

Multi-million BIA school being built by Western Resident Office

Story by Bruce Hill, Jr., USACE Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Western Resident Office, located in Ft. Wingate New Mexico, manages Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction projects and building upgrades of their existing schools.

In Kayenta, Arizona, a new BIA school is being constructed for kindergarten through eighth grade, and is expected to be completed December 2008 at the tune of 30 million dollars.

“The Albuquerque District office in Albuquerque designs a lot of the work,” said Kerry Horner, Acting Resident Engineer for the Western Resident Office. Ninety five percent of the BIA work is done at the Western Resident Office and the remaining five percent is completed by the Northern Resident Office located at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Funded by BIA, they also pay the Corps to administer construction of the new school that will eventually



Photos by Kerry L. Horner, USACE Western Resident Office

Contractors form and pour grade beams for Kayenta Community School in Kayenta, Arizona in November.

accommodate approximately 480 children.

In Winslow, Arizona, a dormitory is also being constructed for kindergarten through eighth grade by the Western Resident Office at an estimated cost of eight million dollars, and will accom-

modate about 150 children.

Both Kayenta and Winslow projects are being constructed in conjunction with assistance from the Los Angeles District, which administers the safety compliance for the projects.

Other school-related BIA projects

Arizona:

- In Chinle and Many Farms, fire protection system upgrades are being done with expected completion in May
- In Wide Ruins and Hunters Point, kindergarten through sixth grade schools are to be constructed, one in each town

New Mexico:

- A Fort Wingate High School construction project was awarded in February, with construction anticipated to begin in April
- An elementary school at Fort Wingate was completed in 2005
- In Crown Point, a kindergarten through eighth grade school is to be constructed



Photos by Kerry L. Horner, USACE Western Resident Office

Contractors drill and place concrete for foundation piers for the Kayenta Community School in Kayenta, Arizona. Ray Mascareno from the Albuquerque District Geotechnical department looks on to ensure quality construction in July.