



United States Department of Defense 2007 Desk Guide

06-315

To Military Installations and Federally Recognized Tribes Located in the South and Eastern United States

Background:

In the South and Eastern regions of the United States, there are approximately 32 Army facilities/installations, over 20 Air Force bases and at least 30 naval facilities. The military presence in the south and east region combined with the vast tribal history in the same area requires an informational resource, i.e., the Desk Guide, which will outline the history, territorial boundaries, areas of special concern, governmental structure, and key personnel for the military installations and the tribes. This resource will assist the military installations with the daunting task of conducting legally required consultations with numerous American Indian tribes, many of whom are no longer physically present.

Objective:

The Department of Defense is required to consult with Federally-recognized tribes when military activities, archaeological excavations or other activities have the potential to impact tribal resources or cultural items of interest to tribes. Military installations are required to initiate contact and conduct consultation with the potentially impacted federally recognized tribes under the auspices of three major laws- the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. In addition, several Presidential Executive Orders require consultation and coordination with tribal governments (EO 13175; EO 13007). Finally, the Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy itself stresses the importance of early and frequent consultation with tribes. The objective is to publish a guide that makes contact between military installations and Tribes a one stop shop where both military installations and Tribes are able to get contact information, brief histories, and organizational structure information to begin consultation.

Summary of Approach:

1. Identification of Military Installations

The initial approach to this project is to identify the military installations which will be included in the Desk Guide. This process is initially completed and there already exists a basic list from which to operate. From research already initiated for the project, major military installations listed under Installations Management

Agency (Army) and Navy and Air Force resources indicate that the following number of military installations (by Service) should be initially included in the Desk Guide-

Army- 32 Installations
Navy- 34 Installations
Air Force- 20 Installations

This was based on a preliminary review of the following states in the South and East region of the United States- Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia.

*Other military installations may be identified during the initial project research and included in the Desk Guide.

2. Identification of Tribes

The second initial approach to this project is to identify the tribes which will be included in the Desk Guide. This process is initially completed and there already exists a basic list from which to operate. This list includes approximately 30 tribes located either currently or previously in the South and East United States. This list is partially based upon the current membership of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) organization.

3. Communication, Information Gathering

All military installations identified as potential project participants and all tribes identified as potential project participants will be contacted by the Project Director and/or Administrative Assistant. Once the appropriate Point of Contact for this project is ascertained, they will be briefed on the Desk Guide Legacy Project and asked to gather and provide contact information for their respective installations/Tribe.

Additional extraneous research (mainly through data searches and online resources) may be conducted to supplement information provided by contacts. This proposal's budget includes compensation for the time/labor incurred by tribal representatives as they gather, develop and provide information to be potentially included in the Desk Guide.

4. Development of Desk Guide

All information gathered from the initial research stage will be incorporated into the Desk Guide Template. The information will be laid out in a comprehensive format; with Installations and Tribe being listed possibly by State or Alphabetical Order with copies of military and tribal boundaries/territories incorporated, as well. The Desk Guide format will be developed by professional publishers. The goal is to have the Guide be comprehensive, informational and user-friendly.

Continued communication with some military installations and/or tribal representatives will more than likely continue during this phase as final information is gathered and clarified. On-going, open communication will be a key factor for a successful project.

In addition, the foundation for the next step in the overall approach (Meeting with Tribal and Military Representatives) will be laid during this phase and will involve many telephone calls and emails regarding the in-person meeting.

5. Finalize Desk Guide

This period will be used to incorporate all comments, suggestions from the in-person meeting. Final production lay-outs, final reviews and edits will all be conducted by the publisher during this time. In conjunction with the final production of the hard copy Desk Guide, an electronic version will also be made available.

6. Produce and Send Final Desk Guide Out to Military Installations (as identified during project) and Tribal Governments (as identified during project); Desk Guide will also be made available on DENIX.

7. Update POC or other key information every other year as funding is available

Benefit:

There are approximately 32 Army facilities/installations, over 20 Air Force bases and at least 34 naval facilities located in the South and East United States. There are approximately 30 federally recognized tribes currently in existence who were originally located in the same region of the United States. These military facilities lie on land that was formerly occupied by these tribes. The rich cultural history of the South and East region naturally leads to the land containing cultural and natural resources affiliated with the removed tribes, as well as those still in the area. Because of potential impacts to these resources due to military activity, and as per Federal legislation, consultation with tribes is and will remain a significant legal and financial requirement.

The development of the “Desk Guide” will assist with this financial burden by facilitating more effective and time-efficient consultation by providing valuable at-your-fingertip information for the military and tribes. This information will include- the installation/tribal authorizing official name, land boundaries, internal structure and term limits, maps, points of contact, military/tribal departmental information and existing, project-related agreements such as Memorandum of Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.

With this information readily available to the military, substantial amounts of time spent researching and gathering information is reduced significantly. Each Federal law requiring consultation involves gathering tribal information at the initiation of each consultation. Information gathering for south and eastern United States is particularly difficult for those tribes that have been removed great distances from their homeland. With the development of the Desk Guide for the south and eastern regions, this information will already be gathered and available. The requirement to initiate consultation will not only be more readily met, but will also be more efficient.

In addition to the financial and legal benefits for the Military, there are also significant benefits for the Federally-recognized tribes. All of the same benefits that will be awarded to the military will be awarded to tribes- an accurate source of information about the military installations in the region, their locations and boundaries and their point of contacts. This will prove beneficial when a tribe is initiating consultation or seeking to contact a military installation(s) in the region.

All of these benefits to the military (and tribes) serve to enhance military readiness and a positive working relationship between the Department of Defense and American Indian Tribes as per Federal mandates and the DoD American Indian Policy.

Accomplishments:

The Desk Guide has been completed, edited, and mailed to Military Installations and Tribes covered in the Guide. The Desk Guide will be available online once DENIX has finished the redesign of the website.

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