



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
St. Louis District

Information Paper

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Operation and Maintenance (O&M)



Figure 1: Inspecting objects (image from National NAGPRA website)

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Description

The Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (CMAC), St. Louis District, delivers centralized management, administration, and policy development for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wide compliance with archeological collections management. MCX CMAC provides overall management of the USACE's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (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, which includes 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.

Status

NAGPRA related items within USACE collections are estimated to be more than 7,400 individuals and 505,000 objects. All 38 domestic USACE districts have completed the required NAGPRA initial summaries. Human remains, referred to as Ancestors, have been identified in collections from 26

USACE Districts. MCX CMAC works with districts to inventory the collections, publish compliance documents, and repatriate human remains.

USACE NAGPRA STATUS	
Districts with human remains and cultural items	26
Estimated number of ancestors	6,454
Estimated number of cultural objects	345,809
NAGPRA compliance documents filed	122
Ancestors repatriated	4,366
Cultural Objects repatriated	265,161

Importance

Respectful treatment and return of Native American human remains is critical to USACE's relationship with Tribal partners. Centralized management and funding, along with MCX CMAC subject matter expertise, are critical for USACE-wide execution.

Authority

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601) and implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 10).

Activities for FY25

- Address new regulatory requirement for 102 Museum statements received by USACE addressing possible USACE NAGPRA collections.
- Provide faunal review of collections from at least three districts to identify Ancestors that may have been unidentified.
- Complete inventory verifications for at least six districts.
- Coordinate publication of at least 10 notices.
- Repatriate collections returning at least 220 Ancestors and 8,425 cultural items.

Activities after FY25

- Continue faunal review of collections, inventory verifications, consultation assistance, and support of repatriation requests.
- Draft guidance and provide training to Corps district on updated regulations, which became effective 12 January 2024.

Financial

FY24 Allocation: \$1,287,000
FY25 Presidents Budget: \$1,300,000