



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Secretary Kempthorne to Meet with Tribal Leaders in Arizona About Budget Initiatives to Fight Meth and Strengthen Schools

PHOENIX—Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne will meet with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials from tribes in Arizona at the Heard Museum on Thursday, Feb. 22 and hold a press conference on the President's budget proposals for Indian country.

The Secretary will meet with tribal chairman and other leaders to get their input on education and law enforcement needs. The President has proposed a \$16 million increase to fund the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Safe Indian Communities Initiative, which will strengthen law enforcement capabilities on tribal lands to help combat the epidemic of methamphetamine use.

To raise the level of student performance in Bureau of Indian Education schools, the President's budget calls for an additional \$15 million investment to improve Indian student academic achievement. The BIE system has 184 schools that educate about 50,000 students.

- WHO:** Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne
W. Patrick Ragsdale, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Thomas M. Dowd, Director, Bureau of Indian Education
Tribal chairmen and law enforcement leaders of tribes in Arizona
- WHAT:** Press conference following meeting on education and law enforcement issues
- WHEN:** 12:00-12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Phelps Dodge Plaza (press check-in)
Heard Museum
2301 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004