

Fort Jackson Equal Employment Opportunity Office
5450 Strom Thurmond Boulevard, Room 218

Office Email: usarmy.jackson.id-training.mbx.usag-eeo-office@army.mil

Equal Employment Opportunity Monthly Bulletin
“Promoting EEO, Diversity, and Education”

November 2024

National American Indian Heritage Month



Every November, the Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in celebrating National American Indian Heritage Month, also known as Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month. It's an opportunity to recognize the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and important contributions of Native American and Alaskan Native peoples.

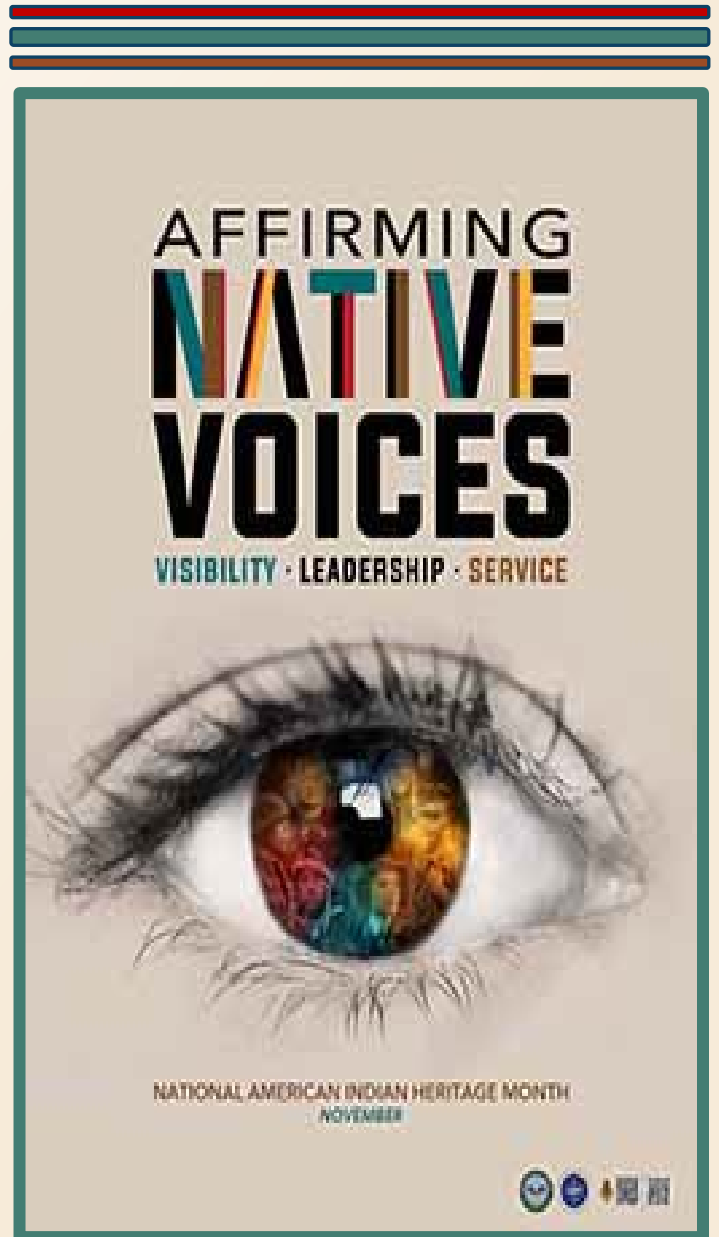
As of 2020 over 9 million people identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, making up around 2.9% of the U.S. population. This number nearly doubled from the 2010 Census.

There are over 574 federally recognized tribes with unique cultures and individuals. Their diverse cultures reflect many ways of life. Some of the largest groups of Native Americans include members of the Navajo Nation, Cherokees, and Choctaws.

The 2024 theme for National American Indian Heritage Month is “Affirming Native Voices: Visibility, Leadership, Service.” This reflects the essential perspective of American Indians and Alaska Natives, their outstanding commitment to service, and the need to elevate their voices.

American Indians have served in U.S. conflicts since colonial times. According to some estimates Native Americans have served at higher rates compared to their actual population in the United States. To many, Indigenous peoples' service history is deeply connected to their homeland and honor.

During National American Indian Heritage Month, the DoD honors the millions of Americans Indian and Alaska Natives who serve our country and continue to make our Nation great.



Nellie Locust

Born in Vinita, Oklahoma, Nellie Locust was a member of the Cherokee Nation and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Women's Reserve, or SPARS, which stands for the USCG Motto: Semper Paratus, Always Ready, during World War II. Locust grew up speaking Cherokee with her six siblings. She attended Indian Boarding Schools and balanced her Native American heritage while learning English and, eventually, secretarial skills. When World War II erupted, Locust joined SPARS as part of the Sooner Squadron, a team of women from Oklahoma. She traveled to Florida in 1943 for training, worked at a vessel repair base, and served in the Coast Guard Identification Office. Locust's service was often covered in the news, often with outdated language and stereotypes, but she would quickly push back. She brought attention to the Trail of Tears and emphasized her average American girlhood and culture. Locust often celebrated her Cherokee traditions, such as corn festivals and the sacred fire ceremony. The Sooner Squadron, which had five other American Indian women among its ranks, embodied pride and service for the United States and Native heritage. Shortly after WWII, Locust passed away at just 26 years old from illness. Her SPARS service is memorialized on her gravestone.



National American Indian Heritage Month (external links)

[Special Observances](#)

[Native American Heritage Month 2024](#)

[National Native American Heritage Month: November 2024](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Native American History: Tribes, Timeline & Reservations | HISTORY](#)

[A Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month, 2024 | The White House](#)

Anti-Harassment No Fear Training FY(25)

The annual No FEAR and Anti-Harassment training has changed for fiscal year 2025. Training is no longer available online and must be conducted in person. There are two modules, one for supervisors and one for non-supervisors. All employees and supervisors of civilian employees to include active-duty Soldiers who supervise civilian employees are required to attend the training. The training will be offered every quarter in the Fort Jackson theater on 5 December; 20 March; 12 June and 18 September. Non-supervisor training will occur in the morning session (1030) and supervisor training will occur in the afternoon session (1530). For more information contact Mr. Timothy Gladders at timothy.b.gladders.civ@army.mil.