



# U.S. ARMY NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL RESOURCES



Innovative policies, programs and initiatives establish the Department of the Army as a leader in Native American cultural resources management. The Army implements its Native American cultural resources program through policy in *Army Regulation 200-4, Cultural Resources Management*.

Army policy emphasizes tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship between the Army and federally recognized tribes. It encourages consultation and interaction with tribal governments during program and project planning, development, and implementation.

The Army strives to further enhance communication with tribal government representatives through conferences, compliance, and educational activities.

## ARMY/NATIVE PEOPLES PARTNERING CONFERENCES

The Army has hosted several workshops and conferences designed to promote open communication. At these meetings Army and tribal representatives share information about topics affecting Native Peoples and Army installations.

Discussion topics have included:

- Utilizing unique tribal cultural resources expertise through the use of cooperative agreements
- Status of Army compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- Access to sacred sites under Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites," and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)
- Identification of traditional religious and cultural properties, and
- Army development of alternative Section 106 compliance procedures (the Army Alternate Procedures)



*Petroglyph, Pinon Canyon, CO*

These conferences have brought together representatives of over 100 installations and tribes from all regions of the country, successfully encouraging communication and resolution of issues.

## NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT COMPLIANCE

The Army's NAGPRA compliance program is the most comprehensive program in the Department of Defense (DoD). Through a centrally managed and funded effort, the Army completed all reports required by

NAGPRA efficiently and consistently, creating a significant economy of scale. This effort resulted in 97 Army installation NAGPRA Section 6 Summary Reports and 20 additional installation NAGPRA Section 5 Inventory Reports. All installations holding NAGPRA items are currently engaged in consultations with potentially affiliated tribes in advance of repatriation.



*Iroquois Pottery Vessel, Fort Drum, NY*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 13007, "INDIAN SACRED SITES"

Under Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites," the Army is responsible for protecting and providing reasonable access to American Indian sacred sites on land it controls. The numerous installations that have sacred sites accommodate a variety of ceremonial practices ranging from individual prayers, to reburials of ancestral remains, to rituals involving numerous participants.

## GUIDELINES FOR ARMY CONSULTATION WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

Guidelines for Army Consultation with Native Americans (*Department of the Army Pamphlet 200-4*, Appendix F), provides guidance not only for consultation with American Indians, but also Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. These guidelines provide information on trust relations, government-to-government responsibilities, and tribal government structure. Major issues include public disclosure and confidentiality, reburial practices, and access to religious and sacred sites. The guidelines also discuss legal mandates governing federal agency responsibilities to Native Americans.

## NATIVE AMERICAN TRAINING INITIATIVE

The Army is leading a DoD effort to develop training for DoD and military department personnel to better understand American Indian and Alaskan Native cultures, meet statutory requirements for tribal consultation, and promote compliance with the DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy. Reciprocal training to help tribal representatives understand DoD "culture" and deal effectively with military departments will also be developed. The Army's commitment to advancing DoD policies is evident in its efforts made to foster open communication and understanding between the military and Native Americans.



*Medicine Bluffs, Fort Sill, OK*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The following reports and other material addressing Native American issues are available in the Conservation section of the Army Environmental Center's Web site (<http://aec.army.mil>):

- Summary Report on the U.S. Army Environmental Center's NAGPRA Compliance Project (Section 6 Summary Investigations)
- Summary Report on the U.S. Army Environmental Center's NAGPRA Compliance Project (Section 5 Inventory Investigation Results and Project Conclusions)
- Report to the White House on Native American Sacred Sites
- Guidelines for Army Consultation with Native Americans (Department of the Army Pamphlet 200-4)