



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Public Affairs  
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## **TRIBAL AND MUNICIPAL POLICE TRAINED IN FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY IN INDIAN COUNTRY**

PHOENIX - Approximately two dozen tribal and municipal police officers completed a three day training course last week led by federal prosecutors at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix. Those that pass an exam, administered by U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), will receive special certification to enforce federal laws on reservations.

The training was the seventh time that the BIA and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona have teamed up to give the training, with approximately 250 tribal and state police officers certified through the program so far. Officers participating in the recent program include personnel from the Gila River Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Quechan Tribe and the Florence Police Department, who will patrol a small nearby area of the Tohono O'odham Reservation pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Special Law Enforcement Certificate Card (SLEC) card empowers tribal police to make arrests on federal charges in Indian Country, including misdemeanor and felony violations of federal law. This increases the tools and protection available to officers to address areas as common as fire and dumping misdemeanor violations up to and including investigations and arrests for felonies such as drug trafficking, child sex abuse and murder. Additionally, assaults on these officers are prosecuted in federal court as misdemeanors.

The course includes intensive segments on Indian Country Jurisdiction, Indian Country Crimes (The Major Crimes Act), Federal Court Procedure, Civil Liability, Child Abuse and Child Abuse reporting, Central Violations Bureau, Juvenile Process and Procedure, Drug and Firearm Laws and investigation of gang activity, among other areas.

Additional training will be offered in the future. For information on how to register, contact Warren Youngman at the BIA at 602-379-6958.

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For more information on the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/az/>