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June 22, 2005

Dear BRAC Commission,

I sent an idea to Mayor Brown but it was too late to implement. The idea was to have thousands of people ring around the entire base holding hands and wearing red, white and blue ribbons and also yellow ribbons. Red, white, and blue ribbons for the support of the base and yellow ribbons for the return of the refueling tankers. Not just citizens from Grand Forks/East Grand Forks but from the surrounding communities as well. Picture this in your minds to prove how much our air base means to ALL of us!

People from the base do what the rest of us do: live here, shop, eat here, go to school, to church, work, etc. Some marry. Many even retire here because they like the quality of life here in North Dakota. Family members of those on base follow them because they like it here too.

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they even learn to like the cold and the snow!
And the friendliness of the people. We ARE
friendly here in North Dakota! I have
personally heard that from so many people
from other parts of the country. I think that
is our greatest asset!

Please keep our base intact and keep us
safe! If many bases and missile sites are
closed down the midwest corridor, that makes
us open to attack which would spread out to
both coasts. Give us some of both kinds
of planes: refueling tankers and unmanned planes.
It makes sense to have some of each kind
on a base.

Why would the Department of Defense
down-size a base that is having millions of
dollars of upgrades being done to it? That is
an unacceptable waste of taxpayer money!!

The base is good to us too. During the flood,
the base opened a hanger for people to stay for
a few days when they had nowhere to go yet.
They supplied food, etc., until the Salvation Army

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and the Red Cross could get things organized. They got the mail to the citizens. And phone service. No questions asked.

The base supplied the water tankers and the big trucks to put them on to help put out the fires downtown Grand Forks the day after the dikes broke.

The base even put on the prom for the high schools. That was truly amazing! Way above the call of duty! I heard it was spectacular. Too bad the public couldn't see it.

To put it simply, we NEED each other. We are so woven together now, stronger than kevlar. We have a special, unique relationship that should not be broken.

Again - keep our base intact and safe!

Prayerfully yours,

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