

**National Center for Rural Law Enforcement
Center for Integrated Technology Engineering (CITE)**

Inter-Tribal Integrated Justice Pilot Project

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In June 2000, the Office of Justice Programs awarded \$62,088 to the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement (NCRLE) to conduct focus groups with the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni Pueblo Tribes to identify the barriers to information sharing among their various criminal justice entities. NCRLE was also tasked to conduct technical surveys of the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni Pueblo Tribes, as well as prepare business cases on each tribe and identify the technical barriers in each tribe's effort to integrate their criminal justice data. A final report on the present barriers and potential benefits to the open exchange of information within the three pilot tribes' criminal justice systems were submitted to the National Criminal Justice Association. An additional \$75,000 was awarded to NCRLE in February 2001 to provide support to the Navajo Nation Criminal Justice Summit on Information Sharing while maintaining tribal contacts on information technology matters and technical assistance as it relates to criminal justice data integration.

NCRLE is currently working on a one-year, \$1.5 million grant, to continue efforts on this project by providing technical assessments, purchasing network and computer equipment and software, and providing comprehensive training courses for tribal personnel. NCRLE's Center for Information Technology (CITE) team has performed all installation procedures for the three tribes, to include the installation of 42 network servers, 40 wireless network bridges and antennas, over 200 new workstations, and the

upgrade of over 800 existing workstations to add them to the new networks. These comprehensive justice networks have now integrated 40 different justice agencies throughout the three tribes to allow for information exchange, electronic mail capabilities, internet access, and shared data systems for over 1,100 tribal personnel.

NCRLE also provided computer training classes in three week-long sessions to tribal law enforcement personnel. Instruction topics included Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Outlook, and internet research. Over 90 personnel were trained in a “train-the-trainer” style, and were provided comprehensive manuals to copy and distribute among their co-workers in an effort to provide continuing instruction to a larger audience. Additionally, 20 computer support personnel from each of the three tribes were provided advanced network engineering and administration courses. Course topics included network architecture design and implementation, Windows 2000 Server, Cisco wireless technologies, network troubleshooting, and Microsoft Exchange.

This portion of the project constitutes Phase One of the Inter-Tribal Integrated Justice Pilot Project, with subsequent phases to include continued information sharing efforts. Phase Two will entail the integration of the three tribes via the establishment of centralized data warehouses for each tribe, with these centers being connected over high-speed data lines. The Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni will then begin sharing justice information between their nations. Phase Three will provide integrated information sharing between the three pilot tribes and surrounding local, state and federal agencies.