

Maj Gen Sandra Finan (USAF, Retired)
Spokane WA

1 September 2018

David Weissman
Great Falls MT

Dear David Weissman:

I am writing to express my support for your efforts to protect the areas surrounding Malmstrom Air Force Base from encroachment. Encroachment could impact current and/or future missions. The views expressed in this letter are solely mine and do not represent the views of the Base or Air Force.

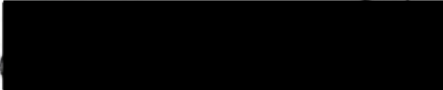
Land use near military installations is a growing concern and can potentially affect a bases' ability to train and operate. Various types of land use can affect everything from air routes to causing communication frequency interference. Sometimes the effect of development in the near vicinity of a military installation is obvious (e.g. building within safety zones) and sometimes the effect is much subtler (e.g. new construction driving endangered species on base which requires a limitation of activity).

As you move forward in Great Falls development, I encourage you to fully consider the potential trade-offs involved with development close to Malmstrom AFB. Here are two considerations:

- 1) Because some impacts are quite subtle, unintentional consequences could impact current missions (e.g. traffic pattern changes that prevent or hinder operations);
- 2) Future mission growth could be limited (e.g. development in areas that could be safety zones for base activities).

Balancing development with future military missions, which may or may not materialize, is difficult. As a veteran with over 30 years of service, I have had the privilege to live and work in many communities, including Great Falls, that have had to face this dilemma. My final thought on this is that you consider the importance to you of having a military installation in your community. Based on new technologies and capabilities, the future will bring a different military with different capabilities. The more you develop close in to an installation, the less potential there will be to participate in those future missions.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Finan, Maj Gen, USAF (Retired)

Michael E. Fortney, Maj Gen USAF (r)

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3 September 2018

Mayor Bob Kelly & Great Falls City Commissioners

PO Box 5021, Great Falls MT, 59403

Dear Mayor Bob Kelly & Great Falls City Commissioners

Greetings from Texas from an old friend and partner of the great city of Great Falls. Karen and I have such fond and proud memories of the wonderful partnership that we experienced when serving as Commander of Malmstrom AFB – a partnership that was there long before we arrived and lives on today.

First, thank you for all that you do as a community for our base and our Air Force; your support for the vital mission of the 341st Missile Wing and its Airmen and families is known and respected across our Air Force. Again, thank you.

I write today to voice concerns regarding recent reports that the city is considering zoning changes that would expand building near the base. While I'm sure city leadership has much to consider when contemplating such a decision, my first consideration would always be the possible impact on current and future missions of Malmstrom AFB. As a previous commander and having served in various senior leadership capacities, I have seen how seemingly small encroachments can erode a base's flexibility for flight operations and future mission growth. I have seen seemingly benign encroachments have cumulative effects on a mission over time.

Protecting the airspace around Malmstrom to allow maximum mission flexibility for UH-1N operations and the next generation helicopter as well as Montana Air National Guard uses needs to be carefully considered. I request the leadership of Great Falls carefully weigh all of the potential costs and impacts and seek alternatives that would benefit the fine city of Great Falls while protecting Malmstrom's airspace.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area of the letter.

M. E. Fortney, Maj Gen, USAF (r)