



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

28th BOMB WING – ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D.

Nestled in the majestic Black Hills, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., is located 10 miles east of Rapid City and just outside of Box Elder. The base – home to the 28th Bomb Wing – is one of only two B-1B bases in the world. The 28th BW is aligned with Twelfth Air Force under Air Combat Command.

The 28th BW guarantees expeditionary combat power for America. Every Airman in the wing, whether sustaining people, maintaining weapons and equipment, generating aircraft, pulling a trigger, or operating a network, provides combat power for our nation. The 28th BW is home to 27 B-1B Lancers. In 2012, the base also began flying MQ-9 Reaper missions from ground control stations on Ellsworth when the 432nd Attack Squadron was stood up.



MISSION

Guarantee our Nation's Expeditionary Combat Power – Anywhere on the Globe.

VISION

World class Airmen leading the finest bomb wing in the world's greatest Air Force – feared by our enemies and emulated by our allies.

World class Airmen who set the standard for sustaining our people, generating our aircraft, maintaining our equipment, defending our base, and operating our network – with an unwavering focus on expeditionary combat power.

EMBLEM

Blue and yellow are the official Air Force colors of the 28th BW emblem. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The emblem reflects the 28th BW's predecessor World War II unit, the 28th Bombardment Group. The nebular partition line symbolizes clouds and denotes the wing's area of operation within the Air Force global reach mission.

PRIORITIES

Win the Fight

- Maintain night one, sustainable strike capability in current and emerging environments
- Demonstrate expeditionary airpower with a deployed and garrison presence
- Provide combat ready Airmen
- Deliver ready and lethal B-1 aircraft and MQ-9 Combat Air Patrols while sustaining fleet health
- Foster alternatives for war fighting by enhancing partnerships and enabling forces

Strengthen the Team

- Forge resiliency of 28th Bomb Wing Airmen and their families
- Groom Airmen personally and professionally through training, experience and mentorship
- Forge a safe and secure environment for 28th BW Airmen and their families
- Establish, maintain and cultivate relationships with community partners to create and exploit opportunities for Ellsworth and the local community
- Create a world-class base and culture to provide Airmen the facilities, resources and skills needed to excel

Prepare for the Future

- Develop and seek training and enhancement opportunities to ensure 28th BW assets and Airmen are ready to exploit technological advances and lead the Combat Air Forces in emerging missions
- Plan, explore, and employ new and emerging technologies to improve capability, increase reliability, and magnify combat power across the full spectrum of mission capabilities
- Enhance future combat capability of the B-1 and MQ-9

PERSONNEL

Ellsworth's population of approximately 8,300 includes military members, family members and civilian employees. The base's two sister cities are Box Elder (population of nearly 8,000) and Rapid City (population of almost 70,000). There are over 5,200 military retirees in western South Dakota, more than 4,000 of which reside in Rapid City.

ORGANIZATION

The 28th Bomb Wing is comprised of several wing staff agencies and four groups, including the 28th Operations Group, the 28th Maintenance Group, the 28th Mission Support Group and the 28th Medical Group.

28th Operations Group

The mission of the 28th Operations Group, whose motto is to Find and Kill the Enemy, is to provide combat-ready B-1B aircrews for world-wide taskings, including conventional operations and power projection. The 28th OG consists of two B-1 combat squadrons, the 34th Bomb Squadron and 37th Bomb Squadron; a MQ-9 squadron, the 432nd Attack Squadron; and the 28th Operations Support Squadron.

28th Maintenance Group

The Airmen of the 28th Maintenance Group are responsible for fixing and providing maintenance on the 27 B-1B aircraft at the base as well as associated support equipment. It is comprised of the 28th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 28th Munitions Squadron, and the 28th Maintenance Squadron.

28th Mission Support Group

The 28th Mission Support Group provides mission essential "city" services at home and combat support services to Airmen while deployed. The group provides essential services for active-duty members, retirees and civilians and their families including food services, security, vehicles, supplies, computer and telephone support, civil engineering, educational and recreational services, and personnel support. Six squadrons are under the 28th MSG umbrella: the 28th Communications Squadron, 28th Civil Engineer Squadron, 28th Contracting Squadron, 28th Force Support Squadron, 28th Security Forces Squadron and the 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

28th Medical Group

Within the 28th Medical Group, the 28th Medical Operations Squadron and the 28th Medical Support Squadrons provide nearly 16,000 eligible military beneficiaries in the region with a full spectrum of medical services.

TENANT UNITS

- Air Force Financial Services Center
- American Red Cross
- Defense Reutilization & Marketing Office
- Defense Security Service
- Detachment 226 Air Force Office of Investigations
- Detachment 8, 372nd Training Squadron
- Northwest Area Audit Office

COMBAT POWER CAPABILITIES

B-1B Lancer

Two bomb squadrons, 27 B-1 bombers assigned.

- **Speed:** Supersonic
- **Crew:** 4
- **Range:** Intercontinental
- **Speed:** 900+ mph
- **Payload:** 84 500-pound Mk-82 or 24 2,000-pound Mk-84 general purpose bombs; up to 84 500-lb. Mk-62 or 8 2,000-lb. Mk-65 Quick Strike naval mines; 30 cluster munitions or 30 Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispensers; up to 24 2,000-lb. GBU-31 or 15 500-lb. GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions; up to 24 AGM-158A Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles; GBU-54 Laser JDAM

MQ-9 Reaper

The 432nd ATKS, stood up in 2011, operates MQ-9s from ground control stations on base.

- **Speed:** 230 mph
- **Crew:** 3 (Pilot/Sensor Operator/Mission Intel Coordinator)
- **Endurance:** 16-20 hours
- **Payload:** 4 AGM-114P4/R2 Hellfire missiles and 2 GBU-12 500-pound laser guided bombs.

GLOBAL DETERRENCE/LONG RANGE STRIKE TRADITION

Ellsworth Air Force Base has carried with it a rich history from its foundation as the Rapid City Air Base in January 1942 and arrival of the first bomber, the B-17 Flying Fortress, that September. Over the years, the installation has changed names, weapon systems and missions – evolving to maintain its commitment to providing combat airpower for America that began with bombing missions during World War II to the current presence in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since 1997, Ellsworth has provided crucial long range strike precision capability for numerous operations around the globe.

OPERATION DESERT FOX

On Dec. 18, 1998, B-1 crews from Ellsworth were the first to fly B-1 combat missions, striking targets in Iraq. The mission was part of a four-day military response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expelling United Nations weapons inspectors out of Iraq.

OPERATION ALLIED FORCE

Ellsworth and the 28th BW soon took the lead in the Expeditionary Air Force concept. Five B-1 bombers from the 28th BW joined NATO forces in Operation Allied Force and began striking military targets in Kosovo April 1, 1999. By the end of the conflict in June 1999, B-1s from Ellsworth flew 100 combat missions and dropped more than 1,260 tons of Mk-82 general purpose bombs. Once again the B-1 and Ellsworth proved themselves invaluable to the security of our national interests.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Ellsworth once again answered the call, deploying a number of B-1s in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Aircraft from the 37th BS joined additional B-1s from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho and formed the 34th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron. This squadron, along with other elements from Ellsworth, deployed and joined the 28th Air Expeditionary Wing where they recorded an impressive record against the terrorist factions. Their combat mission effectiveness was greater than 95 percent and they flew 5 percent of the total strike aircraft missions. They dropped 39 percent of the total tonnage of bombs, which was more than any other platform. The amount of ordnance dropped was tremendous. During their deployment, 2,974 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, 1,471 Mk-82, 135 Mk-84 and 70 CBU-87 bombs were dropped. Ellsworth personnel continue to prepare for ongoing OEF deployments in support of operations around the globe.

OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN

In March 2011, B-1 bombers from the 28th BW launched from their home station of Ellsworth to strike targets in Libya in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn. With less than two days from first notice to takeoff, Ellsworth Airmen generated several aircraft and hundreds of weapons to provide the combat configuration needed halfway across the globe. This mission marked the first time the B-1 fleet has launched combat sorties from the continental United States to strike targets overseas.

Today, Ellsworth Airmen continue to play a critical part in our nation's defense. B-1s from Ellsworth continually provide critical air presence, precision strike, and surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in response to worldwide contingencies. The addition of ground control stations for MQ-9 Reaper aircraft reinforces Ellsworth's ability to adapt to emerging challenges. While the facilities and mission of the base have changed over time to meet the nation's needs, the dedication and commitment to excellence by our Airmen and their families remains as strong as it ever has been.

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Find a full account of Ellsworth Air Force Base's history on the base's official website at <http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/library/index.asp>.