



WELCOME TO ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE
PINE TREE INN

Dear Guests,

I would like to extend to you a very warm welcome. On behalf of our Pine Tree Inn team, we are delighted to have the opportunity to serve you and share the light and warmth of hospitality that Air Force Inns was founded.

Ellsworth Air Force Base is a base with a colorful past, a fast-paced present and a promising future. It is a fascinating base for every visitor.

Rapid City lies east of the Black Hills National Forrest in western South Dakota. It's known as a gateway to Mt. Rushmore, the massive iconic sculpture of four U.S. Presidents. "City of Presidents," a series of life-size statues, spans several blocks downtown. North of Rapid Creek, which bisects town, the Journey Museum & Learning Center offers local history and geology exhibits.

Please allow me to introduce our facilities. On level one, we are pleased to offer complimentary coffee, hot chocolate, and Tea. The business center is located across from the front desk and features CAC-capable keyboards along with print, copy, scan, and fax functions. In the lobby we offer a variety of food and drink items for sale. Pricing of these items are hanging on the wall in the lobby. Our friendly front desk Guest Service staff is available to assist you 24/7.

On level two, we have a small laundry room free of charge. Should you need to purchase detergent, vending is located on the wall in the laundry room and detergent is also available for purchase at the front desk.

On level three, we have a small conference room to accommodate your meeting needs. The ice machine is located on third floor in the west stairwell between rooms 359 and 361.

As a courtesy to our guests, the Pine Tree Inn provides complimentary high-speed internet access.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact the front desk, duty manager, or myself if there is anything we can do to make your stay more pleasurable.

We hope that you will have a memorable and productive stay with us.

Yours in service,

John Adkins, NF-IV, DAF
Lodging Manager



Guiding Principles

Delighting our Guests: We are committed to exceeding guest expectations by surprising them with our ability to anticipate and fulfill their wishes.

Delighting our Colleagues: We value each colleague and provide a caring, motivating and rewarding environment for all. We bring out the best in our people through effective training and personal development, enabling and fulfilling career through the military and Air Force Inns.

Becoming the Best: We intend to be an innovative leader in the DOD hospitality industry. We will continually improve our service delivery, as well as the quality of our products and facilities, ensuring we appeal to a multi-generational audience.

Working Together: We emphasize the importance of teamwork and treat each other with mutual respect and trust. By working together cooperatively, we all contribute to the Pine Tree Inn and Aspen Inn success.

Acting with Responsibility: We maintain integrity, fairness and honesty in all our internal and external relationships. We support initiatives that improve the environment and are responsible members of our community.

The Air Force Inns Promise

Our goal is to provide you a clean, comfortable room to guarantee a good night's rest and pleasant stay. If any part of your stay with us is not satisfactory, please provide the Lodging Manager or Front Desk staff an opportunity to "make it right".

Pine Tree Inn Mission Statement

To provide first class accommodations to Team Ellsworth and combat Lodging support world-wide.

Pine Tree Inn Vision Statement

To develop a strong and dedicated team of professionals that demonstrate superior customer care for all guests by providing excellent service, attention to detail and anticipation of their personal and mission-related needs, now and in the future.



Services and Charges

| | Sep – May | Jun – Aug |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Visiting Quarters (VQ) | \$89.00 | \$154.00 |
| Temporary Living Facility (TLF) | \$96.00 | \$164.00 |
| Temporary Living Facility with Pet (TLP) | \$106.00 | \$174.00 |
| General Officer Suites (GO) | \$97.00 | \$161.00 |

- Rates are reviewed and subject to change annually
- Check in time is 1400
- Check out time is 1100. Guests checking out late will be charged for an additional day unless prior arrangements have been made with the Lodging staff.
- Housekeeping Service is provided daily to all rooms unless the “Do Not Disturb” sign is hung on the outside of the doorknob. If so, the housekeeper will return at 1100 hours to attempt housekeeping. Bed linens are changed every seven days for long term guests.

Amenities

- Television, clock radio, microwave, coffee maker and refrigerator are provided in all rooms.
- Laundry facilities are available for guests in all facilities. These machines are provided free of charge to our guests.
- There are ice machines located in both facilities.
- Mail and packages will be received at the front desk. Attempts will be made to notify the guests of mail. Please be aware that the Guest Services Representatives are not allowed to leave the front desk to deliver mail or packages.
- The business center is available in the Pine Tree Inn (bldg. 1103). Fax Machine, copier, and computer access is available 24/7.
- Various food and drink items are available in some lodging rooms. Additional items are available at a reasonable price from the front desk. Vending machines are only located in our TLF unit.
- We have complimentary secure luggage storage lockers available in the Pine Tree Inn at the front desk. These lockers are for temporary personal use and ARE NOT cleared to store classified items or funds.
- Conference rooms are also available for guest use. Please see front desk for more details.



Sundry Items for Sale

Items, quantities, and prices are subject to change without notice.

| Alcohol | Price | Candy | Price |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|---------------|
| Budweiser | \$2.75 | Twix | \$1.50 |
| Shiner Bock | \$3.75 | Milky Way | \$1.50 |
| E&J Brandy | \$1.25 | Butterfinger | \$1.50 |
| Crown Royal | \$3.50 | 3 Musketeers | \$1.50 |
| Jose Cuervo Tequila Silver | \$2.25 | Almond Joy | \$1.50 |
| Jose Cuervo Tequila Gold | \$2.25 | Meals | |
| Bulleit Bourbon | \$3.25 | Lean Cuisine | \$3.50 |
| Johnnie Walker Black | \$1.95 | Jimmy Dean Breakfast Bowls | \$3.50 |
| Mini Bottle Wine (Red and White) | \$2.50 | Cup of Noodles | \$1.00 |
| Soda | | Hungry Man | \$3.50 |
| Diet Pepsi (16 oz) | \$1.50 | Michelina's | \$1.75 |
| Coke Zero (20 oz) | \$2.25 | Biscuit and Sausage Breakfast Sandwich | \$1.15 |
| Mt Dew | \$1.50 | Smart Ones Meal | \$3.50 |
| Diet Mt Dew (16 oz) | \$1.50 | Healthy Choice Dinner | \$4.45 |
| Dr. Pepper | \$2.25 | Red Baron Pizza | \$4.50 |
| Coca Cola | \$2.25 | Nissin Chow Mein | \$1.80 |
| Diet Coca Cola | \$2.25 | Stouffers Lasagna | \$5.25 |
| Other Beverages | | Banquet Pot Pie | \$1.75 |
| Powerade | \$1.75 | Pop tarts | \$1.00 |
| Milk | \$2.15 | Personal Hygiene | |
| Iced Tea | \$1.75 | Always Ultra-Thin (Individual/Package) | \$0.75/\$7.50 |
| Body Armor | \$2.50 | Colgate Toothbrush | \$2.25 |
| Smart Water | \$2.00 | Pantene Shampoo | \$1.75 |
| Monster Energy Drink | \$2.75 | Pantene Conditioner | \$1.75 |
| Apple Juice | \$2.00 | Deodorant | \$1.25 |
| Orange Juice | \$2.00 | Toothpaste | \$1.25 |
| Snacks | | Dental Floss | \$1.25 |
| Chips | \$1.00 | Men's Razor | \$0.45 |
| Microwave Popcorn | \$1.25 | Women's Razor | \$1.75 |
| Skinny Pop Popcorn | \$1.00 | Shaving Cream | \$1.50 |
| Peanut Butter Crackers | \$1.00 | Mouth Wash | \$1.25 |
| Planters Peanuts | \$1.00 | Hair Spray | \$1.75 |
| Beef Jerky | \$2.00 | Laundry Items | |
| Candy | | Bounce Dryer Sheets | \$1.00 |
| Kit Kat | \$1.25 | Clorox 2 Detergent | \$1.00 |
| Hershey's Bar | \$1.25 | Surf Detergent | \$1.00 |
| Snickers | \$1.25 | Postage | |
| Reeses Peanut Butter Cups | \$1.25 | Stamps | \$0.63 |



Emergency Response Contacts

Response on Ellsworth Air Force Base:

- Ambulance: **(605) 385-7686**
- Security Forces: (BDOC)
 - Emergency: **911** (from on base phone), **(605) 385-4001** (from mobile phone)
 - Non-Emergency: **(605) 385-4001**
 - 2740 Eaker Drive, Suite 4, 57706
- Fire Department:
 - Emergency: **911** (from on base phone), **(605) 385-1113** (from mobile phone)
 - Non-Emergency: **(605) 385-1113**
 - 1800 Lemay Blvd, 57706
- Crime Stop: **(605) 385-1100**
- Pine Tree Inn Front Desk (24/7): **(605) 385-2844** or “0” from lodging room phone
- Safe Ride: **(605) 385-7433**

Rapid City Local Area:

- Police Department:
 - Emergency: **911**
 - Non-Emergency: **(605) 394-4131**
 - 300 Kansas City St #200
Rapid City, SD, 57701
- Fire Department:
 - Emergency: **911**
 - Non-Emergency: **(605) 394-4180**
 - Fire Station 1, 10 Main St
Rapid City, SD, 57701
- Rapid City Regional Hospital (ER): **(605) 719-1000**
 - 353 Fairmont Blvd
Rapid City, SD, 57701



Disaster Preparedness Information

Tornado Procedures:

Pine Tree Inn: In case of alert, the protection area for this facility is the first floor hallway. When inclement weather is approaching, crouch and cover your head with your arms.

Aspen Inn: The protection area for this facility is in your room away from windows. When inclement weather is approaching, crouch and cover your head with your arms.

STAY AWAY FROM GLASS WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS!

Alert Signal: A 3 – 5 minute steady tone siren or other warning devices.

All Clear: Announced by radio, PA system, sound truck, telephone or runner.

Lodging Evacuation Plan

Unless otherwise advised by emergency personnel, the following will be our assembly points:

Pine Tree Inn: Field/Running track across the street from the parking lot.

Aspen Inn: Shoppette (gas station) parking lot.

Upon Notification of the need to evacuate any of our lodging facilities, for any reason, the following procedures will be followed:

- Lodging personnel will send a runner to each affected facility.
- Lodging personnel will initiate the evacuation by knocking on all doors and yelling “REAL WORLD, EVACUATE, EVACUATE, REAL WORLD”. Personnel will inform occupants of their assembly point, and then proceed to the assembly point and perform roll call.
- Front desk personnel will take evacuation binder containing guest and staff locator listings to the predetermined location.
- Roll call will be performed by an administrative personnel at the assembly point to ensure all guest and employees are accounted for.

Completed roll call and listing of those unaccounted for will be provided to emergency personnel on scene.



Off Base Kennel and Laundry Facilities

The appearance of local business names, addresses and phone numbers in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. All hours of operation and telephone numbers are subject to change.

Kennel Listing for Rapid City and Surrounding Areas

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Paw Tenders Pet Care Center | 605-721-7297 |
| Safe Haven Pet Resort | 605-415-4123 |
| Rapid City Kennel Club | 605-348-1405 |
| RyeDoodle Boarding and Training | 605-787-7554 |
| Keep Waggin' Ranch | 605-877-4153 |
| D-Tails Pet Salon | 605-716-0835 |
| Almost Home Pet Resort and Spa | 605-923-7000 |

Local Laundry/Dry Cleaning Facilities

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Laundry World | 605-348-5121 |
| Angelique's Sewing Shop | 650-923-2486 |
| Heritage Dry Cleaners | 605-341-3550 |
| French Cleaners | 605-342-6440 |
| Parkway Laundromat | 605-342-9877 |
| Dew Drop Laundromat | 605-343-0900 |
| Southside Drycleaners | 605-343-3316 |



General Policies

Our lodging office, building 1103, is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Our courteous Guest Service Representatives are always on duty to assist you.

Room Keys: Keys will be issued at check in. If your stay is extended you will need to come to the desk to refresh your keys every 15 days. If you lose your key card, please contact the front desk immediately.

Business Center: We have two CAC enabled computers with printers in the Business Center (located in the Pine Tree Inn lobby) for guests to access the Internet and print at no charge.

Wireless Internet: Stay connected and enjoy the convenience of complimentary Wi-Fi internet access in the privacy of your own room. Our WiFi service provider is MidAtlantic and there is no password to connect.

Fax: Facsimiles services are available free of charge for official business.

Fax Number: DSN: 675-2190 COMM: 605-385-2190

Check Cashing: We can only accept checks for the amount of your service charges. If you need cash, there is an ATM located in the Commissary parking lot.

Check-in Time: Normal check-in time is 1400. However, guests may check in earlier if rooms are available.

Check-out Time: Check-out time is 1100. Requests for late check-out will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Please contact the front desk if you have an extenuating circumstance that requires a late check-out as soon as possible. Mission requirements and staffing levels determine whether approval can be given without an additional fee being assessed on the current room rate.

Complimentary Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and condiments are provided for your enjoyment free of charge in the lobby.

Do Not Disturb Signs: These signs are provided for your convenience. Simply hang the signs from the exterior doorknob to your room. If you would like to receive housekeeping service, we ask that you remove the "Do Not Disturb" sign by 1100. For safety reasons, the Housekeeping staff are required to enter on the third day that the "Do Not Disturb" sign is left on the door.

Excess Cleaning Fee: Guest may be charged a cleaning fee up to \$150.00 based on the expenses incurred to return to the room to available inventory.

In Room Safes: It is the responsibility of all guests to safeguard their belongings. For your convenience we have placed a safe in every room. The safe can be locked with a numeric code of your choosing or a credit card.

Irons and Ironing Boards: These are provided in each room. If your iron or ironing board is missing or not working properly, please notify the front desk.

Voicemail: To retrieve and/or delete messages from your room phone press the voicemail button.

Housekeeping Services: Housekeeping service is provided seven days a week (unless you post a “Do Not Disturb” sign on your door). The housekeeper will return at 1100 to service your room. If the sign is still on your door at 1100, services will not be provided. Bed linens will be changed every seven days for long term guests, unless otherwise requested. Towels will be replaced as you choose. In the spirit of being environmentally conscious if you would like to reuse your towels, please hang them on the towel rack. If you would like clean towels, please place soiled towels on the floor and we will exchange them.

Fitness Center: The Bellamy Fitness Center is located in building 7709, across the street from Pine Tree Inn. If you would like access to the fitness center after hours, front desk has 24 hour access keys available to be signed out.

Ice Machines: Ice machines are available at both buildings.

Laundry Rooms: All laundry machines are free of charge for lodging guests. Laundry Detergent and dryer sheets are available for purchase in the laundry room and at front desk. Please leave the laundry room clean and make sure to clean out the dryer vents after use.

Lost and Found: Items which are left behind will be held for 30 days in our lost and found storage. Any perishable items and under garments will be disposed of immediately. Please contact the front desk if you left an item(s) behind and would like to retrieve them.

Parking: Please park in the designated guest parking areas only. Please observe all parking signs. Vehicles in violation of this policy will be reported to Security Forces.

Pet Policy: Pets are only allowed in our “pet friendly” rooms and not in any other facilities. A pet cleaning fee of up to \$150.00 will be assessed to guests who violate the pet policy. There is an extra fee of \$10.00 per night and a limit of two pets per unit. Pet owners must sign a pet agreement at check-in and provide a copy of updated shot records. Housekeepers must enter the room daily regardless of “Do Not Disturb” sign on door.

Shelter in Place: The shelter in place location for all guests is in their guest bathrooms.

Smoking Policy: Pine Tree Inn and Aspen Inn are designated as tobacco free. This includes all common areas. Tobacco use is only permitted in designated tobacco areas. Guests who violate this policy will be assessed a cleaning fee of \$150.00, which includes blocking the room and cleaning until all evidence of tobacco use is eliminated. Please locate the tobacco areas near your building.

Sundry Items: If you have forgotten any toiletry items, we have a selection at the front desk for purchase. We also have snacks, sodas, alcohol and other miscellaneous items available.

Supplies and Linens: If you need extra supplies/linen, please contact the front desk.

Conference Room: A conference room is available for guest use. Please see front desk for more details.

Telephone Instructions: Instructions on using the telephone are located in the “Telephone Operating Instructions” section of this directory and also in your room by the phone.

Wake-up Services: This service is available through the phone system, the instructions are listed in the “Telephone Operating Instructions” section of this directory and also in your room by the phone. Clock-radio alarms are also provided in every room for your assistance.

Payment Procedures:

- All guests on official orders will be charged at check-in for their stay not to exceed 15 days.
- All guests checking in will sign the guest registration that advises them lodging is authorized to apply any unpaid charges to their credit card.
- All long term guests (staying over 15 days), whether paying by cash, check or credit card will return to the front desk at 15 day intervals to verify and pay their lodging bill for the next 15 days.
- All space available guests, regardless of method of payment, will pay for their stay in advance at check-in. Advance payment will be required for any approved extension.
- If a guest is to pay with cash, we do not provide cash refunds. Any refund regarding a cash payment must be done through an electronic funds transfer (EFT) through the NAF Accounting Office.

Fire Safety:

- Do not smoke in the rooms.
- Flammable liquids (gasoline, charcoal lighter, cleaning fluid, etc.) are not allowed in the rooms.
- Additional cooking/heating devices (space heaters, hot plates, propane tanks, etc.) are not allowed in the rooms and will be removed if found without notification to the guest.
- Never leave heated cooking appliances unattended.
- Do not place hot appliances (irons, blow dryers, coffeepots, etc.) in drawers or cabinets.
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Multi-plugs and power strips are therefore prohibited.
- Do not leave electrical appliances on when unattended.
- Practice good housekeeping (clean-up messes, bag any dirty clothes, keep wet clothes away from heat sources, etc.).
- Do not burn candles or incense in your room. If found, these items will be removed without notification to the guest and may incur a cleaning fee of up to \$150.00 or furniture replacement.
- Vacate all rooms during fire alarms. Evacuation routes are posted on the back of each room door.



Occupant Responsibilities

The following are provided for your guidance and to ensure a comfortable and safe environment for all of our guests and staff:

- Please observe quiet hours from 2200 to 0600 daily.
- No tobacco use in any room or common area. There will be a cleaning fee up to \$150.00 to any guest who violates this policy and any additional cost to return the room to standard.
- Please do not use any towels to shine shoes, remove makeup or to wash cars. If you need rags please contact the Front Desk by dialing “0” from your room phone.
- Motorcycles, bicycles, auto parts, etc., may not be kept in the rooms or hallways. Bicycles may not be locked to entrance stairways or other stationary objects.
- Do not place any foreign objects down the drains or sinks.
- Please do not rearrange the furniture or if you do please ensure that the furniture is restored to its original position or a rearrangement fee of up to \$150.00 will be assessed.
- Damage to the room or furnishings will result in an additional replacement fee.
- Guests will be charged market value plus a handling fee for any items missing or damaged such as utensils, hangars, towels, etc.
- All lodging guests are required to clean the stove, refrigerator and dishes before check-out.
- Do not place hot appliances (irons or coffee pots) on the furniture or carpet.
- Additional cooking/heating devices (space heaters or hot plates) are not allowed in the rooms and will be removed if found without notification to the guest.
- Do not overload electrical units by using multi-plugs and extension cords.
- For safety and energy conservation please turn off the lights, TV, etc., when you leave the room.
- Allow housekeeping access to your room. For safety reasons housekeepers are required to enter all quarters every third day, regardless of a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door. If you have scheduling conflicts (i.e. night shift work, crew rest, etc.) please let the front desk know in order to work out a schedule with housekeeping to enter your room.
- Housekeeping staff are not permitted to move your personal belongings to clean. If items are left on beds or floors housekeeping will not be able to provide service.
- Please do not leave laundry unattended and please leave the facility clean.
- Report accidents and spills to the front desk so they can be taken care of quickly.
- Keep your valuables safe and secure. For your convenience we have provided locking safes in all our rooms. Money or high value items left lying around the room will be reported to management and service will not be provided.
- Pets are prohibited, except in “pet friendly” TLF rooms. A cleaning fee of \$150.00 will be assessed for pets found in non-pet friendly rooms.
- Report, register and store weapons with Security Forces. Weapons and ammunition are not permitted in rooms. For storage of these items please contact Security Forces at (605) 385-4001.
- If you encounter a maintenance or housekeeping problem please contact the front desk right away so that we can correct any discrepancies immediately and ensure the rest of your stay is enjoyable.



Telephone Operating Instructions

Pine Tree Inn Ellsworth AFB, SD
(605) 385-2844 DSN: 675-2844 FAX: 605-385-2190
FOR EMERGENCY CALLS DIAL 911

| | |
|--|---|
| Room to Room | Dial Room Number |
| Front Desk | Dial "0" |
| Receiving Calls | Have the party call (605) 385-2844, press #, enter room number and press # |
| Base Operator | 97+385-1000 |
| On Base Calls | 97+385-XXXX |
| DSN (Government Official Calls) | 97+94+DSN-Number |
| Local Calls (Off Base) | 99+Number |
| Direct Dial Long Distance | 99+1+Area Code+Number |
| International Direct Dial | Charge to guest room is \$0.10 per minute 99+011+Country Code+Number |
| International Credit Card/Collect | Rates will vary depending on country called 99+01+Number, wait for operator Operator assisted calls are billed to your calling card carrier or the party accepting the collect call |
| 1-8XX Numbers | 99+1+8XX+Number Applies to: 800, 888, 877, 866, etc. |
| Wake-Up Calls: | |
| To register/change automatic wakeup calls | Dial 6000, press 4, then 1 (time must be in 24 hour format) |
| To cancel automatic wakeup calls | Dial 6000, press 4 then 2 |
| Retrieving Messages: | |
| To retrieve and delete messages from your room | Press red message button |

PLEASE DO NOT UNPLUG THE PHONE CABLE

For questions or comments about this service, please contact:

MidAtlanticBroadband Hospitality Services

729 East Pratt St, Suite 440

Baltimore, MD, 21202

1-866-435-7548



Fitness Center Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
0530 – 2000

Saturday and Sunday
0900 – 1800

Holidays and Down Days
0900 – 1800

The Bellamy Fitness Center is a 24 hour operation, if you need access after the hours below please see front desk for an access key.

On Base Dining Facilities

Please contact facilities for hours of operation

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Raider Café | 385-1625 |
| Monday – Friday | |
| Breakfast | 0600 – 0900 |
| Lunch | 1030 – 1330 |
| Dinner | 1630 – 1830 |
| Weekends and Holidays | 0630 – 1830 |
| Dakotas Club | 385 – 1764 |
| Bowling Alley | 385 - 7625 |



Chapel Worship/Program Schedule

Religious Services – Protestant

Freedom Chapel

Sundays at 1000

For other special services or if you are interested in lay leadership opportunities or religious education opportunities, please call 385-1598.

Religious Services – Catholic

All Catholic events take place at the Black Hills Chapel unless otherwise posted.

Daily Mass Monday – Thursday 1130 – 1200

Sunday Mass 0930 – 1030

Confession 30 min prior to Mass or by appointment

Religious Education 1100 – 1215

Chapel Community Center

For other Holy Days of Obligation, please call 385-1670 or 385-1673 for service times and locations. If you are interested in lay leadership, religious education or other religious needs, please see the Priest or other Catholic Pastoral Associate.

Both Parishes offer religious education for children on Sundays.



Off Base Dining Information

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Black Hills Bagels

913 Mt. Rushmore Rd
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 399-1277

Botticelli Ristorante

523 Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 248-0089

Buffalo Wild Wings

715 Mt. View Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 721-9464

Buffalo Wings & Rings

5622 Sheridan Lake Rd
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-9464

Chili's Grill and Bar

2125 Haines Ave
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 388-8100

Cold Stone Ice Creamery

1925 W. Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 716-0999

Colonial House Restaurant & Bar

2315 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Rapid City, SD, 57701
(605) 342-4640

Culvers

1015 Eglin St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 718-8665

Curry Masala

2050 W. Main St. Suite 7
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 716-7788

Dakotah Steakhouse

1325 N Elk Vale Rd
Rapid City, SD 57703
(605) 791-1800

Delmonico Grill

609 Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-1664

Everest Cuisine

2328 W Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 343-4444

Firehouse Brewing Company

610 Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-1915

Fuji

1713 Eglin St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 721-8886

Great Wall Restaurant

315 E North St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-1060

The Gyro Hub

1301 W. Omaha Suite 104
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-2877

Hana

3550 Sturgis Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 348-0299

HuHot Mongolian Grill

1745 Elgin St Suite A
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-5555

Ichiban

1109 Omaha St Suite A
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 341-7178

Imperial Chinese Restaurant

702 E North St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-8888

Jambonz Deux

740 Mt. View Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 791-0624

Kang San

540 N Ellsworth Rd Suite 3D
Box Elder, SD 57719
(605) 923-9993

Kathmandu Bistro

727 Main St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 343-5070

Longhorn Steakhouse

1510 Eglin St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 342-2321

MacKenzie River

1205 Eglin St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-1292

Millstone Family Restaurant

2010 W Main St
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 343-5824

Minerva's Restaurant & Bar

2111 N Lacrosse St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-9505

Mongolian Grill

1415 Lacrosse St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 388-3187

Murphy's Pub & Grill

510 9th St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-2244

On the Border

1331 E North St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-5791

Olive Garden

160 Disk Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-4640

Outback Steakhouse

665 E Disk Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 341-1192

Pacific Rim

1375 N Lacrosse St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 791-4148

Pauley's Pizzeria & Sub

1624 E St. Patrick Suite 101
Rapid City, SD 57703
(605) 348-7827

Pizza Ranch

1556 Luna Ave
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-9114

Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

1300 N Elk Vale Rd
Rapid City, SD 57703
(605) 348-4301

Que Pasa Mexican Cantina

502 Main St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 716-9800

Red Lobster

120 Disk Dr
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-9717

Ruby Tuesday

821 Fairmont Blvd
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 343-1700

Shooters Wood Fire Grill

2424 W Main St
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 348-3348

Sickie's Garage Burgers & Brew

3313 Mall Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 716-7690

Tally's Silver Spoon

530 6th St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 342-7621

Texas Roadhouse

2106 N Maple Ave
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 341-2901



Attractions/Points of Interest

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Rapid City, South Dakota's second-largest is the gateway to the Black Hills. Southwestern South Dakota is a region of pine-covered mountains, national parks, old west history and family attractions. Its land of wonders has enchanted many from the Native Americans who declared it the home of the Great Spirit to present-day travelers who flock here. Its array of attractions, both natural and man-made, make this region one of the country's most popular destinations.

The Communities

Rapid City was built on the bank of Rapid Creek during the Black Hills gold rush. The arrival of the railroad in 1886 brought further growth, and Rapid City became the wholesale center for western South Dakota and the "Gateway City of the Black Hills."

The Black Hills were named in 1775 by Standing Buffalo, an Ogalala Sioux, who discovered an area he called Paha Sapa, meaning "mountains that are black." Viewed from a distance, the pine trees growing on the mountainsides appeared to be blue-black.

Custer, the oldest town in the Black Hills, was founded following a gold strike in 1874. Lt Col George A. Custer led a scientific expedition into the Black Hills area, and a miner accompanying the group discovered gold in the French Creek

The gold discovery attracted thousands of fortune seekers. The influx of the new arrivals caused a conflict with the American Indians already established in the area. The controversy continued until the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn, where Custer and his soldiers were annihilated.

Deadwood and Lead also were born of the gold-rush era. Founded in 1876, they are known for their Old-West atmosphere and early residents, including Wild Bill Hickock, Calamity Jane and Seth Bullock. The entire town of Deadwood is designated a National Historic Landmark.

Belle Fourche. French explorers first referred to the Belle Fourche, or "beautiful fork," of two rivers just north of today's community. Beaver trappers named the larger of the two Belle Fourche Rivers.

Hot Springs, originally called Minnekahta, was ceded in 1866 as part of the Great Sioux Reservation. Minnekahta was platted in 1881 and renamed Hot Springs.



Area Attractions

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Adams Memorial Museum

54 Sherman St., Deadwood (605) 578-1714

The museum displays a collection of Black Hills related art, history and natural science artifacts. Exhibits feature Wild Bill Hickok and Potato Creek Johnny memorabilia, the Thoen Stone and Black Hills pioneer clothes and furniture.

Bear Country USA

13820 S. Hwy 16 (605) 343-2290

This drive through Wildlife Park, south of Rapid City, features a large collection of black bears, buffalo, wolves and other North American animals. The Wildlife Center displays bear cubs, wolf pups and other park offspring. The park is open May through October.

Black Hills Caverns

2600 Cavern Rd, Rapid City (605) 343-0542

Black Hills Caverns is the largest crystal cave with some of the best variety of formations in the Black Hills area.

Black Hills Central Railroad

222 Railroad Ave, Hill City (605) 574-2222

The train takes passengers through the Black Hills back country between Hills City and Keystone on an 1880's train pulled by a steam locomotive.

Black Hills Mining Museum

323 W. Main St, Lead (605) 584-1605

The museum offers tour of a simulated underground mine and a hands on gold panning display. It is open Memorial Day weekend through September.

Chapel in the Hills

Chapel Lane, West Rapid City (605) 342-8281

The Chapel is a replica of the famous Borgund Stave Church, built in Norway more than 845 years ago.

Crazy Horse Memorial

Hwy. 16/385, North of Custer (605) 673-4681

This memorial to Sioux Chief Crazy Horse and all North American Indians is carved into the Black Hills. Nearby is the Indian Museum of North America, representing 80 tribes. This monument is not yet completed.

Evans Plunge

1145 River St., Rapid City (605) 394-4101

Evans Plunge is the world's largest natural warm-water swimming pool. Facilities include indoor and outdoor pools and water slides.

Lake Pactola

Take a right on Main St, left at Jackson Blvd and continue until you reach Hwy 385 (about 15 miles). Turn left and look for the visitor center.

Mount Moriah Cemetery

10 Mt. Moriah Dr. Deadwood (605) 722-0837

Deadwood's "Boot Hill" is a National Historic Landmark. It is the final resting place of such infamous characters as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Potato Creek Johnny.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial

3 Miles southwest of Keystone (605) 574-2523

The faces of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt were carved into the granite hills by sculptor Gutzon Borglum. Interpretive programs tell the story of its unique creation.

Petrified Forest of the Black Hills

1 Mile East of Piedmont, Exit 46 (605) 787-4560

A museum displays fossils, minerals and petrified wood. Its main attraction is a geology tour that explains how the forest became petrified. The tour includes viewing the Petrified Forest in its natural state.

Presidential Wax Museum

609 Hwy 16A Keystone (605) 666-4455

This facility is located on Keystone's Main St, US16A south. Meet life size figures of our historical leaders.

Reptile Gardens

6 Miles South of Rapid City (605) 342-5873

The facility has a collection of rare and exotic reptiles housed in specially designed cages. It is open April through October.

Rushmore Borglum Story

342 Winter St Keystone (605) 666-4448

The museum and gallery showcases Gutzon Borglum's paintings, sculptures and artifacts. He is the sculptor who designed the president's mountain carving at Mount Rushmore.



Off Base Hotel Listing

No recommendation is implied with this listing. Rates subject to change.

America's Best Value Inn

(605) 343-5434
620 Howard St

Cambria Suites

(605) 341-0101
3333 Outfitters Rd

Comfort Inn & Suites

(605) 718-4444
915 Fairmont Blvd

Comfort Suites Hotel

(605) 791-2345
1333 N. Elk Vale Rd

Country Inn & Suites

(605) 394-0017
2321 N Lacrosse St

Days Inn

(605) 348-8410
1570 N Lacrosse St

Econo Lodge

(605) 342-6400
625 E Disk Dr

Fairfield Inn & Suites

(605) 718-9600
1314 N Elk Vale Rd

Foothills Inn

(605) 348-5640
1625 N Lacrosse St

Grand Gateway Hotel

(605) 342-8853
1721 N Lacrosse St

Grand Stay Suites

(605) 341-5100
660 E Disk Dr

Hampton Inn

(605) 348-1911
1720 Rapp St

Hilton Garden Inn

(605) 791-9000
815 E Mall Dr

Holiday Inn

(605) 348-4000
505 N 5th St

Holiday Inn Exp & Suites

(605) 355-9090
645 E Disk Dr

Home2 Suites

(605) 791-4662
621 Watiki Way

Hotel Alex Johnson

(605) 342-1210
523 6th St

Howard Johnson

(605) 737-4656
950 North St

LaQuinta Inn & Suites

(605) 718-7000
1416 N Elk Vale Rd

Mainstay Suites

(605) 791-5151
3321 Outfitters Rd

Microtel Inn & Suites

(605) 384-2523
1740 Rapp St

Motel 6

(605) 221-0166
620 Latrobe Ave

Quality Inn & Suites

(605) 348-2221
1550 N Lacrosse St

Ramada

(605) 342-3322
1902 N Lacrosse St

Cedar Lodge

(605) 385-6699
Bldg. 5907, Ellsworth AFB

Sleep Inn & Suites

(605) 791-5678
4031 Cheyenne Blvd

Staybridge Suites

(605) 718-1221
1314 Luna Ave

Super 8

(605) 348-8070
2124 N Lacrosse St

Tru by Hilton

(605) 341-1878
825 Eglin St

History of Ellsworth Air Force Base

U.S. War Department Establishes Rapid City Army Air Base

In January 2, 1942, the U.S. War Department established Rapid City Army Air Base as a training location for B-17 Flying Fortress crews. From September 1942 – when its military runways first opened – until mission needs changed in July 1945, the field’s instructors taught thousands of pilots, navigators, radio operators and gunners from nine heavy bombardment groups and numerous smaller units. All training focused on the allied drive to overthrow the Axis powers in Europe.

After World War II, the base briefly trained weather reconnaissance and combat squadrons using P-61 Black Widow, P-38 Lightning, P-51 Mustang and B-25 Mitchell aircraft. However, those missions soon ended and Rapid City Army Air Field temporarily shut down from September 1946 to March 1947.

Base Becomes Rapid City Air Force Base, Home for the 28th Bombardment Wing

When operations resumed in 1947, the base was a new U.S. Air Force asset. The primary unit assigned to Rapid City Air Force Base was the new 28th Bombardment Wing flying the great B-29 Superfortress.

Base Renamed Weaver Air Force Base, Only for a Short Time

The Installation changed names a few more times during its early years. In January 1948, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Carl A. Spaatz, renamed it Weaver Air Force Base in honor of Brig. Gen. Walter R. Weaver, one of the pioneers in the development of the Air Force. In June of that year, in response to overwhelming public appeals, Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington returned to the base to its previous name. The base was also declared a “permanent installation” in early 1948.

New B-36 Peacemaker Arrives

Shortly after additional runway improvements in July 1949, the 28th Bombardment Wing began conversion from the B-29 Superfortress to the huge B-36 Peacemaker. In April 1950, the Air Staff reassigned the base from Fifteenth Air Force to Eighth Air Force.

Base Renamed Again in Honor of Brig. Gen. Richard E. Ellsworth

The base experienced one of its worst peacetime tragedies in March 1953 when an RB-36 and its entire crew of 23 crashed in Newfoundland while returning from a routine exercise in Europe. On June 13, 1953, President Eisenhower made a personal visit to dedicate the base in memory of Brig. Gen. Richard E. Ellsworth, commander of the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing who lost his life in that accident.

Ellsworth AFB Gets New B-52 Stratofortress

Military organizations periodically upgrade manpower and machines from time to time to meet new national security requirements. Ellsworth Air Force Base’s organizations were no exception. Headquarters Strategic Air Command reassigned the 28th Bombardment Wing from Eighth Air Force back to Fifteenth Air Force in October 1955. Approximately one year later, Strategic Air Command set plans in motion to replace the wing’s B-36s with the new, all-jet, B-52 Stratofortress. The last B-36 left Ellsworth on May 29, 1957, and the first B-52 arrived sixteen days later. In 1958, all base units came under command of the 821st Strategic Aerospace Division, headquartered at Ellsworth.

Ellsworth Receives Missiles

In October 1960, Ellsworth entered the “Space Age,” with the activation of the 850th Strategic Missile Squadron, initially assigned to the 28th Bombardment Wing. For more than a year, this squadron prepared for the emplacement of Titan I Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, which finally arrived in 1962, shortly after the activation of the 44th Strategic Missile Wing in January. At that time, Strategic Air Command also named the 44th Strategic Missile Wing as host wing at Ellsworth.

Titan’s life span was short in western South Dakota. In July 1962, Strategic Air Command had effectively rendered it obsolete by activating the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron, the first of three such units slated to operate 150 Minuteman I Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles under the 44th Strategic Missile Wing. The 67th Strategic Missile Squadron joined the 44th in August, followed by the 68th Strategic Missile Squadron in September 1962.

On June 1, 1971, Strategic Air Command inactivated the 821st Strategic Aerospace Division. By October of that year, an upgraded Minuteman II replaced earlier missiles.

Ellsworth Becomes “Bad to the Bone”

Ellsworth soon became known as “The Showplace of Strategic Air Command” as it continued to fight the Cold War by maintaining two legs of America’s strategic triad – strategic bombardment and Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. It carried out these vital missions for more than 15 years with relatively little change. Then, the 1908s brought many new challenges. In 1986, the base and the 28th Bombardment Wing made extensive preparations to phase out the aging B-52 fleet and become the new home for the advanced B-1B Lancer, affectionately known as “The Bone” for B-One.” Contractors completed new unaccompanied enlisted dormitories in March, new security police group headquarters in October, and gave Ellsworth’s 13,497-foot runway a much-needed facelift. They also completed new aircraft maintenance facilities for the complex new bird. The last 28th Bombardment Wing B-52H left in early 1986. In January 1987, the wing received the first of 35 B-1B bombers.

12th Air Division Moves to Ellsworth

The 12th Air Division moved to Ellsworth on July 15, 1988. This organization was responsible for training B-1B, transient B-52 and the 28th Bombardment Wing’s KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews. Strategic Air Command activated a third wing, the 99th Strategic Weapons Wing at Ellsworth on Aug. 10, 1989. This wing assumed primary responsibility for B-1B and B-52 advanced aircrew training.

Cold War Ends, Brings Changes to Ellsworth

Internationally, the destruction of the Berlin Wall in October 1989 signaled the impending collapse of the Soviet Union. During this period, the U.S. Air Force had to reshuffle its organizations and resources to meet the changing threat.

Changes came quickly. In less than four months, on Jan. 3, 1990, Strategic Air Command redesignated the 812th Combat Group as the 812th Strategic Support Wing, which, for a short time, became Ellsworth’s fourth wing. The 812th Strategic Support Wing consolidated all combat support activities into one organization.

On July 31, 1990, the 12th Air Division was replaced with the Strategic Warfare Center, which provided operational command and administrative control over Ellsworth’s subordinate units. Then, as part of the Strategic Air Command’s intermediate headquarters and base-level reorganization plan, on Sept. 1, 1991, 28th Bombardment Wing became the 28th Wing, the 44th Strategic Missile Wing became the 44th Wing, and the 99th Strategic Weapons Wing became the 99th Tactics and Training Wing.

Ten days later, Strategic Air Command inactivated both the Strategic Warfare Center and the 812th Strategic Support Wing. Once again, the 28th Wing became Ellsworth’s host organization, and it soon absorbed all previous 812th Strategic Support Wing functions.

It was also during this period that in acknowledgement of the elimination of the Warsaw Pact, the Secretary of Defense ordered alert operations to stand-down. The decades-long Cold War was over.

Reorganization Brings More Change

On June 12, 1992, as part of the first major reorganization since its creation in 1947, the U.S. Air Force inactivated Strategic Air Command and assigned Ellsworth's organizations, including a renamed 28th Bomb Wing to the newly activated Air Combat Command.

After less than a year under the new command, the 28th Bomb Wing's mission changed from that of strategic bombardment to one of world-wide conventional munitions delivery. The mission of the 99th Tactics and Training Wing (later to become the 99th Wing) also continued, albeit slightly modified to fit the requirements of the new force concept.

The 44th Missile Wing, however, had ably accomplished its deterrence mission. On Dec. 3, 1991, the wing permanently pulled the first missile from its silo. On April 6, 1992, the first launch control center shut down. Deactivation of the entire missile complex ended in April 1994. In keeping with its patriotic Minuteman tradition, the 44th Missile Wing formally inactivated on July 4, 1994.

In March 1994, Ellsworth welcomed the 34th Bomb Squadron, a geographical separated unit of the 366th Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The 34th's B-1Bs are part one of the Air Force's composite wings, which also includes F-15 Eagles, F-16 Fighting Falcons and KC-135 Stratotankers.

Team Ellsworth and B-1B Soar to New Heights

Also, during 1994, the Air Force selected Ellsworth as the exclusive location from which to conduct a Congressionally mandated Operational Readiness Assessment of the B-1B, known locally as "Dakota Challenge." After six months of hard work, under both peacetime and simulated wartime conditions, the 28th Bomb Wing and Ellsworth passed the test "with flying colors" and proved the B-1B to be a reliable and capable weapons system – the mainstay of America's heavy bomber fleet for years to come.

Ellsworth Makes Changes to Improve the B-1B

In 1995, the 99th Wing also departed for a new assignment at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, although a small contingent formerly attached to that wing remained behind to continue bomber tactics training and radar munitions scoring from a handful of dispersed detachments.

The year also saw the inactivation of one of Ellsworth's oldest units, the 77th Bomb Squadron. While the unit (as an administrative entity) departed to save Air Force Dollars for development of new follow-on B-1B munitions, the organization's aircraft remained at Ellsworth (in a flying reserve status) under the able care of its sister unit, the 37th Bomb Squadron.

A reversal of fortune occurred in early 1996. On March 26, an announcement was made that the 77th Bomb Squadron would soon return to Ellsworth. On April 1, 1997, the squadron again activated at Ellsworth as the geographically separated 34th Bomb Squadron completed its transfer to its home at the 366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. Currently the 77th Bomb Squadron has seven of its B-1Bs out of the reconstitution reserve.

Ellsworth Host to Expeditionary Air Force Unit

In March 1999, the Air Force announced a reorganization plan that makes Ellsworth and the 28th Bomb Wing partners in the new Expeditionary Air Force concept. The 28th Bomb Wing was named a lead wing in the new Expeditionary Air Force. Under this new plan, the 77th bomb Squadron will gain six additional B-1Bs, and Ellsworth will gain about 100 more military personnel. The expeditionary forces will help the Air Force respond quickly to any worldwide crisis while making life more stable and predictable for military personnel.

The men and women of Ellsworth draw from past experiences to plan for the future. As they embrace the Air Force core values of – Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do – they stand ready to provide Global Power for America!

28th Bomb Wing History

28th Bombardment Group

To understand the 28th Bomb Wing's history, one must first understand its relationship to the 28th Bombardment Group. The 28th Bomb Wing celebrated its 50th Anniversary on 28 July 1997. The 28th Bombardment Group was the wing's primary operational element when the War Department first organized the wing in 1947. The 28th Bombardment Group is seven years older than the wing and was already a World War II veteran before the air staff created the larger organization. Nevertheless, in tribute to the group's gallant exploits, a short sketch of its earliest days provides background helpful in explaining how it later fit into the wing's structure.

The 28th Bombardment Group was originally constituted as the 28th Composite Group on Dec. 22, 1939, and activated three months later at March Field, Calif. The group soon found its way to Elmendorf Field, Alaska, where its assigned squadrons operated primarily from bases in the Aleutian Islands.

They flew various aircraft including the B-17 Flying Fortress, B-18 Bolo, B-24 Liberator, B-25 Mitchell, B-26 Marauder and P-38 Lightning, and compiled an impressive combat record against the enemy in the Northern Pacific. After the war, the group inactivated temporarily before coming back as the 28th Bombardment Group to work for the new Strategic Air Command. This time, the group's assigned squadrons flew the B-29 Superfortress while they conducted six months of post-war arctic operations in Alaska. In May 1947, the group and its subordinate units relocated to Rapid City Army Air Field (later Ellsworth AFB) and awaited the activation of the new headquarters to which they would soon be assigned – the 28th Bombardment Wing.

28th Bombardment Wing

The 28th Bomb Wing was established on July 28, 1947, under the "Hobson Plan", which was designed to streamline the peacetime forces after WWII. The Wing existed only on paper until Aug. 15, 1947, when Strategic Air Command organized it under the Fifteenth Air Force. Upon its activation, the wing included the 28th Bombardment Group, the 28th Airdrome Group, 28th Maintenance and Supply Group, 28th Station Medical Group, and the 612th Army Air Forces Band.

On July 12, 1948, in its first of many name changes, Strategic Air Command activated the organization as the 28th Bombardment Wing. One week later, the wing deployed the entire 28th Bombardment Group and its 77th, 717th and 718th Bombardment Squadrons to England for a 90-day B-29 show-of-force mission during the Soviet blockade of Berlin. In May 1949, in preparation for the huge B-36 Peacemaker, the wing's name changed to the 28th Bombardment Wing.

The wing flew the B-29 until 1950 and maintained proficiency in heavy global bombardment. By 1950, however, the wing had gradually transitioned out of the B-29 Superfortress and into the B-36 Peacemaker. With the change in aircraft also came a modified mission – global strategic reconnaissance with bombardment as a secondary tasking. The wing's name changed again in April 1950, this time to the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Meanwhile intermediate command assignments changed from the Fifteenth to the Eighth Air Force.

In May 1951, the wing flew a record setting B-36 training mission lasting 41 hours without refueling. In June 1952, Strategic Air Command inactivated the old 28th Bombardment Group and assigned its squadrons directly under the 28th Bombardment Wing. Although the wing's aerial reconnaissance capability lasted until September 1958, by April 1955 the Air Force had already changed the wing back to its former status as the 28th Bombardment Wing. It was under the Fifteenth Air Force (later attached to the 3rd Air Division, specializing almost exclusively in ordnance delivery).

The 28th Bombardment Wing started replacing its B-36s with the new, all-jet, B-52 Stratofortress in 1957. In September 1958, a pair of the wings hot new B-52s set two world speed records over a closed course without payload, while simultaneously setting a record for jet closed course distance without refueling.

In February 1959, the wing received its first KC-135 Stratotanker along with the new 928th Air Refueling Squadron. This unit provided in-flight refueling for long-range sorties during lengthy continental U.S. or overseas deployments. The 717th and 718th Bombardment Squadrons inactivated in February 1960. The 28th Air Refueling

Squadron succeeded the 928 AREFS in October, when it inactivated. In 1961, the 28th Bombardment Wing began flying airborne indoctrination sorties for Strategic Air Command.

From December 1960 through January 1962, the wing even controlled a non-equipped Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missile unit, the 850th Strategic Missile Squadron. The 97th Air Refueling Squadron and its KC-97 Stratofreighters also joined the wing from July 1962 until March 1964. In 1965, the wing received the new EC-135 Post-Attack Command and Control Systems aircraft to perform airborne launch control functions for U.S. Air Force Minutemen (and later Peacekeeper) missile wings.

In March 1966, the 28th Bombardment Wing sent its first B-52s to Southeast Asia. Some of these planes flew the first Arc Light bombing missions over Vietnam. Wing bombers earned the distinction of flying both the 1,000th and 5,000th B-52 sortie against the enemy in this theater. The wing's extensive involvement in Southeast Asian combat (flying both bombers and tankers) continued for nine years. In December 1972, Capt. John D. Mize, 77 BS, was the first person in Strategic Air Command to receive an Air Force Cross for heroism for his efforts to save the lives of his crewmen after a surface-to-air missile attack during a Linebacker II mission over Hanoi.

The wing's hardware improvements and organizational changes continued. In April 1970, the 4th Airborne Command and Control Squadron joined the 28th Bombardment Wing. In June 1971, the wing's intermediate headquarters changed to the 821st Air (later Strategic Aerospace) Division. The 37th Bomb Squadron joined the 28th Bombardment Wing from July 1977 to October 1982.

In 1982, the 28th Bombardment Wing assumed the bomber role in the Strategic Projection Force and maintained readiness for global conventional operations with specially modified B-52s. The B-52 mission expanded in 1984 to include sea reconnaissance, surveillance and conventional operations from forward bases overseas. The wing tested this latter capability during its first deployment to Egypt during Bright Star '85. Also, during this year, upgraded KC-135R tankers replaced the wing's older "A" models. In March 1986, thirty years of B-52 service came to an end for the 28th Bombardment Wing as the last B-52H departed in preparation for the arrival of the new B-1B Lancer.

The 37th Bomb Squadron returned to operational duty with the 28th Bombardment Wing in January 1987, just in time to join the 77th Bomb Squadron in training on the sleek new bombers. The first B-1B Lancer arrived on Jan. 21, 1987. In July 1988, the 57th Air Division became the wing's new higher headquarters. In 1989, the wing's B-1Bs earned the Fairchild Trophy, the Eaker Trophy and the Omaha Trophy for superior bomber operations and the most outstanding wing in Strategic Air Command. The wing also provided tanker support for Operation Just Cause, December 1989 through January 1990.

In July 1990, the Strategic Warfare Center became the latest of the wing's intermediate headquarters. In September 1990, the 28th Bombardment Wing earned the Sweeny Trophy. Adding to its extensive combat experience, the wing deployed both tanker and airborne command post aircraft to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm from August 1990 through March 1991. In June 1991, the wing also received the Hoban Trophy.

On Sept. 1, 1991, Strategic Air Command redesignated the 28th Bombardment Wing as the 28th Wing, and once again assigned it directly under Eighth Air Force. As part of the new objective wing organization, the Strategic Air Command reactivated the old 28th Bombardment Group as the 28th Operations Group. The 28th Wing also regained host wing responsibilities for Ellsworth AFB from the 44th Missile Wing.

On Sept. 28, 1991, the Secretary of Defense ordered Ellsworth's B-1Bs and tankers off alert. The 4th Airborne Command and Control Squadron continued to maintain an alert crew until May 1992. On June 1, 1992, Strategic Air Command inactivated, Air Combat Command activated, the 28th Wing changed names to the 28th Bomb Wing, and the 28th Air Refueling Squadron became a geographically separated unit assigned to Malmstrom AFB, Montana. In September 1992, the 4th Airborne Command and Control Squadron inactivated, having effectively worked themselves out of a job by helping America's deterrent resolve win the Cold War. Also, during this year, the wing won its second Eaker Trophy.

“Pioneer of Peace for the 21st Century”

In 1993, the 28th Bomb Wing continued adapting to new defense demands in light of the world’s changing threats. The wing’s versatile B-1Bs were the first in Air Combat Command to transition from their former strategic role to an all-conventional mission. The 28th Bomb Wing’s operational squadrons could conceivably touch anywhere in the world to meet national defense needs.

Ellsworth tested this concept in 1993 and early 1994. During “Team Spirit,” Ellsworth’s B-1Bs were the first ever to land in Korea. Ellsworth crews flew various “Global Power” missions from Ellsworth to bomb training ranges in another continent. The wing’s second trip to “Bright Start” marked the B-1B’s first visit to a major Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise in South west Asia.

From June through December 1994, 28th Bomb Wing B-1Bs participated in a Congressionally directed Operational Readiness Assessment known locally as “Dakota Challenge.” This test, conducted exclusively by the 28th Bomb Wing, proved the B-1B to be a versatile and reliable weapon system – the mainstay of America’s heavy bomber fleet for years to come.

On March 31, 1995, the 77th Bomb Squadron, a unit that had served under the wing since 1938, inactivated. Its B-1Bs became part of Air Combat Command’s reconstitution reserve. This action freed funds for the Air Force to develop new precision-guided munitions for the B-1B.

The Air Force announced in early 1996 that the 77th Bomb Squadron would once again activate under the 28th Bomb Wing on April 1, 1997. In November 1998, they received the first Block D upgraded B-1B in the U.S. Air Force inventory. The Block D upgrade gives the B-1B the capability to drop the Joint Direct Attack Munition, a global positioning system guided munition.

In December 1998, the 28th Bomb Wing deployed aircraft as part of Operation Desert Fox. The Ellsworth B-1Bs, flying under the flag of the 28th Air Expeditionary Group with B-1Bs from the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas, were the first B-1Bs to drop bombs on an enemy target. In its two combat missions, the B-1B silenced its critics and proved itself a valuable weapons system.

In March 1999, the Air Force announced that the 28th Bomb Wing would be a lead unit for the new Expeditionary Air Force concept. This represents a fundamental change in the way the Air Force will fight a war. Expeditionary Aerospace Forces will respond quickly to worldwide crises while reducing the operations tempo for Air Force personnel.

On April 1, 1999, the 77th Bomb Squadron was called into action to support NATO’s Operation Allied Force, sending five B-1Bs and 350 personnel to RAF Fairford, United Kingdom. Later that day, the second anniversary of its reactivation, the squadron flew its first combat missions with the B-1B over the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Drawing from its storied past and the combined experience of thousands of veterans who’ve gone before, the 29th Bomb wing continues to set pace for the future. The wing stands tall as the “Pioneer of Peace for the 21st Century.”