

EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE OPERATIONAL PLAN - 2018

The Eastern District of Washington, with exception of one large metropolitan area (Spokane) and two medium-sized metropolitan areas (Tri-Cities and Yakima), is generally rural in nature. Four tribal reservations are located within the District -- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; the Kalispel Tribe of Indians; the Spokane Tribe of Indians; and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Each Tribe is designated as a partial PL 280 Tribe.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigates major crimes on all four reservations. Investigations of matters occurring within the exterior boundaries of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Kalispel Tribe of Indians are generally handled by the FBI's Spokane Office. Investigations within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Nation's Reservation are generally investigated by the FBI's Yakima office. Cases involving tribal members and attendant issues are handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office's Spokane and Yakima offices.

All four tribes in the District have their own tribal police departments as well. The tribal police often work hand in hand with the FBI and respond in concert.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

The purpose of this Operational Plan is to set forth aspirations for the USAO in working with the tribes to improve public safety. It is expected that there will be adjustments to this Operational Plan based upon experience and ongoing conversations between the USAO and tribes.

There are basic components of an Operational Plan that are applicable to all tribes. Consequently, Part One will address those basic components. Part Two will discuss unique characteristics of each tribe.

Part One: Basic Components

A. Communication

General: It is important that tribal leaders have information about the USAO's efforts to combat crime in Indian Country. To the extent that it can ethically and legally do so, the USAO will provide matter-specific information to the tribal leadership, law enforcement and prosecutor as the matter is both charged and resolved.¹ The USAO will provide press releases about dispositions and sentences to each of the tribes in the District and to the Department of Justice. The USAO will continue, through email and liaison visits, to provide District-specific and national information to tribal leaders about relevant Indian Country issues and matters.

Investigations and Prosecutions: This Operational Plan is designed to promote a careful review of every matter referred to the USAO for prosecution consideration. Such review will include discussions at the investigatory level; thoughtful, careful and timely review upon referral to the USAO; and a complete discussion of any reasons for declination, should there be one.

The USAO will inform tribal law enforcement about charging decisions for those matters referred for prosecution consideration, including matters not filed or resolved in federal court. Matters that are staffed by either the tribe or the USAO will be discussed, whenever possible, on a regular basis so that the most appropriate charging decision, both as to crime charged and charging jurisdiction, can be made as quickly as possible.

USA Communication and Interaction With Tribal Leaders: The USA will visit each tribal reservation in the District at least once each year to meet with the Tribal Chair and Business Council for a government-to-government consultation. In addition, the USA will contact the Tribal Chair and/or other tribal officials about other news of significant interest to the tribes.

¹ The USAO is limited on certain information that can be shared (i.e. Grand Jury evidence and testimony, Title III material, and other confidential witness information as an example) and the USAO would expect to follow the victim witness protocol with victims and witnesses involved in the matter.

The USAO's Tribal Liaison, or a representative of the USAO, will endeavor to confer regularly with members of tribal law enforcement and the tribal prosecutor's office. On a regular basis, The USAO's Tribal Liaison, or a representative of the USAO, will visit each tribal reservation to meet with the Police Chief, Prosecutor, Tribal Judge(s) and other personnel associated with the enforcement of criminal justice on each respective reservation. There may be times when more frequent visits are necessary or requested and the USA will make every effort to comply.

In addition, the various AUSAs assigned to matters on the reservations are expected to be in regular contact with tribal law enforcement and the prosecutor, particularly on the matters to which they are assigned. It should be understood that there may be certain information that the USAO may not be able to legally or ethically share with others, the disclosure of which may jeopardize someone's health or safety or compromise law enforcement efforts.

Finally, the USAO's LEC will share grant opportunities with each of the four Tribes by way of timely e-mail notifications.

USAO/Tribal Prosecution Conference: On a bi-monthly basis (or more frequently if necessary), the tribal prosecutor(s) and representatives from federal and tribal law enforcement who staff matters that have arisen on the reservation will confer to discuss the status of investigations and ongoing matters. Such discussions will include, for example, the viability of prosecution in tribal or federal court.

Communications Regarding Declinations: Whenever possible, the resolution of matters that are referred for consideration of federal prosecution, and later resolved by referral to the tribal court or declined because of an inability to prosecute, should be made by way of a written declination letter, and plainly before the referring Tribe's statute of limitations period expires. A written declination letter will be provided by the Tribal Liaison, or another representative from the USAO, to the referring Tribal law enforcement entity. A declination letter will identify the reason for the declination, where possible, in general terms. The USAO's Tribal Liaison will be available to answer questions and provide legal analysis relating to any such declination.

Sharing Information With Tribal Prosecutor: If a matter is not accepted for federal prosecution and is referred to tribal court, the lead investigative agency will, as soon as possible, provide the tribal prosecutor with all appropriate reports, evidence, and information available to assist in the prosecution, if the matter moves forward. The USAO will, within legal and ethical limitations, provide the Tribal prosecutor all pertinent discovery information it may have.

Sharing Information Among Investigative Agencies: Investigators rely on databases to conduct investigations and agencies should endeavor to share information by computer through databases and other on-line services. It is important that all investigative agencies working in Indian Country have access to software and computers that allow them to share information with each other.

B. Investigation and Prosecution

A primary goal of the District Operational Plan is to enhance law enforcement coordination in Indian Country investigations. The following guidelines are applicable to all of the Tribes in the District.

Law Enforcement: The investigating agency (or “lead” agency), will be primarily responsible for conducting and coordinating the investigation, presenting matters to the USAO, and assisting the USAO at all stages of prosecution. It is expected that if the lead agency is somehow unable to conduct or complete an investigation or provide such assistance, other law enforcement agencies may undertake the investigation / assistance.

Generally, the first law enforcement officer at a crime scene will be responsible to secure the scene, preserve evidence, identify witnesses and participants, and take such other steps as may be required to insure an effective investigation. Preservation of the crime scene is of utmost primary concern.

Violent crime, including those that involve serious domestic violence, will be given priority. These matters will be discussed on a regular basis by tribal law enforcement officers and FBI, as well as the Tribal Prosecutor and Tribal Liaison to insure that such crimes are timely investigated and resolved in the appropriate judicial forum. For violent crime, particular attention will be focused on establishing an effective communication process between tribal law enforcement,

the Tribal Prosecutor and the USAO Criminal Chief (or Tribal Liaison) for review of matters referred for federal prosecution.

Joint investigations involving the FBI are mandated in matters involving all major crimes, including death, sexual abuse, rape, kidnapping, arson, assault, and crimes involving weapons. Each agency should work within legal, ethical and regulatory boundaries to share information, provide timely copies of reports, and fully communicate with the other agency concerning all matters relevant to an investigation. To the extent possible, resources of one agency will be made available to the other to assist in matter investigation.

Prosecution: It is the role of the USAO's Criminal Chief, together with the Tribal Liaison, and tribal prosecutor to make timely determinations concerning whether matters will be prosecuted in federal or tribal court, or unable to be prosecuted. Such determinations serve to maximize resources and provide victims with justice and closure as soon as possible. In this vein, it is the goal of the USAO to resolve matters in a timely fashion. Meeting this goal is dependent upon the timely receipt of the investigation reports and any forensic testing results.

The USAO will work with Tribal Police and the Tribal prosecutors on specific training and materials that will assist the "first responder" patrol officers to either contact a tribal detective or the FBI investigative officer assigned to the tribe.

Guidelines and Threshold Requirements for Indian Country Matters: The USAO will, in accordance with the long-standing principles of Federal prosecution, endeavor to prosecute every viable federal crimes occurring in Indian Country based upon the application of the law and facts of that matter and the available resources that can be applied to the prosecution.

Task forces operating in Indian Country: Currently the FBI operates a Safe Trails Task Force that focuses primarily on three of the four tribes in the District. The FBI also operates two Safe Streets Task Forces that, as the circumstances arise, deploy investigative resources within each of the four Reservations within the District.

Child Protection or Multi-Disciplinary Teams (18 U.S.C. § 3509(g)) convened to investigate or provide case management for child abuse and/or child sexual abuse

matters. There are currently a Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) operating on two of the reservations in the District. The USA will consult with the other tribes on the appropriateness of MDTs on their respective reservations and work with the interested tribe on setting up the appropriate team.

There is significant spill-over crime among the Tribal communities and neighboring counties, especially crimes involving children. To that end, if set up successfully, MDTs may include members that are employed by neighboring jurisdictions.

Cross-Deputization Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Tribal, State, and local cross-deputization Agreements/ Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are actively pursued and utilized by all Tribes in the District. Specifically, the Yakama tribe has recently entered MOUs with the Yakima County Sheriff's Office, the City of Wapato, the City of Union Gap, and the City of Toppenish. The USAO continues to work the Washington State Patrol and the City of Yakima to construct similar MOUs. The USAO promotes the benefits of such MOUs for the Tribes and local governments adjacent to the Reservations and will assist in structuring MOUs in a way that recognizes the concerns of both the local governments and the Tribes.

C. Victim Advocacy

Statutory Responsibility: The Crime Victims Rights Act (18 U.S.C. § 3771) establishes the rights of crime victims in federal criminal proceedings and provides mechanisms to enforce those rights.

Section 3771(a) provides crimes victims with the following rights:

- (1) The right to be reasonably protected from the accused;
- (2) The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused;
- (3) The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing

evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding;

(4) The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding;

(5) The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case;

(6) The right to full and timely restitution as provided by law;

(7) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and

(8) The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

In addition, Section 3771(c)(1) requires that officers and employees of the Department of Justice make their best efforts to ensure that victims know their rights and are accorded those rights.

Victim Witness Personnel: It is the role of victim witness coordinators to keep victims and witnesses informed of relevant information as provided by law. To that end, the USAO presently employs victim/witness coordinators who regularly consult with tribal victim/witness coordinators. The coordinators deliver victim services and are responsible for working with victims and witnesses during the prosecution of the case. Additionally, the coordinators ensure victims are aware of their rights, are aware of upcoming court hearings, and are aware of the opportunity to seek restitution.

D. Training

The USAO will continue to work with the FBI and Tribal / local law enforcement agencies to provide trainings courses that are specific to the needs of each community. For example, the USAO conducts training courses focused on report writing, case law update, and domestic violence.

The USAO encourages Tribal law enforcement agencies of training opportunities under the Special Law Enforcement Commission. The USAO participates in these training programs, as appropriate, having provides several such trainings annually for the past several years.

E. Outreach

The USAO recognizes that prevention, training, and other grassroots intervention efforts are essential to improving public safety in Indian Country. To that end, the USAO will, to the extent possible:

- Designate the United States Attorney and First Assistant United States Attorney to act as a bridge between the USAO and the Tribes in the District for government-to-government consultations. Such consultations provide an opportunity to exchange information about the USAO's efforts in Indian Country and to address issues of mutual concern.
- The USAO Tribal Liaison, or a USAO representative, will meet with Tribal law enforcement on a regular basis to listen to operational concerns, to answer questions, and to provide information about the USAO's efforts in Indian Country.
- The USAO continues to support existing Safe Trails Task Forces and any other task forces and work with the FBI to form Safe Trails Task Forces, or their equivalent, on all reservations in the District.
- The USAO continues to utilize the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service.
- The USAO continues to assist the Tribes within the District by providing information about all grants provided by the Department of Justice.
- The USAO continues to support a gang assessment on every reservation and liaison in schools and with community forums.

F. Violence Against Women

The Tribes generally have jurisdiction over domestic violence matters where the

perpetrator is an Indian, regardless of the race of the victim. If both the perpetrator and victim are non-Indian, exclusive jurisdiction falls on the State.

When domestic violence matters are referred to the FBI or the USAO, those matters will be evaluated and decisions on prosecution or referral for prosecution will be made as discussed in this Operational Plan. Prosecutorial decision will be made in accordance with the Principles of Federal. When requested and appropriate, the USAO will also provide ongoing, periodic training for tribal and state law enforcement, tribal prosecutors, tribal victim/witness coordinators, and tribal judges.

Prosecution of non-Indian domestic violence offenders upon Indian victims may require additional resources and efforts. The USAO proposes to increase prosecution of such matters by:

- Providing ongoing training to first responders including tribal, state, and local law enforcement, tribal prosecutors, and tribal victim/witness coordinators to increase the effectiveness of evidence gathering and thus, prosecution efforts.
- Encouraging cross-deputization agreements between tribal law enforcement and state and local law enforcement to increase available law enforcement presence and reduce response time.
- Conducting post-prosecution reviews to identify barriers to effective prosecution of domestic violence matters in order to improve future prosecution.
- Considering enhancement of domestic violence charges based on use of firearms or other weapons or status as an habitual offender (18 U.S.C. § 117) when factually supported.
- Providing guidance, support, and additional prosecution as needed of federal firearms statute violations following a qualifying conviction for a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

G. Violent or Sexual Crime Generally

Personnel: The FBI and tribal police investigate adult sexual assault in Indian

Country in the District. The responsibilities of each law enforcement entity are as follows:

- Tribal police officers: provide dispatch services, respond to the scene, conduct minimal facts of interview of adults as necessary, determine the need for any emergency medical response, and relay pertinent information to tribal detectives and FBI agents.
- Tribal detectives and FBI agents: identify and interview witnesses, identify subjects, read subjects federal Miranda warnings, conduct taped interviews of subjects, identify and interview victims, make sure victims are apprised of their rights and have been given a point of contact for additional information as to those rights, collect evidence, forward evidence to the lab for forensic analysis, and coordinate for any non-emergency medical exams.

Reporting Structure:

1. Call made to dispatch (either via 911 or non-emergency line – IHS personnel who receive a patient wishing to report a sexual assault to law enforcement will also contact dispatch).
2. Tribal patrol officers respond.
3. Tribal patrol officers confirm call pertains to a sexual assault and provide urgent emergency assistance.
4. Tribal patrol officers contact tribal detectives and provide a summary of the facts.
5. Tribal detectives determine if the case likely involves a sexual assault felony. If so, tribal detectives contact the FBI.

Medical Options

- Indian Health Service: A person who is enrolled in a federally recognized tribe and eligible for health services from Indian Health Service (IHS) will pay no cost out of pocket for medical services. IHS will bill insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid, if the individual is enrolled in those programs, but any uncovered portion will not be billed to the patient. Local locations include:
 - Nespelem Clinic, 19 Lakes Street, Nespelem, WA 99155
 - Omak Clinic, 617 Benton Street, Omak, WA 98841
 - Wellpinit Service Unit, 6228 Old School Rd., Wellpinit, WA 99040
 - Yakama Service Unit, 401 Buster Road, Toppenish, WA 98948

Victim Services: Access to victim assistance/advocacy personnel is a critical need for victims of violent crime. Victim assistance/advocacy personnel may be community-based, tribally-based, or systems-based. Every tribe in the District has victim advocates available to their members. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has a victim specialist available, as does the USAO (both in the Spokane office and the in the Yakima office). Additional victim assistance can be found at the following locations:

- Lower Valley Crisis Center, Sunnyside, WA (Yakama Tribe)
- Aspen Victim Advocacy Services, Yakima, WA (Yakama Tribe)
- Spokane Crime Victim Service Center, Spokane, WA (Colville and Spokane Tribes)
- Rural Resources Victim Services, Colville, WA (Colville and Spokane Tribes)
- Spokane Tribe Family Violence Program, Wellpinit, WA (Spokane Tribe)
- Family Resource Center Of Lincoln County, Davenport, WA (Spokane Tribe)
- Support Center, Okanogan, WA (Colville Tribe)

G. Special Procedures for Violent or Sexual Crime Against Children

Personnel: The FBI and tribal police investigate child sexual abuse in Indian Country in the District. The responsibilities of each law enforcement entity are as follows:

- Tribal police officers: provide dispatch services, respond to the scene, conduct minimal facts of interview of adults, not in the presence of any child victim, as necessary, determine the need for any emergency medical response, and relay pertinent information to tribal detectives and FBI agents.
- Tribal detectives and FBI agents: identify and interview witnesses, identify subjects, read subjects federal *Miranda* warnings, conduct taped interviews of subjects, collect evidence, forward evidence to the FBI lab for forensic analysis, and coordinate for a forensic interviews of children as well as any non-emergency medical exams. FBI Agent will contact FBI victim specialist who will coordinate medical exams, if necessary, and other resources as needed. Detectives and agents also make sure the guardian/parent of the victim is apprised of the victim's rights and has been given a point of contact for additional information as to those rights.

Reporting Structure:

1. Call made to dispatch (either via 911 or non-emergency line).
2. Tribal patrol officers respond.
3. Tribal patrol officers confirm call pertains to a sexual assault and provide urgent emergency assistance.
4. Tribal patrol officers contact tribal detectives and provide a summary of the facts.
5. Tribal detectives determine if the case likely involves a sexual assault felony. If so, tribal detectives contact the FBI.

Interviews of Children: Every forensic interview should be conducted in a culturally appropriate manner by qualified, trained interviewers. Child/adolescent forensic interviews will be conducted every time the putative victim is under the age of fifteen and the offense described could potentially be a felony. If the minor is between the ages of fifteen and eighteen, the decision as to whether or not a forensic interview is appropriate will be in the discretion of the responding detective/agent.

The FBI is responsible for setting up forensic interviews for potential felony cases, and FBI or the tribal police will transport the victim to the forensic interview, if necessary. All forensic interviews will be audio and video recorded. The tribal police, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the tribal prosecutor, and the FBI will have access to the forensic interview recordings.

H. Human Trafficking

Personnel: The FBI and tribal police investigate human trafficking in Indian Country in the District. The tribal liaison will be trained on how to identify, refer, and/or prosecute human trafficking crimes. The FBI will make an agent available to respond to human trafficking complaints with extensive experience both in Indian Country matters and in human trafficking.

Reporting Structure:

1. Tribal officers or FBI agents gain actionable information about human trafficking on in Indian Country.
2. FBI agent informs USAO Human Trafficking Coordinator.

3. Human Trafficking Coordinator will staff the case through the human trafficking task force in coordination with the tribal police.

Victim Services: In addition to the services available to all victims detailed herein, Lutheran Family Services, a community organization and service provider, is also available to provide housing, counseling, and other services to trafficking victims.

I. Consultation with Tribes on Marijuana and Hemp Production

By way of Initiative 502, Washington State legalized the regulated production, distribution, and use of marijuana. The national and state-based landscape associated with the commercialization of marijuana is evolving. The USAO will continue to monitor closely any Tribal interest in implementing some form of involvement in this area and consult as necessary.

Part Two: Specific Components for Each Tribe

A. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Location: Located in the northeastern part of the District, the Colville Indian Reservation covers approximately 1.4 million acres; an area roughly twice the size of the State of Rhode Island. Trust property on the Colville Indian Reservation is located within portions of three Washington counties. The Tribal Government Headquarters is located in Nespelem.

As of January 2018, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation had approximately 9,527 enrolled members with approximately 6,000 members residing within the boundaries of the Colville Indian Reservation. In addition to the year-round population, The Colville Indian Reservation is visited by over two million recreational tourists each year. The Reservation is comprised of both fee land and trust land within the exterior boundary of the Reservation.

Law Enforcement Resources: The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation has their own police department, with approximately thirty sworn members, including four Command Staff, two Detectives and four officers who are dedicated full time to the Grand Coulee Dam and are under the control of the US Bureau of Reclamation. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have informal

agreements with Ferry and Okanogan Counties to assist each other with law enforcement activities. The Tribe also has a cross-deputation agreement with Okanogan County. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation participates in a Safe Trails Task Force in conjunction with the FBI. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation operates a correctional facility with the capacity of 60 under a Section 638 contract with the BIA. The jail is relatively new and is typically operated at approximately twenty to thirty percent (20% to 30%) of its full capacity.

Crime: The Colville Indian Tribal Court handles approximately 3,500 criminal matters per year.

B. Spokane Tribe of Indians

Location: Located in the northeastern part of the District, the Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation covers approximately 159,000 acres. Trust property on the Spokane Indian Reservation is located in Stevens County and Spokane County, Washington. The center of government is located in Wellpinit. There are approximately 2,850 enrolled members with about 2,004 people residing on the Spokane Indian Reservation. There is a mixture of private ownership of property scattered throughout the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Law Enforcement Resources: The Spokane Tribe has their own police department consisting of fourteen total officers. The Spokane Tribe does not have any law enforcement agreements with other law enforcement agencies, except the Safe Trails Task Force with the FBI. The Spokane Tribe does have a relatively new detention facility, which is owned and operated by the BIA. The capacity of the detention facility is ten inmates, with an average of seven individuals incarcerated at any one time. The detention facility also has a temporary holding cell which can hold an additional two individuals temporarily. The Spokane Tribe has MOUs with the City of Airway Heights and with Stevens County. The Spokane Tribe has formed a Safe Trails Task Force with the FBI

Crime: The Spokane Tribal Court handles approximately 1,000 criminal matters per year. These matters include a large number of alcohol-related offenses and misdemeanor assaults and thefts falling outside the jurisdiction of federal court.

C. Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Location: Located in the northeastern part of the District, the Kalispel Indian Reservation covers approximately 4,700 acres. The headquarters is located approximately two miles from Usk, Washington. The Kalispel Tribe has approximately 9,229 acres of land in both trust and fee status in both Pend Oreille and Spokane counties. The main reservation and the Tribe's economic development area in Airway Heights are approximately 60 miles apart. There are 475 enrolled members with about 265 people residing on the Kalispel Indian Reservation.

Law Enforcement Resources: The Kalispel Tribe of Indians has their own police department divided into two divisions. The north division is currently comprised of one (1) captain, four (4) patrol officers and one (1) community resource officer. The south division is currently comprised of one (1) captain, one (1) sergeant, one (1) detective, five (5) full time patrol officers, two (2) part time patrol officers, and one (1) drug detection K9. The Kalispel Tribe has an interlocal law enforcement agreements with Pend Oreille and Spokane County Sheriff's Offices and the Airway Heights Police Department. The Kalispel Tribe is a part of a Safe Trails Task Force formed with the FBI.

Crime: In 2017, Kalispel Tribal Police Officers responded to a total of 4,427 calls for service. The Kalispel Tribal Court handles more than 100 criminal matters per year. These matters include a large number of trespass cases, as well as alcohol-related offenses and other misdemeanors falling outside the jurisdiction of federal court.

D. Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Location: Located in the southwestern part of the District, the Yakama Reservation covers approximately 1.5 million acres. Trust property on the Yakama Reservation is located in Yakima and Klickitat counties. The headquarters is located near Toppenish. There are approximately 10,100 enrolled members with approximately 7,000 members residing on the Yakama Reservation. There is a mixture of private ownership of property scattered throughout the Yakama Reservation.

Law Enforcement Resources: The Yakama Nation has their own police department, with approximately 30 officers and detectives. The BIA currently contracts with the Yakama Nation through a Section 638 Contract to operate the jail facility, which has the capacity to house 35 juveniles and 35 adults. The adult section is typically maintained at full capacity.

Crime: The Yakama Nation Tribal Court handles approximately 2,000 criminal matters per year.

Tribal Law and Order Act: The Yakama Nation retrocession petition was granted by the State in which specified aspects of civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation were retroceded. Thereafter, on October 16, 2015, then-Assistant Secretary of Interior Kevin Washburn issued a letter granting retrocession to the Yakama Nation. Following a transition period, retrocession became effective on April 19, 2016.

Anticipating a need for cross-deputation of local and state law enforcement officers operating on or near the Reservation to address effectively the local/state/Tribal/federal jurisdictional interplay post-retrocession, MOUs have been entered between the Nation and the Yakima County Sheriff's Department, along with at least three city municipalities. Similar MOUs continue to be negotiated with the Washington State Patrol and the City of Yakima. The USAO has provided BIA-sponsored SLEC training to approximately 100 law enforcement officers since retrocession was granted by the Department of the Interior.

The Yakama Nation and the USAO continue to develop and maintain a strong and positive relationship with Tribal law enforcement and judicial officials.