



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

JUN 3 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Bureau of Indian Affairs
Standing Rock Agency
PO Box E
Fort Yates, ND 58538

FROM: HQ ACC/A7P
129 Andrews Street
Langley AFB VA 23665-2769

SUBJECT: Powder River Training Complex, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

1. The United States Air Force (Air Force) is in the process of preparing an EIS to assess the potential environmental consequences of a proposal to expand and enhance the existing Powder River Complex (PRC) near Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) SD. The proposal would create the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). The PRTC would more effectively use limited resources and finite flying hours by providing locally the realistic training needed by B-1 and B-52 aircrews flying from Ellsworth AFB SD and Minot AFB ND, respectively. This airspace proposal addresses the training and other limitations affecting the existing PRC training assets as they are currently configured.


2. The proposed action would restructure and reconfigure the existing Powder River Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and associated Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspaces (ATCAAs). The PRTC proposal would establish two air refueling routes, create additional low altitude MOA (500 feet Above Ground Level [AGL] up to, but not including, 18,000 feet above Mean Sea Level [MSL]) and high-altitude ATCAA (18,000-60,000 MSL) combinations in portions of South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. The proposal would support additional ground-based assets to simulate threats and an increase in aircraft training flights, permit the use of training chaff and flares, and authorize supersonic flight above 10,000 AGL. Three action alternatives and a no-action alternative have currently been identified for analyses and are discussed in the attached meeting brochure (Atch 1).

3. All or portions of the following locations have the potential of being affected by the proposal's overhead training airspace due to one or more of the alternatives: **Montana**—Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations and the counties of Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone; **North Dakota**—Standing Rock Reservation and Adams, Billings, Bowman, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Morton, Sioux, Slope, and Stark counties; **South Dakota**—Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Reservations, and Butte, Corson, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Ziebach counties; and **Wyoming**: Campbell, Crook, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

4. The Air Force is committed to community outreach. Recognizing that open communication of issues is a critical element of the EIS process, the Air Force will host public meetings in

communities underlying and/or adjacent to the proposed airspace as identified in the meeting flyer at attachment 2. The Air Force intends to coordinate public involvement for the purpose of Section 106 review under the NHPA with public involvement in the EIS prepared under the Environmental Impact Analysis Process. The 28 Bomb Wing Commander at Ellsworth AFB has initiated consultation with the tribal leaders of the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Nations and community meetings are being coordinated on each Native American Reservation. Meetings with public, agency, and Native American stakeholders during this scoping process will help identify the full range of reasonable alternatives, potential impacts, and key issues to be considered in the environmental impact analysis process.

5. To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider your input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, please provide information and/or comments to Ms. Linda DeVine, HQ ACC/A7PP at the above address not later than August 4, 2008. If you have any specific questions about this proposal, please feel free to contact Ms. Linda DeVine at (757) 764-9434, or by electronic-mail at acc.prtc@langley.af.mil. You may also obtain information including the two attachments to this letter, from our website at www.accplanning.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.


BRUCE W. MACDONALD, P.E.
Acting Chief, Programs Division

Attachment:

1. Scoping Meeting Brochure
2. Flyer



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

JUN 3 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Bureau of Indian Affairs
Cheyenne River Agency
PO Box 325
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

FROM: HQ ACC/A7P
129 Andrews Street
Langley AFB VA 23665-2769

SUBJECT: Powder River Training Complex, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

JUN 3 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Bureau of Indian Affairs
Pine Ridge Agency
PO Box 1203
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

FROM: HQ ACC/A7P
129 Andrews Street
Langley AFB VA 23665-2769

SUBJECT: Powder River Training Complex, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

JUN 3 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Bureau of Indian Affairs
Rocky Mt Regional Office
316 N. 26th St.
Billings, MT 59101

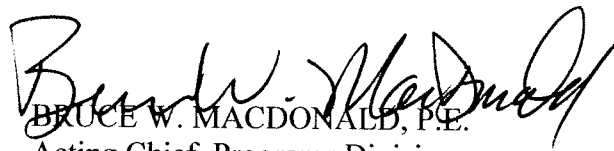
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
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LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

JUN 3 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Bureau of Indian Affairs
Midwest Regional Office
One Federal Drive, Rm. 550
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111-4007

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129 Andrews Street
Langley AFB VA 23665-2769

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JUN 3 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Bureau of Indian Affairs
Great Plains Regional Office
115 4th Ave. SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401

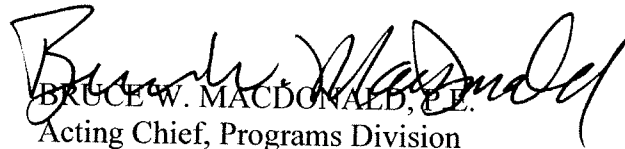
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