

TRIP REPORT

Washington, DC 2/25-28/09

Team Members: Brett Doney, GFDA
Greg Doyon, City of Great Falls
Steve Malicott, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Warren Wenz

Trip Purpose: Trip organized in response to Sen. Baucus request for Brett to bring small team of community leaders to DC for meeting with USAF in regard to siting of Global Strike Headquarters.

Travel Details: 2/25 travel day, left Great Falls 2:15 PM
3 nights stay in Arlington, VA
2/26 Capitol Hill meetings
2/27 Pentagon Meetings
2/28 travel day back to Great Falls

Meetings 13 meetings over two days

Garry Gontz, Project Manager, Office of Economic Adjustment, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Discussed upcoming Joint Land Use Study for MAFB, preliminary economic impact numbers from loss of 564th Missile Squadron, potential inclusion of heavy industrial park in OEA Project Needs Assessment, and potential supplemental work to Diversification Project. Presented Garry with MAC coin and thanked him for his hard work on our behalf.

Jaime Graham, Legislative Director, and Jed Link, Legislative Assistant (Military), Congressman Denny Rehberg's Office

Discussed USAF eHealth Records siting process and our support for this mission at MAFB, Global Strike Headquarters siting process, preliminary economic impact numbers from loss of 564th Missile Squadron, appropriation requests submitted by GFDA, MAFB military construction priority list, and appropriation request submitted by Cascade County Conservation District for Whitmore Ravine.

James Wise, Acting Legislative Director, Senator Jon Tester's Office

Discussed USAF eHealth Records siting process and our support for this mission at MAFB, Global Strike Headquarters siting process, preliminary economic impact numbers from loss of 564th Missile Squadron, appropriation requests submitted by GFDA, MAFB military construction priority list, and appropriation request submitted by Cascade County Conservation District for Whitmore Ravine. Discussed economic stimulus funding and ways to access funds. Thanked for Black Eagle Road \$950,000 included in omnibus appropriations bill. Sen. Tester joined meeting briefly. Discussed MANG F-15,

C-130 and helicopter missions. Also discussed other potential missions. Brett met briefly with Michael Reeves, President, Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor.

Paul Wilkins, Legislative Director, Tom Lynch, Legislative Assistant (Labor and Transportation), Heather O'Loughlin, Legislative Assistant (Education, Housing and Judiciary), Andrew Person, Legislative Assistant (Military), Will Sehestedt, Legislative Assistant (Appropriations), Pat Bousliman, Finance Committee Staff, Office of Senator Max Baucus

Discussed USAF eHealth Records siting process and our support for this mission at MAFB, Global Strike Headquarters siting process and our highest recommendations for support and communities ability to absorb additional mission personnel and families within the community, preliminary economic impact numbers from loss of 564th Missile Squadron, appropriation requests submitted by GFDA, MAFB military construction priority list, and appropriation request submitted by Cascade County Conservation District for Whitmore Ravine. Discussed economic stimulus funding and ways to access funds. Discussed workforce training, transportation, MSU Great Falls, University of Great Falls, McLaughlin Research Institute and energy development. Thanked for Black Eagle Road \$950,000 included in omnibus appropriations bill. Also discussed other potential military missions. Note Heather grew up in Great Falls.

Senator Max Baucus, Senator Jon Tester, Brigadier General Jim Kowalski, USAF, Commander, Global Strike Command (Provisional), Major General Donald Alston, USAF, Asst. Chief of Staff Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Air Force for Installations, Lt. Colonel William Hall, USAF, Congressional Appropriations Liaison, Office of the Secretary, Lt. Colonel (Select) Guenther, of Gen. Kowalski's staff, Major Brian Blalock, USAF, Legislative Fellow, Sen. Jon Tester's Office, Andrew Person, Legislative Assistant (Military), Sen. Max Baucus' Office, Jamie Wise, Acting Legislative Director, Sen. Jon Tester's Office

Discussed Global Strike Headquarters siting process and our highest recommendations for support and communities ability to absorb additional mission personnel and families within the community. Senator Baucus and Senator Tester spoke very clearly of their desire to bring the Global Strike Headquarters to Malmstrom AFB. "Malmstrom AFB is the ideal location for the new Headquarters based on the six criteria identified. I believe we score highly on all categories and should receive positive consideration," stated Baucus.

Tester echoed those sentiments and added, "The Great Falls community is second to none in supporting military missions. Additional personnel assigned with Global Strike will not have any negative impact on the local community. We have the support services and infrastructure in place to handle the additional personnel and their families."

Great Falls is in competition with six other bases for Global Strike...Minot was on their way this week to D.C., assessment team in GF next week, trying to avoid a BRAC-like review...this meeting was unusual to have with some of the decision makers...we have the six criteria the AF is seeking to site the location. Testimony provided by each Great

Falls representative regarding a variety of aspects and impact on infrastructure, economy and resources of the community.

Note Maj. Blalock was born in Great Falls while family was stationed here. Note Lt. Col. (Select) Guenther has applied for a squadron command at MAFB. Note several additional aides were present, but not introduced. Presented MAC coins to Sen. Baucus, Sen. Tester, Gen. Kowalski, Gen. Alston, Sec. Ferguson, Lt. Col. (Select) Guenther, Maj. Blalock, Andrew Person and Jamie Wise.

Senator Max Baucus, Joseph Adams, Economic Development Advisor to Sen. Baucus, Dr. Phillip Singerman, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Administration, Diane Palminteria, President, Innovation Associates, Talib Hudson, Director of Legislative Affairs, International Economic Development Council
Presented Sen. Baucus with the International Economic Development Council's Federal Leader Award, the highest national award presented annually by IEDC. IEDC is the professional trade association for economic development. Brett served on its Board for eight years through this past December.

Major General Donald Alston, USAF, Asst. Chief of Staff Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration

Discussed formation of Global Strike Command and siting of headquarters. Discussed future of ICBM mission.

Note Pentagon escort was Lou Timmons, Community Relations, Secretary of Air Force Office of Public Affairs. Presented Mr. Timmons with MAC coin at end of day.

Lt. General Frank Klotz, USAF, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

Discussed formation of Global Strike Command and siting of headquarters. Discussed future of ICBM mission. Discussed needs of USAF and attributes of Great Falls and surrounding region in meeting those needs. Discussed USAF eHealth Records siting process. Presented MAC coin to Gen. Klotz who in turn presented his coin.

Lt. Colonel Janet Haug, USAF SAF/PA, Jennifer Bentley, Chief, Community Relations and Wendy Varhegyi, Secretary of Air Force Office of Public Affairs

Discussed USAF Chief of Staff's Civilian Advisory Council and ways for communities to best engage USAF.

Colonel Mohammed Khan, Jr., USAF, Chief, Space Superiority Division

Discussed strengths of MAFB and training area. Note Col. Khan will be stationed at MAFB in near future as the Ops Group Commander. We will receive invitation to his Change of Command.

Rod Keefer, Corporate Director, ICBM Programs, Northrop Grumman Corporation

Discussed future of ICBM mission and ways for Great Falls community to support mission and partner with other communities, regions and states. He provided briefing papers regarding ICBM specifics. The ICBM mission is undergoing scrutiny...good

chance of missile reduction...importance of land based ICBM's as part of the nuclear triad of deterrence (heard this from both private sector and AF officials). The need for a unified approach is critical from the community and should include outreach to other missile communities.

Major General Robert Worley, II, USAF, Director of Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs

Discussed formation of Global Strike Command and siting of headquarters. Discussed future of ICBM mission. Discussed needs of USAF and attributes of Great Falls and surrounding region in meeting those needs. Presented Gen. Worley with MAC coin.

James Holland, Deputy for Installation Policy, Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Air Force for Installations

Discussed formation of Global Strike Command and siting of headquarters. Discussed needs of USAF and attributes of Great Falls and surrounding region in meeting those needs. Presented Mr. Holland with MAC coin.

Take-Aways

Three themes were common through most of our meetings.

- 1) Structural changes are underway within DOD and USAF. The new Administration's review of the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal could impact MAFB's primary mission. We should be engaged at every level in these issues. Other structural changes could create opportunities for Great Falls. We should consider expanding our mission opportunity view to beyond USAF.
- 2) The Global Strike Headquarters siting competition will be very close. The six bases shortlisted are near identical on most of the 6 selection criteria. Ability of the community to absorb new personnel and provide municipal services are key issues. Great Falls is well positioned in this regard.
- 3) Communities we compete with for military missions are better organized, have more resources, act more strategically, and have greater regional and state support than Great Falls. Multi-state efforts may be needed in some instances, particularly in regard to the ICBM mission. Partnering with defense contractors and research universities to build coalitions has proven to be effective.