



Tribal law enforcement academy to be located in North Dakota

BY: JOHN HULT
ND Monitor

Camp Grafton, a National Guard facility near Devils Lake, North Dakota. (Courtesy of North Dakota National Guard)

Camp Grafton, a National Guard facility near Devils Lake, North Dakota. (Courtesy of North Dakota National Guard) Tribal police recruits in North Dakota will soon have an option for basic training through the Bureau of Indian Affairs that's closer to home.

Camp Grafton, a North Dakota National Guard base near Devils Lake, is currently the site of advanced law enforcement training for the BIA. It's now set to host basic law enforcement training for BIA recruits, as well as for recruits from local tribal police departments, law enforcement communications and correctional agencies.

The news was tucked into a wider-reaching executive order from U.S. Interior Secretary and former North Dakota Gov. Doug

Burgum to create an Indian Country Violent Crime Task Force. A news release announced the creation of the task force Tuesday, which was the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

The task force "builds on the first Trump administration's work to bring national attention and resources to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis," the release says, and "expands that work with a broader focus on violent crime prevention, investigations and public safety across Indian Country."

Among other things, the task force will focus on opioid trafficking, create a "Predatory Crimes Unit" to focus on child victims of exploitation and "re-focus" efforts to solve missing persons and homicide cases.

Burgum advocated to bring BIA basic training to Camp Grafton while serving as North Dakota governor.

During a U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs field hearing in 2019 in



Camp Grafton, a National Guard facility near Devils Lake, North Dakota. (Courtesy of North Dakota National Guard)

SUMMONS

TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL COURT - JUVENILE DIVISION
TURTLE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA

In the matter of the minor child(ren):
M.P., DOB: 12/28/2024

TM Child Welfare Petitioner(s))	SUMMONS
)	CASE# JV-
VS)	CW-24-15039
Mariah Peltier, mother Unknown Father)	

TO: Unknown Father;

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to appear before the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court in the above-entitled matter on the 17th day of June, 2026 at 9:00a.m., to defend against the PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS in the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court in Belcourt, North Dakota and herewith that has been served upon filed by Turtle Mountain Child Welfare in Belcourt, North Dakota.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2026

/s/Jenna Belgarde
Juvenile Clerk
Turtle Mountain Tribal Court
714 Little Shell Street NE
P.O. Box 900
Belcourt, North Dakota 58316
(701) 477-6121 ext 220
(#35, 36, 37)

SUMMONS

TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL COURT - JUVENILE DIVISION
TURTLE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA

In the matter of the minor child(ren):
T.S., DOB: 09/04/2011;
K.L., DOB: 07/06/2020

TM Child Welfare Petitioner(s))	SUMMONS
)	CASE# JV-
VS)	CW-23-15022
Dustin Downs, Father)	

TO: Dustin Downs;

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to appear before the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court in the above-entitled matter on the 3rd day of June, 2026 at 9:00a.m., to defend against the Request for a Review Hearing in the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court in Belcourt, North Dakota and herewith that has been served upon filed by Turtle Mountain Child Welfare in Belcourt, North Dakota.

Dated this 8th day of May, 2026

/s/Jenna Belgarde
Juvenile Clerk
Turtle Mountain Tribal Court
714 Little Shell Street NE
P.O. Box 900
Belcourt, North Dakota 58316
(701) 477-6121 ext 220
(#35, 36, 37)

Bismarck, he said a Camp Grafton BIA academy would help recruit tribal officers across the region.

Tribal recruits nationwide, for local departments or the BIA, have traditionally attended basic training at a federal facility in Artesia, New Mexico.

He said tribal communities face the dual difficulties of high crime rates and a dearth of law enforcement, and that the distance between the training facility and their homes makes recruiting difficult.

"We believe that we can create a premier BIA tribal police officer training facility in North Dakota at Camp Grafton, in conjunction with the Lake Region Law Enforcement Academy in Devils Lake," Burgum told the committee. "This is very close to Spirit Lake Nation, and not only could this help solve the problem in North Dakota, but for South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota,

Wisconsin."

The U.S. Indian Police Academy Advanced Training Center at Camp Grafton opened the following year. The facility offers higher-level training for officers who've already completed the 14-week basic law enforcement certification course in New Mexico.

The timeline on the "implementation of basic training" at Camp Grafton is unclear. Burgum's Tuesday executive order directs the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs to "develop basic training curriculum" for police, corrections and communications courses at the site "beginning in

the second quarter of fiscal year 2026."

The second quarter of federal fiscal year 2026 began in January.

The Interior Department did not respond to an email from South Dakota Searchlight with questions about the start of the Camp Grafton basic training program, the number of recruits it could train, and other questions.

Calls to a spokesperson for Camp Grafton were not immediately returned.

Like Burgum, South Dakota's congressional delegation and its state-level leaders have also pushed for the establishment of

a BIA training academy for the Great Plains for several years, but had hoped to see it in their state.

U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson have each argued for Pierre as an appropriate location, as the city already has a state-run law enforcement training academy.

This story was originally produced by South Dakota Searchlight, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes North Dakota Monitor, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Deer Season Set, Apply Online

North Dakota's 2026 deer season is set, with 39,100 licenses available to hunters, down 3,200 from last year, the lowest total in over a half century. Muzzleloader licenses were also reduced, and antlerless deer gun licenses are not available in several units.

A total of 240 nonresident any deer archery licenses are available, a decrease of 60 from last year. Additionally, nonresidents may only hunt on private land, excluding Private Land Open To Sportsmen, during the first 9 1/2 days of the deer bow season.

The statewide deer herd continues to recover from the lingering effects of the 2022-23 winter and epizootic hemorrhagic disease outbreaks across a landscape with increasingly limited habitat. Additional measures to help encourage population growth were discussed at spring advisory board meetings. The Department will continue to engage stakeholders on these measures including limiting adult archery tags to antlered only in the upcoming year.

Conservative license allocations are intended to maintain hunting opportunities while en-

couraging population growth in the state, said Bill Haase, North Dakota Game and Fish Department wildlife division chief.

High quality deer habitat is not as abundant as in the past, particularly quality cover for fawn rearing and recruitment, limiting the potential for population recovery. This has been particularly evident in the eastern third of the state, where most gun license allocation reductions occurred for the upcoming season. In some parts of the state, deer gun harvest is down 90% from what was harvested in 2005, during the peak CRP years.

The department continues to emphasize habitat through existing voluntary landowner programs, new partnerships and innovative solutions, such as the Governor's Legacy Soil Health and Habitat Program, to bolster deer populations.

The spring mule deer survey showed western North Dakota's population is 31% higher than last year, which is attributed to high over-winter survival. Conservative license allocations remain to support continued population rebound.

North Dakota's 2026 deer gun season opens Nov. 6 and continues through Nov. 22.

Applicants for regular deer gun, gratis, youth and muzzleloader can apply online through the Game and Fish Department's website at gf.nd.gov. The deadline for applying is midnight June 3.

State law allows residents age 11, 12 and 13 to obtain any antlerless licenses, except in units 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F where mule deer doe licenses are issued through lottery.

In addition, regular deer gun hunters who turn 14 or 15 and who have never received a youth season deer gun license (a license at age 11, 12 or 13 does not apply) are eligible to receive a youth any deer license, except in units 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F where mule deer licenses are issued through lottery.

Total deer licenses are determined by harvest rates, aerial surveys, depredation reports, hunter observations, input at advisory board meetings, and comments from the public, landowners and department field staff.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 28, 2026

Turtle Mountain Housing Authority
4482 BIA 7 - PO Box 620
Belcourt, North Dakota 58316
(701) 477-5673

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about April 28, 2026, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa will authorize the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority to submit a request to the HUD/ONAP for the release of Indian Housing Block Grant - Competitive funds under ONAP of the by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, as amended (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations at 24 CFR Part 1000, to undertake a project known as Maintenance Service Building for the purpose of replacement of the Maintenance Department Shop, \$930,605.00 (including TM Housing and IHBG competitive funds at 9818 BIA 7).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Turtle Mountain Housing Authority has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority, 9818 BIA 7 where ERR can be examined and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00A.M. to 4:30P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority. All comments received by May 1, 2026-May 19, 2026 will be considered by the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Turtle Mountain Housing Authority certifies to HUD that Jamie Azure in his capacity as Tribal Chairman consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority; (b) the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal Agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at NPONAP Environmental_Review_Public_Comment@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Jamie Azure
TMBCI tribal chairman



TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING AUTHORITY, T.D.H.E.
A TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY

P.O. BOX 620 * 9818 BIA RD 7 - SUITE 7 * BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA 58316-0620
TELEPHONE: 701-477-5673 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE FAX: 701-477-0193

TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING AUTHORITY
BATHROOM RENOVATION
Unit 991 Eagles View

Project Location: Eagles View, Unit 991, Belcourt, North Dakota 58316
Bid Due Date: MAY 15, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

For more information contact Dave Nadeau, TMHA Maintenance Director, or to request a BID PACKET, contact Alex Davis or Danelle Baker at the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority Main Office during business hours.

*The Turtle Mountain Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Project subject to TERO, and federal requirements*