

**2017 Annual Report**

**Powder River Training Complex (PRTC)**

**in**

**North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, & Wyoming**

**Prepared per PRTC Programmatic Agreement (PA)**



**May 1, 2018**

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### References:

Additional PRTC information is available on the Ellsworth AFB website

(<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/Home/PRTC.aspx>), specifically, past Annual Reports and the PA itself are available here (<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/Home/Powder-River-Training-Complex/Cultural-and-Historic-Preservation-Information/>). If unable to access this information, it is also available by request by contacting Mr. George Stone at 605-385-1230, [george.stone@us.af.mil](mailto:george.stone@us.af.mil).

## **1.0. Description of Activity from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 (Stipulation VII.B.1.)**

The day-to-day training and the Large Force Exercise (LFE) training accomplished, in PRTC airspace, in calendar year (CY) 2017, will be broken out in subparagraphs below.

### **1.1. General description of PRTC airspace**

PRTC is a combination of Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs). PRTC MOAs are stratified into Low and High MOAs. PRTC Low MOAs are 500 feet above ground level (AGL) up to but not including 12,000 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL). PRTC High MOAs are 12,000 feet MSL up to but not including Fight Level 180 (FL180, or approximately 18,000 feet MSL). PRTC ATCAAs exist between FL180 and FL260.

### **1.2. Day to day training airspace**

For this report PRTC day to day training activity (CY2017) is broken down into scheduled hours and activated hours (S/A). Scheduled Hours are those hours the airspace was coordinated in advance with the FAA (for example the schedule that is coordinated with the FAA the duty day prior to the training activity). The Activated hours are only the subset of those coordinated (scheduled) hours where the FAA actually activates the airspace. Activated is generally less than scheduled due to cancellations and delays that occur on the day of the actual training activity. See below for discussion of each of these areas separately.

#### **1.2.1 PR-1**

PR-1 is subdivided into 4 sections geographically, PR-1A, PR-1B, PR-1C, and PR-1D. The lack of low altitude communications capability has kept PR-1 unusable below 12,000 feet MSL (During CY17 PR-1 Low MOAs were neither scheduled nor activated). As PR-1A and PR-1C High MOAs and ATCAAs are only usable for LFEs and not usable for day-to-day training, you will note that their usage is lower than PR-1B and PR-1D.

##### **1.2.1.1 PR-1A**

1.2.1.1.1 PR-1A Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.2.1.1.2 PR-1A High MOA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

1.2.1.1.3 PR-1A ATCAA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

##### **1.2.1.2 PR-1B**

1.2.1.2.1 PR-1B Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.2.1.2.2 PR-1B High MOA was Scheduled 49 hrs and activated for 49 hrs.

1.2.1.2.3 PR-1B ATCAA was Scheduled 49 hrs and activated for 49 hrs.

##### **1.2.1.3 PR-1C**

1.2.1.3.1 PR-1C Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.2.1.3.2 PR-1C High MOA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

1.2.1.3.3 PR-1C ATCAA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

##### **1.2.1.4 PR-1D**

1.2.1.4.1 PR-1D Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.2.1.4.2 PR-1D High MOA was Scheduled 49 hrs and activated for 49 hrs.

1.2.1.4.3 PR-1D ATCAA was Scheduled 49 hrs and activated for 49 hrs.

### 1.2.2 PR-2

With PR-2 having the only currently usable Low MOA and the electronic emitters located beneath it, PR-2 is utilized the most of any of the PRTC airspace.

1.2.2.1 PR-2 Low MOA was Scheduled 1,437 hrs and activated for 1,058 hrs.

1.2.2.2 PR-2 High MOA was Scheduled 1,453 hrs and activated for 1,082 hrs.

1.2.2.3 PR-2 ATCAA was Scheduled 1,546 hrs and activated for 1,155 hrs.

### 1.2.3 PR-3

The lack of low altitude communications capability has kept PR-3 unusable below 12,000 feet MSL, which limits its day to day utility. (During CY17 PR-3 Low MOAs were neither scheduled nor activated).

1.2.3.1 PR-3 Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.2.3.2 PR-3 High MOA was Scheduled 160 hrs and activated for 119 hrs.

1.2.3.3 PR-3 ATCAA was Scheduled 195 hrs and activated for 149 hrs.

### 1.2.4 PR-4

PR-4 is limited by a floor of 12,000 feet MSL (there is no PR-4 Low MOA). This limits its utility for standard B-1 day to day training missions. Day to day use of PR-4 will be specific training events that do not require low altitude (below 12,000 feet MSL).

1.2.4.1 PR-4 High MOA was Scheduled 52 hrs and activated for 50 hrs.

1.2.4.3 PR-4 ATCAA was Scheduled 58 hrs and activated for 56 hrs.

### 1.3. Large Force Exercise (LFE) training airspace

PRTC LFEs are integrated training opportunities where aircraft will operate across multiple MOA/ATCAA combinations, utilizing the Gap MOAs/ATCAAs to combine the PRTC airspace into a single training space. During these events, which are limited to a total of ten days per year, multiple types of aircraft with varied specialties will operate together within the same training scenario. During an LFE, the airspace listed above is combined with PRTC LFE only airspace. The PRTC LFE only airspace consists of the following components: the Gap A, B, and C MOAs/ATCAAs, PR-1A and C High MOA/ATCAAs, and the Gateway East ATCAA. These pieces of airspace, which can only be used for LFEs, function to connect the day to day use MOA/ATCAAs into a single area. One LFE occurred during CY17, June 27-29 (2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mountain Time [MT]). For this LFE PR-1 and PR-4 were used primarily for marshalling aircraft at the beginning and end of the exercise, as well as stand-off orbits of support aircraft such as Tankers, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), and reconnaissance aircraft. The Gap MOAs combined with Gateway East ATCAA allowed aircraft to flow across the entire PRTC during the LFE.

#### 1.3.1 Gap-A

1.3.1.1 Gap-A Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.3.1.2 Gap-A High MOA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

1.3.1.3 Gap-A ATCAA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

#### 1.3.2 Gap-B

1.3.2.1 Gap-B Low MOA was Scheduled 0 hrs and activated for 0 hrs.

1.3.2.2 Gap-B High MOA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

1.3.2.3 Gap-B ATCAA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

#### 1.3.3 Gap-C

1.3.3.1 Gap-C High MOA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

1.3.3.2 Gap-C ATCAA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

1.3.4 Gateway East ATCAA was Scheduled 12 hrs and activated for 12 hrs.

## **2.0. Scheduling changes proposed for military training in PRTC (Stipulation VII.B.2.)**

2.1. There are no changes proposed for the scheduling and training in PRTC.

## **3.0. Problems encountered in Programmatic Agreement (PA) Implementation (Stipulation VII.B.3.)**

### **3.1. National Park Service (NPS) visitor use survey (Stipulation I.A.1.c))**

As the portion of the PRTC airspace over and around the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is not yet usable below 12,000 feet MSL, due to communication infrastructure limitations, there has yet to be coordination or planning for a visitor use survey.

### **3.2. Annual Cultural Awareness class (Stipulation III.A.2)**

The Cultural Awareness class for 2017 was accomplished 28 Feb. 28 BW is still requesting input to ensure the material covered in training sessions meets the intent of the PRTC PA. Limited input has been received to date.

## **4.0. Disputes and objections (Stipulation VII.B.4.)**

4.1. New Disputes and objections - None.

## **5.0. Newly identified historic properties (Stipulation VII.B.5.)**

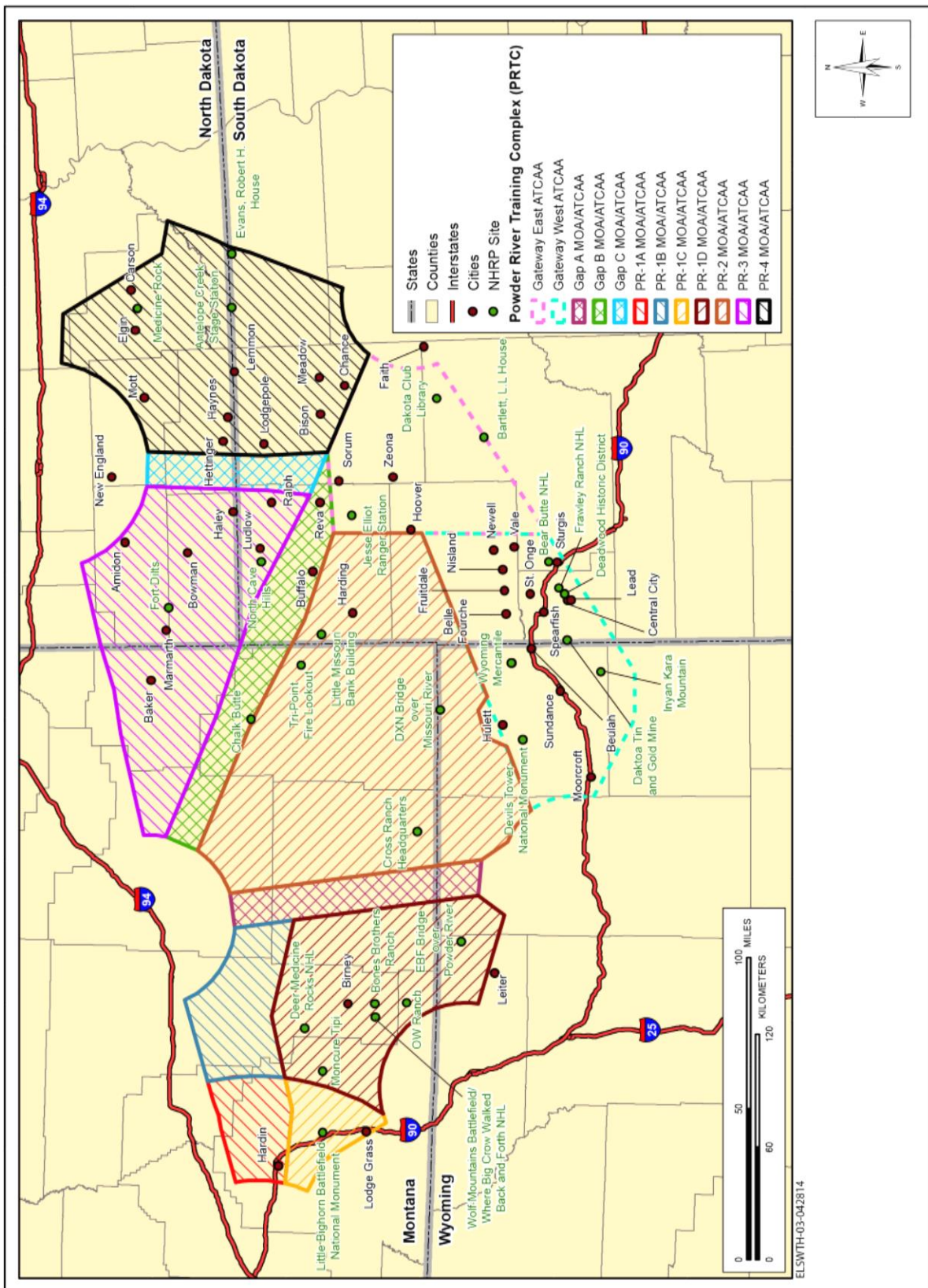
No newly identified historic properties were identified to the Air Force during the reporting period.

## **6.0. Newly identified adverse effects (Stipulation VII.B.6.)**

No newly identified adverse effects to historic properties were identified to the Air Force during the reporting period.

## **7.0. Proposed dates for annual meetings (Stipulation VII.B.7.)**

A request for Tribal consultations, to discuss the contents of this report, was included within both the information request letters and the cover letters that accompanied this report.





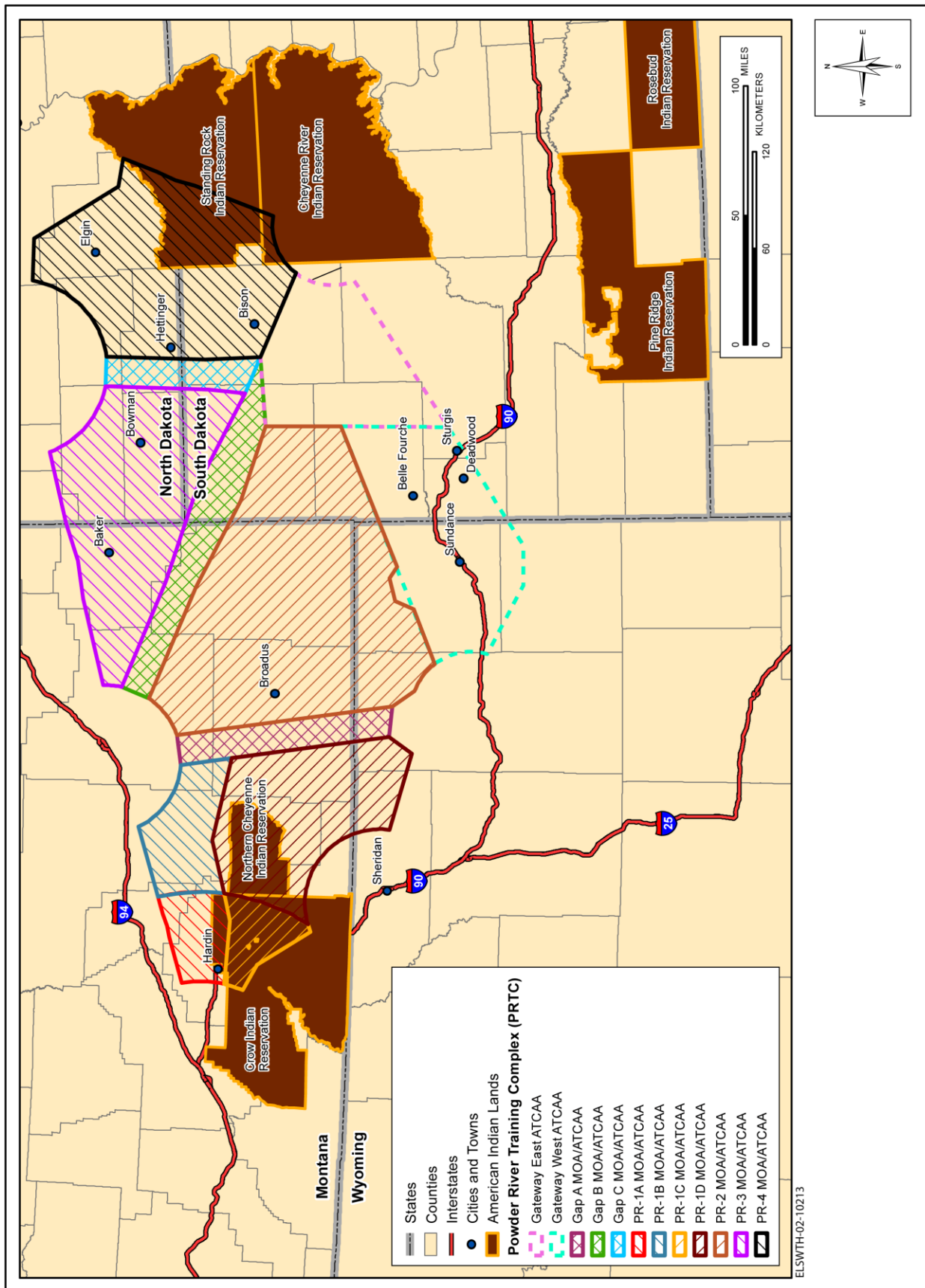


Figure 2. American Indian Lands located beneath the Proposed PRTC