

STATE TRIBAL COLLABORATION ACT

2026 AGENCY REPORT



Department of Military Affairs
47 Bataan Blvd
Santa Fe, NM 87508

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Prepared By:

Sabrina Rodriguez-Harte, Tribal Liaison Officer
MSgt Shannon Myhre, New Mexico Air National Guard
SMSgt Jamie Yazzie, New Mexico National Guard

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During State Fiscal Year 2026, the Department of Military Affairs significantly expanded government-to-government engagement with New Mexico's 24 federally recognized Nations, Pueblos and Tribes. Under the direction of The Adjutant General, the Department continued to build its Tribal Liaison Program, strengthened consultation processes, expanded recruiting and youth outreach, enhanced cultural resource coordination, and supported tribal communities through emergency response operations, education initiatives, and community partnerships. The New Mexico National Guard recognizes that strong partnerships with the Nations, Pueblos and Tribes directly enhance emergency preparedness, community resilience, military readiness, youth development, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunity throughout the State.

Major accomplishments that will be further discussed in this report include:

- Revitalization of the DMA Tribal Liaison Program
- Continued implementation of the Military Low-Level Overflight Memorandum of Understanding
- Support to tribal communities during Operation Zia Shield and the Española Riverside Fire
- Expansion of Native American recruiting and educational outreach
- Continued support through the Governor's Summer ChalleNGe Academy, Youth ChalleNGe Academy, and Job ChalleNGe Academy
- Increased collaboration with the Indian Affairs Department, Department of Veterans Services, and tribal leadership

1. Agency Overview

- a. The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) operates pursuant to Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States and Article XVIII, Sections 1 and 2, of the Constitution of New Mexico. The department is established and governed by the New Mexico Military Code ([Chapter 20 NMSA 1978](#)). Although the governor is commander in chief of the state military forces, the Adjutant General (TAG) directs DMA and is appointed by the governor to a five-year term.
- b. Under DMA, the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG) is a trusted and competent community-based organization that develops enduring relationships with our Guard family and partners to meet the emerging needs of our state and nation. The NMNG is comprised of the Air National Guard (ANG) and Army National Guard (ARNG).
 - i. *State Mission:* Capability and preparedness of NMNG to the community
 - ii. *Federal Mission:* Capability and preparedness of NMNG to higher command

- iii. *Community Outreach*: Active, embedded pillars within our municipalities
- iv. *Culture*: Grounded Principles that guide our daily decisions
- c. TAG has created the following structure for the Tribal Liaison Program within DMA:
 - i. State of New Mexico, Tribal Liaison Officer
 - ii. Air National Guard, Tribal Liaison(s)
 - iii. Army National Guard, Tribal Liaison(s)

2. Mission Statement

a. Department of Military Affairs

To provide administrative, financial, and logistical support to the Office of the Adjutant General, ARNG, ANG, State Defense Force, Civil Air Patrol and the State Armory Board.

b. New Mexico National Guard

The NMNG is a sustainable force that is ready to support the community and execute all Federal and State missions.

c. Department of Military Affairs (DMA)/New Mexico National Guard Tribal Liaison Program

The mission of the DMA and NMNG Tribal Liaisons is to foster strong, respectful, and collaborative relationships between the National Guard and the Native American Nations, Pueblos and Tribes of New Mexico. We are dedicated to promoting mutual understanding, cultural awareness and effective communication to support the unique needs and interests of tribal communities. Our commitment is to ensure that the voices of our tribal partners are heard and valued, while facilitating meaningful engagement and cooperation in areas of mutual interest and benefit. Through this partnership, we aim to enhance the well-being and security of all communities across New Mexico.

3. State & Federal statutes applicable to DMA's Tribal Liaison Program

DMA complies with federal and state laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Presidential Memoranda governing interactions with Nations, Pueblos and Tribes including those listed below:

- i. [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#)
- ii. [National Environmental Policy Act of 1969](#)

- iii. [The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978](#)
- iv. [The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979](#)
- v. [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990](#)
- vi. [Department of Defense Instruction \(DoDI\) 4710.02 Department of Defense Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes](#)
- vii. [DoDI 4715.03 National Resources Management](#)
- viii. [New Mexico State Tribal Collaboration Act \(STCA\)](#)
- ix. [The New Mexico Army National Guard \(NMARNG\) Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan \(ICRMP\)](#)
- x. [Army Regulation \(AR\) 200-1 Environmental Protection and Enhancement](#)
- xi. [Air Force Instruction \(AFI\) 90-2002 Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes](#)

4. DMA State Tribal Collaboration Act Policy

a. Effective Communication & Collaboration

The Department of Military Affairs Tribal Liaison Program is focused on building and developing long-lasting relationships as well as conducting 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 and meaningful consultation.

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

b. Promote Positive Government-to-Government Relations

The NMNG strives to support government-to-government (G2G) relations within the State of New Mexico and the 24 federally recognized Nations, Pueblos and Tribes. This priority is demonstrated with our presence during annual events such as American Indian Day and the State Tribal Leaders

Summit. Participation at these key functions reflects our dedication to strengthening and enhancing relations with the federally recognized Nations, Pueblos and Tribes of New Mexico (NM) as well as address issues of mutual concern. Additionally, the NMNG aims to inform Nations, Pueblos and Tribes of its steadfast commitment to responsible stewardship of the lands and works. The team facilitates and encourages state agency collaboration by engaging tribal partners and leaders in the expansion of services and resources.

c. Promote Cultural Competency in Providing Effective Services

While we are working diligently to revitalize the Tribal Liaison Program at DMA, the team has been actively involved in the Memorandum of Understanding for military low-level overflights of tribal lands, Innovative Readiness Training, New Mexico Governor's Summer, Youth and Job ChalleNGe Academies, recruitment & retention efforts, and collaborating with the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services.

d. Agency Efforts to Implement Policy & Employee Notification about STCA

The NMNG adheres to the STCA 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.

The Adjutant General (TAG), Major General Aguilar, revitalized the NMNG Tribal Liaison Program by appointing new Tribal Liaisons (State and NMNG) and implementing a process that facilitates tribal communication and collaboration. He also designates Tribal Liaisons to oversee the coordination and execution of the policy's implementation. This meeting ensures STCA and other IAD priorities are disseminated to employees in a timely manner.

e. Training

DMA Tribal Liaison earned the State Tribal Collaboration Act Certification, indicating their proficiency in adhering to the guidelines and requirements outlined in the Act.

Additionally, DMA ANG Tribal Liaison has taken the *Effective American Indian Communication and Consultation Course* held by Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC). This training covers compliance with Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02, DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes, and Department of Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 90-2002, Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes. The course trains personnel on the creation of an installation Tribal Relations Plan and how to organize Government-to-Government meetings.

DMA Tribal Liaison will continue to attend regular training to further develop and enhance the program. This will aid in proficient Tribal consultation and further strengthen relationships.

f. State Tribal Leaders Summit: May 7, 2026

DMA Tribal Liaison attended the State Tribal Leaders Summit at the Tamaya Resort & Spa in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. During the session, Honoring Strength of Sovereignty, Governor Michelle Lujan gave the floor to Nations, Pueblos and Tribes to discuss their successful collaborations with agencies. During the session, A Collective Vision for the State of New Mexico and Sovereign Nations, the Nations, Pueblos and Tribes communicated their specific wants and needs for their community members. This was a unique year as it is the last State Tribal Leaders Summit for our current Governor, and the Summit allowed us to celebrate our successes with hopes for continued partnerships.

5. Collaboration and Consultation with Nations, Pueblos and Tribes

a. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Military Low-level Overflights of Tribal Lands

This Memorandum of Understanding between the NM Indian Affairs Department (IAD) and the NM National Guard (NMNG) was created to address the on-going concern of military over-flights within Native American communities in the State of New Mexico. The objective of the MOU is to increase and improve dialogue between federal and state agencies and federally recognized Native American communities for the respect, protection and preservation of lands and culture in New Mexico.

An Indian Affairs Notice to Airmen (IA NOTAM) request can be submitted by any New Mexican Nation, Pueblo or Tribe for regularly scheduled events, non-publishable and/or unscheduled events up to 30 days before the effective start date of the request. This MOU can also serve as a national template to show that collaboration between state agencies, military personnel and tribal nations can be achieved.

MOU between Native American communities & all military installations in NM

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Name	Current Status	Signatures
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All NM Nations, Pueblos and Tribes	Dept. of Military Affairs	Low Level Flying MOU	Current until Superseded	NM IAD NMNG, The Adjutant General (TAG) 49 th Wing Commander 58 th SOW Commander 377 th Wing Commander 27 th SOW Commander
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The forms on the IAD website are available to the entities who are listed in the MOU. This MOU only covers all known military flyovers in the State of New Mexico.

Please refer to the [NM IAD website](#) for guidance to submit a No Fly-Over request. The team helped coordinate the following Military Low-Level Flyover requests spanning from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026: *Please note, there were no requests submitted this state fiscal year.*

b. *Innovative Readiness Training*

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) is a Department of War (DOW) military training opportunity, exclusive to the United States and its territories, that delivers joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness. Simultaneously, IRT provides key services such as healthcare, construction, transportation, and cybersecurity with lasting benefits for our American communities.

IRT is a collaborative program that leverages military contributions and community resources to multiply value and cost savings for participants. Communities typically provide materials and basic services (e.g. facilities), while military units contribute personnel and training resources. IRT missions produce mission ready forces, civil-military partnerships, and stronger communities.

The NMNG is interested in participating in IRTs, however, Nations, Pueblos and Tribes will need to go through the process of applying to be considered under this program [here](#). While IRT is a federal program, NMNG leadership is interested in participating in smaller scale efforts locally. We encourage New Mexican Nations, Pueblos and Tribes to reach out to DMA's Tribal Liaisons to further discuss future collaborations.

c. *State Missions* ¹

The New Mexico National Guard demonstrated our commitment to supporting Nations, Pueblos and Tribes in New Mexico during floods on Mescalero Apache Reservation, Operation Zia Shield (OZS) and the Española Riverside Fire.

¹ Information for OZS and Española Riverside Fire courtesy of Major Michael Simpson, Commander – Joint Task Force Zia Shield.

Unfortunately, the Mescalero Apache Tribe was affected by a second year of flooding in July 2025. These weather events resulted in the need for community evacuation. The NMNG assisted in cleanup operations that included debris removal with the use of heavy equipment.

At the request of the Pueblos and the City of Española, the State of New Mexico declared a public-safety emergency in response to rising crime and drug overdoses in the Española valley. Coordination began under Executive Order 2025-358 and operations were later sustained and expanded to include additional support for the Pueblos of Ohkay Owingeh and Santa Clara under Executive Order 2026-001. New Mexico National Guard operations on the ground commenced on 1 November 2025 in Española and Ohkay Owingeh, and on 15 December 2025 in Santa Clara Pueblo, under Joint Task Force Zia Shield.

Operations were conducted by approximately 60 Guard personnel, a joint force of Soldiers and Airmen, working seven days a week in support of the Española, Santa Clara, and Ohkay Owingeh Police Departments. Each community was typically covered by two to three vehicles, each crewed by a pair of Guard members providing a visible presence alongside local and tribal officers. Guard members performed non-law-enforcement duties only, extending the reach of each department without exercising police authority. Their activities included:

- Area patrols and business checks to increase visible public-safety presence
- Officer assistance and on-scene support for tribal and local police
- Welfare checks and community contact
- Traffic and community-event support
- Reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement (“eyes and ears” support)

Across the two Pueblos, Guard members delivered more than **6,190 man-hours** of direct support (3,627 hours in Ohkay Owingeh and 2,563 hours in Santa Clara), supporting nearly **4,940 field incidents** (2,842 in Ohkay Owingeh and 2,097 in Santa Clara).

The added presence had a measurable effect on enforcement. During the support period, average weekly arrests by the two Pueblos’ police departments **more than doubled, rising roughly 123%** (from about 6.5 to 14.5 arrests per week combined), even through the winter months, when street-level activity typically declines. Over the same period,

comparison jurisdictions in the region that did not receive a Guard presence saw arrests decline by about 20%, underscoring that the increase was concentrated where Guard members were on the ground.

Notable operations reflected close coordination with tribal leadership and law enforcement:

- **Feast of St. John the Baptist (Ohkay Owingeh).** At the Pueblo's request, the Guard provided 21 personnel and 112 man-hours of security, visible presence, and medical support during Ohkay Owingeh's feast-day observance.
- **Good Friday 2026.** The Guard supported public-safety operations during the Good Friday pilgrimage to El Santuario de Chimayó, widely regarded as the largest Catholic pilgrimage in North America, which draws roughly 30,000 walking pilgrims. Many travel through Española and the surrounding communities, and Guard members assisted with pedestrian and traffic safety and provided a visible presence during the surge.
- **Federal narcotics case (Ohkay Owingeh).** Task Force personnel operating in support of Ohkay Owingeh Police Department identified and reported suspicious activity indicative of narcotics distribution at the Ohkay Owingeh Casino. This timely intelligence referral resulted in immediate local arrests and enabled critical follow-on operations. In subsequent coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the joint effort led to the successful apprehension of a major drug trafficker who now faces federal charges.

The mission also coincided with a marked improvement in community health outcomes. Ohkay Owingeh has reported a sharp decline in drug overdoses in the community, **from 47 in 2025 to just 3 so far in 2026.**

During the Española Riverside Fire, the New Mexico National Guard provided the following resources/outcomes:

- NMNG Personnel on State Active Duty involved in Joint Task Force: 34
- Total number of vehicles that responded to incident: 23
- Entities Supported: 4
- Total Acres Burned: 50
- Number of residents needing evacuation assistance: 1,460

- Number of non-ambulatory individuals evacuated: 4
- Total man hours on scene: 136
- Number of animals evacuated from residential area: 131
- Number of control points NM State Police & local police manned by personnel to assist resident evacuations & aid: 9
- Number of structures evacuated: 90
- Number of vehicles re-routed: 1,840

Throughout these missions, Guard leaders built strong working relationships with the police chiefs of Española, Santa Clara, and Ohkay Owingeh, coordinating daily priorities directly with each department. This partnership, initiated at the request of the Pueblos and the City and sustained through daily cooperation, should be considered a benchmark for future collaboration between the New Mexico National Guard and the Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes of New Mexico.

d. *Cultural Resources Management*

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 tribal governments before taking actions that affect federally recognized tribes. We assess the impact of NMNG plans, projects, programs, and activities on tribal trust resources and ensure that tribal government rights and concerns are fully considered. 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.

e. *Governor's Summer ChalleNGe Program*

The Governor's Summer ChalleNGe Program (GSCP) is a six-week program that provides students with literacy and academic instruction while empowering New Mexico middle school aged youth with the resilience, confidence, and academic foundation needed to choose a positive path forward, fostering a future with opportunities. This is achieved through the following:

1. *Mentorship*: New Mexico National Guard service members serve as

mentors to the students during the program. They hold students to high expectations, helping participants learn how to set goals, overcome obstacles and persist through challenges.

2. *Combat Learning Loss*: Provide targeted math and literacy instruction to reduce learning loss and re-engage students experiencing attendance challenges.
3. *Physical Fitness*: Daily physical fitness helps support students' physical health, mental well-being and readiness to learn.

Jimmy Carter Middle School in Albuquerque was the original location of the first Governor's Summer ChalleNGe Program, and the program has now expanded to more schools in Albuquerque and other locations throughout the state. These include Wilson Middle School and Kennedy Middle School (Albuquerque), Carlos Vigil Middle School (Española), Mesa Middle School, Sierra Middle School, and Mountain View Middle School (Roswell) and Dexter Middle School (near Roswell). The program currently serves 230 students supported by 73 full-time educators and staff members, 17 National Guard cadre and numerous part time instructors and community partners.

f. [New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#)

The NMNG provides opportunities to the youth of NM (16–18-year-olds) through the New Mexico 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.

This free 17 1/2-month program starts with a demanding 22-week quasi-military residential phase in which Cadets will live in the NMYCA Barracks located on our Roswell campus. This is followed by a year of mentoring support to help graduates maintain positive lifestyles.

Once a Cadet graduates from the Residential Phase, the 12-month Post-Residential Phase begins. This phase requires Cadets to keep monthly contact with the trusted adult who has been chosen as a Mentor and their NMYCA Case Manager. The Mentor helps the Cadet stay on track and remain focused on their life goals during the Post Residential Phase while also making monthly contact with their Cadet's NMYCA Case Manager.

Although this program is offered to all youth in NM, many of our graduates are Native American youth. The NMYCA gives opportunity to Native American graduates and allows them to thrive and capitalize on the resources and opportunities available from the state. Completing the

NMYCA not only provides students with high school equivalency diplomas but also equips them with strong leadership and discipline they can use throughout their lives. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy! Twenty-five years and more than 3,500 graduates later, this vision has become one of New Mexico's greatest success stories in youth development.

g. [New Mexico Job ChalleNGe Academy](#)

On July 21, 2025, the NMNG celebrated the opening of the New Mexico Job ChalleNGe Academy (NMJCA) with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The (NMJCA) is a tuition-free, 20-week residential program for 17–20-year-olds that provides real world job skills and industry-recognized certifications for graduates of the New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy.

The NMJCA is designed to prepare students for life and career success, provides hands-on training, mentorship and a supportive community. This is accomplished through providing a structure and distraction-free environment, providing expectations and enforcement of standards with consistency, instilling the Eight Core Components outlined by the National Guard Bureau (Collaborative Partnerships, Integrity, Effort, Culture of Respect, Accountability, Teamwork, and Service Learning), providing tuition-free pathways to certifications through UA Local 412 and Central New Mexico Community College, and providing Post-Residential Phase support and mentorship.

On December 15, 2025, 10 associates graduated the first cycle of the program. We look forward to future graduates of the program and what they have to offer the state of New Mexico.

6. [New Mexico National Guard](#)

This section is divided into three categories of service for Native Americans in New Mexico. We want to ensure we recognize those service members of the past who have paved the way, current service members in the NMNG and future generations who will raise their hand to take the oath.

a. *PAST: Veterans*

[Veteran's Symposium at Isleta Casino \(May 1, 2026\)](#)

The NMNG partnered with the [Native American Training Institute \(NATI\)](#) and the [NM Department of Veterans Services \(DVS\)](#) for a one-day Veterans Symposium. The event's goal is to ensure veterans have access to the many benefits, entitlements and services provided by DVS, [Veterans Administration \(VA\)](#) and [Indian Health Services \(IHS\)](#). Veterans

had the opportunity to voice their issues, concerns and needs directly to government officials, agencies and service providers. The NMNG provided a Flag folding ceremony to highlight the significance of the practice and to call to action the need for Honor Guards to assist with Veterans memorial services especially those taking place within Nations, Pueblos and Tribes in New Mexico.

Hall of Honor Inductee

On November 8, 2025, Corporal Tony Reyna of Taos Pueblo, was posthumously inducted into the New Mexico National Guard Hall of Honor at the New Mexico Military Museum in Santa Fe, NM. He served in the New Mexico Army National Guard in the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery regiments during World War II and was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He returned to his community to serve in various leadership positions to include Taos Pueblo Governor (2x), police commissioner, and member of the Taos School Board just to name a few. The award was posthumously accepted by his daughter, Diane Reyna.

b. *PRESENT: New Mexico National Guardsmen*

Career Opportunities

Nations, Pueblos and Tribes in the State of New Mexico have an esteemed history of honorable military service. The NMNG continues to provide career opportunities within the Air and Army National Guard. It 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 New Mexico. 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.

Personal Achievements

During July 2025 drill, 1st Sgt Phoebe Begay, member of the Navajo Nation, became the first Soldier in the New Mexico Army National Guard to achieve the maximum score of 500 points on the Army Fitness test.

c. *FUTURE: Native American Youth & Young Adults in NM*

New Mexico Air National Guard (NMANG), in coordination with Army National Guard (NMARNG) partners, conducted a series of recruiting engagements across various tribal communities and schools. These efforts were part of a broader initiative to strengthen community

relationships and expand awareness of joint Army and Air National Guard career opportunities. The outreach aimed to address longstanding recruiting challenges by directly engaging students, families, and school leadership.

Guard members shared personal stories and provided information on education benefits, technical training, and career advancement across both Air and Army National Guard service paths. Through open dialogue, representatives answered questions, highlighted the mission of the National Guard, and emphasized the value of military service in building leadership skills and future opportunities. The involvement of service members with local ties helped reinforce a sense of trust and demonstrate that Guard service is both accessible and compatible with community-centered values. This initiative reflects the New Mexico National Guard's ongoing commitment to building strong partnerships in rural and tribal areas, enhancing recruiting efforts through collaboration, and maintaining a trusted presence across the communities we serve.

This year we had the opportunity to participate in the following events geared toward Native American youth and young adults in NM:

i. Basketball Skills Clinic at Farmington High School (July 16, 2025)

The NMANG Recruiting team hosted a boys and girls basketball skills clinic in Farmington, NM. More than 60 student athletes participated in drills led by coaches and volunteers. In between drills, MSgt Ayala spoke about core values he's used in his sports and military career as well as career pathways in the NMANG.

ii. Martinez/Yazzie Action Plan Community Meeting (August 23, 2025)

The Martinez/Yazzie Action Plan is New Mexico's formal response to a landmark court ruling that found the state failed to meet its constitutional obligation to provide a uniform and sufficient education for all students, particularly Native American students, English learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing poverty.

DMA Tribal Liaison participated in one of the twelve regional community meetings used to gather public input and help shape the plan. The meeting took place at Black Mesa Casino on the San Felipe Pueblo and involved students, community members, and educators.

iii. Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Indian Education Department – College, Career and Tribal Resource Fair (September 20, 2025)

NMNG Tribal Liaison, NMANG and NMARNG Recruiting represented the NMNG at this recruiting event that was held at the APS' Bernia Facio Professional Development Center in Albuquerque, NM.

iv. 2025 School, College & Career Fair (September 27, 2025)

NMNG Tribal Liaison and NMANG Recruiting represented the NMNG at this recruiting event hosted by the Education Departments from the Pueblos of Cochiti, San Felipe, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo and the Bernalillo Public School Indian Education Department. It was held at the Bernalillo High School in Bernalillo, NM.

v. College & Career Fair @ San Ildefonso Pueblo (October 8, 2025)

DMA Tribal Liaison represented the NMNG at this recruiting event.

vi. All-Star Leadership Day for High School Students (March 19, 2026)

DMA Tribal Liaison collaborated with the United States Air and Space Force to welcome high school students from around New Mexico to Kirtland AFB. During their visit, the students had the opportunity to explore different Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). Some of the hands-on activities included trying on military gear such as night vision goggles, learning how to use a tourniquet, exploring aircraft on the flight line, 3-D printing, using a teleprompter with Public Affairs, military dog training and learning to fly drones. We look forward to participating in next year's event.

vii. National Guard Day at Miyamura High School (May 5, 2026)

The NMARNG Recruiting team hosted a National Guard Day at Miyamura High School in Gallup, NM where 300+ students ran through an obstacle course, tried the deadlift challenge, and toured an M-915 truck.

viii. 2nd Annual Tribal Youth Summit (June 19, 2026)

DMA Tribal Liaison attended the 2nd Annual Tribal Youth Summit held at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM. The Summit's theme was *Pathways to Purpose*. She had the opportunity to have an NMANG table and engage with a network of fellow youth leaders, mentors, educators, and tribal

representatives with the purpose of honoring their roots while paving the path forward. It was an amazing opportunity to listen and hear from our Tribal youth. We look forward to attending this event next year.

7. Additional Events

- a. On August 28, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended St. Augustine Feast Day at the Isleta Pueblo.
- b. On September 2, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended St. Esteban Feast Day at the Acoma Pueblo.
- c. On September 5, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women: Women's Safety Summit.
- d. On September 15, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended Feast Day at the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.
- e. On September 18, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended the Forgotten Heroes Memorial Ceremony at the Santa Fe National Ceremony.
- f. On September 19, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended St. Joseph's Feast Day at the Laguna Pueblo.
- g. On September 30, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended St. Geronimo's Feast Day at Taos Pueblo.
- h. On September 30, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison participated in Orange Shirt Day. This day opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools and their impacts on Native American and First Nations children, families, and communities.
- i. On October 4, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day at Nambe Pueblo.
- j. On November 14, 2025, DMA Tribal Liaison attended the Veterans Day Celebration at the Ojo Encino Day School.
- k. On November 20, 2025, members of the 226th Military Police Battalion collaborated with Echo Food Bank in Farmington, NM and local businesses, emergency services and volunteers to distribute 1,000 turkeys and food kits to the community.
- l. On November 21, 2025, the documentary the Tribal Liaison Team collaborated on with Sovereign Mind Productions, Honor Song, made its debut on New Mexico PBS and is available for streaming on the PBS app.

- m. On December 18, 2025, the NMNG collaborated with the Española Police Department to assist in wrapping of gifts for the community.
- n. On December 18, 2025, the NMNG collaborated with the humanitarian program, Taos Feeds Taos, for the 40th year in a row to help feed Taos County families.
- o. On February 5, 2026, NMNG and DMA Tribal Liaisons took part in American Indian Day Reception at Hotel Santa Fe where we were able to meet and speak with leaders of Nations, Pueblos and Tribes.
- p. On February 6, 2026, NMNG and DMA Tribal Liaisons took part in 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 Native American communities.
- q. On February 10, 2026, DMA Tribal Liaison attended a Tribal Liaison Virtual Meeting hosted by IAD.
- r. On May 1, 2026, DMA Tribal Liaison attended St. Phillip's Feast Day at San Felipe Pueblo.
- s. On May 5, 2026, DMA Tribal Liaison attended an event for National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Day, dedicated to honoring those affected by the disappearance of a loved one. It is a day of solidarity, support, and remembrance for families, friends, and relatives impacted by these tragedies. The event was hosted by [IAD](#) and the [Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women \(CSVANW\)](#) at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The event featured presentations from Secretary Monette, Officer Wilson Silver (Department of Public Safety), Tiffany Jiron (Executive Director of CSVANW), and Dawn Begay (Southwest Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative).
- t. On May 6, 2026, DMA Tribal Liaison participated in the Government-to-Government Tribal Education Summit. The Summit featured presentations of Shared Outcomes and Accomplishments, New Mexico as a National Model for Indian Education, Student and Family Testimonials on Program Success and Planning for 2027 and Beyond.
- u. On May 13, 2026, DMA Tribal Liaison attended a Tribal Liaison Virtual Meeting hosted by IAD.

8. Goals for State Fiscal Year 2027 relating to Nations, Pueblos and Tribes

- a. DMA Tribal Liaison Program (TLP) aims to further enhance its

relationships with Nations, Pueblos and Tribes of NM by proactively seeking avenues to engage and facilitate meaningful discussions regarding knowledge of our capabilities, collaborative activities, and opportunities for membership in the NM Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and State Defense Force.

- i. Continue our recruiting efforts in schools - Increase engagement with Native American youth by expanding recruiting and educational outreach opportunities in partnership with tribal governments and schools.
 - ii. Tabling at Feast Days if Nations, Pueblos and Tribes allow
- b. DMA TLP plans to work with Federal Tribal Liaison, IAD and Nations, Pueblos and Tribes to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding - Military Low-level Overflights of Tribal Lands.
- c. Collaborate with DMA Environmental Team to host a Tribal Summit with potential topics including discussions on DMA's cultural sites, Army Warfighting Readiness Program updates, and no fly/low fly request/process.
- d. DMA TLP will continue to facilitate stronger government to government collaboration, uphold tribal sovereignty, and promote community well-being. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Department of Veterans Services as well as other agencies and community groups.
 - i. Continue providing assistance during disasters in NM
 - ii. Continue volunteering efforts in the community
- e. DMA TLP looks forward to working with leadership to formalize our program, develop a charter, create TAG approved objectives as well as a strategic plan. We believe this program is the best in the nation and we would like to press forward with formalizing it so it can be exported to other communities that really need what our team has built.



Photo 1: NMNG cleaning up after floods in Mescalero Community



Photo 2: Ohkay Owingeh recognizes Pfc. Sena - OZS



Photo 3: Learning how to use a tourniquet with GSCP



Photo 4: Mountain Biking with GSCP



Photo 5: Graduate of GSCP – Year 2 of program



Photo 6: NMYCA Cadets using NMMI Leadership Reaction Course



Photo 7: Cadet Vicente – Recipient of NMYCA Scholarship



Photo 8 – NMYCA Cycle 50 Graduation



Photo 9: NMJCA Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Photo 10: NM Dept of Transportation Tour with NMJCA Associates



Photo 11: Associate Mora – Inaugural NMJCA Graduate Class



Photo 12: Reyna Family accepting Hall of Honor Award on behalf of Corporal Tony Reyna



Photo 13: 1st Sgt Phoebe Begay (right) earns maximum score on Army Fitness Test



Photo 14: Swearing-in Ceremony for Military Appreciation Day at the New Mexico State Fair



Photo 15: Basketball Skills Clinic – Farmington High School



Photo 16: Martinez/Yazzie Action Plan Community Meeting



Photo 17: 2025 Women's Safety Summit held by NM Commission on the Status of Women



Photo 18: Forgotten Heroes Memorial Ceremony



Photo 19: Veterans Day Celebration w/ Students at Ojo Encino Day School



Photo 20: Documentary, Honor Song, debuts on NM PBS & PBS app



Photo 21: Gift wrapping for the community of Española



Photo 22: Taos Feeds Taos



Photo 23: American Indian Day



Photo 24: All-Star Leadership Day – Kirtland AFB

9. Key Names and Contact Information

a. **NMNG The Adjutant General (TAG)**

Miguel Aguilar, Major General, NMNG

(505) 407-3362

ng.nm.nmarng.mbx.cmd-workflow@army.mil

b. **State of New Mexico – Department of Military Affairs**

Sabrina Rodriguez-Harte, Tribal Liaison Officer

(505) 695-4987

Sabrina.Rodriguez-Harte@dma.nm.gov

c. **NMNG Tribal Liaisons**

MSgt Shannon Myhre (ANG)

(505) 846-3885

shannon.myhre.1@us.af.mil

SMSgt Jamie Yazzie (ANG)

(505) 853-1974

jamie.yazzie.1@us.af.mil

CW3 Constance Murillo (ARNG)

(505) 365-4238

constance.murillo.mil@army.mil

d. **Federal Signature Authority**

David Chavira, Colonel, National Guard Bureau

United States Fiscal and Property Officer

david.chavira.2@us.af.mil

e. **New Mexico National Guard Director of Public Affairs**

Henry C. Minitrez, Civilian, NMARNG

henry.c.minitrez.civ@army.mil

f. **New Mexico National Guard Conservation Environmental Specialists**

Alex Twibell, Civilian, NMARNG

alexander.m.twibell@army.mil

Ariana Rey, Civilian, NMARNG

ariana.m.rey.nfg@army.mil

g. **New Mexico Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention**

Luis Caloca, Major, NMARNG

Santa Fe, New Mexico

luis.f.caloca.mil@army.mil

h. **New Mexico Air National Guard Recruiting & Retention**

Chad Peterson, Senior Master Sergeant, NMANG

Kirtland AFB, New Mexico

chad.peterson.5@us.af.mil

10. ACRONYMS

- a. **DMA**: Department of Military Affairs
- b. **TAG**: the Adjutant General
- c. **NMNG**: New Mexico National Guard
- d. **ANG**: Air National Guard
- e. **ARNG**: Army National Guard
- f. **DoDI**: Department of Defense Instruction
- g. **STCA**: State Tribal Collaboration Act
- h. **NMARNG**: New Mexico Army National Guard
- i. **ICRMP**: Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
- j. **AR**: Army Regulation
- k. **AFI**: Air Force Regulation
- l. **IAD**: Indian Affairs Department
- m. **G2G**: government-to-government
- n. **NM**: New Mexico
- o. **AFCEC**: Air Force Civil Engineering Center
- p. **DAFI**: Department of Air Force Instruction
- q. **MOU**: Memorandum of Understanding
- r. **IA NOTAM**: Indian Affairs Notice to Airmen
- s. **IRT**: Innovative Readiness Training
- t. **DOW**: Department of War
- u. **EOC**: Emergency Operation Center
- v. **NMYCA**: New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy
- w. **NATI**: Native American Training Institute

- x. **DVS**: Department of Veteran Services
- y. **VA**: Veterans Administration
- z. **IHS**: Indian Health Services
- aa. **APCG**: All Pueblo Council of Governors
- bb. **NAHC**: Native American Heritage Council
- cc. **BAWG**: Barrier Analysis Working Group
- dd. **INET**: Indigenous Nations Equality Team
- ee. **DAF**: Department of Air Force
- ff. **AFB**: Air Force Base
- gg. **CSVANW**: Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women
- hh. **SWIF**: Southwest Indian Foundation
- ii. **TLP**: Tribal Liaison Program
- jj. **KLE**: Key Leader Engagement