

**November Facts of the Day 2012:
National Native American Heritage Month**



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

**Dr. Richard Oliver Hope Human Relations Research Center
Directed by Dr. Daniel P. McDonald, Executive Director
366 Tuskegee Airmen Drive Patrick AFB, FL 32925
321-494-2747**



Observance Report No. 20-12

National Native American Heritage Month 2012

Date	Fact	Source
1	The month of November is designated by Congress and the president as a time to reflect on the rich traditions and accomplishments, as well as the suffering and injustices, that mark the history of American Indians and Alaska Natives. This year's theme chose by the Society of American Indian Government Employees is "Serving Our People, Serving Our Nations: Native Visions for Future Generations."	http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2008/10/20081031125448xlrennef0.3453333.html#axzz284KQfPAk
2	Congress called for weeklong observances in the mid-1980s, and in 1990, National American Indian Heritage Month was designated under a joint congressional resolution approved by President George H.W. Bush. Each year, the sitting president designates November as National Native American Heritage Month.	http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2008/10/20081031125448xlrennef0.3453333.html#axzz284KQfPAk
3	As of the 2010 Census, the nation's population of American Indians and Alaska Natives was 5.2 million, including those of more than one race. They made up 1.7 percent of the total population. Of this total, 2.9 million were American Indian and Alaska Native only, and 2.3 million were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff22.html
4	In the 2010 Census, the tribal groupings with 100,000 or more responses for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone-or-in-any-combination population were Cherokee (819,105), Navajo (332,129), Choctaw (195,764), Mexican American Indian (175,494), Chippewa (170,742), Sioux (170,110), Apache (111,810), and Blackfeet (105,304).	U.S. Census Bureau
5	The population data from the 2010 United States Census showed significant percentage growth of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The number of Americans identifying themselves as exclusively Native American or Alaska Native increased 18.4 percent in the past 10 years, and the number identifying themselves as exclusively Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander increased 35.4 percent.	http://www.nativelegalupdate.com/2011/05/articles/census-2010-native-americanalaskan-and-native-hawaiian-populations-show-growth/
6	Currently, there are 565 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and more than 100 state-recognized tribes across the United States.	http://www.bia.gov/FAQs/index.htm

7	The projected population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race, on July 1, 2050, is 8.6 million.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb10ff22.html
8	The term <i>Alaska Native</i> refers to Alaska's original inhabitants, including Aleut, Eskimo, and Indian groups.	http://www.50states.com/facts/alaska.htm
9	The term <i>Native Americans</i> refers to any member of the indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere.	U.S. Army
10	According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 156,515 American Indians and Alaska Natives were veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces as of November 2011.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff22.html
11	American Indians have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by American military leaders as early as the 18th century.	http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm
12	In World War I, 12,000 American Indians joined the ranks of the armed forces—even though it wasn't until 1924 that Congress granted American Indians U.S. citizenship. Their unique combat abilities and survival skills, which frustrated opponents for generations, became invaluable to the nation's combat collective.	http://hnn.us/articles/132893.html
13	On June 2, 1924, Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act (also known as the Snyder Act of 1924), which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States.	Library of Congress
14	More than 44,000 American Indians, out of a population of less than 350,000, served with distinction in both the European and Pacific wars between 1941 and 1945.	Department of Defense
15	During World War II, American Indians invested more than \$50 million in war bonds, and contributed generously to the Red Cross and the Army and Navy Relief societies.	Department of Defense
16	More than 42,000 American Indians, 90 percent of them volunteers, fought in Vietnam.	Department of Defense

17	Historically, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. The reasons behind this disproportionate contribution are complex and deeply rooted in traditional American Indian culture. In many respects, Native Americans are no different from others who volunteer for military service. They do, however, have distinctive cultural values that drive them to serve their country.	http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm
18	The Alamo Scouts were a top secret reconnaissance unit that operated in the Pacific during World War II. They performed 108 missions without losing a single man, including conducting two prisoner-of-war camp raids. They are recognized by the Army as a forerunner of the modern special forces. One-quarter of the graduates from the first Alamo Scouts training class were American Indian.	United Native America
19	In 1914, Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode horseback from state to state, getting endorsements from 24 state governments, to set aside a day to honor American Indians. The American Indian Association approved the plan a year later. The first state to adopt the celebration was New York, in 1916.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff22.html
20	According to the DOD, during World War II, more than 44,000 Natives, out of a total U.S. population of 350,000, served in the military. In 1942, the Navajo code talkers were formed, using the complex Diné language as a basis for an unbreakable code for tactical messages. About 400 Navajo servicemen were recruited into the code talkers before the end of the war, and the code talkers took part in every Marine Corps assault in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945.	http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/05/28/a-brief-history-of-american-indians-military-service-115318
21	President Barack Obama signed the Native American Apology Resolution into law on December 19, 2009. The Apology Resolution states that the United States, “apologizes on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples by citizens of the United States.”	http://nativevotewa.wordpress.com/2009/12/31/president-obama-signs-native-american-apology-resolution/
22	What is the correct terminology: American Indian, Indian, Native American, or Native? All of these terms are acceptable. The consensus, however, is that whenever possible, Native people prefer to be called by their specific tribal name.	http://nmai.si.edu/explore/forfamilies/resources/didyouknow/#2

23	According to the 2010 Census, fifteen states had more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native residents. These states were California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, New York, New Mexico, Washington, North Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Alaska, Oregon, Colorado, Minnesota, and Illinois.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff22.html
24	The U.S. federal government recognizes American Indian tribes as independent and sovereign powers. Sovereignty is the right of a nation or group of people to be self-governing. Indians are U.S. citizens and also citizens of their tribes. Like other Americans, Indians are subject to federal laws, but they are not always subject to state laws because Indian reservations are held in trust by the federal government. A government-to-government relationship exists between each sovereign tribe and the U.S. government.	Wisconsin Historical Society
25	What is tribal sovereignty? Just like states, tribes have attributes of sovereignty to govern their own territory and internal affairs. The status of tribes as self-governing nations is affirmed and upheld by treaties, case law, and the Constitution. Legal scholars explain that tribes are inherently sovereign, meaning they do not trace their existence to the United States.	http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis/100_question.pdf
26	When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, there were 5,000 Native Americans enlisted in military service. By January 1942, the DOD reports, 99 percent of all eligible Native American men had registered for the draft.	http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/08/28/health-care-options-improve-for-rural-veterans-131656
27	First-time collaboration among 14 tribal health organizations and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) makes health care more accessible for Alaskan rural veterans—as well as veterans’ dependents, surviving spouses, uniformed service members, present or former reservists, and National Guard members. Through the agreement, patients can receive their veterans assistance (VA) at numerous local health care clinics, rather than commuting to veterans clinics that exist only in Juneau or Anchorage.	http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/08/28/health-care-options-improve-for-rural-veterans-131656
28	When Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. arrived at Wounded Knee on July 11, 2011, he became the highest ranking official of the United States government to ever visit and memorialize a place of great historic significance to American Indians everywhere.	http://www.nativenewsnetwork.com/attorney-general-visit-to-wounded-knee.html

29	Native Alaskan tribes belong to five geographic areas, are organized under thirteen Alaska Native Regional Corporations, speak 20 different languages, and have eleven different cultures.	http://www.aaanativearts.com/alaskan-natives/index.html
30	In many rural areas of Alaska, a subsistence lifestyle is still practiced. Subsistence refers to the hunting, fishing, and gathering activities that traditionally constituted the economic base of life for Alaska's Native people. Subsistence resources have great nutritional, economical, cultural, and spiritual importance in the lives of rural Alaskan Native people, many of whom gather up to 1/3 of their subsistence needs from wild animals, fish, marine life, and plants.	http://www.aaanativearts.com/alaskan-natives/index.html
31	The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. is the first national museum dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of Native Americans. Established by an act of Congress in 1989, the museum works in collaboration with the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere to protect and foster their cultures by reaffirming traditions and beliefs, encouraging contemporary artistic expression, and empowering the Indian voice.	http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=about