



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
388TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
HILL AIR FORCE BASE, UTAH 84056-5110**

10 September 2002

Colonel Stephen L. Hoog
Commander, 388th Fighter Wing
5887 D Avenue, Suite 232
Hill Air Force Base, Utah 84056

Mr. Leon D. Bear
Skull Valley Reservation
#808
3359 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

Dear Mr. Bear

The following information is provided in response to your 8 August 2002 letter concerning Air Force flying policy across the Skull Valley Reservation. Past operating instructions directed 388th Fighter Wing (388 FW) military aircraft to fly 1,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) to 9,500 Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the Sevier B Military Operating Area (MOA) over your reservation (North of the 40 degree 13 minute latitude). In 2000, the 388 FW in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 13-212, RANGE PLANNING AND OPERATIONS, UTTR SUPPLEMENT 2 (Training) removed that requirement for aircraft conducting training missions, but kept the 1,000 foot AGL restriction in the Air Force Instruction (AFI) 13-212, RANGE PLANNING AND OPERATIONS, UTTR SUPPLEMENT 1 (Testing), due to the unique nature of weapons testing.

This change is consistent with Air Force policies and allows full utilization of the airspace for training missions needed for national defense. The 388 FW has not changed the way we fly over the reservation and will continue to avoid homes and ranches to the maximum extent possible. If there are noise complaints from aircraft directly over-flying the residential area, we will address your complaints directly and enforce noise avoidance/abatement consistent with Air Force policies as we have done for other communities underlying the UTTR airspace.

The mission of the 388 FW is to fight and win. In order to do so, it is imperative we train the way we plan to fight, utilizing all of our assigned airspace, as required by changing tactics and weapons systems requirements. My pilots, to the maximum extent possible, avoid direct low-level overflight of personal dwellings, towns and villages. Since the 388 FW has not received any noise complaints from the Skull Valley residents, I assume we are not disturbing the tranquility of the Reservation and are indeed being good neighbors.

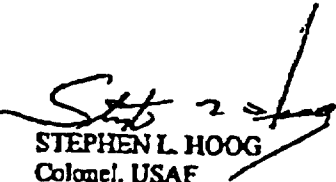
Additionally, scientific studies have shown that low-level flights over areas do not have significant impact on wildlife or domestic stock and we expect your buffalo will not be affected by our continued operations.

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I hope this explanation answers your concerns. I thank you for being a good neighbor to the Air Force and we desire to maintain the open and friendly relationship we enjoy. I again reiterate that there has not been any change of our daily flight operations over the Skull Valley Reservation nor do we plan to change our operations in any way. However, we reserve the option of changing our operations in the MOA as future weapons systems and tactics require of national defense.

If you have additional concerns or noise complaints, please feel free at any time to contact us via our Public Affairs "Hot-Line" 1-800-414-6157, option 3.

Sincerely


STEPHEN L. HOOG
Colonel, USAF
Commander