

Testimony  
Of  
Joseph W. Wright  
Assistant Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Office of Artesia Operations  
Before The  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
On The  
Recruitment, Hiring, Training and Retention  
Of Law Enforcement Officers  
In Indian Country

March 18, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Barrasso, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Secretary Napolitano and the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Connie Patrick, I am honored to testify before the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to provide insight on the training of law enforcement personnel for Indian Country. My name is Joseph Wright and I serve as the Assistant Director of the Office of Artesia Operations and have program management responsibility for the law enforcement programs conducted at the FLETC Artesia. As this Committee is aware, the FLETC is responsible for providing basic law enforcement training to over 88 federal agencies with law enforcement authority and provides advanced and specialized training to federal, state, local, tribal, campus and military law enforcement organizations. Since its conception in 1975, the Center has developed training that brings consistent and up-to-date technology and information to the law enforcement community.

The history of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) consolidated training concept with the FLETC spans more than 25 years. On Oct. 15, 1984, the BIA moved the United States Indian Police Academy (IPA) from Brigham City, Utah to the FLETC in Marana, Arizona in order to comply with a congressional mandate to consolidate training for all federal law enforcement personnel. Upon the relocation of the IPA to FLETC, a curriculum review was conducted and a program designed specifically for Indian Country law enforcement personnel was developed and implemented. In 1991, under the direction of the BIA Director of Law Enforcement Services, a partnership with the FLETC was created to manage and oversee the IPA. In 1993, the FLETC relocated all of its training from Marana, Arizona to the FLETC Artesia, New Mexico, where the IPA continues to operate today.

The President's FY 2011 budget proposes \$807,000 for BIA training, of which \$540,000 is attributable to the LMPT.

FLETC strives to ensure that its training programs are developed with the highest standards in today's adult learning environment. The entire instructional staff at the FLETC is comprised of career law enforcement personnel who are highly trained in the methodologies of training in the law enforcement environment. Indian Country law enforcement personnel face unique and

complex challenges, and we have developed training to meet those challenges. For example, some of our training programs specific to Indian Country include courses on the Indian Child Welfare Act, Indian Country jurisdictional issues, and the challenges of working alone, without assistance or backup, for an extended period of time. The Land Management Police Training (LMPT) program provides the core law enforcement training offered to all Department of Interior (DOI) Law Enforcement Agencies. The specific Indian Country issues are taught as a follow-on to the basic program.

Mr. Chairman, I have read the report provided by the BIA to Senator Dorgan (Protecting Indian Country Report, February 3, 2010).

FLETC, working with the BIA, has already implemented several of the changes this report recommends. For example, FLETC is offering the LMPT versus the Basic Police Officer Training Program to BIA officers. I am pleased to report that we began the first class under the LMPT program early last month, and to date we have not lost a single student due to injury, academics or personal resignations, 23 of the 24 students remain in the program.. One individual was removed by his agency due to termination of employment. By utilizing the LMPT, BIA has the option to fill an entire class of Indian Country trainees or, these trainees may join classes of other participating agencies who may need agents/officers trained in smaller numbers. Through this consolidated training approach, FLETC and the IPA are able to meet the training needs of all law enforcement agencies, both large and small, as their training needs arise. Additionally, a consolidated training approach allows the BIA and tribal officers to train with other DOI law enforcement personnel.

We must continue to meet Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board standards, and provide consolidated training to our agents and officers so that they gain the benefit and knowledge of all of the federal, state, local, tribal and military law enforcement personnel they will work with throughout their careers. Consolidated training not only provides the best learning experience for our agents and officers, it provides the greatest cost benefit to the American people.

I respectfully submit these remarks and I am prepared to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you.