



GRAND FORKS, N.D. REGION

# MISSIONREADY

## BRIC

BASE REALIGNMENT  
IMPACT COMMITTEE

APRIL 2014

# Overview

The Grand Forks region is proud of our track record as a partner with the Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFAFB). As a two-time winner of the Abilene Trophy, our community has demonstrated its appreciation of our Air Force family and looks forward to continuing to be a champion for our military.

At a time of increasing budget constraints and downsizing, the Grand Forks region is more committed than ever to provide financial solutions and efficiencies to the Air Force in its efforts to grow enhanced use leasing and other public-private opportunities.

Examples of existing partnerships include:

- Post-secondary education institutions - The University of North Dakota (UND), Northland Community & Technical College (NCTC), and Lake Region State College (LRSC) - are providing support as they develop new curriculum with cutting edge training opportunities for air crew, maintenance, simulator technicians, imagery analysts, etc. Synergistic research and development projects will ultimately lead to simplified training for RPA sensor operators and other related fields.
- Private sector businesses, which continue to add value to our region through work that both compliments and enhances the GFAFB mission while generating economic diversification.
- The State of North Dakota, which has invested \$8 million through Center of Research Excellence (CORE) grants established specifically for GFAFB

realignment projects and up to \$7.5 million for infrastructure to support the Enhanced Use Lease currently being developed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

As the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) platforms evolves with the GFAFB Global Hawk, the CBP Predator B, and the N.D. Air National Guard Predator A missions, BRIC has been actively involved in enhancing synergistic opportunities. It championed efforts to designate North Dakota as an FAA integrated air space test site, which we believe will positively impact the GFAFB. At the same time, BRIC is invested in doing what it can to support the assignment of a new missions, including a tanker mission, to the GFAFB.

## UPDATES

Since BRIC's last meetings with Air Force leadership in November 2013:

- The EUL master developer selected by Grand Forks County, FDSL, received approval from the Air Force
- North Dakota was named as one of six FAA test sites for UAS integration.
- City of Grand Forks, Grand Forks County and Grand Forks Air Force Base officials have met to begin exploring opportunities to share additional support services as outlined in Section 331.
- We are pursuing application to Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a grant to support infrastructure development at the EUL.



# EUL GrandSky

The Grand Forks region and BRIC recognize the Air Force is facing an unprecedented budgetary environment. Concurrently, the Air Force's responsibilities for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance are increasing.

BRIC, led by Grand Forks County, has taken a proactive approach by proposing an EUL arrangement with the U.S. Air Force as a solution to growing Unmanned Aerial Systems support and industry in the Grand Forks region.

Currently, the County and the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineering Center (AFCEC) are finalizing the NEPA study. The County and master developer FDSL are working to complete negotiations with the initial tenant for the park. Once these items are completed the U.S. Air Force and Grand Forks County will sign the already agreed to site development lease. The EUL proposed site will avoid potential impacts on future missions. The project will help diversify the County's employment base and provide financial and operational support to the GFAFB.

## OVERVIEW

- The EUL will provide the Air Force land rent and payments for services rendered for under utilized property at the GFAFB for up to 50 years
- The North Dakota Congressional Delegation, Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and State Legislature has supported the project. The state has made commitments to provide up to \$7.5 million for initial infrastructure to the site.
- Interest from potential private sector tenants is favorable, especially since the December 2013 announcement of the FAA test site designation.

## CONCEPTS

- Develop a technology park focused on the unmanned systems industry to support all aspects of their use from development through operations and data processing and management.
- Create opportunities to use unmanned systems in new ways to support non-military uses like law enforcement, agriculture and energy.
- Invest in the development of new data management

protocols and processing to manage and effectively use the increasingly large data streams developed by unmanned systems

## GRAND SKY

- 1.2 million square feet of offices, hangars, data centers, and high-bay shops
  - Buildings from 20,000 to 150,000 SF
  - Aviation mixed-use buildings
  - Mixed-use office/R&D/data centers
  - Build to suit
- An investment of approximately \$300 million in the next decade
- Proximity to military and government users
- Access to North Dakota's FAA test site

## GOALS

- Establish opportunities for organizations developing unmanned systems and sensors to locate on a military base
- Create opportunities for data analysis, management and dissemination for the purposes of turning data from unmanned systems into actionable intelligence
- Create economic opportunities for the region and encourage the growth of the unmanned systems industry in general
- Support the GFAFB and our community
- Support as many as 3,000 new jobs
- Serve as a regional hub for total life-cycle of UAS development, research, and operations

### Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh

III "was intrigued by the cooperation between the local universities, local businesses, the Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the active duty and Air National Guard units at Grand Forks to turn the area into a center of research for remotely piloted aircraft.

"This has the possibility to help not only the Air Force, but the military community, (the Department of) Homeland Security and all kinds of things," Welsh said in an interview on his return to Washington.

"I didn't realize how quickly that was coming together," the general added.

American Forces Press Service / November 30, 2013

# 331 Partnerships

The City of Grand Forks, Grand Forks County, and the Grand Forks Park District have a strong history of collaborating with the Grand Forks Air Force Base in unique ways to provide, receive, and share support services. These local governmental entities and Base personnel have begun evaluating additional opportunities to extend partnerships in even more ways that may be mutually beneficial and value-added. A preliminary review has identified many ways they are already collaborating along with opportunities to do more.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Current Collaboration

- Fire Suppression Services Mutual Aid Agreement
- Regional Response Special Operations Teams
- Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) collaboration includes shared VHF local frequencies and testing. GFAFB is represented on the Interoperability Radio Communications Task Force
- Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department has an MOU with the Base Security Forces
- Mutual Aid Agreement with Security Forces Squadron
- Professional cooperation and investigative support among agencies

### Opportunities for further consideration

- Fire services training and testing
- Provide GFAFB dispatcher training to meet N.D. requirements
- Law enforcement simulators, instructor support, training, and use of current range facilities
- Indoor regional law enforcement firing range with the potential for a co-located outdoor long-distance range
- Special Operations groups including bomb squad, crisis negotiations, service dogs, public broadcast and media center

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Current Collaboration

- City of Grand Forks provides potable water and related laboratory and testing services, maintains GFAFB pumping system
- Added a bypass piping and a pumping plan as part of the water utility emergency response plan
- Solid waste landfill service

### Opportunities for further consideration

- Water-related services including water distribution, wastewater/stormwater systems, treatment, and

environmental services operations and maintenance

- Public Works operations in areas including central garage, street maintenance and sanitation to include recycling, collection and training
- Public transit ability access for veterans, active military, and military families

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Current Collaborations

- Clinic Commander appointed to Mayoral Health & Human Services Cabinet
- Mosquito Spray aerial flights by Air Force

### Opportunities for further consideration

- Medical education and training
- Environmental health certification and training
- Mosquito control services

## ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIP AREAS

**Grand Forks County** provides child foster care and monitored court-ordered visitation between parents and children to Base personnel and partners with the GFAFB to address spousal and marital abuse issues, providing training, and investigating family issues as they arise.

The **Grand Forks Public School District** maintains elementary and middle schools at the Base and provides bussing services for those attending high school in Grand Forks.

The **Grand Forks Park District** provides community rates to GFAFB active military and families. Opportunities for further consideration include collaborations with the golf courses and fitness centers.



# MissionCentral

The state of North Dakota, Grand Forks region and Grand Forks Air Force Base are quickly becoming recognized for leading advancements in all facets of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) developments. The December 2013 designation as an FAA test site for UAS integration is drawing private sector interest in research and development. At the same time, basing the KC-46A at GFAFB remains a high priority for BRIC and our community.

## CURRENT BASE MISSIONS

Grand Forks Air Force Base is the home of Air Mobility Commands 319th Air Base Wing. The wing is organized into two distinct groups: Mission Support and Medical. The Mission Support Group consists of six squadrons and one flight that range from Civil Engineering to Security Forces. The Medical Group consist of two squadrons, Medical Operations and Medical Support. The 319th Comptroller Squadron falls under the wing headquarters as a staff agency.

Tenant Units at the base include one Interagency and four military units:

- 69th Reconnaissance Group (Air Combat Command) which operates the RQ-4 Global Hawk
  - 178th Reconnaissance Squadron (North Dakota Air National Guard) which operates the MQ-1 Predator
  - 10th Space Warning Squadron (Air Force Space Command) which operates the PARCS Radar
  - Air Force Office of Special Investigations
  - United States Customs and Border Protection (Interagency) which operates the MQ-9 Predator B
- Medical education and training

BRIC is committed to working with the U.S. Air Force to retain and enhance missions at the GFAFB and continue to find innovative ways to partner to ensure infrastructure is meeting the needs of both current and future base missions.

## KC-46A TANKER

As Grand Sky is developed at the GFAFB, priority continues to be given to avoiding potential impacts on a future tanker mission. Grand Forks' Air Mobility Command (AMC) base has many attributes suited for a tanker mission including:

- A runway, rebuilt in 2005 beyond specs, with a forecast life-span of 50 years
- Strategic location with the shortest great circle flight times to Europe and Asia, which equates to both time and cost savings for tanker jet fuel, Global Hawk, and potential emerging advanced RPA missions.
- Association with the 119th WG, North Dakota Air National Guard
- No encroachment
- Unencumbered airspace, making it ideal for training maneuvers and future technology integration
- Environmentally sound base
- More than \$112 million in recapitalization projects since 2008.



# FAA Test Site & UAS

On Dec. 30, 2013, North Dakota was selected as one of six FAA test sites that will conduct crucial research that will assist the FAA in developing regulatory standards to foster integration of UAS into the national airspace.

BRIC remains engaged in supporting the Northern Plains Unmanned Systems Authority, which is led by North Dakota Lt. Governor Drew Wrigley. The Authority will administer related test site activities under the direction of Executive Director Robert Becklund.

In addition to infrastructure investments the state has made in the Enhanced Use Lease, North Dakota has invested more than \$14 million to advance UAS research and development and is collaborating with organizations throughout the state to build this emerging industry.

Key advantages that make North Dakota an ideal UAS test site include:

- UAS industry support among state and local government, industry, academia, and general aviation
- Existing manned and unmanned best practices
- Experience obtaining FAA certificates of authorization (COAs)
- History and culture of aviation safety
- Uncongested airspace
- Climate diversity
- Open terrain

The Authority has already moved forward with preparations that include identifying research projects in key UAS focal areas for the FAA including:

- UAS system safety
- UAS aircraft certification
- Command and control (C2) link issues
- Control station layout and certification
- Ground and airborne sense and avoid

## UAS ASSETS

North Dakota and the Grand Forks region are leaders in UAS operations, research and development, testing, evaluation, and training. The state and region are committed to creating an environment where private enterprise, public and private research organizations, military, and educational institutions may pursue new and existing opportunities in the UAS industry.

In addition to the strengths at the GFAFB, the Grand Forks region has five academic institutions and about 15 companies currently providing training, conducting research, testing systems, and developing prototypes. Companies with a footprint in Grand Forks include Northrop Grumman and General Atomics.

Across North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota, colleges and universities are preparing UAS pilots and operators, maintenance technicians and imagery analysts. Our region has developed some of the nation's first program certificates and undergraduate programs in specialized areas of UAS.

- University of North Dakota John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences: nation's first bachelor's degree in unmanned systems operations.
- Center of Excellence for UAS Research, Training and Education
- North Dakota State University and Center of Excellence for Nanoscale Science and Engineering: precision agriculture applications and UAS uses.
- Northland Community & Technical College: UAS maintenance technician and imagery analysis programs.



# Air Force, local community join forces to create business opportunity

by Breanne Smith

Air Force Civil Engineer Center Public Affairs

\*Reprint of Press Release

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – The shroud of mystery that used to envelop military installations, isolating them from neighboring communities, has slowly slipped away over the past decade.

Recognizing the important role neighboring communities play, providing a “home away from home” for military families, Air Force leaders began dedicating more time and resources to strengthen those ties. Through this process, it was discovered the benefits of partner communities extend far beyond emotional support.

In Grand Forks County, N.D., community leaders already had a well-established relationship with Grand Forks Air Force Base when the Department of Defense announced the installation’s realignment in 2005.

“There was a big loss in personnel for the base when the tanker mission was taken away,” said Grand Forks County Commissioner John Schmisek. “It affected everyone in the region.”

Community leaders began attending conferences hosted by the Association of Defense Communities. Schmisek said it was during one of these conferences that the idea of pursuing an Enhanced Use Lease, or EUL, was first introduced.

“Around 2008 we started to take a serious look at EULs. We approached the base commander in charge at that time to see if there were land sites available that wouldn’t interfere with the base mission,” Schmisek said. “Since then, we have worked with a total of four commanders at Grand Forks, and each one was supportive and enthusiastic about what we were doing.”

In August 2012, Schmisek and other county leaders attended another ADC conference. This time, they met with representatives from AFCEC as well as then-Assistant Secretary of the Air

Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics Terry Yonkers.

Schmisek and other community leaders pitched the county commission-supported idea for an unmanned aerial system-focused business park on base property.

“It was very refreshing to work with a group of people who wanted to find a way to make our project work,” Schmisek said. “They weren’t looking for a reason to tell us ‘no.’”

Although AFCEC had successfully developed and closed several EULs, this was the first time the team had received an unsolicited proposal.

“We weren’t actively pursuing EUL opportunities at Grand Forks,” said Kevin Culp, AFCEC’s EUL project manager. “It doesn’t matter whose idea it is, if it’s a good opportunity for the base and the community, we’re going to pursue it.”

Without a defined model to follow for an unsolicited proposal, Culp and the rest of the EUL team spent the next 10 months following their playbook and referring to the Federal Acquisition Regulation as a back stop to guide them through the process.

“It was a lot of hard work, trying to create a map and use it at the same time,” said Culp. “But Grand Forks served as a great case study and now we have a process for unsolicited proposals.”

“This project brings a whole new industry to Grand Forks,” said Schmisek. “We will have 1.2 million square feet of space for UAS training, research and development — and we’re not closing the door on opportunities to expand that to all unmanned systems.”

Enthusiasm for the project extends far beyond the gates of Grand Forks, said Schmisek.

“The governor’s office and our congressional delegation have been very involved throughout the whole process.”

In addition to the estimated 2,500 to 3,000 well-paid jobs it’s expected to generate, Schmisek said state officials also focused on what the

UAS industry means to new graduates.

“The University of North Dakota has a renowned aviation program, but each year our graduates move out of state in pursuit of jobs in their field. Grand Sky will offer those opportunities -- pilot training, systems testing, research, sensor development -- right here in Grand Forks, North Dakota.”

For AFCEC, state-level support kept the project momentum moving forward.

“State leaders recognized the project value for the community, the base and the state, so they stepped up and provided the county with financial assistance,” Culp said. “The money, accessible only to the county, will help jumpstart the development.”

The collaborative, proactive approach in Grand Forks is something AFCEC’s Strategic Asset Utilization Division Chief Brian Brown would like to see happen across the Air Force.

“We constantly look for new EUL opportunities as a way to generate revenue for our installations,” Brown said. “Every installation has a community partner, and our partners are among our most valued assets.”

Matching available Air Force properties with market-worthy, community-driven projects is a win-win situation for everyone, Brown said.

“We do our best to identify and act on viable opportunities, but the reality is that most of those projects are pursued by private industry.”

Brown considers the Grand Forks project a game changer for the EUL program.

“Instead of sitting back and waiting for a private developer to act, the county did the research, identified an opportunity, secured the funding and, once the final lease is signed, I have no doubt they will do great things for not just their county, but the entire region.”

“Grand Forks served as a great case study and now we have a process for unsolicited proposals.”

Kevin Culp, AFCEC's EUL project manager





## About BRIC

The Base Realignment Impact Committee, formalized in 2005, is a model for community collaboration, recognizing the value of diversification opportunities for our Grand Forks County and surrounding region. The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) provided financial support for initial BRIC studies and activities. Ongoing BRIC activities are supported by the Grand Forks County, the City of Grand Forks, and Grand Forks Region EDC. BRIC leadership interfaces with public and private sectors, embracing the current and potential future missions of the GFAFB. The committee provides the mechanism to work on issues important to the diversification of our region's economy. Through BRIC efforts, eight studies have been conducted to evaluate the impact of base realignment in the region. The most recent study evaluated the feasibility of developing a Sensor Test Range.

BRIC members are active in community planning and development. They maintain connections between all levels of government, business, and education institutions. Committee members and its coordinator keep stakeholders informed on activities and opportunities through meetings such as The Chamber's Military Affairs Committee, Community Base Enhancement Initiatives meetings, print collateral and bimonthly local radio interviews on current topics.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Todd Feland, City Administrator  
City of Grand Forks

Bruce Gjovig, Director  
UND Center for Innovation

Bill Lee  
BGLLEE, LLC & Grand Forks Region EDC Board  
Member

Michael Moore, Assoc. VP, IP Comm. & ED  
University of North Dakota

Ed Nierode, Director of Administration  
Grand Forks County

Dana Sande, City Councilman  
City of Grand Forks

John Schmisek, Commissioner  
Grand Forks County

Klaus Thiessen, President & CEO  
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Barry Wilfahrt, President & CEO  
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