



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

JUN 3 0 2014

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

Mr. Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer
North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505-0830

Dear Mr. Paaverud

Thank you for North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) comments dated 3 December 2013 and 20 February 2014 on the draft programmatic agreement (PA) for the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). We have considered these and similar comments from other State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribes, and federal agencies. The attached spreadsheet (Atch 1) lists your specific comments and Air Force (AF) responses to each.

Please note that many of our responses key to a summary document, also attached (Atch 2), which explains in non-technical, summary fashion how the AF proposes to operate routinely and during infrequent large force exercises over or near sensitive historic properties in the PRTC. As stated there:

In summary, 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.

Over the past months we made substantial changes to the 6 November 2013 draft PA in response to consulting party concerns, including those from North Dakota. We are providing the revised PA (Atch 3) and supporting documentation (Atch 4) for your read ahead consideration, as we are doing with the other consulting parties. The procedures contained therein 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 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.

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.

Sincerely



KEVIN B. KENNEDY, Colonel, USAF

cc:

Ms. Katharine Kerr, ACHP

4 Attachments

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