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S.D. Dept. of Labor releases Ellsworth Impact Analysis

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor (SDDOL) has released a report assessing the economic impact of Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB) on local communities. SDDOL contracted with Black Hills Vision (Rapid City) to commission this research project which focuses on both the direct and indirect impact of EAFB.

The South Dakota study found the direct impact of EAFB to be over 5,100 jobs and a total dollar value of more than \$257 million in annual payroll and expenditures. The indirect economic impact was found to be 2,645 jobs and a \$67 million dollar value in local communities, bringing the total direct and indirect economic impact to 7,827 jobs and a dollar value of \$324 million.

The findings identified the total impact as \$46 million greater than what the U.S. Dept. of Defense originally estimated at \$278 million. “The \$46 million difference is an eye-opener. It truly demonstrates the major role Ellsworth plays in the economy of the Black Hills,” said SDDOL Secretary Pam Roberts. “We are fortunate the hard work of our elected leaders and the Black Hills community saved Ellsworth Air Force Base from the Base Realignment and Closure Act.”

In July 2005, the SDDOL was tasked with developing a strategy to respond to the recommendation by the Base Realignment and Closure Act to close EAFB. Although EAFB was removed from the list in August, the project will still be beneficial for workforce and economic development planning.

To view the report, visit www.state.sd.us/dol .