

Cavalier air station won't close yet

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The Air Force station at Cavalier, N.D., scheduled to close next week will remain open, at least for a while, North Dakota members of Congress said Wednesday.

Air Force officials in North Dakota and Colorado — where the Cavalier base's command is located — contacted Wednesday

said they had not heard of any change in closing plans.

Pentagon officials could not be reached Wednesday for comment.

This summer, the Air Force announced it would close the small radar station west of Cavalier at the end of September. The closing would save \$8 million a year, the Air Force said. It also would mean 27 Air Force people and six Department of Defense civilians

out of the Cavalier area, as well as the end of contracted jobs for 100 employees of a Virginia company working at the base.

U.S. Sen. Kent Conrad and U.S. Rep. Byron Dorgan said in a news release Wednesday that top Air Force officials in Washington told them the station "will remain in operation for the foreseeable future." But its long-term status still is in question, Conrad and Dorgan said.

The Air Force has leased the site from the Army, and the lease runs out after September, Air Force officials said earlier this year.

No information was available Wednesday as to the long-term status of the site. The radar base's main function has been to track sea-launched ballistic missiles aimed at North America.