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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

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The Honorable Michael B. Donley  
Secretary  
United States Air Force  
The Pentagon  
Washington D.C. 20330

General Norton Schwartz  
Chief of Staff  
United States Air Force  
The Pentagon  
Washington D.C. 20330

Dear Mr. Secretary and General Schwartz:

I have discussed with you both my concern about the manpower "bathtub" at Grand Forks Air Force (GFAFB) which will result with the departure of large KC-135 units and their replacement by smaller UAV operating units.

Recently my staff was briefed on plans for the Air Force to field 53 Predator, Reaper and Global Hawk unmanned combat air patrols (CAPs) for ongoing operations by FY11. I heartily applaud that plan, and you can be sure I will do all I can to ensure the Air Force gets all the resources it needs for this expanded mission.

I understand the Air Force has not decided where to locate the new units that will be required to make these additional CAPs possible.

I would like to recommend that the new active duty units for this mission be located in Grand Forks. GFAFB is already scheduled to be a major operating base for Predator-class and Global Hawk UAVs. After the departure of the last KC-135 tankers in late 2010, the base should have sufficient excess facilities, dormitories and family housing for this mission as well as a potential future KC-X mission. You can be sure that the Grand Forks community would provide a warm welcome to all the new airmen and their families.

Thank you for giving this consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senator