



OPERATION DAKOTA PEACEKEEPER

May 14, 2008



INTRODUCTION

Dirk Kempthorne, the Secretary of the Interior, introduced the "Safe Indian Communities initiative" to combat crime within Indian country. This operation is in keeping with this initiative and is intended to strengthen the law enforcement and detention presence in the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation communities. The key objectives are to reduce crime, target illegal drug activities, provide investigations to prosecute domestic violence and crimes against children and overall, develop strategies to promote safer communities. Accordingly, a mobilization of police and corrections officers is being ordered to work with federal, state and tribal government partners to respond to the situation described below.

- 1. SITUATION: An environment highly conducive to lawlessness exists on the Standing Rock Reservation located within the States of North and South Dakota.**

Violent crime reports reflect the rate of violent crime is approximately six times the national average. The tribal leadership of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has requested additional police presence to reduce acts of violence and ensure peace and order in the communities of the reservation. The Standing Rock Indian reservation consists of 2.3 Million acres and spans portions of North and South Dakota. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provides primary law enforcement services and the Standing Rock Reservation covers a total of eight communities. Current police staffing levels provide for minimal police coverage, which results in delayed response times within the communities. Illegal drug trafficking exasperates the overall public safety of residents and a report by Amnesty International released in April of 2007, has drawn additional attention to public safety concerns.

- 2. MISSION: Ensure the Indian communities and people are safe.**

The BIA will deploy additional personnel to the Standing Rock reservation and utilize community-policing tactics to carry out the mission of the deployment and objectives of the operation. Team members of the deployment will supplement the existing police and correctional service officers on the reservation. Initially, the supplemental force will be comprised of BIA police officers and BIA special federal agents who will provide patrol and investigative services as needed.

Crime Trends And Statistics

May 2007 Through May 2008

Calls for Service	Average per Day	Average # of Arrests per Month	Alcohol Related Arrests	Violent Crime Arrests	Sexual Offenses	Drug Arrests
22,056	57	109	1,740	372	37	31

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING STANDING ROCK AGENCY AND THE STANDING ROCK RESERVATION						
TOPIC				RESPONSE		
Indian Tribe or bands located on the Standing Rock reservation				Lakota/Dakota Bands: Hunkpapa, Blackfeet, Yanktonia, Cuthead		
Counties within the Standing Rock reservation				Sioux County, ND; Corson, Dewey and Ziebach Counties, SD		
Population of enrolled members:				10,859		
Reservation Population:				6,171		
Total land area				2,300,000 acres		
Tribally owned land				866,072 acres		
Tribal owned allotted land				542,543 acres		
Non – Indian owned land				891,385 acres (Approx.)		

3. EXECUTION: Operation Dakota Peacekeeper will commence on or about June 2, 2008 with the deployment of officers to the reservation. It will continue until the mission is achieved.

The District I Special Agent in Charge (SAC) will command the Bureau of Indian Affairs operation with the assistance of Supervisory Correctional Officers. Operation Dakota Peacekeeper will be coordinated with the Tribal Court, US Attorneys, the FBI and North and South Dakota agencies as applicable to the jurisdictional situation.

The first phase of the operation will be coordinated with local police and corrections officers. The additional officers will be integrated as part of the local force after initial deployment. Community policing initiatives will be upgraded to work with community and tribal leaders to sponsor community events, develop crime fighting strategies, community watch practices, out reach on drug education and prevention, increase patrol in high crime areas and foster safe community practices. The final phase of the Dakota Peace Keeper operation will be to sustain the initiative and the public safety mission.

Law enforcement personnel will be prepared to (1) provide proactive law enforcement presence, (2) implement contingency plans to provide continuing law enforcement, (3) assist local government(s) and law enforcement agencies and (4) provide additional support to criminal investigations by utilizing special agents assigned to the deployment team.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT & VICTIM ASSISTANCE: Oversight, coordination and supporting elements are as follows:

Administrative Support: Oversight for the Dakota Peace Keeper Operation will be provided nationally by the BIA Office of Justice Services, which will support law enforcement, corrections and justice support for the tribal court. The District I Office located in Aberdeen, SD and the Standing Rock Reservation Offices located in Fort Yates, ND are responsible for the direct operations in the field and the reservation area.

Victim Assistance: Working with the US Indian Health Service, the Standing Rock Tribal service providers including child and elderly protection teams and other related agencies such as dealing with domestic violence issues will facilitate the successful implementation of this operation. Medical and mental health facilities and victim assistance providers will be enlisted to support this operation and its mission.

Uniforms and Equipment: Special deployment equipment will not be utilized for this deployment. Police personnel will deploy with issued basic equipment and weapons. Marked vehicles will be utilized for patrol officers. Unmarked vehicles utilized by special agents may be used for routine patrol. Unmarked vehicles will not be used for routine traffic patrol; however, agents may use their discretion in stopping vehicles they deem a hazard to the public. The BIA-OJS pursuit policy will be adhered to in any vehicle pursuit. Uniformed personnel will wear issued Class A uniform. Special agents will wear appropriate attire for this operation.

5. COMMAND, COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATIONS: The District 1 Special Agent in Charge will be overall in charge of leadership and will coordinate the day to day operation assuring that 24 / 7 succession of command and communications are in place and secure.

Land Mobile Radio Communications will be coordinated with all law enforcement and corrections personnel.

Federal law enforcement contacts and appropriate liaisons will be maintained and continuous with the FBI's offices in Pierre, SD and in Bismarck, ND. Referrals of federal criminal violations and investigative reports will be made to the United States Attorney's Offices located in Bismarck, ND and Pierre, SD respectively.

Cooperative law enforcement relationships will be maintained and established with other law enforcement agencies including Sheriff Frank Landeis, (North Dakota) Sioux County Sheriff's Office, North Dakota Highway Patrol, Sheriff Keith Gall, Corson County Sheriff's Office (South Dakota) and the South Dakota Highway Patrol.