



SUSTAINMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

CLEARED  
For Open Publication

Feb 09, 2021

February 8, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

Department of Defense  
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

On behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD), please accept our greetings and best wishes for 2021. We know that many Tribal communities have suffered devastating losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. We fervently hope that this year will be a safer and healthier one for all.

As you know, on January 26, 2021, President Biden issued the Presidential Memorandum, *Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships*. In the Memorandum, he called on each federal agency to develop a plan of actions within 90 days for engaging in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation and implementing the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*.

I need your help and guidance to create this DoD Plan of Action. I invite you to provide your input by March 8, 2021. Please submit comments to the Department at [DoD\\_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com](mailto:DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com).

In particular, please consider offering comments that highlight how the DoD could:

- Enhance its consultation efforts
- Identify procedures to ensure that consultation is regular, meaningful, and robust
- Build awareness among Tribal Leaders of DoD policies on consultation
- Improve Department of Defense Instruction 4710.02: *DoD Interactions With Federally Recognized Tribes* (available at [www.denix.osd.mil/na](http://www.denix.osd.mil/na))
- Enhance the capacity of military installation leaders and staff to engage effectively with tribes and foster stronger nation-to-nation relationships
- Protect Tribal lands, rights, and resources from impacts related to the ongoing operations of military installations and training activities
- Measure the progress of its ongoing efforts to consult and coordinate with Tribes
- Promote the success of DoD-Tribal partnerships and collaborative efforts
- Address legacy pollution of Tribal lands due to past DoD activity
- Recognize the service and sacrifice of Native American veterans
- Communicate with Tribes and Tribal-owned businesses about opportunities to work with the Department

The Department continually strives to ensure we are good stewards and partners with Tribal Nations to preserve vital natural and cultural resources. I welcome your input in preparing a vigorous plan of actions that will ensure we meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. I also look forward to working with Tribal Nations and to continually foster strong nation-to-

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nation relationships. Thank you in advance for your recommendations. I know your input will lead to the success of our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. G. Kidd IV". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Richard G. Kidd IV  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Environment and Energy Resilience)