

# ***Rehberg Unveils Advisory Panel for Malmstrom***

*Congressman Denny Rehberg (R-MT) issued the following News Release March 13, 2003*

Washington, D.C. – With an eye on protecting Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana’s Congressman Denny Rehberg (R) today announced the formation of the Montana Advisory Council on Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC). The Montana Advisory Council on BRAC (MACBRAC) will “guide Montana’s effort to best protect Malmstrom” from closure, downsizing, or realignment, Rehberg said.

“Malmstrom’s importance both to the Great Falls community and to Montana’s economy is immeasurable, and I’m going to do everything within my power to prevent Malmstrom from BRAC closure, downsizing, or realignment,” Rehberg said. “This Advisory Council, which includes some of the best military minds in Montana and people with significant knowledge of the problem, will be charged with forming an action plan to protect Malmstrom.”

With another round of base closures and downsizes on the horizon, MACBRAC, described as an “all-star” team of prominent leaders and experts, will convene ahead of the BRAC process, in which a panel begins consideration this year of potential base closure sites before making its final recommendations to the President in September 2005.

“Montana reaps more than a quarter of a billion dollars in annual economic impact from defense-related spending,” Rehberg explained. “The military personnel residing in our state, along with the thousands of veterans and their dependents who call Montana home, deserve nothing less than our best effort to protect Malmstrom.”

Rehberg cited similar efforts in Florida and South Carolina as an incentive and an example for Montana to have its own BRAC advisory panel. The Congressman also pledged to invite Governor Martz and Senators Burns and Baucus to each name an additional member to the MACBRAC panel.

“When it comes to preserving Malmstrom, we’re all on the same team, Rehberg explained.

## **Rehberg’s Advisory Council on BRAC Members**

- Col. George Donnelly, USAF, Ret. – 38 years of active duty and Montana Air National Guard. Assignments included 3 tours of duty at Malmstrom.
- Randy Gray – Mayor of Great Falls
- Warren Wenz-Marra, Wenz and Johnson, P.C. – Chairman of the Committee of 87. Former Chair of Montana Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Representative in Great Falls Chamber, Lawyer, played role in last three rounds of base closures.
- Col. Sam Roberts, USAF, Ret. – Served 30 years in USAF. Flew in and out of Malmstrom AFB on various missions. Serves on Montana Academy Review Board as an appointee by Sen. Burns.
- Tom Hoffman, Summit Aeronautics Group – President of company involved with manufacturing and processing in the defense field.
- **Dave Micheletti**, Montana Aerospace Development Authority (MADA) – Served at Malmstrom and worked on minuteman missile system. Currently is Vice President of MSE Technology Applications, Inc. Advanced Energy & Aerospace Programs and a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and a Naval Academy Blue and Gold Liaison Officer.
- Brig. Gen. Bruce Bramiette, USAF, Ret. – 32 years active duty and retired from the Montana Air National Guard. He is a pilot and has flown the F-89, F-102, and F-106.

**Denny Rehberg**  
State of Montana

**Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee**  
Highways and Transit  
Aviation

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

**Agriculture Committee**  
Department Operations, Oversight,  
Nutrition and Forestry, *Vice Chairman*  
General Farm Commodities and  
Risk Management  
Specialty Crops and Foreign  
Agriculture Programs

**Resources Committee**  
Energy and Mineral Resources,  
*Vice Chairman*  
Forests and Forest Health

Dave Micheletti  
P.O. Box 4078  
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Dave,

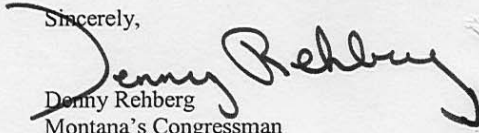
Thank you for accepting a position on the Montana Advisory Council on Base Realignment and Closures (MACBRAC). Your knowledge and experience will play an important role in our effort to protect Malmstrom from closure, downsizing, or realignment during the next round of BRAC, currently scheduled for 2005.

To reach this goal, I am pleased to announce the date and location of the first meeting of MACBRAC. The inaugural meeting will be held on June 21, 2003, 10:00 am at the Town House Inn, located at 1411 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana. I have invited Colonel Mike Hartmann, Vice-Commander of Malmstrom Air Force Base, to attend this introductory meeting.

I am looking forward to working with you to help protect Malmstrom Air Force Base, the largest economic contributor to the state of Montana. As you know, Malmstrom accounts for more than a quarter of a billion dollars annually infused into the state economy, in addition to employing more than four thousand individuals. Malmstrom has served an invaluable role not only for Montana, but also the national security of the entire nation for more than sixty years. With your commitment, Malmstrom can continue its service for many years to come.

An agenda will be released prior to the first meeting. If you have questions regarding MACBRAC, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jay Martin of my staff at (202) 225-3211.

Sincerely,

  
Denny Rehberg  
Montana's Congressman

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