

July 25, 2014

**Request for an Allocation of \$75,000
from the City of Rapid City for the
Ellsworth Task Force**

Since 1990, the public and private sectors of the Rapid City Community in conjunction with concerned interests in the state have funded the Ellsworth Task Force as a public-private partnership dedicated to retaining Ellsworth as a vital component of our nation's defense and the economy of our state.

As we experienced with the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Ellsworth in 2005, the closure of a base, although severely impacting a community, region and state is not an overriding factor in the base closure decision process. Conversely, from the state and local perspective the sudden loss of Ellsworth's annual impact of over \$300 million in spending would take the better part of a decade to replace. In addition, the near term loss of over 6,000 jobs; a population loss nearing 10,000; reduced sales/property taxes and housing values would challenge our community with an unprecedented task of economic redevelopment while continuing to provide needed public services.

We believe the continuing investments in the Ellsworth Task Force prepared us to defend Ellsworth from closure in BRAC 2005. Currently, the funding allocated to the Task Force allows us to stay abreast Department of Defense and Air Force policies and priorities in response to severe defense budget reductions and to insure we are prepared for the next BRAC. According to House Armed Services Committee's Professional Staffers, Congress has included force structure and capacity analysis reporting in the FY15 Defense Legislation in preparation for the next BRAC.

Through the work made possible by these funds and the support of the Governor, the South Dakota Legislature, Congressional Delegation and local government officials, Ellsworth's military value has been materially improved. However, we must remain vigilant and be prepared to defend the base and our community's interests in the next BRAC.

The support of the City of Rapid City in completing the funding package requested is imperative to the success of the on-going campaign to retain Ellsworth AFB. We look forward to working with the City of Rapid City and are prepared to address any matters that may arise.

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