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 Title of Item: MEMORANDUM OF MEETING  
 Installation or Community: GRAND FORKS AFB, ND ; HECTOR FIELD AGS, ND  
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**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**  
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**MEMORANDUM OF MEETING**

**DATE: 14 Jun 05**

**TIME: 1600**

**MEETING WITH: Delegation representing North Dakota**

**SUBJECT: Realignment of Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND; Hector Field AGS, ND**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

***Name/Title/Phone Number:***

**Jamie Morin, Sr. Defense Analyst, Senate Budget Committee, (202) 224-0642**  
**Aleta Botts, Legislative Director (CM Pomeroy, ND), (202) 225-2611**  
**J. L. Owsley, President, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Alliance, (815) 334-1456**

***Commission Staff:***

**Charles Battaglia, Executive Director**  
**Bob Cook, Interagency Issues Team Leader**  
**\*Tim MacGregor, Senior Air Force Analyst**  
**Nat Sillin, Associate Analyst, Office of Review and Analysis**  
**Duke Tran, Economic Analyst, Interagency Issues Team**

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

At the request of Mr. Jamie Morin, members of the BRAC Commission met with the above named individuals who were representing the interests of Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFafb) and Hector Field Air Guard Station, ND and their surrounding regions. At Mr. Morin's request we provided a verbal draft itinerary for the BRAC analyst and commissioners' visits and regional hearing in North Dakota during the week of 20-24 June. Mr. Morin noted that approximately 7-8 members and staffers from the North Dakota congressional delegation and governor's office requested to participate as observers in the commissioners' visit. They advised the commission staff that the North Dakota delegation and governor were extremely interested in learning about the Commission's visit and expectations, and wanted to ensure the commissioners and analysts were provided with maximum possible assistance. The BRAC staff presented a brief overview of general analyst and commissioner interest areas, and possible subjects for query and analysis. The areas include, but are not limited to: COBRA data, data relevant to Air Force MCI scores, and issues and concerns raised by the Grand Forks and Hector communities as noted in submissions directly to the BRAC Commission and via local (North Dakota and vicinity) media.

The North Dakota representatives asked to what extent potential "emerging mission" Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) missions at Grand Forks and Hector would be analyzed as part of the BRAC process. We advised them that no specific UAV force structure, manpower, or installation data was included in OSD's Grand Forks and Hector Field recommendations, and would therefore not be analyzed in any depth because analysis would be based on theoretical basing and operation, not formally programmed force structure. Mr. Morin then presented the BRAC staff with a copy of a letter, dated 7 Jun 05, from the Chief of Staff and Acting Secretary of the Air Force to the BRAC Commission Chairman which included discussion of the Air Force's "vision for [Grand Forks AFB]." The letter included an attached "Background Paper on Realignment of Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota" that made specific reference to Grand Forks becoming "a home to a 'family of UAVs'...in cooperation with the North Dakota Air National Guard." The letter and attachments will be submitted to the BRAC library. Information in the background paper includes:

- GFAFB provides a strategic presence in the north central US
- Establishing a cold weather UAV center is necessary
- Vast amounts of airspace over limited populations make GFAFB well suited for this mission
- University of North Dakota Aerospace Studies program offers unique opportunities
- North Dakota shows few [air] traffic deconfliction requirements
- Air Force strategic vision for GFAFB is to become home to a 'family of UAVs' with associated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support functions.
- In cooperation with North Dakota Air National Guard 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
  - Airframes and launch recovery element located at GFAFB
  - Growth of mission will include transition to Predator MQ-9 and eventually Global Hawk
- Realigning and retaining GFAFB affords the AF opportunity to take advantage of Future Total Force initiatives

The North Dakota representatives stated their belief that DOD did not adequately account for the need for a regional military presence in the North Dakota, north-central U.S. area, and that the DOD still has a valid requirement for forces in the region. They felt that DOD did not fully consider the openness of available airspace, or the minimal use of the North Dakota airspace by other, non-military air traffic as evident in FAA data. The representatives also felt that Grand Forks' ability to deploy was not properly measured, particularly with respect to current Air Force expeditionary force concepts of operation. They noted that GFAFB has advantages in terms of less distance required to fly when deploying/routing overseas because of their polar routing geography.

The BRAC staff economic analyst asked if one of the ND representatives would be able to provide him with data regarding the percentage of civilian workers, by county, in the counties surrounding Grand Forks AFB. One of the representatives then advised that he would find and forward that data.

\* Denotes individual responsible for completing the memorandum