

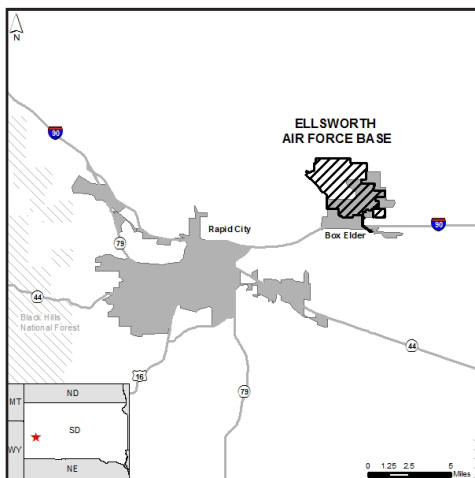


U.S. AIR FORCE :

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE : SOUTH DAKOTA



Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB), located in western South Dakota, hosts the 28th Bomb Wing, one of only two B-1B Lancer bomber wings in the world. EAFB also remotely employs MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aircraft from ground control facilities in support of worldwide operations and provides expeditionary combat power for America. For example, in 2011, B-1 bombers launched from Ellsworth to strike targets in Libya in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn.



Protecting EAFB’s single runway from encroachment is vital for continuing operations as well as access to the nearby nine million-acre Powder River Training Airspace. However, residential homes and small businesses located close to the base and within Accident Potential Zones may impede the Air Force’s ability to carry out the mission at EAFB. In addition to Ellsworth’s 9,500 military and civilian

employees and families, the base is located 10 miles east of Rapid City and just outside of Box Elder.

To ensure that South Dakota remains a great place for the Air Force to conduct its mission and to protect and promote the economic impact of EAFB, in 2009 the South Dakota Legislature created the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA). SDEDA is building new homes, including low-income housing, in compatible locations outside the safety zones and 100-year floodplain. Meanwhile, EAFB donated lands to the community to develop a new elementary school and mixed-use compatible development area, making this project a win-win for the local economy and military mission.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Improves community health and safety
- Improves the economic and social viability of local communities
- Supports regional planning efforts, including zoning and overlay districts by local jurisdictions
- Preserves existing open space and working agricultural land

MILITARY

- Removes existing encroachment within the operational mission area
- Ensures that existing compatible areas remain compatible
- Ensures the ability to conduct operations and training activities



A B-1B bomber takes off from Ellsworth AFB to take part in a training exercise (top). Ellsworth ground control facilities remotely employ MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aircraft (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Black Hills Vision
- City of Box Elder
- Meade County
- Pennington County
- Rapid City
- South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority
- West River Foundation

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2017

- » Acres preserved: **2,798**
- » Transactions conducted: **51**
- » Total funds expended: **\$7.5 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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