

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

STATE-TRIBAL COLLABORATION AGENCY REPORT

July 2024 - June 2025

Captain Shawn R. Martin
NMDPS Tribal Liaison

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I. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The primary concern of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS) and on-going areas of concern continues to be the challenge surrounding criminal jurisdiction and the coordination of Law Enforcement efforts by State and Tribal Officers within and surrounding New Mexico's Native American Communities.

The Department recognizes that more consistent and coordinated Law Enforcement efforts would go a long way in reducing DWI, drug related crimes, domestic violence, violence against children and other violent crimes.

The Department continues to build relationships with the Tribal Governments of New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos by commissioning Tribal Officers as New Mexico Peace Officers under NM State Statute 29-1-11, communicating with Tribal Officers and Officials during incidents involving Tribal jurisdiction, participating in forums that discuss State-Tribal issues, participating and protecting cultural events and other similar collaborative efforts.

The Department actively works with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People community by participating in many public hearings, committee and sub-committee meetings and has served as a Law Enforcement advisory role while meeting with Tribal community leaders and local community members.

Also, in this reporting period, NMDPS continues to enroll NMDPS Commissioned Officers to attend the BIA-OJS sponsored Criminal Justice in Indian Country Training Course. This 24- hour training course provides each attendee with extensive training and education on Federal Indian Law and the Major Crimes Act. Upon completion of this training, these Officers receive a Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC) with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, thus granting our officers commissions as Federal Officers when called upon by the various Tribes, Pueblos and Nations to perform Law Enforcement duties within those jurisdictions if needed.

In Indian Law, Tribes can enter into cross-commission agreements with State or local police. The NMDPS has such an agreement with the Navajo Nation. A New Mexico State Police Officer with a Navajo cross-commission may enforce tribal laws against Indians on Indian land. In this

capacity, the Officer is literally serving as a Navajo Police Officer. The current agreement was signed in 2012 and requires a 40-hour cross-commission class. Officers who work near the Navajo Nation are sent to this training when there is availability. The overall purpose of the cross-commission agreement is to eliminate the jurisdictional “loopholes” in Navajo Country. This agreement is a great example of Tribal Collaboration and is a tool to prevent criminals from getting away with their crimes by exploiting the jurisdictional complications of using certain areas as safe havens.

The Department continues to maintain compliance with the 2008 Tribal Collaboration Act by cultural competency training, collaborative State-Tribal Law Enforcement efforts, quarterly BIA Tribal Chiefs meetings, Indian Affairs Department quarterly meetings, open dialogue with all Tribal and BIA Police Chief’s in NM, Amber Alert and Turquoise Alert training to all Tribal Police and the institution of Tribal Amber and Turquoise Alert programs.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The New Mexico Department of Public Safety protects human life and property through the detection and prevention of criminal activity and enforcement of state laws and regulations. Additionally, the NMDPS provides vital leadership, scientific, training, technical, and operational support to the criminal justice community and public at large.

III. AGENCY OVERVIEW

New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS) /New Mexico State Police (NMSP):

The Department of Public Safety provides law enforcement services for the citizens of New Mexico through the New Mexico State Police divisions of Uniform, Special Investigations, Special Operations, Investigations Bureau, and Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

The NMDPS/NMSP exists to promote a safe and secure environment for the State of New Mexico through intelligently led policing practices, vital scientific and technical support, current relevant training, and innovative leadership for our greater law enforcement community.

The NMDPS/NMSP is committed to providing the highest quality of public services for the State of New Mexico and its law enforcement community. We constantly evaluate and develop our efforts to become a national model in providing ethical, innovative, effective, and efficient community oriented public safety services to the citizens and visitors of New Mexico.

The NMDPS provides law enforcement training opportunities for law officers in the state through the Law Enforcement Academy. The Department further provides forensic scientific support and law enforcement records services to all criminal justice agencies in New Mexico through the Forensic Laboratories and Law Enforcement Records Bureau (LERB).

The NMDPS/NMSP provides additional law enforcement services for the citizens of New Mexico through the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). The Special Investigations Unit has the statutory obligation of enforcing the Liquor Control Act, which includes such diverse activities as premise checks of licensed vendors, assisting other divisions of NMDPS with decreasing DWIs in the State, plus attention to the laws regarding under-aged persons. One of the major initiatives of SIU has to do with education and compliance.

While SIU Agents are not cross-commissioned to have enforcement authority on sovereign nations/tribal lands, SIU has still sought to be a resource to those tribal entities in addressing alcohol related issues that might arise on tribal lands, lead off tribal lands or start on state land and end on Tribal lands. SIU has assisted numerous tribal entities in the last year with alcohol related investigations.

The Special Investigations Unit will continue to team successfully with tribal communities who request assistance, training, and education on DWI programs to address alcohol-related community problems.

Special Investigation Units have held training for those who serve alcohol on tribal owned and operated businesses, to assist those servers-and thereby the tribes-in operating their businesses legally with an emphasis on public safety. Specifically, such training assists servers in recognizing the signs of intoxication, to prevent sales of alcohol to intoxicated persons which could jeopardize the safety of any member in that community, on or off the reservations.

The Special Investigations Unit of the New Mexico State Police is a proud participant of State and Tribal collaboration that builds a New Mexico which is safe for all citizens.

The mission of the New Mexico State Police Investigations Bureau (IB) is to detect, prevent, disrupt and investigate violent criminals and felonious criminal activity that undermines the safety and security of the citizens of New Mexico. IB is comprised of four specialized units which focus on their own areas of enforcement but work together to achieve the common goals of State Police.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (CVE) of NMDPS reaches out to the surrounding Native American communities and law enforcement partners to promote commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety and reduce motor vehicle crashes of all types. CVE is available to all tribal law enforcement agencies and aids with resources for the investigation of CMV related crashes and the enforcement of motor carrier safety regulations on tribal lands when necessary and called upon by the tribal government. CVE offers commercial motor vehicle safety enforcement and inspections to all area law enforcement agencies and tribal jurisdictions.

Many New Mexico state roads and highways run through the jurisdiction of tribal entities, we will continue to work with tribal law enforcement agencies toward a common goal of ensuring safety and improving the quality of life for all motorists.

The Law Enforcement Records Bureau (LERB) maintains the state's central repository for information on the criminal histories of persons in New Mexico and acts as the single state agency liaison to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The LERB maintains arrest record information on persons arrested in New Mexico for felony, misdemeanor, DWIs. LERB serves as the State Criminal Justice Information System Agency (CJIS) for New Mexico, supporting the New Mexico

Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NMLETS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). LERB is also charged with the management of:

- State Police Repository (Offense/Incident and crash reports)
- Sex Offender Registration (SOR) Program
- Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- NM Missing persons Information Clearinghouse
- State Tracking Number (STN) Program
- NCIC Interstate Identification Index (III) and quality assurance
- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) quarterly uploads of NM Missing persons entered into NCIC
- Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
- National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Program

IV. CURRENT AND PLANNED PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

The NMDPS does support two specific programs that directly support/benefit NM Tribes and Nations. The NMDPS is committed to continuing collaborative efforts in State/Tribal law enforcement generally and specifically, the continued commissioning and education of law enforcement officers:

- The commissioning of Tribal Police officers as New Mexico Peace Officers using NM State Statute 29-1-11. This program enhances a tribal police departments overall police function by allowing officers not only to respond to but handle incidents and provide police services that involve non-Indians within their established Tribal jurisdiction. The

tribal officer through his/her New Mexico Law Enforcement Commission can utilize New Mexico State Criminal and Traffic Statutes.

- Through an approved resolution by a specific Pueblo, Nation or Tribe and through a formal request for a “Government to Government” agreement, the NMDPS supports the Special Law Enforcement Commissioning (SLEC) of New Mexico State Police officers as deputies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), allowing for NMDPS commissioned Officers to provide law enforcement services when called upon by the sovereign jurisdiction of the Tribe and/or the BIA. This includes specific NMDPS to Tribal entity MOU’s/MOA’s if in place and agreed upon by both parties.

The SLEC and specific Tribal MOU’s/ MOA’s provides NMDPS Officers with civil protection from Tort claims when acting under the color of the law and in good faith in established Indian Country.

Currently NMDPS has SLEC commissioned personnel who are assigned to several Uniform Districts along with Agents in specialized areas of the Investigation’s Bureau such as Crime Scene Investigators and Vehicular Crime Unit Investigators. This Collaboration better allows NMDPS to assist Tribal Communities when called upon to do so.

- Community Engagement. In collaboration with local tribal law enforcement agencies, NMDPS participates in a wide range of annual events on all tribal jurisdictions. An example of these engagements includes but are not limited to:
 - o Annual Pueblo Feasts, Tribal Fairs, parades, and Rodeos
 - o Pueblo closures for Tribal Ceremonies
 - o Tribal shop with a cop function
 - o Law Enforcement days
 - o Attend town hall, tribal, chapter meetings
 - o Tribal Liaison collaboration

V. NMDPS FY25 ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH NM NATIONS, TRIBES, AND PUEBLOS

- NMDPS strengthened collaboration with the Indian Affairs Department through regular meetings and relationship-building initiatives.
- NMDPS promoted positive government-to-government relations with Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos.
- NMDPS assisted tribal police departments with the state commission process under NMSA § 29-1-11.

New Mexico State Police –

Uniform Services Bureau.

The NMDPS, New Mexico State Police Division is divided into twelve (12) uniform Districts. Six (6) of these districts patrol boundaries encompass sovereign Tribal Jurisdictions of New Mexico's tribes and Pueblos. NMSP/DPS still assisted with calls for service upon request. The following breakdown is a bulleted synopsis for each of these six districts interaction with their adjoining sovereign jurisdictions, as well as conclusive information on what the NMDPS is doing at the executive level to facilitate and foster partnerships with New Mexico's Native American Communities and Tribal Law Enforcement partners.

Investigations Bureau Technical Unit.

The Technical Unit is a highly specialized group who specialize in complicated investigations for traffic crashes, homicides, officer involved shootings, etc. The Crash Reconstruction Unit has assisted with several crashes to assist the Tribes and Pueblos with help reconstructing complex vehicle collisions that often result in felony charges.

2025 Accomplishments

NMSP District 6 – Gallup/ Grants

Commanded by Captain Shawn R. Martin

- 🚦 D6 command staff regularly communicate with Navajo Nation Police Department Command Staff.

- ✚ D6 command staff continue attending Tribal Liaison quarterly meetings with the NM Indian Affairs Department MMIP Community.
- ✚ D6 command staff and officers attended the State Tribal Collaboration Act Cultural Competency Training (SoNM-2019-2) via Zoom.
- ✚ D6 collaborated with 102nd Inter-Tribal Ceremonial committee with the safety planning of the weeklong celebration. July 19, 2024
- ✚ D6 collaborated with Navajo Nation – Eastern Agency during Eastern Navajo Nation Fair. July 16, 2024.
- ✚ D6 Officers participated in the 2024 Navajo Nation Fair Parade in Window Rock, Arizona. September 7, 2024.
- ✚ D6 Officers participated in Ramah – Navajo Fair with foot patrols on fairgrounds. August 23, 2024.
- ✚ D6 Officers collaborated with Pueblo of Laguna Police Department during the Laguna Fiesta Days. September 19, 2024.
- ✚ D6 command staff attended Navajo Nation Missing Persons Day community event. March 15, 2025.
- ✚ D6 command staff attended STCA – Tribal Liaison – Stakeholders meeting. April 16, 2025.
- ✚ D6 Officers attend Law Enforcement Day hosted by Navajo Nation Police Department – Crown point District. May 2, 2025.
- ✚ D6 Officers attended 2025 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. May 5, 2025.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff attended a quarterly meeting with the Public Safety Directors and Chief of Police from Pueblo of Laguna and Pueblo of Acoma. May 30, 2025.

- ✚ D6 Officers continue to participate in the McKinley DWI Task Force, partnering with Navajo PD, Ramah-Navajo PD, and Zuni Tribal PD.
- ✚ D6 Officers are cross-commissioned with Navajo Nation Police Department.
- ✚ D6 Officers continue to assist the Navajo Nation Police Department (Crown point District) with calls for service throughout the reservation.
- ✚ D6 Officers carry Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC) through B.I.A.

NMSP District 7 – Espanola/Taos/Chama

Commanded by Captain Dominic Casados

- ✚ D7 officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Taos Tribal Police Department with 9 calls for service.
- ✚ D7 officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Picuris Tribal Police Department with 13 calls for service. D7 Officers also attended a community engagement event.
- ✚ D7 officers responded/ handled 21 calls for service for the Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Police Department. D7 Officers also attended a community engagement event.
- ✚ D7 Officers responded and handled five (5) calls for service for the Pueblo of Santa Clara Tribal Police Department.
- ✚ District 7 Officers responded and handled 9 calls for service for the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Department. D7 Officers also attended a community engagement event.
 - Note: The calls for service ranged from DWI, welfare checks, assistance to public, domestic violence incidents, wildlife, missing persons, traffic stops, etc..

NMSP District 8 – Alamogordo

Commanded by Captain Jay Blakeney

- ✚ District 8 Command Staff meet regularly with Mescalero conservation officers and BIA.
- ✚ D8 Officers responded and assisted Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Officers with over 105 calls for service.
- ✚ Assisted BIA Officers with a fatal crash involving a tribal member on US70, D8 officers completed a crash diagram
- ✚ D8 Officers assisted with several funeral escorts on US70 on and through the Mescalero Reservation
- ✚ D8 Officers attended NM Governor Lujan-Grisham's Cabinet in the Community held in Mescalero
- ✚ D8 Officers assisted with traffic control on US70 for major events at the Inn of the Mountain Gods including holiday fireworks events including July 4th and Labor Day celebrations.
- ✚ D8 Officers handled several BIA fleet crashes that occurred on US70.
- ✚ D8 Officers played an integral part during the Salt Fire and South Fork Fire in 2024 assisting with traffic control and shutting down US70 through the reservation for approximately three (3) weeks.

NMSP District 10 – Farmington

Commanded by Captain Clint Varnell

- ✚ D10 Officers worked hand in hand with the Navajo Police during the Northern Navajo Fair.
- ✚ D10 attended the Missing in New Mexico Day and met with Indigenous people who have missing loved ones to assist with their cases.
- ✚ D10 command staff met with NPD Commander and supervisors to strengthen interagency partnerships.

- ✚ D10 partnered with NPD Officers working traffic enforcement saturation patrols on south US 550 in the DZ, Nageezi, and Counselor areas.
- ✚ D10 Officers throughout the summer months of May, June, and July of 2024, engaged with the public, handing out stickers at local children's baseball and basketball games.
- ✚ D10 Officers spent time in the Nageezi and Dził Na'oodilíí areas specifically contacting and listening to concerns of tribal members in the area.
- ✚ D10 Officers participated in the Navajo Veterans Walk down NM 371 and N36.
- ✚ D10 Officers responded to 178 calls for service in various areas within the Navajo Nation to assist Navajo Nation Police Department officers. Also responded to assist their community members when NPD was unavailable. July 2024 – June 2025.

NMSP Investigations Bureau Technical Unit

Commanded by Sergeant Davin Barela

Vehicular Homicides – 10

- ✚ July 3, 2024, NMSPR2409629, Navajo Nation Police Department, McKinley County, Vehicular Homicide, Single vehicle rollover, killing passenger – alcohol involved.
- ✚ August 16, 2024, NMSPR2411753, Navajo Nation Police Department, McKinley County, Vehicular Homicide, Single vehicle rollover, killing passenger – alcohol involved.
- ✚ September 8, 2024, NMSPR2412901, FBI Gallup, McKinley County, Vehicular Homicide, Two-vehicle head-on crash – alcohol involved.
- ✚ September 11, 2024, Vehicular Homicide, Navajo Nation Police Department, McKinley County, two-vehicle head-on crash.
- ✚ September 22, 2024, NMSPR2413538, Navajo PD/FBI, San Juan County, Vehicular Homicide, Two-vehicle head-on crash – alcohol involved.

- ✚ November 5, 2024, NMSPR2415394, Navajo Nation Police Department, McKinley County, vehicular homicide, two vehicle crash – alcohol involved.
- ✚ November 14, 2024, NMSPR2415799, FBI/Navajo PD, McKinley County, Vehicular Homicide, Single vehicle rollover, killing two – alcohol involved.
- ✚ December 7, 2024, NMSPR2416786, NMSP, McKinley County, vehicular homicide, two-vehicle crash – involving alcohol.
- ✚ December 9, 2024, NMSPR2416872, Navajo PD/FBI, San Juan County, vehicular homicide, two vehicle head on crash – alcohol involved.
- ✚ May 3, 2025, NMSPR2505372, FBI, San Juan County, vehicular homicide, two-vehicle crash – alcohol involved.

Agency Assists


- ✚ September 17, 2024, NMSPR2413431, FBI, San Juan County, Agency Assist, Vehicle EDR downloads.
- ✚ December 30, 2024, NMSPR2500090, Isleta PD, Bernalillo County, Assist in downloading EDRs – alcohol involved.

Pursuit Investigation

- ✚ July 6, 2024, NMSPR2409803, Tribal Police, McKinley County, Vehicle Pursuit, NMSP involved pursuit, driver rolled pickup, killing the driver – alcohol involved.

Pedestrian Hit and Runs

- ✚ September 23, 2024, NMSPR2409803, FBI, McKinley County, Ped hit and run, Download EDRs for FBI.
- ✚ October 2, 2024, NMSPR2413983, NMSP, Rio Arriba County, Ped hit and run, assist with scene investigation.
- ✚ February 8, 2025, NMSPR2501732, Navajo PD, McKinley County, Ped hit and run

 February 18, 2025, NMSPR2502108, Tribal Police/BIA, Rio Arriba County, Tribal member Juvenile struck a ped and fled the scene

VI. FY 2026 GOALS / OBJECTIVES

The NMDPS/ NMSP is committed to moving forward with a successful State-Tribal collaboration through accountability, communication, respectful and inclusive State/Tribal partnerships. The State -Tribal Collaboration act mandates us (NMDPS) to “collaborate with and respect tribal governments in New Mexico”. This requires more than empty statements about how much we appreciate other cultures. In the context of criminal justice, true respect means learning about Indian jurisdiction, having culture sensitivity, and applying the laws as they are supposed to be applied to make all NM communities safer for all NM residents and visitors. NMDPS/ NMSP is committed to this partnership.

- NMDPS will continue collaborative efforts with the Indian Affairs Department and the MMIP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons) community.
- NMDPS will further develop strategic partnerships with Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos by issuing state commissions in accordance with **NMSA § 29-1-11**.
- NMDPS will Provide officers with BIA SLEC (Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Law Enforcement Commission) training and Navajo cross-commissioning opportunities.

VII. KEY NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact information:

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Report completed by:

Captain Shawn R. Martin

District 6 – Uniform Commander

NMDPS Tribal Liaison