



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Department of Military Affairs
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508-4695

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Miguel Aguilar
Major General
The Adjutant General

July 31, 2023

Cabinet Secretary James Mountain
Department of Indian Affairs
Willie Ortiz Building
2600 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Secretary Mountain:

Enclosed is the requested 2023 Tribal Liaison Annual Report for the New Mexico Department of Military Affairs.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact Tribal Liaisons MSgt Shannon Myhre via email at shannon.myhre.1@us.af.mil or MSgt Jamie Yazzie at jamie.yazzie.1@us.af.mil .

Sincerely,

MIGUEL AGUILAR
Major General, NMNG
The Adjutant General

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Agency Overview.

a. The New Mexico Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is an agency of the state. It is comprised of the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG), a joint force of Army and Air Guard. The NMNG provides essential, effective, and responsive support for the citizens of our state and nation.

b. The DMA aims to support NMNG national and local objectives. At a national level, the NMNG ensures Joint Forces are prepared for mobilization for active federal service in time of war or national emergencies.

2. Mission Statement.

a. The NMNG as part of DMA, provides a sustainable force that is part of the community and executes all federal and state missions. The DMA will partner with State Defense Force and Civil Air Patrol to optimize the use of manpower, facilities, ranges, and installations.

3. Agency-specific and applicable / relevant State or Federal statutes or mandates related to consultation with American Indians.

a. The DMA complies with federal and state laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Presidential Memoranda governing interactions with tribes, including those listed below.

- (1) National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- (2) National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.
- (3) The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.
- (4) The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.
- (5) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- (6) Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02 Department of Defense Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes.
- (7) DoDI 4715.3 Environmental Conservation Program.
- (8) New Mexico State Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA).
- (9) The New Mexico Army National Guard (NMARNG) Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP).

(a) Requires Native American consultation regarding sacred sites and traditional cultural properties (TCPs) on NMARNG training areas.

(10) Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 Environmental Protection and Enhancement.

(11) Air Force Instruction (AFI) 90-2002 Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes

4. Significant state-tribal issues, recommendations and/or priorities in FY 24 and current planned programs and services for American Indians (AI) / Alaskan Natives (AN).

a. The NMNG strives to support government to government relations within the State of New Mexico and the 23 federally recognized Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos. This remains a top priority. This is demonstrated by attending the American Indian Day at the Legislature on February 3, 2023, and the State-Tribal Leaders Summit July 5-7, 2023. The presence of the NMNG at these key functions reflects our dedication to strengthen and enhance relations with the federally recognized tribes of New Mexico, where they also address issues of mutual concern. Additionally, the NMNG aims to inform the Tribes of its steadfast commitment to responsible stewardship of the lands and works to facilitate and encourage state agency collaboration engaging tribal partners and leaders in the expansion of services and resources available which aligns with the State Collaboration Act. Below are examples of successful meaningful engagement with communities across NM.

(1) The NMNG continues to provide career opportunities within the Air and Army National Guard. The Air and Army guard is an avenue for NM men and women to become a part of an organization that not only defends, protects, and serves the Nation but also the state of NM. The professionalism, discipline, and highly skilled training that comes through our part-time military members is highly sought after by companies who recognize the value of having a NMNG member on their team. NMNG members can leverage their formal military and technical training, fostering job skills that would significantly benefit their community. Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos in the State of New Mexico have an esteemed history of honorable military service. Encouraging the Native youth of New Mexico to consider contributing to their community, State, and Nation through National Guard service presents multiple positive outcomes, such as economic growth, educational and professional development, improved healthcare, and community service benefits. Additionally, the NMNG holds multiple recruiting events throughout the state to include tribal communities which is evident in our diverse force. The NMNG is a path for NM men and women to gain competitive skills which can aide as top recruiting talent that can advance a company's culture and productivity within their neighborhood or reservation.

(2) The NMNG remains dedicated to being readily accessible for meetings with Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos, or the Department of Indian Affairs to address state-tribal matters, recommendations, and priorities. The NMNG commitment to open communication and resolving issues is demonstrated through the partnership with New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD).

With the increased concerns from Tribal leadership about the military overflights on tribal lands, together we created a streamline process for Military Low-Level Flyover requests. We updated the IAD website to inform and equip tribal members on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NM IAD and NMNG which addresses the ongoing concern of military over-flights within tribal communities of the State of New Mexico. The goal of this MOU is to expand and build upon the current communication about military low-level overflight of tribal lands. Additionally, we provide updated contact information for DMA Tribal Liaisons and military installation Public Affairs offices across NM to the IAD website. This promotes and strengthens government-to-government relations, providing a streamlined process with necessary form requests and ensuring all parties are well-informed.

(3) The NMNG is actively engaged in consultations with interested tribes regarding training land surveys and clearances. NMNG installations make informed decisions regarding the cultural resources under their control in compliance with public laws, in support of the military mission, and consistent with sound principles of cultural resources management. The NMNG consults with tribal governments before taking actions that affect federally recognized tribes, assesses the impact of NMNG plans, projects, programs, and activities on tribal trust resources, and assures that tribal government rights and concerns are considered during the development of such plans, projects, programs and activities. The NMNG has established a process for early coordination between staff elements, tenants, proponents of projects and actions, and other affected stakeholders to allow for proper identification, planning, and programming for cultural resource requirements.

(4) The NMNG provides opportunities to the youth of NM through the National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (NMYCA) located in Roswell, New Mexico. The mission of the NMYCA is to provide training, discipline, mentorship, education, leadership, character development, and life coping skills to New Mexico's youth so they may become productive citizens. The NMYCA is a viable, community-oriented intervention program committed to providing a safe environment for New Mexico's 16–18-year-old youths. Our goal is to provide education and the life skills necessary to become a contributing force with sustainable futures within the community. This 17 1/2-month program starts with a 22-week paramilitary phase and is followed by a year of mentoring support to help graduates maintain positive lifestyles, who are also eligible to receive college credits, in a vocational training program provided by Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. Although this program is offered to everyone in NM, many of our graduates are NM Native American youths. The innovative choice by NM Native American youths to attend the NMYCA has allowed graduates to thrive and capitalize on the resources and opportunities available from the state. Completing the NMYCA course not only provides students with high school equivalency diplomas but also equips them with strong leadership and discipline attributes to continue career and education opportunities within NM.

(5) In June 2022 the NMNG completed a military and community partnership mission through the DoDI Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. The purpose of the IRT program is to leverage military contributions, training and community resources to multiply value and cost savings for participants. The New Mexico IRT Cybershield mission took place on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

The objective to align training that ensures the reliability and resiliency of critical information technology infrastructure to improve the cybersecurity of community utilities. The NMNG collaborated with the Marine Corps Reserve, Space Force Central New Mexico Community College, and Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. (MATI) to conduct a cybersecurity vulnerability assessment, through training, to defend critical infrastructure while leveraging local resources. MATI currently provides local telephone service, high-speed internet and data services to the residents of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. As one of the largest businesses in the area, MATI is charged with providing and maintaining vital voice and data communications services throughout the reservation. This joint exercise saved \$79,000 in services for a vulnerability assessment, network implementation and penetration test. This mission is an example of successful partnership that can assist other entities throughout the state, leaving lasting positive effects for New Mexico.

(6) The NMNG remains committed to providing assistance during challenging times, such as the COVID-19 Global Pandemic where we partnered with multiple state and federal agencies to stand up the Incident Command System, along with vaccine administration/testing, and providing humanitarian aid to NM citizens to include tribal communities. In addition, the NMNG extends military support to local, state, and tribal civil authorities in various missions, including emergency preparedness and disaster relief such as wildfires, flood mitigation, and other crises as required. The NMNG's continuous training and postured readiness is a resource to NM communities.

5. Summary and highlights of NMNG collaborative accomplishments, promoting effective communication with Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos, and the promoting of cultural competency.

a. NMNG Tribal Consultation Program focus is to build/develop long-lasting relationships and conduct consultation with federally recognized American Indian / Alaska Native tribes, bands, nations, pueblos, or communities as required by federal laws and regulations. This promotes beneficial collaboration and effective communication between the NMNG and Tribal communities, engaging in regular, meaningful, robust consultation. The following items listed below are examples of our commitment to service and community engagement within NM and tribal communities.

(1) The NMNG's continuing commitment to support the Air Guard Native American Heritage Council (NAHC) is evident by the expansion into the Army Guard. The joint council allows Native and non-native members to channel issues impacting diversity and inclusion for Airmen and Soldiers. Additionally, the NAHC joint effort in community engagement, mentorship, and volunteer services are just a few opportunities that our NMNG members have participated in. The NMNG is leading the way by establishing first ever Joint Native American Heritage council within the military. The NMNG's dedication to continuous learning of NM Native American culture and removing barriers for Airmen and Soldiers is integral to the growth of the military, community and strengthens relationships.

(2) In November the NMNG took the lead and initiated a month-long commemoration of Native American Heritage Month. The objective was to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions made by Native Americans to our State, our Nation, and our Military, specifically through rich culture, language, and traditions.

(a) The NMNG commenced its celebration with a morning prayer led by Lt. Governor Virgil Lucero from the Pueblo of Isleta. This significant moment served to highlight the importance of Native American spiritual expression and the significance role it plays into the wellbeing of Native American service members.

(b) The NMNG partnered with Kirtland AFB in facilitating the Native American Unity Day Celebration, which was held at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque. Our NMNG members are the community and therefore were able to reach out to their tribal communities and create links within and between different organizations and agencies, to help organize a successful celebration. The event highlighted the beauty of Native American culture through the opening prayer and pow wow ceremony. Also, in honor of the exceptional military service of Native Americans and Veterans Day, a formal dedication and prayer was conducted. Additionally, the event brought opportunities to indigenous small business owners who were able to sell their artwork and food to the greater Albuquerque area. The joint effort from NM Air and Army National Guard, 377th ABW, 58 SOW, and Sandia National Laboratories is an example of our commitment to strengthen relationships and trust between government organizations and communities.

(c) Lastly, the NMNG partnered with Kirtland Air Force base dining facility and military tribal members to share culture through food by offering traditional Native American food on the menu. This is another avenue to share culture and heritage in a meaningful way that assists in educating the community.

(3) On January 11, the NMNG Tribal Liaisons participated in the 2023 Tribal Leader Welcome and Brief (Virtual) to extend a warm welcome to the incoming tribal leadership.

(4) On February 2, The Adjutant General, Major General (MG) Miguel Aguilar, along with Tribal Liaisons, actively participated in the American Indian Day Reception at the El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe. Their presence was focused on facilitating government-to-government communication and fostering stronger rapport between the National Guard and tribal communities.

(5) On February 3, the NMNG Tribal Liaisons took part in the American Indian Day at the Legislature, hosted at the State Capitol in Santa Fe. The purpose of the event was to highlight the importance of problem-solving and to promote unity between the State and the Native American communities.

(6) On May 4, Mr. Luis Naranjo from San Ildefonso Pueblo received an invitation and as an honorable presence delivered a prayer for the NMNG Day of Prayer breakfast, in Santa Fe. The main objective was to demonstrate respect for all religions and showcase our diversity and inclusion support for each member's spiritual belief and expression.

(7) The NMNG attended the Government-to-Government Education Summit held at the Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel in Bernalillo during the spring of 2023. This summit provided a platform for collaborative discussions and exchanges between governmental entities with a specific focus on education-related matters.

(8) On June 2, 2023, the NMNG organized first ever annual NMNG Tribal Collaboration Education Workshop. The objective was to educate and equip military leaders and key stake holders on the NM STCA and their role as it relates to Tribal consultation and collaboration. The NMNG also partnered with Department of the Air Force to provide military leaders necessary training and updates on initiatives that positively affect their tribal military men and women. Additional topics included Education on ceremonial traditions/customs that promote positive wellbeing for Native American service members, NM Native American history, and culture. This joint event was a successful step in the bringing awareness to military leaders as we move forward with innovative tribal partnerships with the community and military members. This benchmark event was highlighted by the DAF and will be used as template to spread awareness across the military force.

6. Goals for Fiscal Year 2024 relating to Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos, AI / AN organizations.

- a. The NMNG will utilize the Sate Collaboration Policy.
- b. The NMNG aims to further enhance its relationships with the Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos of New Mexico, proactively seeking avenues to engage with Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos to facilitate meaningful discussions regarding service opportunities and the numerous benefits associated with partnering with the NMNG.
- c. The NMNG will review Low-Level Flying MOU with New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (NM IAD) and update MOU as needed.
- d. The NMNG looks to collaborate with all military installations within the state. This will ensure effective communication and strengthen processes as it relates to the State Tribal Collaboration Act. This strategic approach aims to establish a comprehensive framework that optimizes the potential of all stakeholders involved to be a more synergetic asset to NM.
- e. The NMNG will continue to facilitate stronger government to government collaboration, uphold tribal sovereignty, and promote community well-being.
- f. The NMNG organizes recruiting fairs in collaboration with Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos throughout the State to effectively reach out and provide opportunity to potential recruits and their communities.
- g. The NMNG will establish a routine interface/dialogue with senior leadership of Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos to expand knowledge of Department of Military Affairs capabilities, collaboration activities, and opportunities for membership (New Mexico Army and Air Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and the State Defense Force.

7. Agency policy.

a. The NMNG adheres to the State Tribal Collaboration Act which provides the framework for the state and tribes to work together to develop successful programs and services to benefit New Mexico’s Native American citizens.

8. Agency efforts to implement policy & employee notification about STCA.

a. The Adjutant General, Major General Aguilar, revitalized the NMNG Tribal Consultation program by appointing new Tribal Liaisons and implementing a process that facilitates tribal communication and collaboration. TAG holds a quarterly meeting that promotes joint organizational reporting on NMNG efforts such as promoting beneficial partnership between the state and tribal governments and designates tribal liaisons to oversee the coordination and execution of the policy's implementation. This regular meeting ensures notification from STCA and other IAD priorities is disseminated efficiently to employees.

9. Training and employee notification.

a. The Tribal Liaisons possess the State Tribal Collaboration Act Certification, indicating their proficiency in adhering to the guidelines and requirements outlined in the Act. The NMNG Tribal Liaisons will continue to attend regular training to further develop and enhance the program. This will aide in proficient Tribal consultation and further strengthen relationships.

10. Agreements or MOU / MOA with tribes that are currently in effect using the following table format.

Tribes	Agency	Agreement Name	Current Status	Signatures
All NM Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos	Dept. of Military Affairs	Low Level Flying MOU	Current until Superseded	NM IAD NMNG, The Adjutant General (TAG) 49th Wing Commander 58th SOW Commander 377th Wing Commander 27th SOW Commander

11. Key names and contact information.

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c. Federal Signature Authority

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i. New Mexico Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention

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j. New Mexico Air National Guard Recruiting & Retention

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