

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS)

STATE-TRIBAL COLLABORATION AGENCY REPORT

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Captain Shawn R. Martin
NMDPS Tribal Liaison

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I. Executive Summary

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 New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS) remains committed to strengthening government-to-government relationships with New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos through collaborative law enforcement partnerships, public safety initiatives, and ongoing communication.

Recognizing the unique jurisdictional complexities that exist within Indian Country, NMDPS continues to work closely with Tribal governments, Tribal law enforcement agencies, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and federal, state, and local partners to improve public safety and enhance coordinated law enforcement responses.

Throughout FY26, the Department continued efforts to reduce impaired driving, violent crime, drug trafficking, domestic violence, crimes against children, and other criminal activity through cooperative enforcement initiatives, cross-jurisdictional assistance, and proactive community engagement.

NMDPS remains actively engaged with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) initiative by participating in public hearings, committee meetings, and collaborative discussions with Tribal leaders, community stakeholders, and advocacy organizations. The Department continues to provide law enforcement expertise while supporting statewide efforts to improve investigative coordination and public awareness.

The Department also expanded opportunities for commissioned officers to attend the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services Criminal Justice in Indian Country Training Program. Officers completing this specialized training receive a Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC), allowing them to perform law enforcement duties within participating Tribal jurisdictions when requested and authorized.

NMDPS continues to maintain its cross-commission agreement with the Navajo Nation, providing specially trained New Mexico State Police officers the authority to enforce Tribal laws while serving under Navajo authority. This partnership significantly improves public

safety by reducing jurisdictional gaps and strengthening coordinated enforcement efforts throughout Navajo Nation lands.

The Department remains committed to full compliance with the New Mexico Tribal Collaboration Act through ongoing cultural competency training, quarterly meetings with Tribal law enforcement leaders, participation in Indian Affairs Department initiatives, open communication with Tribal governments, and continued support of Tribal Amber Alert and Turquoise Alert programs.

II. Mission Statement

The mission of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety is to protect life and property through the prevention and detection of criminal activity and the enforcement of New Mexico laws while providing leadership, scientific services, technical support, and professional training to the criminal justice community.

III. Agency Overview

The New Mexico Department of Public Safety provides statewide law enforcement services through the New Mexico State Police Uniform Bureau, Investigations Bureau, Special Investigations Unit, Special Operations Bureau, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau, Law Enforcement Academy, Forensic Laboratories, and Law Enforcement Records Bureau.

The Department promotes public safety through intelligence-led policing, professional law enforcement services, scientific support, advanced training, and collaborative partnerships with local, state, federal, and Tribal agencies.

NMDPS remains committed to ethical policing, operational excellence, and community-oriented public safety while continually strengthening partnerships with New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos.

Several Department divisions directly support Tribal communities, including:

- **Uniform Bureau** – Provides statewide patrol services and responds to requests for assistance from Tribal law enforcement agencies while maintaining close working relationships with neighboring Tribal jurisdictions.
- **Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (CVE)** – Partners with Tribal law enforcement agencies to improve commercial motor vehicle safety, conduct inspections, investigate commercial vehicle crashes, and provide enforcement resources throughout Tribal jurisdictions.
- **Investigations Bureau (IB)** – Conducts complex criminal investigations involving violent crime, major felony offenses, officer-involved incidents, and specialized forensic investigations. Technical investigators routinely assist Tribal agencies with crash reconstruction, crime scene processing, and investigative support upon request.
- **Special Investigations Unit (SIU)** – Assists Tribal communities with alcohol-related investigations, liquor law enforcement, responsible beverage server training, DWI prevention initiatives, and public education programs.
- **Special Operations Bureau (Spec Ops)** – Highly trained and specialized team of law enforcement personnel assigned to the Bomb squad - conducting security sweeps, Aircraft Team - conducting missing person searches, Dive Team - searching bodies of water, and UAV (Drone Team) - searching for suspects at the requests of Tribal Law Enforcement agencies.
- **Law Enforcement Records Bureau (LERB)** – Maintains New Mexico's criminal history repository, CJIS systems, missing persons databases, sex offender registry, fingerprint identification systems, Uniform Crime Reporting, and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), providing essential criminal justice information to agencies throughout the state.

IV. Current and Planned Programs for Native American communities

NMDPS continues to support collaborative initiatives that strengthen Tribal public safety while respecting Tribal sovereignty and promoting effective government-to-government partnerships.

Tribal Police Commissioning (29-1-11)

NMDPS continues to commission qualified Tribal Police officers as New Mexico peace officers pursuant to NMSA § 29-1-11. This program enhances Tribal law enforcement capabilities by allowing commissioned officers to enforce New Mexico criminal and traffic laws involving non-Indians within their respective jurisdictions.

Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLEC)

NMDPS supports the commissioning of New Mexico State Police officers as Special Law Enforcement Officers through the Bureau of Indian Affairs when requested by Tribal governments and authorized through formal government-to-government agreements. These commissions enable qualified officers to perform law enforcement duties when participating Tribal jurisdictions while providing appropriate legal protections and improving coordinated public safety responses.

Community Engagement

NMDPS personnel continue to participate in numerous annual community events in partnership with Tribal governments and law enforcement agencies, including:

- Pueblo Feast Days
- Tribal fairs, parades, and rodeos
- Tribal ceremonial closures
- Shop with a Cop events

- Law Enforcement Appreciation events
- Chapter meetings and town halls
- Tribal liaison meetings
- Community outreach and public safety education programs

These collaborative efforts strengthen relationships, improve communication, and reinforce the Department's commitment to serving all New Mexicans.

V. Executive Accomplishments Dashboard

FY 2026 Top Accomplishments related to programs and services provided to or directly affecting American Indians or Alaska Natives

- 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 New Mexico State Police Uniform 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 into traffic crashes, homicides, officers involved in 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.

Special Operations Bureau (Spec Ops)

The Special Operations Bureau consists of highly training and specialized law enforcement professionals who are members of the Tactical Team, EOD (Bomb Team), UAV (Drone Team), Dive Team, Motorcycle Team, Aircraft Unit and Search and Rescue.

2025 - 2026 Accomplishments

NM State Police District 5 – Albuquerque
Commanded by John Cunningham

-  D5 Command Staff – Lieutenant Kurtis Ward instructed personnel at Pueblo of Acoma Police Department on Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) administrative hearing procedures.
-  D5 Command Staff - Lieutenant Ward met with tribal leaders from across the United States and internationally during the 2026 Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque. Estimated attendance of approximately 180,000 people.
-  D5 Command Staff – Captain Cunningham and Lieutenant Aguilar attend the quarterly Tribal Chiefs' meetings with representatives from the Albuquerque Police Department (APD), Isleta Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and other tribal law enforcement partners to discuss public safety initiatives, intelligence sharing, and interagency coordination.

- ✚ D5 Command Staff - Captain Cunningham attended a meet-and-greet with the Sandia Pueblo Chief's Staff in May 2026 to strengthen interagency relationships and coordination.
- ✚ D5 Officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Police Department with 32 calls for services.
- ✚ D5 Officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Jemez Tribal Police Department with three (3) calls for services.
- ✚ D5 Officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Police Department with 12 calls for services.
- ✚ D5 Officers responded/ assisted the Navajo Nation Tribal Police Department with 6 calls for services.
- ✚ D5 Officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Sandia Tribal Police Department with 6 calls for services.
- ✚ D5 Officers responded/ assisted the Pueblo of Santa Ana Tribal Police Department with four (4) calls for services.
 - Note: The calls for service ranged from assist to agency law enforcement, crashes with/without injuries, welfare checks, alcohol related incidents, DWI, welfare checks, assistance to public, domestic violence incidents, wildlife, missing people, traffic stops, etc..

NM State Police 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 regularly communicate with Pueblo of Acoma Tribal Police Department Command Staff.

- ✚ D6 Command staff regularly communicate with Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Police Department Command Staff.
- ✚ D6 command staff continue attending Tribal Liaison quarterly meetings with the NM Indian Affairs Department MMIP Community.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff attended training – Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women hosted a MMIP First Responder Training of Law Enforcement. August 2025.
- ✚ D6 Officer collaborated with the Navajo Nation Police Department during the 47th Eastern Navajo Nation Fair in Crownpoint, NM. July 2025.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff collaborated with 103rd Inter-Tribal Ceremonial committee with the safety planning meetings for the weeklong celebration in July 2025.
- ✚ Officers participated in Land Recognition Parade in To'Hajiilee school (Navajo). August 2025.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff and Officers assisted with traffic control/ foot patrol for the 103rd Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Nighttime and Daytime Parades. August 2025.
- ✚ D6 Officers collaborated with Ramah-Navajo Tribal Police during the Ramah – Navajo Fair. August 2025.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff collaborated with Good Heart Tour and Battered Families Services with a panel discussion regarding what happens when a person goes missing. NM State Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Richardo Breceda was also present to provide insight into the Turquoise Alert. March 2026.
- ✚ D6 Officers attend Ramah-Navajo Justice Day in Ramah, NM. March 2026.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff and Officers responded to To'Hajiilee to assist with an OIS (officer involved shooting) incident. March 2026.

- ✚ DPS HQ Staff attended a Public Safety Discussion regarding the recent Navajo Nation Police Department OIS incident with local leadership including surrounding State Law Enforcement Agencies. April 2026.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff and Officers responded to Prewitt, NM, to assist Navajo PD with a non-native suspect involved in a domestic violence incident, multiple responses. The suspect had a Nationwide Felony No-bond warrant. May 2026.
- ✚ DPS HQ Staff attended State-Tribal Leaders' Summit. May 2026.
- ✚ D6 Officers conduct school visits/ community engagement events at school located on the Navajo Nation reservation. August 2025 – June 2026.
- ✚ D6 Officers assisted the Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Police Department with a Music Fest event at Dancing Eagle Casino. June 2026.
- ✚ D6 Officers continue to participate in the McKinley County DWI Task Force, partnering with Navajo PD, Ramah-Navajo PD, and Zuni Tribal PD.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff and Officers hold cross commissioned cards with Navajo Nation Police Department
- ✚ D6 Command Staff and Officers continue to respond and handle calls for service for Navajo Nation Tribal members.
- ✚ D6 Command Staff and Officers continue to assist the Navajo Nation Police Department (Crownpoint District) with calls for service throughout the reservation.
- ✚ D6 Officers carry Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC) through B.I.A.

NM State Police District 7 – Espanola/Taos/Chama

Commanded by Captain Dominic Casados

- ✚ D7 Command Staff met with Pueblo of Santa Clara Tribal Police Chief Mitchell Maestas on May 15, 2026, to discuss improving communication and partnership to work together for providing law enforcement services.
- ✚ D7 Command staff provided officers to Pueblo of Santa Clara for their annual feast days.
- ✚ Ohkay Ohwingeh Police Chief Jace Trujillo allows District 7 NMSP to conduct firearm qualifications on their range.
- ✚ D7 Command Staff provided additional officers to Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Department for their Annual Little Beaver celebration July 16,17,18 2026.
- ✚ D7 Command Staff worked with Ohkay Ohwingeh, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Pojoaque, and Jicarilla Apache Nation to address the State of Emergency efforts.
- ✚ D7 Officers assisted Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Department with apprehension of two escapees from their detention center on June 15, 2026, along with District 10 and District 6 for additional manpower and drone resources. One was apprehended on June 16 with JAPD off tribal land on the state side
- ✚ D7 Command Staff met with Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Lieutenant Lance Peper to have a dialogue about current working partnerships.
- ✚ D7 Command Staff maintained a relationship with the Pueblo of Picuris regarding law enforcement activities throughout the year.
- ✚ D7 officers responded/ handled 25 calls for service for the Pueblo of Ohkay Owningeh Tribal Police Department.
- ✚ 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 5 calls for service.
- ✚ D7 Officer responded/ handled one (1) call for service for the Pueblo of Pojoaque.
- ✚ D7 Officers responded and handled 7 calls for service for the Pueblo of Santa Clara Tribal Police Department.
 - Note: The calls for service ranged from assist to agency law enforcement, crashes with/without injuries, welfare checks, alcohol related incidents, DWI, welfare checks, assistance to public, domestic violence incidents, wildlife, missing people, traffic stops, etc..

NM State Police District 8 – Alamogordo Commanded by Captain Jay Blakeney

- ✚ District 8 Command Staff meet regularly with Mescalero conservation officers and BIA.
- ✚ 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 assisted with several funeral escorts on US70 on and through the Mescalero Reservation
- ✚ D8 Officers responded and assisted Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Officers with over 105 calls for service.

NM State Police District 10 – Farmington Commanded by Captain Clint Varnell

- ✚ D10 Officers assisted the Navajo Nation Police Department in September 2025 during the Northern Nation Fair in Shiprock, NM.

- ✚ D10 Officers set up a recruitment / outreach booth at Newcomb High school on May 1, 2026, officers interacted with elementary students and high school students, including community members.
- ✚ D10 Officers attended and assisted with event at the Shiprock High School graduation.
- ✚ D10 Officers assisted the Jicarilla Apache Police Department with their annual firearms qualifications.
- ✚ D10 Officers responded/ assisted the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Department with 5 calls for services.
- ✚ D10 Officers responded to 8 calls for service in various areas of the northern portion of the Navajo Nation to assist Navajo Nation Police Department officers.
 - Note: The calls for service ranged from assist to agency law enforcement, crashes with/without injuries, welfare checks, alcohol related incidents, DWI, welfare checks, assistance to public, domestic violence incidents, wildlife, missing people, traffic stops, etc..

NM State Police District 11 – Socorro
Commanded by Captain Daniel Chavez

- ✚ District 11 Officers participated in the Alamo Indian Day on October 11 – 12, 2025, in Alamo, NM.
- ✚ District 11 Officers coordinated a Search and Rescue mission for a missing Navajo Tribal member on January 21, 2026. With the assistance of the NMSP PIO Unit released a Turquoise Alert for the missing person. A couple hours later, the missing person was located.

NM State Police Investigations Bureau Technical Unit
Commanded by Sergeant Davin Barela

Vehicular Homicides – 3

- ✚ July 5, 2025, NMSPR2508224, Zuni PD/FBI, McKinley County, Vehicular Homicide, Pursuit following an attempted traffic stop ended in a crash, ejecting the driver and rear-seat passenger; front-seat passenger was killed.
- ✚ August 29, 2025, NMSPR2510746, Laguna PD/BIA, Cibola County, Vehicular Homicide, Two-vehicle head-on crash resulting in one fatality; impairment under investigation.
- ✚ November 16, 2025, NMSPR2514333, Navajo PD/FBI, San Juan County, Vehicular Homicide, Suspected alcohol-related crash involving two fatalities and four injured occupants.

Agency Assists – 8

- ✚ September 5, 2025, NMSPR2511197, Isleta PD, Bernalillo County, Agency Assist, assisted with downloading the EDR from a 2007 Ford F-150.
- ✚ September 11, 2025, NMSPR2511180, Sandia PD, Bernalillo County, Agency Assist, Assisted with EDR downloads and crash reconstruction for a vehicular homicide investigation.
- ✚ December 5, 2025, NMSPR2515321, FBI, San Juan County, Agency Assist, Assisted the FBI with downloading an Event Data Recorder.
- ✚ February 11, 2026, NMSPR2601704, Sandia PD, Bernalillo County, Agency Assist, Assisted Sandia PD with an EDR download for a crash investigation.
- ✚ February 18, 2026, NMSPR2602019, BIA, Lincoln County, Agency Assist, Assisted BIA with an EDR download involving a pedestrian strike investigation.

- ✚ February 24, 2026, NMSPR2602355, Navajo PD/FBI, McKinley County, Agency Assist, Single-vehicle rollover involving two impaired adults and three children; one child was deceased. Assisted with EDR download.
- ✚ May 28, 2026, NMSPR2606162, Navajo PD/BIA, McKinley County, Agency Assist, Assisted with EDR download and analysis for an ongoing crash investigation.
- ✚ June 7, 2026, NMSPR2606626, Zuni PD, McKinley County, Agency Assist, Single-vehicle rollover resulting in one fatality; assisted with investigation and EDR download. Alcohol was a possible contributing factor.

Pursuit Investigation – 1

- ✚ September 16, 2025, NMSPR2511517, NMSP, San Juan County, Vehicle Pursuit, NMSP pursuit ended when the vehicle rolled on CR3003, injuring the driver.

Pedestrian Hit and Runs – 1

- ✚ September 29, 2025, NMSPR2512075, Navajo PD, McKinley County, Pedestrian Hit and Run, Intoxicated pedestrian was struck by a vehicle that fled the scene.

Fatal Crashes – 1

- ✚ October 6, 2025, NMSPR2511387, NMSP District 8, Otero County, Fatal Crash, Single-vehicle rollover with three occupants; two occupants were ejected and killed, driver survived.

NM State Police Special Operations (Spec Ops)

Commanded by Captain Hugo Munoz

- ✚ February 11, 2026, UAV (Drone Team) assist Pueblo of Zia police department to locate a suspect involved in a vehicular pursuit.

- ✚ March 26, 2026, Aircraft Team (ABLE 7) assisted Bureau of Indian Affairs and Navajo Police Department with a search of a missing female in Standing Rock, NM (Navajo Reservation)
- ✚ March 26, 2026, Aircraft Team (ABLE 7) assist Bureau of Indian Affairs with a search of a suspect who escaped from custody.
- ✚ April 24 – 25, 2026, NMSP Bomb Team Squad conducted pre-event security sweeps for the annual Gathering of Nations Powwow at Tingley Coliseum. Explosive Detection Canines were deployed to support the operation.
- ✚ May 20, 2026, Bomb Squad responded to Pueblo of Acoma after two (2) 100-pound World War II era aerial bombs were in Badger Butte area. NMSP techs and US Air Force EOD safely neutralized both bombs.
- ✚ June 27 – 28, 2026, Dive Team responded to Wheatfields Lake in Arizona to assist Navajo Nation Police Department providing specialized dive personnel and sonar capabilities to support of the search and recovery of two tribal members that drown.
- ✚ June 29 – July 1, 2026, Dive Team responded to Chochiti Lake on the Pueblo of Chochiti to assist with a drowning of a juvenile male. Dive personnel conducted underwater search and recovery operations and successfully recovered the victim.

FY27 Goals/Objective related to programs and services to or directly affecting American Indians or Alaska Natives

- 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.

VI. Key Names and Contact Information:

Contact information:

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Report completed by:
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FY26 STCACCT completion data	BU 79000
Number of total completions for agency	22