local defense issues.

One example of our support is the Veteran's Bonus legislation passed in 2005 that appropriated \$5,000,000 of state funds to provide every active duty guard, and reserve North Dakota resident veteran with \$100 for every month of deployment in the Theater of Operations.

I would also note that many of our airmen assigned to Minot and Grand Forks, while having initial reservations about our "diverse climate," ultimately retire in North Dakota. A primary reason is our strong community support of the military.

One of the issues we are currently working on is 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 not only of North Dakota and the Congressional Delegation, but also at the highest levels of the Air Force. These individuals recognize the clear advantages to using our diverse terrain, infrastructure, and climate to train real world scenarios.

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. North Dakota is an ideal setting for this training area due to diversity of the terrain, four distinct weather seasons, bases in the state that are well suited for exercises and virtually no air traffic congestion.

This initiative represents a three year concerted effort that, in addition to multiple briefings of senior General Officers, includes working with the affected civilian airlines to address issues in advance. These issues have already been addressed and we have agreements in place with the airlines.

I have provided you with a copy of our presentation, which I strongly urge you to watch. It truly demonstrates the military value of North Dakota. While in other regions access to airspace is diminishing, the Joint National Training Center initiative puts Grand Forks Air Force Base on an upward trend.

Of all northern tier bases, Grand Forks offers the greatest potential for cooperation between active duty and guard forces. As stated in the background paper on realignment of Grand Forks Air Force Base (03 June 2005), the designation of the Predator and Global Hawk mission to GFafb as a joint Air Force-National Guard initiative allows the “opportunity to take advantage of Future Total Force integration initiatives to capture highly skilled Airmen for emerging mission requirements.” As Commander and Chief of the North Dakota National Guard, I am pleased to welcome joint operations between the National Guard and the Air Force.

Grand Forks Air Force Base also offers the military access to the premier aerospace facility in the country in the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota. UND has already partnered with the Army to train West Point helicopter pilots and with NASA to operate the DC-8 research jet also known as “The Flying Lab.” The Aerospace school would be a good partner with the Air Force in creating a UAV Center of Excellence in Grand Forks.

We believe the Department of Defense recommendation to retain Grand Forks Air Force Base was a correct decision based on military value, but we also believe the military value analysis was flawed. It reflected old data – with the new runway not being considered – and doesn’t give proper weight to significant sections of the eight specified military value criteria, which other presenters will go into greater detail on.

To eliminate all the tankers as recommended would create a vacuum to the entire North central part of the country. I would note that one of Canada’s fears is a terrorist attack on the US coming through Canada. In addition, keeping a flying mission at Grand Forks would only serve to enhance the UAV mission. And our Air Guard can provide the support for cooperation and crew augmentation with the Air Force.

North Dakota presents unique opportunities for military value not available anywhere else in the United States, and Grand Forks Air Force base in an integral component to that value.



NORTH DAKOTA
GOVERNOR
JOHN HOEVEN



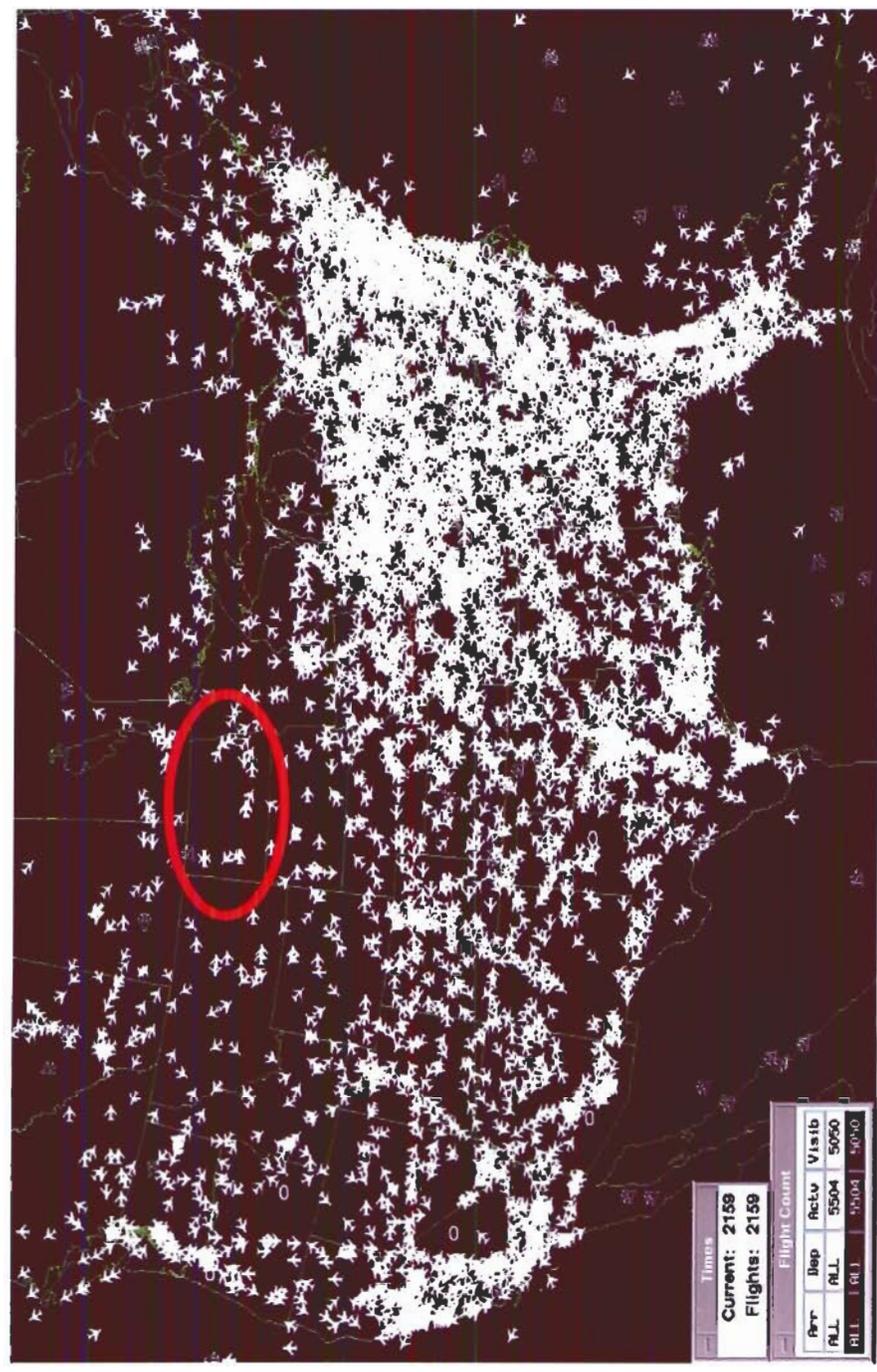
North Dakotans support the military



The State Legislature passed additional veterans benefits including bonus for deployed soldiers and tuition assistance.

NORTH DAKOTA JOINT NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER INITIATIVE

National Airspace Activity

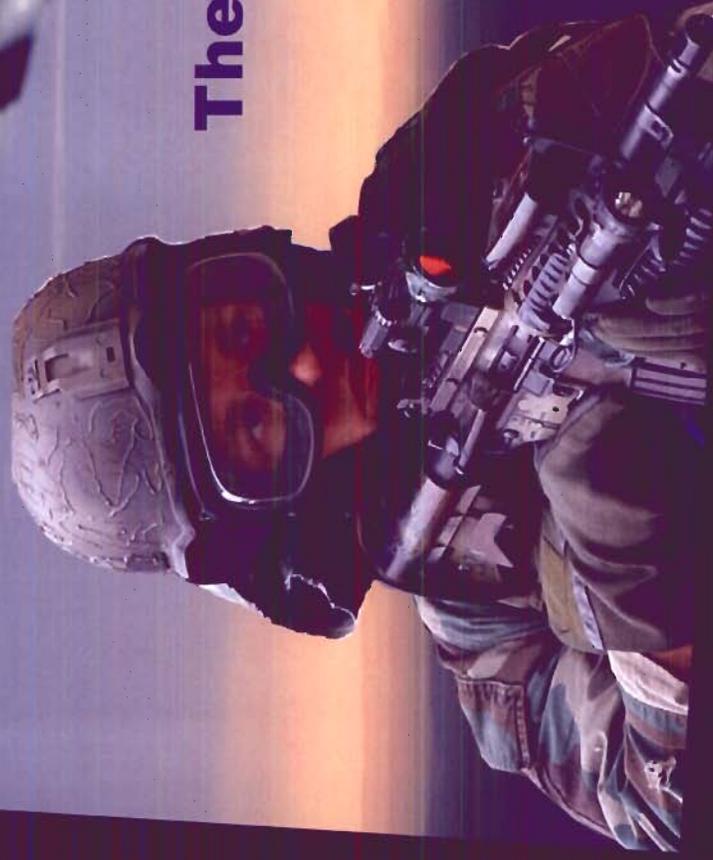


Snapshot of air activity

Joint National Training Center North Dakota



The Air and Land Space Initiative



**A Concept Proposal
From the State of North Dakota**



This joint initiative allows the “opportunity to take advantage of Future Total Force integration initiatives to capture highly skilled Airmen for emerging mission requirements.”

John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Science



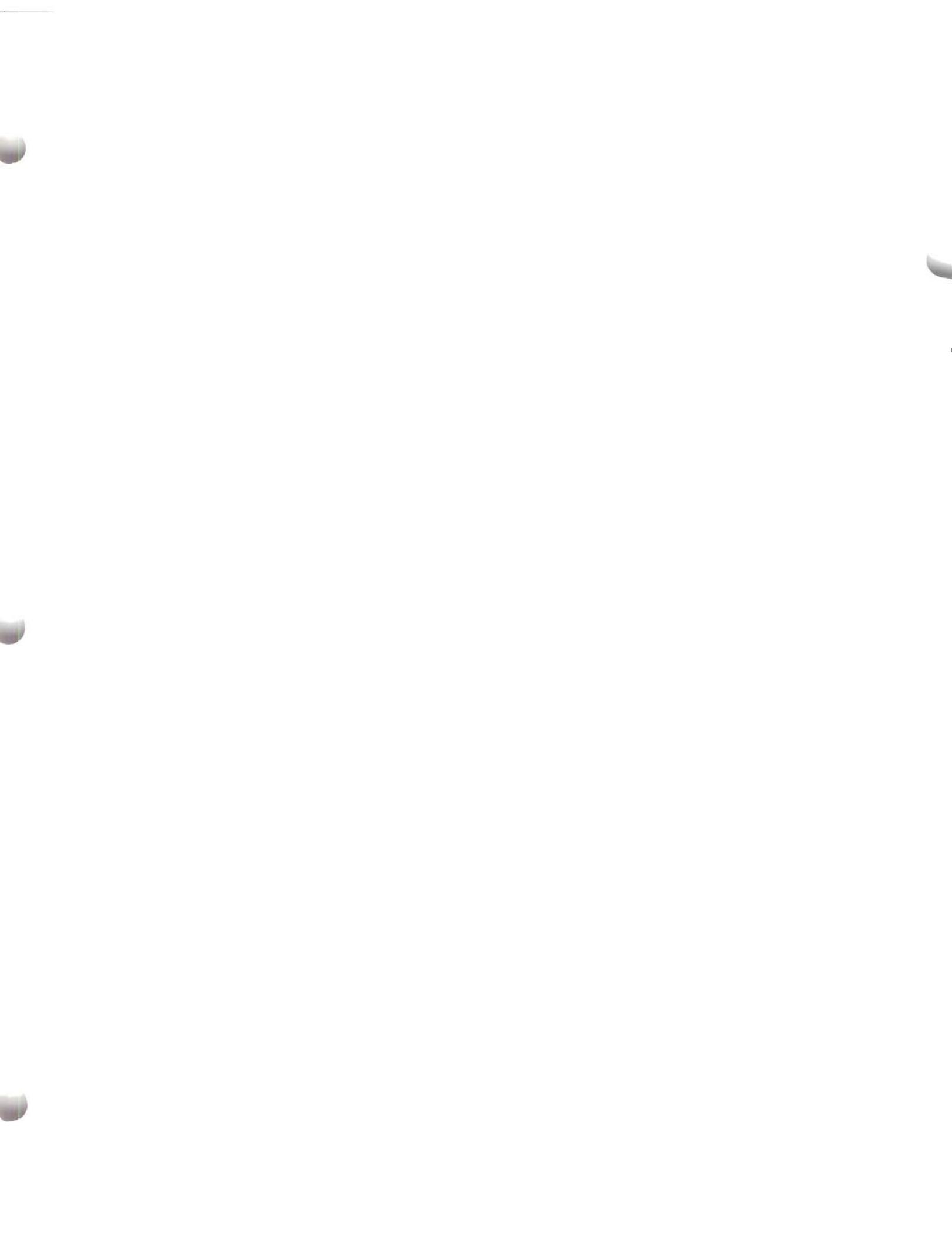
The most technologically advanced collegiate environment for aerospace education in the world.



Securing our Northern border...

Protecting our homeland...





Air Force Plans for Grand Forks

Presentation to the BRAC Commission

23 June 2005

General Ron Fogleman, USAF, (Ret.)

Air Force Plans for Grand Forks

- Elements of the Plan
 - Future Total Force
 - Force Recapitalization
 - Location and Capacity
 - Emerging Missions

Grand Forks-Future Total Force

- Proximity of a Trained ANG Force
- Proven Capacity to Recruit
- Ability to Accept Emerging Missions
 - UAV Operations
 - Crew Augmentation to Flying Missions
 - Current and Future Aircraft
 - Support of Homeland Defense Operations
 - Emerging Title 32 Missions
 - Patrol of the Northern Border

Grand Forks-Location and Capacity

- Advantages of Geographical Location
 - Strategic Presence in North Central US
 - Simplified Deployment Operations
 - Avoids Jet Routes and Dense Air traffic
 - Presence of U of ND Aerospace Studies Program
 - Beddown of NASA Research Aircraft
- Abundance of Airspace/Limited Population
 - Opportunity to Create Operating Airspace Unique to Emerging Missions
 - Population Concentrated in Few Cities
 - Lack of Airfield Encroachment

Grand Forks–Force Recapitalization

- Future Tanker Force Structure (KC-X)
 - Availability of Associate Unit Crew Augmentation
 - Key to Maximizing Capability of the Force
- Future Command and Battle Management Force Structure
 - **Will Not** be based on a 707 Airframe
 - **Will Likely** be the Same Airframe as the KC-X
 - Common Beddown Location Provides Operating and Support Synergies
- Future UAV Force
 - X-45C Operations
 - Unmanned Bomber

Grand Forks-Emerging Missions

- UAVs
 - Autonomous Deployment
 - Proximity to Theater of Operations
 - Avoidance of Jet Routes and Congested Airspace
 - Reachback Command and Control
 - Stated Future Total Force Mission
 - Operations Not Compatible With Commercial Airport Operations
 - Key Combat Attributes
 - Persistence (Long Range/Long Dwell)
 - Flexible Payloads

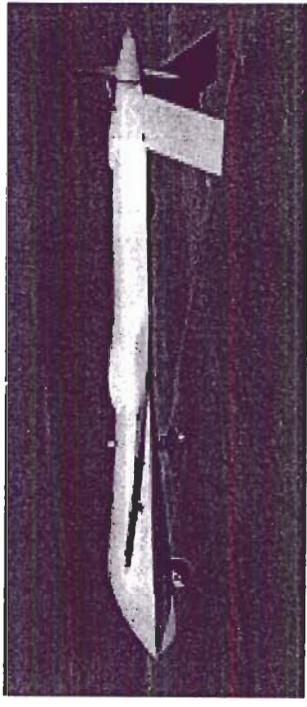
Grand Forks-Emerging Missions

UAV Operations (Near Term)

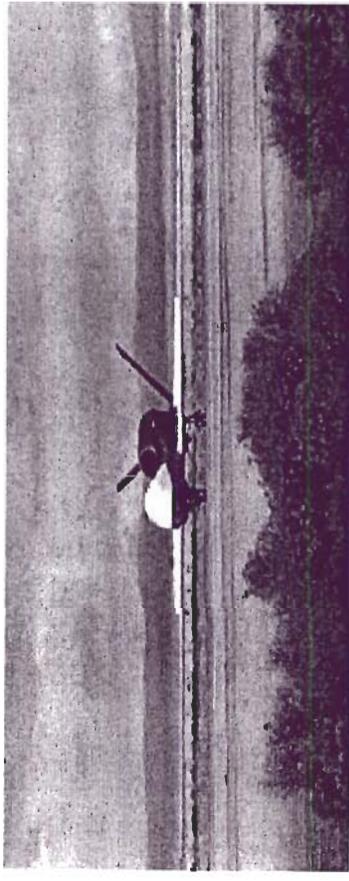


MQ-1 Predator

MQ-9 Predator B



RQ-4 Global Hawk



Grand Forks-Emerging Missions

UAV Operations (Future)

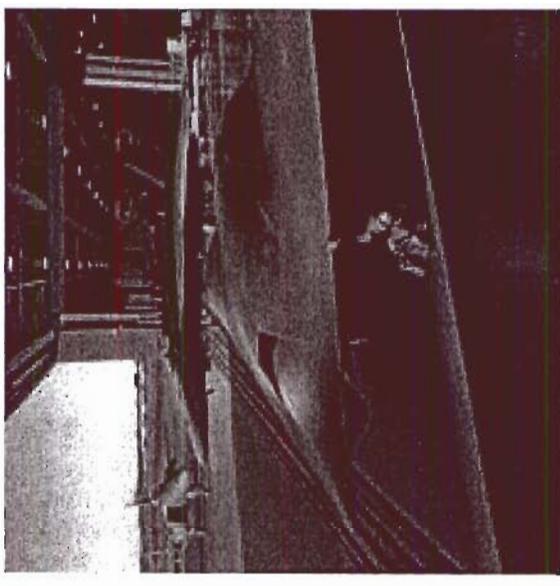
X-45C (Defense Suppression)



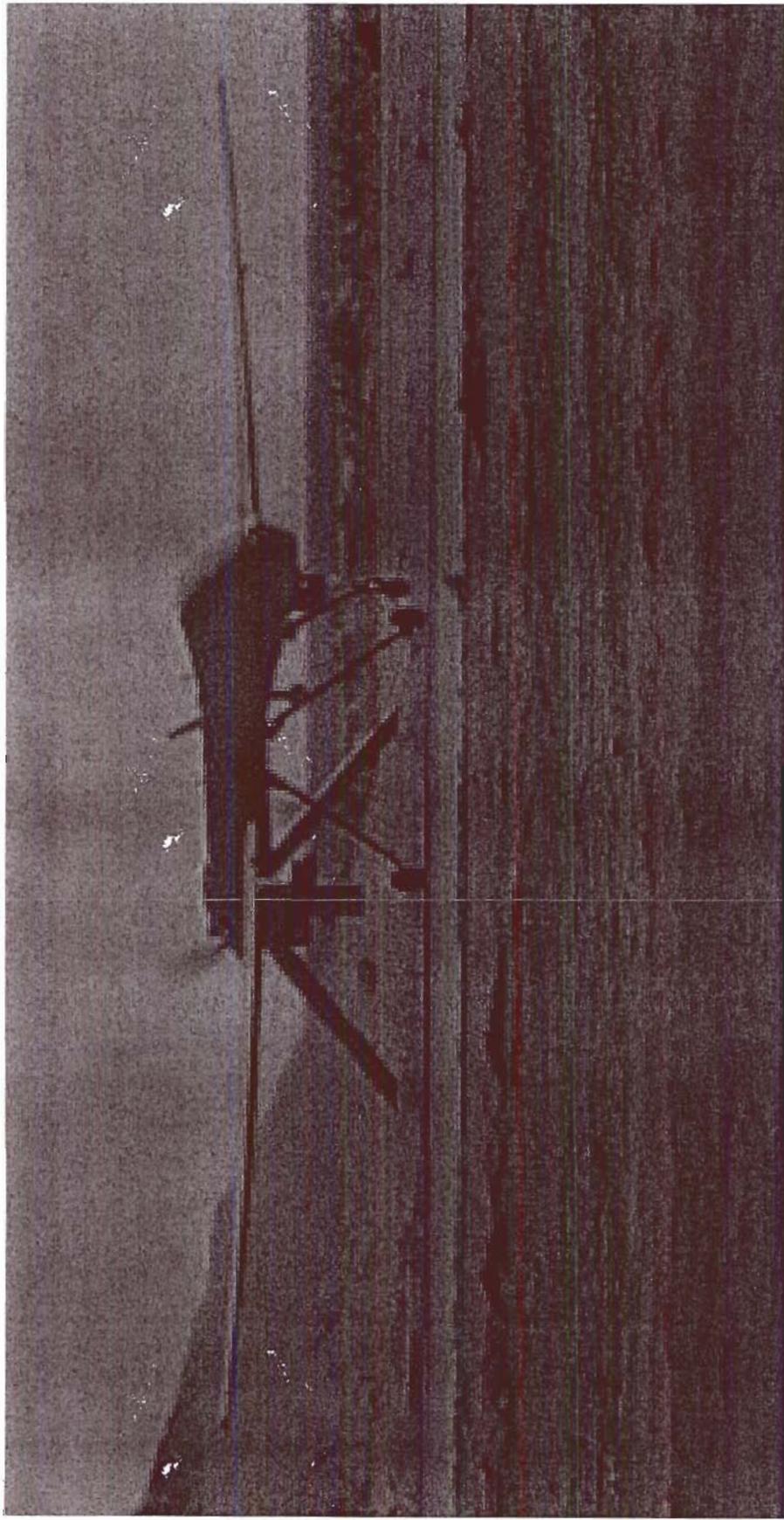
Future Bomber (Unmanned)

Battle Management

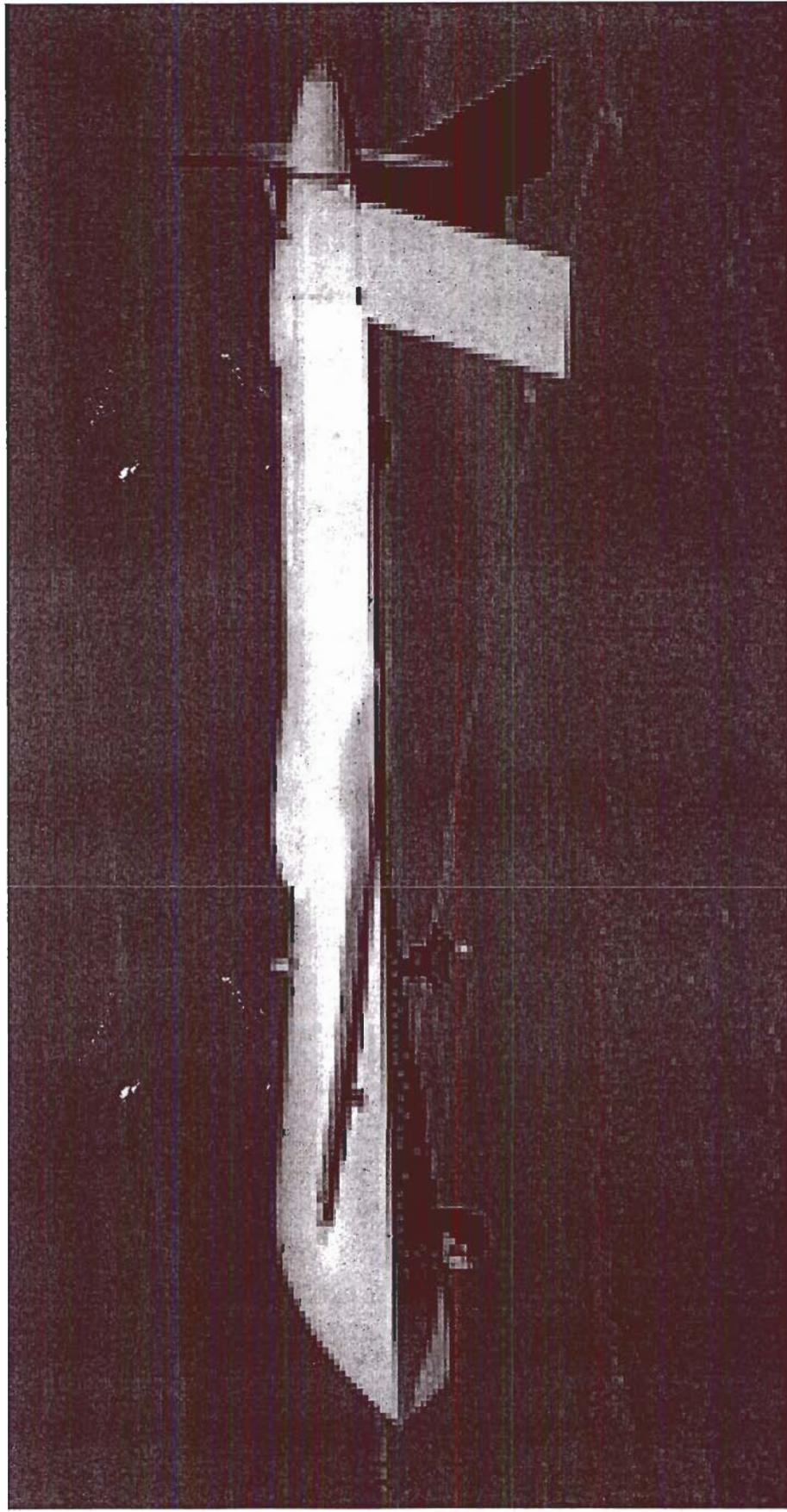
Homeland Defense



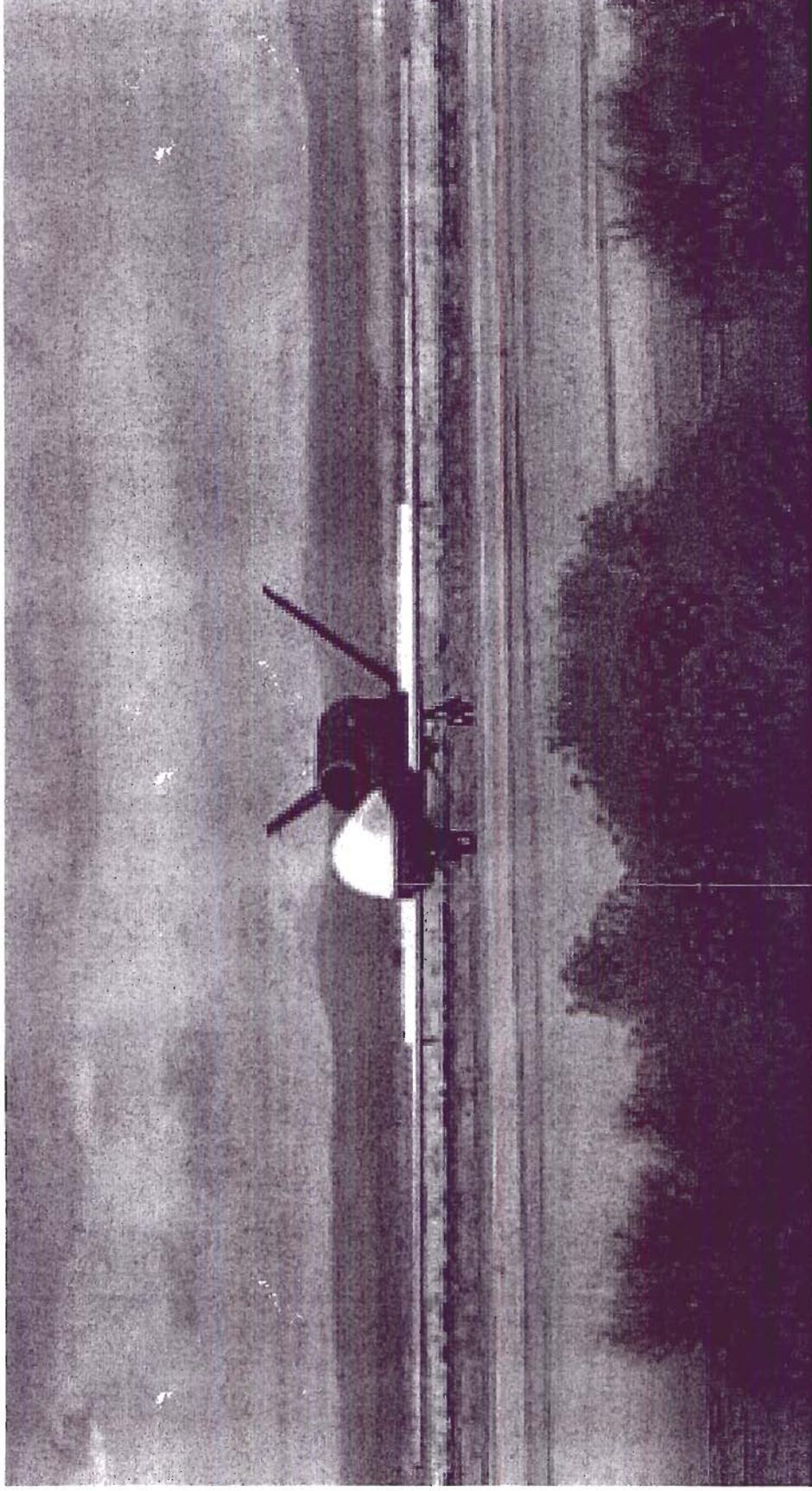
MQ-1 Predator



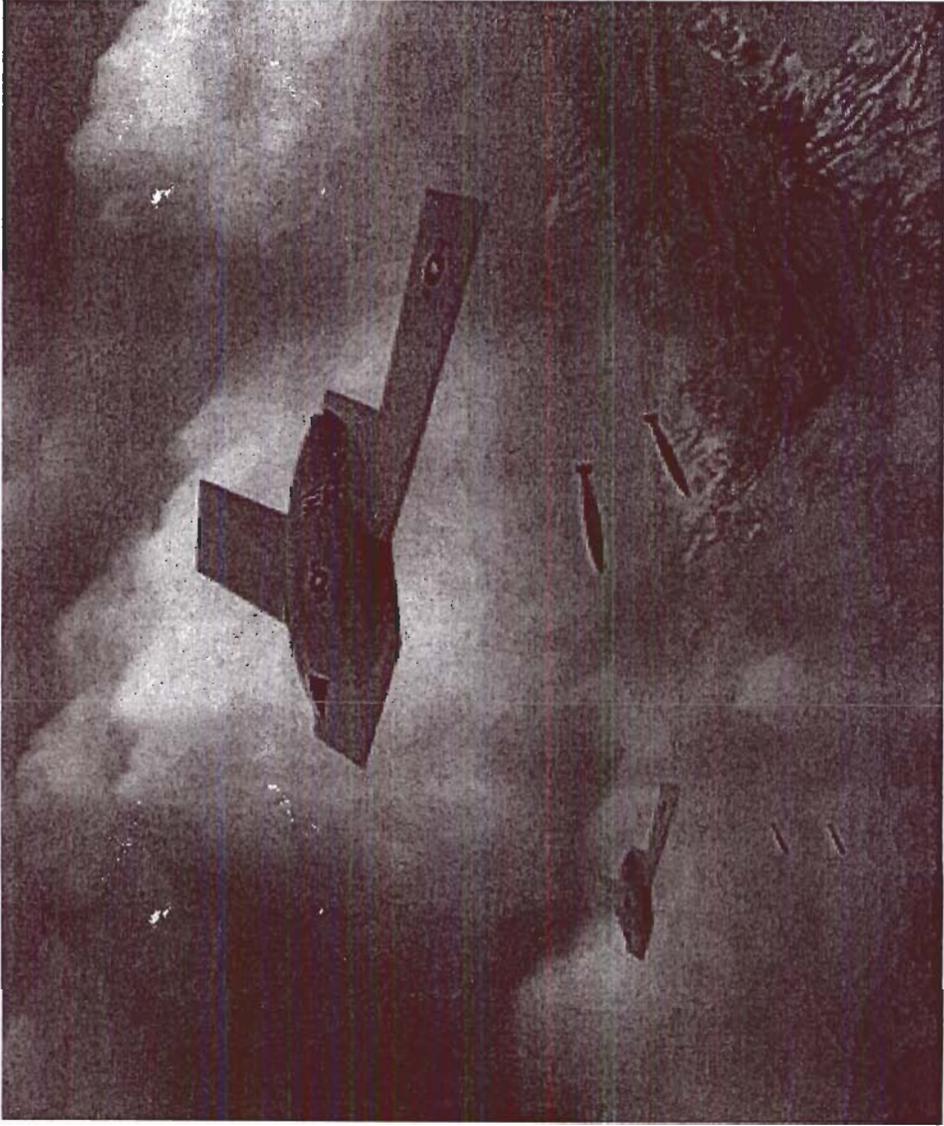
MQ-9 Predator B

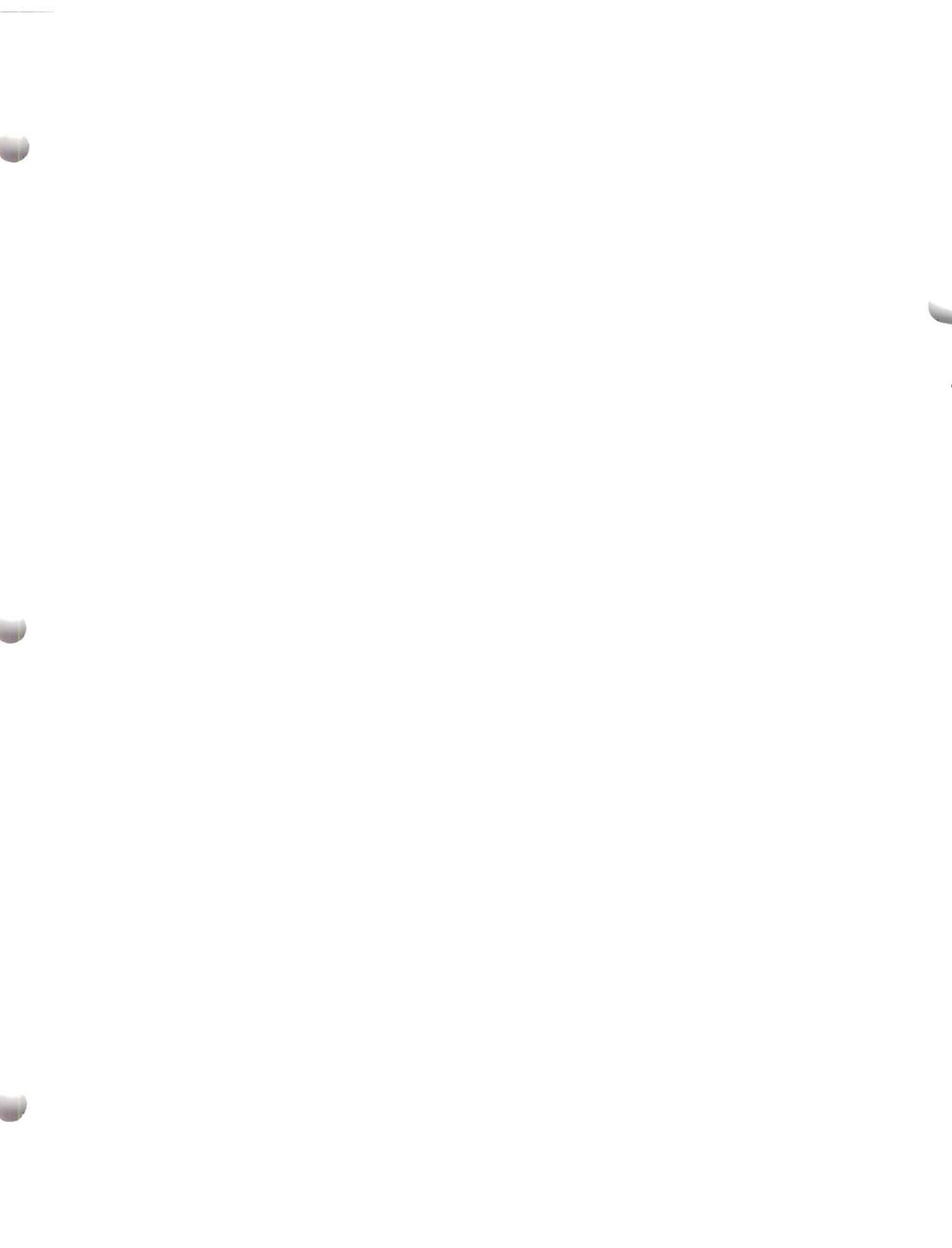


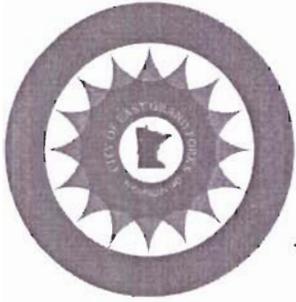
RQ-4 Global Hawk



X-45C







City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave · P.O. Box 373 · East Grand Forks, MN 56721
218-773-2483 · 218-773-9728 fax www.eastgrandforks.net

As Mayor of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, I would like to thank the BRAC Commissioners for conducting a field hearing in Grand Forks. The reason the two Minnesota Senators and I are testifying is because the GFAFB has an enormous impact on not only North Dakota but also much of Northwestern Minnesota.

The Grand Cities and this region are a great place for the GFAFB. There is very little commercial air traffic and no encroachment with the land surrounding the base. The open skies and land offer unlimited possibilities for expansion or Air Force missions.

Those great operational advantages come at a reasonable price. The Grand Cities and this region have a low cost of living, especially when it comes to apartment rental and affordable, well-constructed new homes. Both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks offer incentive programs that can save a young Air Force family as much as \$12,000 on the purchase of a new home. That is on top of the savings from the low cost of land, materials, and labor. All told, our Air Force families can expect to spend about half as much on housing here as in other parts of the country – and that in exchange for outstanding new construction.

Last month, I was in Washington, D.C. and I feel we are fortunate at our base not to have the traffic jams they deal with on a daily basis. Our time is precious and is better spent with our families than in a traffic jam.

We are blessed to have an extremely low crime rate in this area. You can take your family and travel in a 60 mile radius and never worry about being in the wrong area. Not so at some of the larger bases where you have to watch not only where you go but at what time you go to certain areas of town. Our Airmen should not need to worry about that kind of problem.

We have a tremendous health service environment. J.D. Power and Associates recently recognized Altru Health System in Grand Forks with “An Outstanding Patient Experience” award.

Last week, I met a high school junior working at a local restaurant. She told me that her mother and father were in the Air Force and would be reassigned if the base closed or was realigned. She said that she was going to stay in Grand Forks to finish high school even if her parents moved because of the excellent educational opportunities. Our K-12 schools are second to none and every student has an equal opportunity to excel, grow, and mature. Unlike some communities, we treat military students just like everyone else – there are no second-class kids in the Grand Cities.

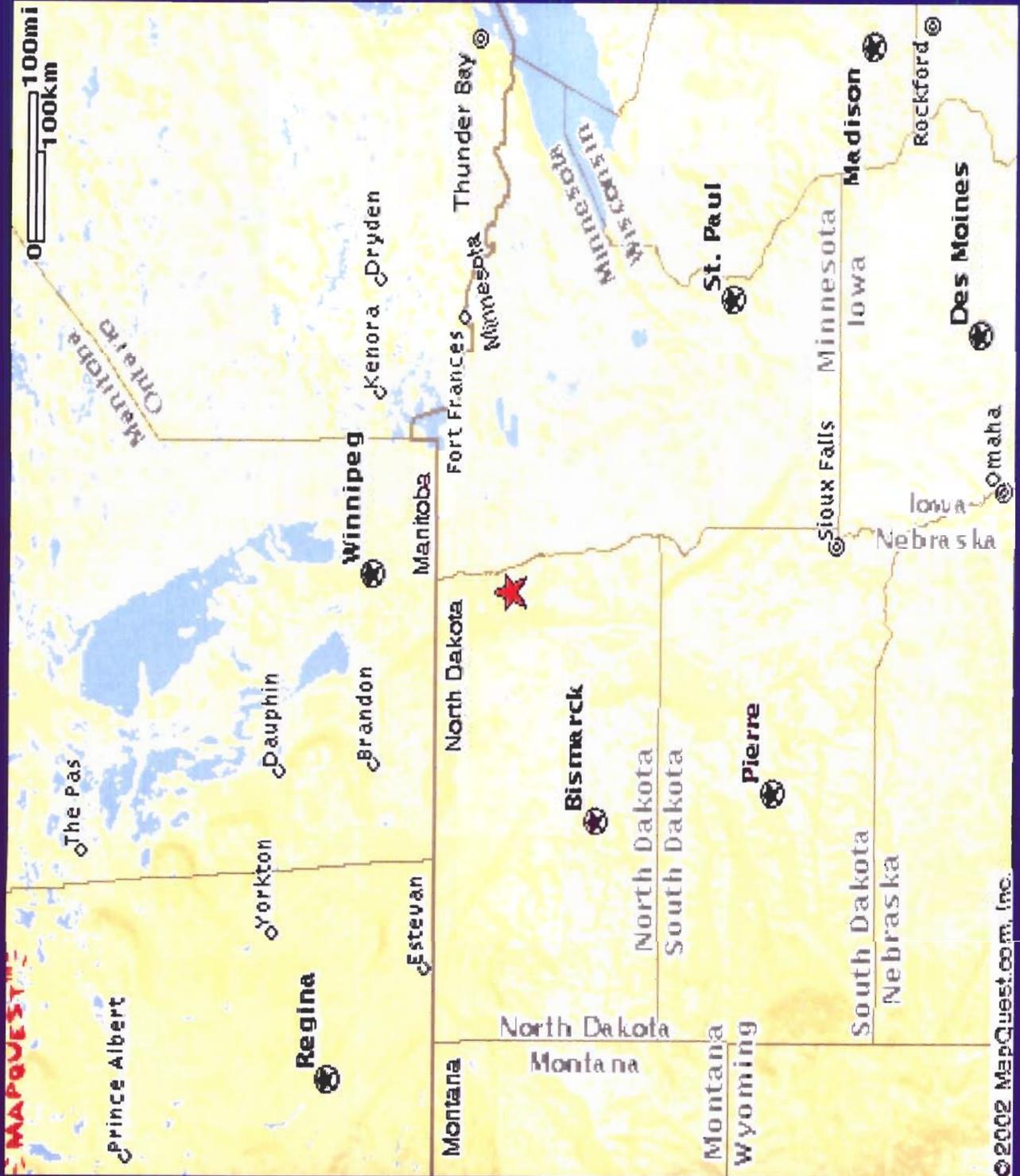
We also have the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks – known as the “Harvard of Aviation,” – the Northland Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks, as well as the University of Minnesota in Crookston.

This region offers a quality of life that is superior to that in other areas with Air Force bases. Good schools, medical care, affordable housing, education, and if you enjoy outdoor activities, great deer hunting, duck hunting, and fishing are all within an hour of the base. If you enjoy sports, you can enjoy watching the best college hockey teams in the nation at the finest college arena in the country. We also have great football, basketball, and baseball teams along with many other sports. For camping families, this region has three state parks within one hour of the Air Force Base. There are many golf courses to choose from in the surrounding area for golfers for any age. The winter offers snowmobiling and cross country skiing on many miles of groomed trails. This region offers something for everyone.

After the 1997 flood, the Corp of Engineers and FEMA credited the “can do” attitude and resilience of our people, for the quick recovery of our communities. Some of them even said we should be used nation wide as a poster child example of how to recover from a flood.

Our communities have demonstrated support from the City Councils, Chamber of Commerce, School Boards, Churches, and Service Clubs. Above all, the people of our region have shown tremendous support for our men and women in the Air Force. The GFAFB and surrounding communities have worked together to win the Abilene Trophy Award twice, demonstrating cooperation and support between the Communities and the Air Force Base. Today is an example of our support for the retention and hopefully expansion of the GFAFB. This is an example to other bases in the Country of how the community and base can work together.

We are here today to support these men and women who serve courageously in our armed forces. God Bless America! Keep us strong!







Photograph by Lance Squires





