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- The renaming of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Deputy Commissioner as Director;
- New descriptions of BIA Director and Deputy Director responsibilities and authorities;
- The establishment of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development, and Deputy Assistant Secretary – Information Resources Management/Chief Information Officer (CIO) with descriptions of responsibilities and authorities;
- New chapters on delegated authorities;
- New chapters describing field operations and those BIA functions that now will report to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Economic Development, Deputy Assistant Secretary –Management or Deputy Assistant Secretary – Information Resources Management/Chief Information Officer;
- Updated descriptions of the Bureau field organization;
- Updated list of field office locations;
- The addition of trust officers at local agencies and trust administrators at the regional level in OST to support trust operations; and
- The placement of chapters from the previous DM on Self-Governance, Audit and Evaluation, Office of American Indian Trust, Office of Trust Funds Management, Office of Trust Records, and Office of Trust Risk Management, along with new chapters describing authorities of the new Deputy Assistant Secretaries and other functions, within the new Departmental Manual.

As an example of the changes contained in the DM, the BIA's Branch of Acknowledgement and Research (BAR) has been renamed the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA). It will now report to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, a new position within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. Actual personnel changes will be phased in gradually over the next few months.

The Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs has responsibility for fulfilling the Department's trust responsibilities and promoting self-determination on behalf of the 562 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments. The Assistant Secretary also oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an agency with 10,500 employees nationwide, which is responsible for providing services to approximately 1.5 million individual American Indians and Alaska Natives from the federally recognized tribes.

The Special Trustee for American Indians is responsible for the oversight and coordination of the Department's efforts to reform its practices relating to the management and discharge of the Secretary's Indian trust responsibilities.