

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

APR 12 2013

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

Mr. Charles W. Murphy, Chairman
Standing Rock Tribal Council
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates ND 58538

Dear Chairman Murphy

I am the new Commander of the 28th Bomb Wing and would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Before his departure, Colonel Weatherington and I discussed those topics we felt were most important to the future of Ellsworth AFB, including the relationship that Ellsworth has with the Native American Tribes in our region. It is my intent to strengthen the relationship between Team Ellsworth and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. To accomplish this, I would like to discuss with you the following:

1. How do we further strengthen and expand our relationship beyond any specific project or undertaking? A long-term, mutually-rewarding relationship recognizes the importance of and takes into account each other's views. For example, we took into account the views the Standing Rock Sioux and other Tribes regarding the importance of Bear Butte. We have implemented procedures to ensure that Ellsworth aircraft do not inadvertently disrupt sensitive cultural practices taking place on or immediately adjacent to Bear Butte.
2. What is your and your staff's preferred means of communication? Ellsworth has had five face-to-face meetings with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe since 2008: one at Ellsworth and four meetings at Ft. Yates and McLaughlin. In February 2013, Col Weatherington met with members of your staff in Fort Yates. My staff and I are willing to host future meetings or travel to meetings you host. I can also offer telephone, written, or e-mail correspondence.
3. At what organizational level of leadership would you and your staff prefer to communicate? If you prefer Chairman-to-Wing Commander level communications, please feel free to contact me directly at 605-385-2801 or via e-mail at 28bw.cc@ellsworth.af.mil. If you prefer staff level contact, your staff can work with my natural and cultural resources manager Mr. John Morgenstern, at 605-385-2690 or via email at john.morgenstern@ellsworth.af.mil.

Team Ellsworth is committed to being a good neighbor and lasting friend of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. We recognize and appreciate the Tribe's contributions to our nation's defense, as demonstrated by so many of your members through their own selfless military service. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K-BK-8', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

KEVIN B. KENNEDY, Colonel, USAF