

Grand Forks Herald

Cavalier Air Force Station seeing multi-million upgrades

By [Kevin Bonham](#) Today at 12:30 a.m.

CAVALIER, N.D.—U.S. Sen. John Hoeven toured the Cavalier Air Force Station near here Monday to review some \$65 million in improvements being made to the facility.

The improvements include a \$43.5 million project to upgrade the Perimeter Acquisition Radar Attack Characterization System (PARCS). The focal point of that installation is a concrete 12-story-tall radar complex that detects missile threats and monitors satellites and other space objects orbiting the earth.

"The installation in Cavalier is a critical part of the advanced systems our military uses to track missile and space threats, as well as monitor the Arctic, and our job is to do all we can to support their mission," said Hoeven, R-N.D.

An \$18.5 million portion of the PARCS project, which is expected to be completed by January, is designed to protect the sensitive electronic equipment of PARCS from threats, he said. Specifically, a High-Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse (HEMP) shell will shield the PARCS building against natural or man-made bursts or pulses of electromagnetic energy.

With the improvements, PARCS is expected to be the most powerful of five warning radar installations operated by the Air Force's 21st Space Wing, with a



U.S. Sen. John Hoeven

monitoring range of nearly 3,700 miles.

Meanwhile, a \$21.6 million project to upgrade the Security Forces Alert facility and other infrastructure at the station is well under way. The project, which should be complete by 2016, includes a new dormitory to replace a temporary structure built in 1973.

About 40 Air Force personnel – along with about 75 Air Force civilian workers and defense contractors – are stationed at the Cavalier Air Force Station, created to provide missile warning during the Cold War.

The facility is located about 16 miles west of Cavalier, or about 90 miles northwest of Grand Forks.

Here is a breakdown of Cavalier Air Force Stations congressional appropriations from Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2015:

Facilities Construction, Sustainment and Repair: \$21.6 million

Key Facilities Projects:

- Repair PARCS Facility - \$7.95 million
- Repair Security Forces Alert Facility - \$2.67 million
- Repair Wastewater Pond Liner - \$2.44 million
- HVAC Repairs - \$1.28 million
- Repair Fire Station - \$1.06 million

PARCS Procurement Funding: \$43.5 million

- High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse upgrade - \$18.5 million
- Radar operations and sustainment - \$25 million

(\$5 million per year average)

Total, Facilities and Procurement Funding, Cavalier AFS. FY11-15: \$65.1 million

Kevin Bonham

Kevin Bonham covers regional news, mostly from northeast North Dakota, for the Grand Forks Herald. A North Dakota native who grew up in Mandan and Dickinson, he has been a reporter or an editor with the Herald and Forum Communications for more than 30 years. Find his articles at: www.grandforksherald.com. He welcomes story ideas via email, kbonham@gfherald.com, or by phone, (701) 780-1110.

KBonham@gfherald.com

(701) 780-1110

Follow @kbonhamGF

ADVERTISEMENT

