



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

JUN 30 2014

Colonel Kevin B. Kennedy  
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing  
1958 Scott Drive, Suite 1  
Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706-4710

Ms. Mary Hopkins  
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer  
State Parks & Cultural Resources  
2301 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne WY 82002

Dear Ms. Hopkins

Thank you for Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) comments dated 8 September 2010 (reference SHPO #0910JPL002) on the proposed Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). In the several years since your comment, the Air Force has engaged in consultations on the PRTC proposal among the appropriate SHPOs, Tribes, federal agencies, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and is nearing preparation of a final Programmatic Agreement (PA) to resolve the potential effects of the PRTC action on historic properties.

Over the past months we made substantial changes to the 6 November 2013 draft PA in response to consulting party concerns. We are providing the revised PA (Atch 1) and supporting documentation (Atch 2) for your consideration. Our analysis has determined that no adverse effects will occur to historic properties from the PRTC undertaking in Wyoming, although the potential exists for adverse effects elsewhere. The procedures in the PA commit to an ongoing relationship between Ellsworth AFB and the consulting parties, including processes for identifying to the AF potential effects not specifically identified at this time, and the means to address them. We consider all consulting parties, whether required or invited, to be essential partners in ensuring the success of the PRTC training mission and the stewardship of historic resources within it. Our plan is to provide this version of the PA to the consulting parties for signature within the next week, after final review by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

We also have prepared an overview, in non-technical terms, of how the AF would propose to fly in the PRTC during routine operations and in large force exercises (Atch 3). We hope you find it useful. As noted therein:

...we have developed procedural, spatial, and temporal measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects from overflight, designed for implementation in specific situations, depending upon the nature of the resource to be protected or the concern

highlighted during consultations. The Air Force remains committed to considering potential mitigations whenever feasible and when we are advised of the potential impacts beforehand. If the PRTC proposed undertaking is implemented, we will rely on continual two-way communication with our neighbors to make this work.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 605-385-2801, or my airspace manager and tribal liaison, Mr. George Stone, at 605-385-1260, or [george.stone@ellsworth.af.mil](mailto:george.stone@ellsworth.af.mil).

Sincerely

  
KEVIN B. KENNEDY, Colonel, USAF

cc:

Ms. Katharine Kerr, ACHP

3 Attachments

1. Programmatic Agreement
2. Section 106 Supporting Documentation
3. Supplementary USAF comments on Military Flying Operations in the Proposed PRTC