

Southern Plains Region

National Budget Meeting

Priority - Law Enforcement

March 20-21, 2007

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Regional Director*



Strengths

- Citizen and Tribal Support
- Ability to work cooperatively with outside Tribal/Local/State/Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- Educating culture awareness to Non-Native Law Enforcement Officers
- Providing Pro-Active Law Enforcement to Indian Country
- Agreements with State and local detention facilities to eliminate maintenance and depreciation
- Ability to provide 24/7 coverage with limited and professionally well-trained Officers

Weaknesses

- Communication with BIA, Federal, State, and local Law Enforcement
- Over involvement with Tribal politics
- Response time – large service areas; increasing number of tribal enterprises; lack of funding for correction/detention; and keeping facility fully staffed (lack of applicants due to the responsibility of the job)

Opportunities

- Progressive/Professional Department – Encourages qualified Officers to apply for positions and allows Officers to grow professionally
- Technology (Access to Data Bases, Audio/Video surveillance, and tazers) – Allows Officer more time for patrol; Allows faster and safe responses for Officers; Deters theft and allows for accountability of employees at Casinos; Provides safer environment for customers; Surveillance used as evidence in the event of a crime
- Events – Pow Wow's, Health Fairs, Tribal College Career days, and parades provide opportunities to present Officers in a professional manner

Threats

- Lack of Funding – Restricts training; Technical Advancements; Hiring Qualified Officers; Additional outside influences within Indian Country (Casinos)
- In addition to police functions, casinos need security guards; Changes in activities include an increase in theft
- The Budget Management problem is a lack of adequate funding to increase the Law Enforcement Officers, training, and equipment
- Lack of an adequate police force would threaten the organization and increase criminal activity