

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

OFMC Integrates FIXIT Into the New National Indian Programs Training Center

With the advent of the 48,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art training facility specifically for Indian programs now operating in Albuquerque, the Office of Facilities Management and Construction is changing the way it will provide training. The four-day FIXIT training session held in Denver last month will likely be OFMC's last Mini-Institute-style training session, said OFMC Deputy Director Boyd Robinson.

"While FIXIT training has been very successful for almost 15 years, we are entering a new era of training by integrating FIXIT into the National Indian Programs Training Center (NIPTC) which is located in our office building," said Robinson. "Student tuition fees will be used to partially fund future training."

NIPTC is managed by the Department of the Interior University and has a 500 student capacity. It is a classroom-



Computer Specialist Rolinda Benally (left) and Program Analyst Karyn Kinsel celebrate the April opening of the new training center.

style and computer program training center with the potential to offer satellite, long-distance education and training, which OFMC is exploring.

The Bureau's Facilities Training Mandate and Oversight

According to 46 BIAM, "The Bureau is to provide quality training for Bureau facilities employees as well as Tribal employees directly engaged in facilities operations at contract, grant and self-governance compact facilities in order to maintain or acquire standards of competency." The facilities training program has accomplished this through a

program-user volunteer team which establishes training objectives, goals and course content under the guidance of OFMC Training Program Administrator, Sandy Lujan. "This oversight mechanism will continue to be the key in determining the types of training OFMC should feature at NIPTC, said Boyd Robinson.

FIXIT in Denver

Highlights from the June 5-8 Mini-Institute in Denver



FIXIT
Facilities Improved
Excellence through
Increased Training



Briefs

Keegan's Visit Emphasizes Asset Management Plans

The Office of Facilities Management and Construction sponsored development of the Indian Affairs Asset Management Plan. The plan will be integral to the overall Asset Management effort within the Department of the Interior (DOI). This was the theme of a recent visit to



Michael Keegan (left) joins OFMC Deputy Director Boyd Robinson in Albuquerque to discuss the BIA's Asset Management Plan.

OFMC by Michael Keegan, Associate Director - Facility & Property Management of the DOI Office of Acquisition & Property Management. The BIA was the first Bureau to submit its Asset Management Plan to DOI by the June 1, 2006 deadline.



From left: Jack Mousseau; Ken Robbins, President; David Sloan, Past President; Larry Edmundson; Jeff Begay, Vice President, Larry Broeren; Jack Rever, OMSS Director; Mike Hollyman, Secretary; and Boyd Robinson, OFMC Deputy Director.

Seasonal Groundwater Variations Prompt Tuba City Boarding School to Use "Floating" Foundations

Many skyscrapers are built on massive "floating" concrete foundations because of their construction sites' extremely shallow and variable groundwater levels. During the spring, similar conditions exist in Tuba City, Ariz., where a major BIA



An excavation at Tuba City Boarding School reveals shallow groundwater.

Replacement School project is under construction. Due to high groundwater levels, the use of floating foundations for the academic buildings was chosen as an alternative to the customary process of excavating and installing a fixed foundation resting upon solid ground, said Production Manager Robert Harmon of Weller Architects in Albuquerque.

"The expansive soil doesn't allow for adequate bearing capacity when wet. So we are using waffle slabs with ribs up to 36 inches deep along with back-filled engineered soil as the foundation. The foundation will apply the buildings' weight evenly over the entire footprint and will prevent differential displacement, where one part of a building pushes down more than another part, causing structural damage to the buildings," Harmon said.

The 191,153 square-foot Replacement School project includes educational buildings, a gymnasium, a library and a kitchen-dining hall. The OFMC Project Manager is Robert Montoya, a member of Sandia Pueblo.

AICAE Council Reviews Prototype for Standard Design of School Buildings

An executive committee representing the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers (AICAE) met with top BIA Facilities administrators in June to view a prototype that is being developed by OFMC to establish standard school building designs. The use of prototypes would stretch New Construction and Replacement School budgets while still allowing Indian students to learn in buildings which utilize design elements that reflect their tribes' unique traditions and history.

Blackfeet Dormitory to Get a New Fence to Keep Mountain Lions and Bears Out



From the high mountains of nearby Glacier National Park, Cut Bank Creek flows next to Blackfeet Dormitory. The creek forms a riparian corridor frequented by grizzly bears and mountain lions. The current dormitory boundary fence along the creek did not stop a sow and her two cubs from having to be shot while they were searching for food in the thick brush beside the campus in 2004. Students are not allowed out of the dorm at night without supervision.

Students at Blackfeet Dormitory, located five miles outside of Browning, Mt., have often heard the roar of a mountain lion in the wooded area just south of the dormitory. Though no one has seen the cat, dormitory management is concerned not only for student safety but also for the safety of the young children who live in employee housing on the dormitory grounds. Grizzly bears also travel the banks of Cut Bank Creek which runs just north of the dormitory. Occasionally, the bears will venture near employee housing or the dormitory, despite fencing that surrounds the grounds.

This summer, OFMC's Rocky Mountain Region is funding a Blackfeet Tribal project to enclose the dormitory grounds with a more substantial, eight-foot-high chain-link fence, including three gates, designed to deter the bears and mountain lions from entering the dormitory and housing area. Blackfeet Tribal Wildlife Biologist Dan Carney wrote a 2005 letter to support the improved fence construction project:

"Last year we killed a grizzly and two cubs that were in thick brush beside your campus. The bears being in close proximity to the Boarding Dorm is not an isolated incident. Over the years we have responded to dozens of calls concerning bears traveling the creek bottom through the area. The Dorm lies within what is designated as a grizzly-occupied area by ecosystem managers, which means I expect there will be grizzlies in that area in any normal year. The thick vegetation along Cut Bank Creek and surrounding the Boarding Dorm provides not only excellent cover but many preferred bear foods during the spring, summer and fall.

The same vegetation is great habitat for deer and other species that, in turn, attract mountain lions year-round. The attraction is not just human-caused foods, such as garbage. Even if there were no human-related attractants in the area, there would still be bears and mountain lions attracted to the habitat."



The fence behind the dorm (left) is even less substantial than the current creek-side fence. The riparian habitat is just beyond the dormitory building (right).

Employee Housing's Lead Paint Abatement Program



Darlene Parker, a Business Tech at the Blackfeet Dormitory, watches Industrial Hygiene Technician Matthew Olson test lead contamination levels near the foundation of her log home on dormitory grounds.

A year-long lead paint abatement program by the BIA has resulted in the remediation of 41 employee houses in the Rocky Mountain Region. The concern over lead paint contamination increased last year when a five-year-old youth living in BIA employee housing in Browning, Mt., had an elevated lead count, according to Bruce Ward, Rocky Mountain Regional Facility Manager. Both the Employee Housing Program in OFMC and the OMSS Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management funded the remediation effort throughout reservations served by the Rocky Mountain Region. The Region's remediation work is being conducted through contractor Maxim Technologies and subcontractor Environmental Contractors, both of Billings, Mt. At the various reservations, the contractors are hiring local Tribal members to assist in the remediation work. Meanwhile, the Great Plains Region is assessing similar abatement needs at its various employee housing locations.

Employee Housing Is Stripped of Lead Paint Siding and then Re-sided



Blackfeet Tribal member John Butterfly (left) removes lead paint siding from a home in Browning Mt. Butterfly, a college student, is working on the BIA-funded project for the summer.

Lead Contamination Levels Are More Stringent in Children's Play Areas

Caution is recommended for all occupants of BIA employee housing who might be at risk for exposure to lead paint, which can lead to lead poisoning. However, since the most common source of high levels of lead come through ingesting lead paint, young children are most at risk and thus more caution is shown in remediating areas frequented by them. For instance, lead in soil is considered hazardous at 1,200 parts per million in a yard perimeter, such as a home's drip line. But in a home's high-contact play area, lead in soil is considered hazardous at 400 parts per million. High levels of lead in a child can lead to brain damage, nervous system problems and learning disabilities, while adults can suffer from nervous system and reproductive system problems.



Olson checks childrens' play areas for lead contamination. The contamination levels are more stringent for play areas.

After His Fall, Emerson Eskeets Survives By Focusing On One Objective At A Time



Eskeets

There are no small accomplishments for Supervisory General Engineer Emerson Eskeets, head of OFMC's Division of Program Planning. As Eskeets learned from a dramatic conclusion to his impromptu Veterans' Day 2004 hike in the canyons of the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, each objective attained—even if it is reached on your back—brings satisfaction.

Eskeets, a Navajo and U.S. Air Force veteran, fell in the late morning while walking in desolate country on the reservation near Crownpoint, N.M., and suffered a broken hip. A makeshift crutch Eskeets formed from the roots of a tree proved ineffective, and his emergency calls on his cell phone were unsuccessful due to lack of service. So, without the use of his left leg and despite great pain, Eskeets placed a stone in each of his hands for protection from sharp objects and propelled himself on his back, using his hands and right leg for inches at a time for 10 hours up and down canyons and through sage and cactus to reach his truck.

"My military training taught me to stay calm. I was totally focused. I had to concentrate. I would look backwards, find a point and then push myself there and rest. I did this hundreds of times," said Eskeets. "I remember seeing a tree in the distance where I parked my truck—probably half a mile away as the crow flies—and a hawk sat there all day watching me. A couple of times several crows circled over me. There was no one else around. It was cold and dark when I finally made it to my truck, lifted myself in, and was able to call Emergency Medical Services in Gallup. It was not until I was in the ambulance that I started to feel the full pain and the agony of my broken hip."

The mishap eventually led to a hip replacement surgery for the 52-year-old Eskeets, who now walks with a slight limp, a deepened sense of self-awareness, an appreciation for caregivers, and a richer understanding of family and his spirituality. "I was brought up to appreciate Mother Earth, and I gained an intimate understanding of my relationship with the earth by crawling across it. I also feel that I want to be more helpful, just like all the people that helped me to recover. I better understand my connection to others that being part of a family allows—you just can't break that," he said.

Focus

Division of Safety Explains BIA Motor Vehicle Policy

1. What is the Motor Vehicle Operations Policy?

The Policy ensures that all BIA motor vehicle operators are safe drivers and establishes clear lines of responsibilities for employees, supervisors and managers in the operation of motor vehicles while performing assigned duties.

2. To whom does the Policy apply?

All BIA operators of government vehicles.

3. If my position description doesn't require me to drive, does the Policy apply to me?

Although your position description does not require driving, if you go on travel, pick-up office supplies or carry out special assignments you may need to drive. If you drive during the conduct of official duties you must comply with the requirements outlined in the policy.

4. If I operate a government vehicle one day out of the year, does the policy apply to me? Yes.

5. Under the policy, what must I have to drive?

A safe driving record, a valid state driver's license and a BIA Driver's Authorization Card signed by your supervisor.

6. When is a privately owned or rented motor vehicle considered a government vehicle?

When used in the performance of official duties.

7. Where do I get the required driver training?

There is a driver improvement program in circulation throughout the Bureau's Regions and Agencies, called "Managing Visibility, Time and Space." It can be viewed individually at your workstation or as a group. This program will be made available to all employees via the BIA Intranet in the very near future.

8. If my prescription medication will affect my driving, who do I report this to?

Report the use of medication which may adversely affect driving to your supervisor immediately.

9. The Policy doesn't say I have to wear my seat

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Isleta Pueblo Elementary School Set to Open in 2006

The 64,000-square-foot Replacement School project for Isleta Elementary School, located south of Albuquerque, N.M., is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year, due to utilizing the design-build method of construction. The building is designed to accommodate 295 students and will include an outdoor amphitheater. Southwest Region Facilities Specialist Frank Lujan, a member of Isleta Pueblo, has been assigned to the Tribe to serve as Project Manager.

St. Stephens Indian School Scheduled for Renovation

A 35,000-square-foot replacement high school along with a major renovation of the existing elementary school is set for St. Stephens Indian School near Riverton, Wyo. About 90 of the 270 mostly Northern Arapahoe Indian students at St. Stephens attend high school classes in an aging structure built in 1955 and owned by the adjoining St. Stephens (Catholic) Indian Mission, which has been operating on site since 1850. Rocky Mountain Region General Engineer Clyde Tippets is the Project Manager.

San Felipe Pueblo to Initiate Middle School by 2007

A renovation of the current elementary school at San Felipe Pueblo, along with the initiation of a middle school and gymnasium will expand the campus, just north of Albuquerque, N.M., by some 51,000-square-feet. The project is nearing the bidding stage and is estimated to be ready for classes in the fall of 2007. Dennis Rodriguez, a member of Laguna Pueblo, is the OFMC Project Manager.



The proposed San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School renovation and new middle school.

Cherokee, N.C., Replacement School Groundbreaking

A land swap between the Cherokee Tribe and the National Park Service will allow the campus for the Cherokee Central Replacement Schools to be moved from its current site on a high traffic volume, city street in Cherokee, N.C., to a wooded, rural area. The community broke ground in April for the new 473,000-square foot complex. The project is partially funded by the BIA. Glenn Trujillo, of Laguna-San Juan Pueblos, is the OFMC Project Manager.



Cherokee Central Schools Cultural Coordinator Laura Pinnix (right) listens as 6th grader Devyn Smith and 7th grader Meshay Long detail the students' involvement in creating plans for the new K-12 schools.

Tiospa Zina Stadium Attracts Regional Competition

A lighted football stadium featuring an all-weather track and a lighted baseball field was constructed as part of the replacement of the Tiospa Zina Tribal School



in Agency Village, S.D. It has been used to host the South Dakota Northeast Regional Track and Field

competition. The facilities have prompted an increase in athletic participation on both boys and girls teams at Tiospa Zina.

Circle of Nations-Wahpeton Boarding School Underway

In Wahpeton, N.D., the Circle of Nations-Wahpeton Boarding School held a May ground breaking to initiate work on a campus-wide geothermal heating project and a 110-student replacement dormitory. The



OFMC Project Manager is Karlisa Shomour, a member of the Navajo Nation.

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belts. Is this still a requirement?

Yes, seat belt usage by all federal employees and all passengers in government vehicles is required by Presidential Executive Order No. 13043.

10. We occasionally transport hazardous materials to the job site. Should the driver have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)?

Probably. The CDL requirements specify which hazardous materials require a CDL.

11. If I was convicted of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) within the last three years, can I be issued a BIA drivers authorization?

No. You must have a clear 3-year history.

12. If I get a DWI during non-duty hours, can I drive for the government?

All DWI citations must be reported. Your duty status has no bearing on the safe driving record.

13. Can I lose my job if I get a DWI?

If your position requires motor vehicle operation, it is possible that you could be terminated.

14. Can I be reassigned to a non-driving position?

Contact your supervisor/human resources office. The BIA is not required to reassign employees.

15. If I have numerous citations over a ten-year period but no DWI or reckless citation in the last three years, can I still be disqualified from driving? Who would make that determination?

You could be considered an unsafe driver and be disqualified by your supervisor.

16. Must I list all my driving violations on the driver application form (GSA Form 3607)? What if I don't remember exact dates?

You must list all driving infractions. Use an approximate date if necessary.

17. The GSA 3607 requests driving convictions and accidents during the past four years but the Policy requests a three year driving history. Use the three-year history.

18. GSA 3607, Record of Conviction for DUI, has no time period listed. How far back do I go?

Your complete driving history is requested. You must disclose all DUI/DWI convictions.

For more, see BIA Intranet. Click: Administration and Management, then Office of Management Support Services and then Motor Vehicle FAQs.

Dedication Building Housing OFMC, DSRM, BIE and Data Center Named for Secretary Lujan

The Indian Pueblos Federal Development Corporation (IPFDC) held an April grand opening ceremony for its second Albuquerque office building leased to the BIA. The building was named in honor of former Department of the Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr. A native of New Mexico, Lujan was appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1989 by then-President George Bush. Lujan was Secretary when the former Albuquerque Indian School property was transferred into Trust status for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos. The IPFDC's two buildings house all of the BIA's Central Office West programs in one location.



Eagle dancers honor former Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr., while Human Resources Assistant Antonia Gachupin (right) reviews a display regarding the history of the Albuquerque Indian School.



OMSS

The Office of Management Support Services oversees the Office of Facilities Management and Construction, the Division of Safety and Risk Management and the Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management.

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

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