



DOI Priority Goal Action Plan

Fulfill Indian Affairs Executive Order 13898

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Overview

Goal Statement

- By September 30, 2021, Indian Affairs, through the BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS), will meet and exceed the goals established by Executive Order 13898, emphasizing the coordination of data sharing with federal partners and ensure that 100 percent of BIA active missing and murdered cases are entered into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

Challenge

- Historically, Indian Country lacked a Missing and Murdered Native American (MMNA) data base capable of housing the specific data of cases for law enforcement. The challenge will be getting all tribes to report their statistics into the new NamUs data base.
- Indian Country lacked the resources to deploy cold case teams to work specifically on active missing and murdered Indian Country cases. With new resources received, Indian Affairs will develop and deploy these cold case teams. The challenge will be gathering all historical case information from tribes, BIA, and FBI so these teams can review and prioritize follow up actions.

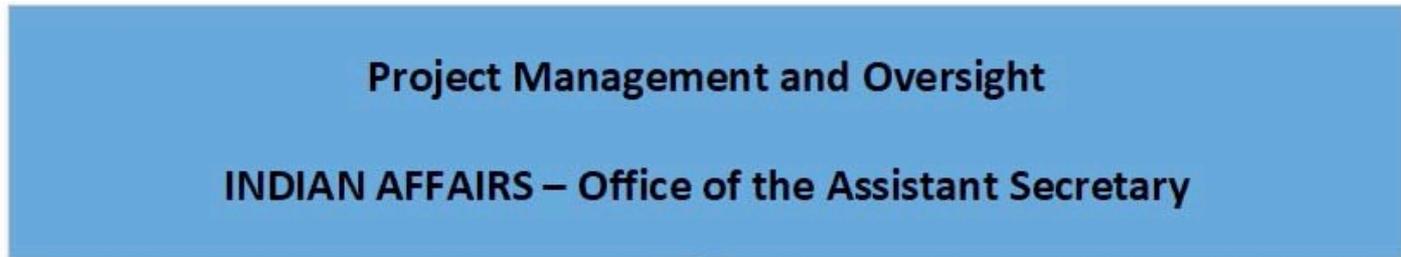
Overview

Opportunity

- An increased focus on missing and murdered cases, presents Indian Affairs with an opportunity to develop and implement ground breaking solutions that can serve as a solid foundation for future efforts in addressing the missing and murdered problem.
- For the first time, Indian Affairs can develop and implement regional cold case task forces to focus specifically on active missing and murdered cases throughout Indian Country and the Alaska Native community.
- Working and collaborating with BIA and Tribal public safety programs, Indian Affairs now has the ability to collect historical and present active missing and murdered case information, and have it added to the NamUs national data base. Collecting and entering this data will assist Indian Affairs with presenting actual numbers reflecting current missing and murdered statistics, which can be used to apply resources strategically to address this problem.

Leadership & Implementation Team

To effectively meet the established goals of this APG, Indian Affairs must assemble a team of professionals from the BIA, Tribes, Department of Justice, Health and Human Services, and external stakeholders.



Goal Structure & Strategies

- Indian Affairs analysts will improve the accuracy of missing and murdered data from BIA and Tribal law enforcement programs through outreach and assistance to program staff with the proper collection of these statistics.
- Indian Affairs analysts will assist BIA and Tribal program staff with entering the data into the NamUs database, utilizing the new tribal affiliation data fields.
- Indian Affairs will establish a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional team including representatives from tribal law enforcement and the Departments of Justice and the Interior to review cold cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. These task force teams will operate using a grassroots philosophy that will look at the cause of the problem in Indian Country and the Alaska Native community, work to solve active cold cases, and develop sound protocols for improving future responses to missing and murdered calls for service.
- The Indian Affairs task force will gather intelligence on active missing and murdered cases, review the cases, prioritize cases for assignment to investigative teams, and develop investigative plans to guide investigators.

Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q3

Indian Affairs has identified all active BIA missing and murdered cases that are in the Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS) utilized by the BIA OJS. A BIA Program Analyst researched the data to ensure the cases were still “active” or “unsolved”. In Q3, BIA OJS entered 100% of the active missing and murdered cases from IMARS into the NamUs database.

Indian Affairs has studied the missing and murdered statistics and has identified the locations where regional cold case task forces could be strategically located to investigate cold cases in the most effective manner throughout Indian Country.

Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q3

Indian Affairs began collecting missing and murdered information from BIA, FBI and Tribal law enforcement programs. BIA OJS has collaborated with the FBI Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC) to collect a list of all missing persons that have been entered into the National Criminal Intelligence Center (NCIC) system. This data will allow Indian Affairs to review and cross reference the most up to date official missing person data throughout the nation. The Cold Case management group is currently reviewing and analyzing the data to determine which cases will be sent to the Cold Case team for further analysis.

BIA OJS worked with tribal law enforcement programs to identify and enter active tribal missing and murdered cases into the NamUs database. BIA OJS Program Analyst provided technical assistance to these programs in an effort to get all active cases entered into the national database.

BIA OJS also collaborated with DOJ on establishing a work group to develop cold case protocols. BIA OJS and their counterparts at DOJ convened the work group and began identifying best practices and developing protocols for cold case task force investigations.

Indian Affairs advertised Special Agent positions that will be assigned specifically to the Regional Cold Case Task Forces. On August 25th 2020, BIA OJS reported all 10 Special Agent positions for the Cold Case teams have been filled.

Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q3

Indian Affairs successfully collected all active missing and murdered cases from the BIA OJS records management system (IMARS) and entered these cases in the NamUs system. BIA OJS continues to coordinate with Tribal programs and encourage all missing native person cases be entered into the NamUs database. The number of native missing persons entered into the NamUs database have increased from 402 in September 2019 to 600 in July 2020, a 49% increase over the past 10 months.

BIA OJS continues to review the data from the National Criminal Intelligence Center (NCIC) system to cross reference the most up to date official missing person data throughout the nation and identify any older active cases that should be entered into NamUs.

BIA OJS advertised Special Agent positions that will be assigned specifically to the Regional Cold Case Task Forces and new Special Agents are entering on duty to begin opening and operating the new Cold Case Task Force offices. The official announcements for opening each Task Force office will begin near the end of July and continue through the end of September.

BIA OJS has identified initial task force members that will consist of staff from other federal and tribal law enforcement agencies. The teams will utilize a multi-disciplinary approach and will include individual team members from agencies located within each of the regional areas. As the task force office progress, additional task force members may be identified and added to the teams.

Key Milestones

Indian Affairs has identified the key milestones that will assist the programs with meeting the priority goal.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Owner	Comments
Identify all active BIA MMNA cases	Q1 FY2020	Completed	BIA OJS	All active or unsolved cases in IMARS
Identify Cold Case Regional Team locations	Q1 FY2020	Completed	BIA OJS	Regional Teams strategically placed
Begin collecting BIA cold case files	Q2 FY2020	Completed	BIA OJS	Cases were collected from BIA, tribes and FBI
Develop Task Force protocols and procedures	Q2 FY2020	Completed	BIA OJS	Protocols and procedures developed
Identify Task Force team members	Q3 FY2020	Completed	BIA OJS	Members will be from BIA, Tribal, State and Federal law enforcement agencies
Enter all BIA MMNA cases in the NamUs database	Q3 FY2020	Completed	BIA OJS	BIA Program Analysts will enter the BIA data
Stand up Task Force Offices	Q3 FY2020	Delayed	BIA OJS	Offices will be set up and operational in Q4
Review and prioritize cold cases for assignment	Q4 FY2020	On Track	BIA OJS	Task Force teams will review and prioritize
Begin assigning cold cases for investigation	Q4 FY2020	On Track	BIA OJS	Active cases will be assigned to teams

Data Accuracy and Reliability

Indian Affairs will collect missing and murdered data from the Department's official records management system, IMARS, that is utilized by the BIA law enforcement programs.

The data will be validated as still "active" or "unsolved" before it is entered into the NamUs database and reviewed by the Cold Case Task Force Teams.

All data will be verified for accuracy by BIA OJS staff before it is entered into the record.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs:

- BIA OJS will establish and lead the cold case teams
- Department of Justice – FBI possesses Indian Country cases that will need to be part of the cold case teams efforts.

Program Activities:

- Indian Affairs will collect, review, analyze and investigate active Indian Country missing and murdered cases.

Stakeholders:

- Leaders of Federally Recognized Tribes
- Tribal Communities
- Non Profit Organizations

Other Federal Activities:

- Indian Affairs will work with the US Health and Human Services to develop and deploy a trauma informed training program.

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations:

- Indian Affairs and DOJ will hold consultations with Tribes regarding the implementation of the Presidential Executive Order 13898.
- The Presidential Executive Order requires the task force to submit a written report after the 1st year.