

NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM REQUEST | SENATE BILL NO. 2240

APPROPRIATION – DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – BASE RETENTION GRANT PROGRAM

The Military Support Program is an appropriation to the Department of Commerce for communities of Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo. The funds appropriated by the legislature are for maintaining the missions and attracting new military missions at Minot Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base, and to support the North Dakota National Guard in Fargo.

The proposed funds of \$1,900,000 must be used to support each community at the following levels for the 2023-2025 biennium: Minot \$900,000; Grand Forks \$500,000; and Fargo \$500,000. The appropriation would restore community military funding with enhanced funding to prepare North Dakota for the Sentinel modernization project.

NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY ECONOMIC IMPACT

In fiscal year (FY) 2021 military organizations employed 14,092 people and created about 3,843 indirect jobs in North Dakota. Annual payroll for military employees is approximately \$767.1 million and indirect salaries are approximately \$202.8 million. The military also has direct expenses for construction, services, materials, equipment and supplies of \$188.2 million. Total military economic impact in North Dakota for FY 2021 was estimated at \$1.16 billion.

*Figures are from the North Dakota Military FY21 Economic Impact Analysis report prepared by NGND-PFO-IR

Minot Air Force Base	FY 21	\$607 million
Grand Forks Air Force Base	FY 19	\$270 million
ND National Guard	FY 21	\$315 million

WHY NOW

The communities of Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo have raised funds privately and have support for the military efforts in each community but with two sessions without funding and additional challenges facing each community there is a need to restore community military funding with enhanced funding to prepare North Dakota for the Sentinel modernization project.

Minot – Minot Air Force Base (MAFB) is the only dual-wing nuclear-capable base in the nation, hosting two legs of the nuclear triad. The 5th Bomb Wing operates 26 B-52 aircraft, and the 91st Missile Wing operates 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) sites. Major modernization projects are underway for the bombers, missiles and weapons system.

The Base Retention Grant Program funding will support:

- Advocacy and Awareness
 - Strategic meetings with Washington DC leadership and U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command
 - Host Nuclear Triad Annual Symposium in Washington DC to educate industry, elected officials and military on nuclear deterrence and the importance of all three legs of the nuclear triad
 - Bring to North Dakota a Nuclear Triad Symposium with the objectives outlined above
 - Bomber Constituency Group support of the modernization and nuclear mission of the B52 and the U.S. Air Force's Long-Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) program
 - Strategic partnerships with key military associations and organizations
 - Strategic guidance to raise national awareness and align the community and MAFB with current and future Air Force initiatives
- Sentinel Preparation
 - Workforce hub research and planning
 - Build business resource hub for North Dakota
 - Coalition development and strategic partnerships with F.E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne WY and Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls MT to prepare our state for the largest Department of Defense modernization project
 - Stand up the Sentinel Constituency Group to support the Air Force's program to modernize the ICBM

Grand Forks – Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFAFB) is an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Base. The mission of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing is to provide decisional advantage to our warfighters and national leaders through support of our Nation’s Global Hawk High Altitude ISR mission.

The Base Retention Grant Program funding will support:

- Advocacy and Awareness
 - Annual strategic meetings with Air Force leadership at Pentagon and Air Combat Command
 - Community and stakeholder education on new Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) designation at GFAFB and the additional cyber, communications, and technology work to occur
 - Brief rotating senior Air Force leadership on GFAFB infrastructure, ISR and cyber-capabilities, and the eco-system among GFAFB, Grand Sky, UND, and Grand Forks community partners
- Quality of Life
 - Research, studies, and investments into quality of life for service members and their families to include support of K-12 public education, student services, higher education programming and research, medical care and behavioral/mental health, and educational and recreational opportunities
 - Utilize the Support of Military Families Report, which is weighed by Air Force leadership during mission and basing decisions, to identify and address how to best support the military family
- Strategic Advising
 - Strategic guidance to raise national awareness and align the community and GFAFB with current and future Air Force initiatives
 - Utilize experts to arrange meetings with top Air Force leadership and to help craft strategic priorities and messaging
 - Receive updates on external and internal priorities and plans for DoD policies and budgets

Fargo – The mission of Fargo-based Air National Guard 119th Wing is to provide trained and ready Airmen executing world-class MQ-9 precision attack and reconnaissance, kinetic and non-kinetic target intelligence production, and expeditionary support capabilities for the nation and state.

The Base Retention Grant Program funding will support:

- Advocacy and Awareness
 - Host strategic meetings and engagements with key federal and military officials to maintain and bolster national awareness and demonstrate community military support
 - Obtain strategic advisors to support advocacy efforts at the federal level
 - Increase regional awareness of military efforts through marketing and public relations campaigns
- Advancement of Personnel Recruitment
 - Augment ND Air National Guard recruitment efforts through targeted marketing campaigns
 - Engage in promotional efforts to promote National Guard enlistment and employment
- Community-Based Programming and Support
 - Host military appreciation events to increase community support for military personnel and missions
 - Expand existing military support efforts such as the business Honor Star program and Deployment Events, by matching private funding with public funding

NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY SUPPORT HISTORY & BACKGROUND

North Dakota has always understood the importance of supporting those who serve and has supported the communities of Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo in past legislative sessions with a mission to maintain our military excellence and increase our competitive advantage for the North Dakota National Guard while maintaining missions for Minot Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Past State of North Dakota Community Funding

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	\$ 600,000	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015	\$1,500,000
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017	\$1,500,000	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013	\$ 975,000