



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 28TH BOMB WING (ACC)
ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE SOUTH DAKOTA

OCT 05 2011

Colonel Mark E. Weatherington
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing
1958 Scott Drive
Ellsworth AFB SD 57719-4710

Mr. Cedric Black Eagle, Chairman
Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency MT 59022

Dear Chairman Black Eagle

Having recently assumed command of the 28th Bomb Wing, I am writing to introduce myself, and relay my desire to continue the government-to-government relationship established with previous 28th Bomb Wing commanders regarding the proposed creation of new airspace needed to support the Ellsworth AFB mission. I am also interested in your vision for completing the consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties.

First, let me thank you for graciously hosting the Air Force team in October, 2010, at the Apsáalooke Center and providing us the opportunity to describe to the citizens of the Crow Nation the proposed action, alternatives and the potential environmental effects associated with the proposal. This public hearing served as an avenue for us to learn of issues and concerns your citizens have regarding the proposed action. What we heard was support for the Ellsworth AFB mission and the proposed PRTC, and I would like to thank the Crow Nation for that support.

As you know, with the preferred alternative, impacts to cultural resources could occur from low-level overflights and sonic booms. Historic properties would not be expected to be adversely affected by our normal day-to-day flying operations. Supersonic flights, which would only be permitted up to 10 days per year, would not be expected to have an adverse effect to historic properties, although bric-a-brac could be vibrated off shelves. In the extremely unlikely event that a sonic boom did damage property, a claim can be submitted by contacting the Ellsworth Public Affairs Office at 605-385-5056.

The Ellsworth team is committed to understanding and maintaining our relationship with the Crow Nation and desire to keep the lines of communication open into the future. Should this new airspace be approved, it is important that we identify spiritual events, ceremonies, as well as events such as the Crow Fair and Rodeo, Crow Native Days, and other sensitive times and areas that can be avoided through coordination between the appropriate tribal and military officials.

Please contact me directly at 605-385-2801 or via e-mail at 28bw.cc@ellsworth.af.mil, or feel free to have your representative contact my tribal liaison, Mr. George Stone at 605-385-1260, george.stone@ellsworth.af.mil to discuss the way ahead and the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for the proposed Powder River Training Complex.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Weatherington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK E. WEATHERINGTON, Colonel, USAF