



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

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Mr. Kevin Keckler, Sr. Chairman  
P.O. Box D  
Fort Yates ND 58538

Dear Chairman Keckler

Last November we sent the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe the proposed Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) programmatic agreement (PA) and supporting documentation (under 36 CFR 800.11(e)). Since then we have continued to refine the proposal and the PA based on comments from the various consulting parties. This letter forwards the current version of the PA and its supporting documentation as a read-ahead prior to our distribution of the document for signature, about a week from now. We also include for your information an overview that describes more in layperson's terms how the Air Force would fly in the PRTC during routine operations and occasional large force exercises.

We understand and appreciate the convictions of Cheyenne River Sioux tribal representatives and members who commented on the proposed undertaking. Their perspectives have helped shape modifications of the proposal, which would reduce potential impacts. In particular, the floor for proposed training overflights above the Cheyenne River Reservation has been raised from 500 feet above ground level to 12,000 feet above mean sea level. Other mitigations to the proposed undertaking, such as limiting the overflights above certain sensitive sites off tribal lands, appointment of a senior officer as a tribal liaison, aircrew cultural awareness training, implementation of an avoidance protocol, and monitoring with reporting, would also avoid or decrease the effects.

We are also committed to continuing the consultation to address any unidentified adverse effects discovered during implementation of the proposed undertaking. In our analysis, we determine that implementation of the undertaking after this modification would result in no adverse effects to historic properties on Cheyenne River Sioux tribal lands. Furthermore, we believe the procedures in the programmatic agreement would help assure a critical training asset for our Nation's future security while confirming the deep attachment of the Cheyenne River Sioux people to their lands, its plants, animals, and sacred places.

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](mailto:george.stone@ellsworth.af.mil).

Sincerely



Handwritten signature of Kevin B. Kennedy in black ink, consisting of stylized initials 'K-BK' followed by a large, flowing flourish.

KEVIN B. KENNEDY, Colonel, USAF

cc:

Mr. Steven Vance, THPO  
Mr. Bryce In the Woods, Liaison  
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