NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM
MONITOR & COORDINATOR FIELD GUIDANCE

June 2002, updated October 2004

For Surface Inventory Projects on the Nevada Test and Training Range

Nellis Air Force Base (NAFB) remains committed to ensuring participation by Native Americans in archaeology and ethnographic compliance or research projects on the Nevada Test and Training Range. A compliance project is a result of efforts to identify, evaluate, and if necessary, mitigate adverse effects to cultural properties from the implementation of a federal action under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Such projects include proposals to construct or expand targets, building mission-related facilities, creating or improving roads, or conducting any other surface disturbing action. Projects derived through Section 110, which are not called “compliance” in this context, include sampling surveys and research investigations.

This field guidance version reflects the expanded involvement that Monitors have gained in the NAFB program. Because one result of archaeologists and Monitors working together is that NAFB feels that Monitors should assume a more equal position of responsibility with Crew Leaders, especially when ensuring guidance actions are addressed.

A Monitor is defined as a Native American belonging to a Tribe with ancestral ties to the Nevada Test and Training Range, NAFB. A Crew Leader is the archaeologist designated by NAFB as having responsibility for completing the field assignment. The Crew Leader is generally an employee of a contracting company. Each section below implies an acceptance of responsibility by the Monitor to initiate and complete each task. It also implies responsibility by NAFB to ensure adequate and appropriate funding is provided for all Monitor-related tasks. A consultant is a Native American who is funded at $150 honorarium and costs to participate in interviews concerning their cultural past. All projects except for SRI will utilize consultants. Because they have increased duties as described above, monitors receive $175 per day and expenses. Consultants and monitors are designated by NAFB through consultation with tribes.

A Coordinator is selected at the Annual Meeting. The individual coordinates responses at Indian meetings, acts as lead for emergencies, and is a liaison between Native Americans and the Air Force. The role is dynamic and redefined year-to-year.

GOALS
1) Assist the Archaeologists in Presenting Accurate Indian Views: It is in the nature of humans to muse through memories, many fleeting, while observing features on a newly identified archaeology site. During her/his first encounter, the Monitor may be thinking it through. Yet, in past field sessions archaeologists literally replicate their exact words, which are translated into archaeology interpretations. In some situations the Monitor might need more time to reflect and discuss with others in the Tribe. While all types of interpretation by a Monitor are important, for archaeology research purposes I suggest it is the responsibility of the Monitor to ensure the archaeologist presents the Indian information in an appropriate manner. It will likely be necessary in many cases for the archaeologist to follow-up the conversation by a phone call to the Monitor. For example, what do you want your descendants to read when they review a report where you were identified as a Monitor?

2) Identifying Functions: The Monitor will assist field archaeologists and Air Force cultural resources personnel in identifying and describing cultural landscapes, and in interpreting the function and cultural sensitivity of archaeology sites.

3) Offer Realistic Ideas on Protection, Avoidance, Reconstruction, or Mitigation: Archaeologists and the NAFB commanders desire to protect features and areas of ancestral importance. Yet, national defense training will result in impacts, albeit minimal. Protection and avoidance concepts are welcomed from Monitors.

General Procedures

- Monitors will bless the area to purify the land prior to archaeological activities.

- The Monitor will identify and interpret culturally significant items to determine appropriate action, if necessary, and notify the tribes of the findings and recommended action via the final written report. The Monitor will ensure that the Crew Leader and the NAFB Archaeologist are notified concerning protection of items culturally significant to Native Americans.

- The Monitor will take efforts to ensure the archaeologists clearly understand the context of any comments incorporated into a report. This implies the Monitor review applicable sections of the draft report.

Laws, Regulations, and Reports

- Monitors will have familiarity with federal laws, statutes, and regulations pertaining to archaeological sites and culturally significant areas. If copies of laws are needed, or there are questions about legal interpretations, notify the Crew Leader, and, if there is no response, the NAFB Archaeologist.

- Monitors will observe activities and maintain field notes, photos, and journals. The Monitor must take efforts not to compromise sensitive information.
• Monitors are responsible for keeping the CGTO informed through the development of a comprehensive report to be submitted to the tribes at the conclusion of the activities. Monitors will take efforts to work with other Indian Monitors to consolidate information for composition in the final archaeology report.

Field Methods

• Monitors will receive and review study designs prior to the commencement of fieldwork. If a Monitor does not receive a study design, or if one feels there was not enough time allowed for review, the Monitor has a responsibility to notify the Crew Leader and ensure the NAFB Archaeologist is aware of the omission. Efforts will be taken to remedy the situation.

• In the beginning of a project, and subsequently when necessary, Monitors will present guidance to archaeologists, Air Force, and contracted personnel in the proper handling of artifacts. The methods to achieve this will be developed through discussion with the Crew Leader, NAFB, and the Monitor.

• The Monitor will receive instructions or guidance from NAFB and the Crew Leader in archaeology procedures and techniques as described in the study design reviewed by the tribes and approved by NAFB. While the primary goal of the Monitor is to assist in identifying and participating in plans for protection of sensitive resources, one may also accept archaeology crew tasks as needed and/or if desired.

• In areas where probing has been deemed necessary by NAFB, Monitors must notify the Crew Leader concerning potential impacts to sensitive features. The Crew Leader must immediately report to the NAFB Archaeologist the observations. NAFB will immediately enter into consultation with the Monitor and applicable parties. Probing will not be completed at this location until NAFB makes a determination.

• On identifying a burial site, Monitors assume a unique responsibility and must notify the Crew Leader who is required to discontinue work until the NAFB Archaeologist is notified. The Monitor will advise the CGTO of their findings, request guidance regarding appropriate mitigation, and assist in Air Force consultation.

Ethnographer's Involvement

The intent of NAFB is to increase the level of scientific accuracy for replicating information presented to archaeologists by Monitors. The following methods will be initiated. 1) An ethnographer recommended by NAFB (according to the terms of the contract) will be contracted for a reasonable number of hours to review the study design and provide comments. 2) In order to determine the level of ethnographer’s involvement for that project, consultation will occur among NAFB, the ethnographer, a lead Monitor, and Crew Leader. 3) NAFB will make any further level of need. 5) The need for involvement will also be evaluated at the end of the project where it may be necessary for the anthropologist to assist in further interviews.
Qualifications and Maintenance

- Four Monitors from each ethnic group with alternates, as appropriate, will be appointed by the CGTO for selection by NAFB to act as field Monitor, with the approval of his/her respective tribe or organization.

- The Monitor will be required to present the following information to the Air Force to apply for a temporary security badge: name, social security number, tribal affiliation, and date and place of birth.

- The Monitor will possess an adequate level of general cultural knowledge and experience as determined by the CGTO and his/her respective tribe.

- The Monitor must have a basic knowledge of applicable regulations including but not limited to AIRFA, NAGPRA, NHPA, ARPA, etc.

- The Monitor must possess the skills to write informative reports.

- The Monitor must have a commitment to the completion of the project.

- The Monitor must be physically fit and capable of performing fieldwork in extreme weather conditions and participate in strenuous walks, if necessary.

- Honorarium, per diem, lodging, and travel will be provided to all Monitors for field time, document review, and report writing.

- The Monitor will be provided with field notes, site forms, and advance copies of draft reports. The Monitor will request the information early in the project.

- Monitors are required to notify NAFB of a desire to carry cameras, tape recorders, binoculars, and other sensitive electronic equipment. The Monitor must furnish model/make and serial numbers for each item to NAFB or the contractor. If an individual is unsure whether a particular item requires a separate pass, please err on the side of providing too much data.

- Monitors will be expected to write support documentation, with a level of assistance of Richard Arnold as provided by the Native American Interaction Program, to supplement archaeological reports.

- A briefing session with the Crew Leader and Monitors will be conducted prior to the commencement of work. Following requests to NAFB, a spiritual person and Monitors will be allowed to reconnaissance to project areas before the start of archaeological work and will be properly compensated. When feasible, primarily with large projects, a one-day orientation for new Indian Monitors will be conducted to include a meeting with the archaeology team and existing Indian Monitors along and a review of study designs.
Tasks for the Archaeology Crew Leader and Crew

- **Orientation**: The Crew Leader will take efforts to orient the Monitor on a new job, discuss the research design and methods, and allow time and space for the Indians to conduct their blessings. The Crew Leader will discuss with the Indian choices for participation (i.e., walk transects, walk alongside the group).

- **Data Gathering**: The Crew Leader and crew will take efforts to contemplate the Indian view. It is expected that the crew will have questions. If Monitors are uncomfortable providing information, note, but do not pursue the question.

- **Procedures**: Take efforts to ensure that procedures are explained to Monitors. When a site is located, describe the procedures and activities. When a probe unit is to be opened, invite the Monitor to observe. If a Monitor expresses misgivings or discomfort about any procedure, discuss and attempt to resolve. If a Monitor remains disturbed, discontinue the operation at that location. The Crew Leader is required to immediately contact the NAFB Archaeologist who will initiate discussion and consultation.