



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

Crow Tribe
Mr. Shawn Backbone, Vice Secretary
P.O. Box 129
Crow Agency MT 59022

Dear Vice Secretary Backbone

Last November we sent the Crow Tribe the proposed Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) programmatic agreement (PA) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) Supporting Documentation, which were updated based on comments from the various consulting parties. Since then we have continued to refine the proposal and the PA. This letter forwards the current version of the PA and its supporting documentation. These are advance copies for your information and we anticipate little change before sending the Crow Tribe the final version for signature. We also include for your information an overview that describes for the non-specialist how the Air Force intends to fly in the PRTC during routine operations and occasional large force exercises.

We deeply appreciate the Tribe's support of our initiative to provide aircrews with essential low-level training and its willingness to work with us in developing procedures to avoid impacts to the Crow people and their lands, plants, animals, and sacred places. The provisions in the PA will facilitate ongoing communication between the Crow Tribe and our aircrews, and enable us to establish appropriate avoidance areas upon request. In addition, measures to reduce impacts from overflight at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and other historic properties under the PRTC airspace will also provide indirect benefits to the Crow Tribe, given the proximity to tribal lands.

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:

Mr. Emerson Bull Chief, THPO

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