



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

NOV 02 2012

Colonel Mark E. Weatherington
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing
1958 Scott Drive, Suite 1
Ellsworth AFB SD 57706-4710

Mr. Mark Baumler, SHPO
Montana State Historic Preservation Officer
1410 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 201202
Helena MT 59620-1202

Dear Mr. Baumler

As you know, the Air Force has been consulting with various federal agencies and state and tribal historic preservation offices on the proposed Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). As a result of this consultation, we acknowledge agency and tribal concerns with impacts to sensitive cultural, historic, and religious properties on tribal lands and elsewhere within the affected area. The 28th Bomb Wing proposes to develop and execute a Section 106 programmatic agreement (PA), prepared in accordance with 36 CFR 800.14(b)(3), with the consulting parties. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is facilitating development of this PA which would legally bind the Air Force with commitments to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects to historic properties. We welcome your input in refining these commitments and in identifying additional appropriate and feasible measures.

On September 21st 2012 the ACHP hosted a tele-/web Consultation in order to facilitate Section 106 consultation for the PRTC action, including a draft PA. Two follow-on Virtual Consultations have been scheduled for 30 November and 13 December 2012. Once again participants will be invited to log onto a secure website to view discussion materials as well as participate by phone. Please let us know if your office will be represented. My point of contact for this action is Mr. George Stone, george.stone@ellsworth.af.mil, 605-385-1230; he can provide further details on accessing the teleconference site.

Thank you for your cooperation and comments in the consultations to date.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Weatherington".

MARK E. WEATHERINGTON, Colonel, USAF