



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Louis District

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, P.L. 101-601 and 43 CFR Part 10

# Information Paper

## Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

### Operation and Maintenance ()

**Location and Description:** The Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (CMAC) was established in the St. Louis District in 1994 to deliver centralized management, administration, and policy development for USACE-wide compliance with archeological collections management. MCX CMAC provides overall management of the USACE's NAGPRA program and facilitates consistent nationwide NAGPRA program implementation and operation. NAGPRA addresses the recovery, treatment, and repatriation of Native American and Native Hawaiian cultural items by Federal agencies. As defined by the Act, cultural items are human remains, associated funerary objects, unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony, all of which are part of USACE's archaeological collections. MCX CMAC manages and facilitates inventorying and summarizing collections, consulting with Indian tribes, researching cultural affiliation and aboriginal occupation, and returning NAGPRA collections to the appropriate Indian tribes.

- **FY22 Budget \$900,000**

- MCX supports and facilitates NAGPRA compliance throughout the Corps. This includes review of districts' NAGPRA responsibilities, review of collections for previously unidentified human remains, cultural affiliation and aboriginal occupancy research for operating projects, facilitation of tribal consultation, publication of appropriate NAGPRA notices, and transfer of collections. MCX coordinates and liaises with the Department of the Interior's National NAGPRA Program.

- **Activities after FY 2022**

- Review of districts' faunal (animal bone) collections for unidentified human remains.
- Conduct cultural affiliation/aboriginal occupancy research for district operating projects.
- Coordinate notice publication, facilitate tribal consultation, and support repatriation at the request of districts.

- **Status:**

- The Corps is responsible for the curation and management of at least 47,846 cubic feet of artifacts and at least 3,619 linear feet of associated records collected from its water resources development projects. NAGPRA related items are estimated to be more than 7,000 individuals and 505,000 objects. All 38 domestic Corps districts have completed the necessary NAGPRA summaries. Human remains have been identified in collections from 27 Corps districts, and these have been or are being physically inspected. Districts continue to make determinations of cultural affiliation/aboriginal occupancy in order to repatriate to a valid claimant Indian tribe. To date, MCX CMAC has ensured the publication of 92 compliance Notices and the repatriation of 3,971 individuals and 258,186 funerary objects to Indian tribes.



Photo from National NAGPRA

VALUE TO NATION	
Districts with human remains and associated funerary objects	26
Estimated minimum number of individual sets of human remains	~7,400
Estimated number of funerary objects	~505,000
NAGPRA compliance documents filed	92
Human remains repatriated	3,971 individuals
Funerary objects and cultural items repatriated	258,186 objects

SAMPLE