



# INET Newsletter

Prepared by SSgt Rochelle James

March – May 2022

The Indigenous Nations Equality Team

Champion – Brig Gen Terrence Adams

## INET VISION

A community of Indigenous Peoples perpetuating a legacy of honor through their humble advancement in service to their nation and the preservation of traditions and respect for all.

## INET MISSION

Provide pivotal advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Natives within the DAF through the changing of policies, recruitment, and outreach in all areas and the creation of a community of encouragement, belonging, and support, to preserve culture and honor traditions.

## KEY LEADERS

Co-Lead – Mrs. Jacqueline Melcher

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Co-Lead – Lt Col Maureen Trujillo

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Space Force Liaison – Capt Haida StarEagle

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Secretary – MSgt Frances Dupris

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Visit our Facebook Page to engage with our Community and learn more about our latest events!

INET is one of the Department of the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group teams. It is an all-volunteer organization aligned under HAF/A1. Some members represent their organizational units in their assigned roles, while most are volunteers dedicated to identifying and addressing artificial barriers to American Indian and Alaska Natives in policies, processes, and programs.

## 3 LINES OF EFFORT

LOE 1: Remove Barriers (Policy Initiatives):

- Uniform Regalia, Ceremonies, Hair Length for Men, & CMSgt Logo

LOE 2: Outreach & Recruitment – External & Internal

LOE 3: Retention



SSgt Rodriguez and SSgt James shared their personal stories with MacDill AFB during an interview in early January. Both members of the Navajo Nation provided updates for what the future of Indigenous members in the Air Force hold, including policy initiatives for hair length for men and permissive TDY for cultural ceremonies. To read the full story, please click the following link:

<https://www.macdill.af.mil/News/Article/2908616/indigenous-nations-equality-team-breaking-barriers-for-a-better-future/>

On March 7-9, SSgt Rodriguez visited the Fond Du Lac Tribal Community College, along with 7 AF/CC, Lt Gen Pleus, as part of the General Officer (G.O.) Inspire Program. SSgt Rodriguez, an Aerospace Propulsion Craftsman assigned to MacDill AFB, spoke about her Air Force career and her experience as an Indigenous member in the aviation field. She also assisted recruiters with outreach initiatives for local communities.



On 7 and 27 April, members of INET were guest speakers on a Cultural Awareness Panel as the Society of American Military Engineer's (SAME) Industry Day for the Emerald Coast Post and Panama City Post. SAME has a grant titled "We Must Go to Them" establish summer camps for indigenous youth. INET is collaborating with SAME to assist with outreach and training for the locations identified for the grant.

Tune in on our virtual meetings via Zoom! Everyone is welcome.

We meet the **second** Thursday of each month at 1400 EST.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86405814865?pwd=UFN6bm9YU3c1SXU0aTNOeWlkT2V1dz09>

Meeting ID: 864 0581 4865

Passcode: C72re9

America's First Warriors, Advocating for Future Generations...

WE ARE STILL HERE!