

NEWS FROM SENATOR TIM JOHNSON and SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

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Congress Moves Military Construction Funding Bill South Dakota Receives \$27.5 Million

Washington, DC – U.S. Senators Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Tom Daschle (D-SD) announced today that the Senate is preparing to pass the 2004 Military Construction Appropriations bill, which contains more than \$27.5 million for South Dakota projects in the fiscal year. The House approved the conference report late this afternoon. The Senate is expected to pass the identical bill overwhelmingly and send it to the President for his signature.

The Senate approved \$9.316 billion for military construction. That is a \$199 million increase over the President's budget request of \$9.177 billion for 2004.

"I am glad to see that South Dakota has received funding for Ellsworth Air Force Base and the South Dakota National Guard. It is important to the quality of life for the men and women of the armed services," said Johnson, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a negotiator on the conference committee. "Ellsworth plays a critical role in our national security. It is important that we maintain its facilities."

"I am pleased that we were able to deliver funding for these important projects in South Dakota," said Senator Daschle. "Today, we took another important step toward ensuring that Ellsworth Air Force Base continues to play a key role in America's national security strategy."

South Dakota Projects

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Conference</u>
B-1 Weapons System Trainer Facility (EAFB)	\$0	\$0	\$9,300,000	\$9,300,000
Replace Family Housing 75 Units (EAFB)	\$16,240,000	\$16,240,000	\$16,240,000	\$16,240,000
Watertown Readiness Center Planning and Design (SDNG)	\$0	\$0	\$1,228,000	\$1,228,000
Sioux Falls Unit Training Equipment Site Planning and Design (SDNG)	\$0	\$0	\$758,000	\$758,000

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ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE

B-1 Weapons System Trainer Facility -- \$9.3 million

This funding will construct a 2,712-square-meter facility for a two-ship simulator for operations and training functions of two bomb squadrons. The recent B-1 Consolidation Plan requires Ellsworth Air Force Base to add a simulator to meet Distributed Mission Training (DMT) requirements. The additional Weapons System Trainer (WST) cannot be housed in the existing facility due to size constraints. Limiting training to the current one-ship simulator will degrade the training aviators need to accomplish their mission goals.

Replace Family Housing 75 Units -- \$16.24 million

This project represents the next installment of a base housing replacement plan that is scheduled through Fiscal Year 2009. Completing this base housing replacement plan is essential to maintaining quality of life at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

Watertown Readiness Center -- \$1.228 million

This will provide planning and design funding for a new facility capable of fully supporting the additional National Guard personnel strength that has been assigned to Watertown. The current Armory was built in 1958 and is one-third the required size. Under today's standards, there is not enough room for one unit, let alone the three units now stationed in Watertown. The new readiness center will accommodate 200 soldiers and provide a modern facility on a site that will allow for future expansion.

Sioux Falls Unit Training Equipment Site -- \$758,000

This will provide planning and design funding for a Unit Training Equipment Site (UTES). Over the last three years, the South Dakota National Guard has replaced its older 155mm cannons with the new Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). This new mission authorizes a UTES for the units in Sioux Falls. Currently, the Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) and UTES are combined in the same building, which was designed for just the OMS. The lack of adequate space is affecting the National Guard's ability to perform daily maintenance operations and is negatively impacting readiness. The new UTES will provide sufficient space for the necessary equipment, maintenance, and administrative functions.

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