

**STATEMENT OF
HEITH JANKE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEES ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
AND
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**AT A HEARING ENTITLED,
Innovative Technologies and Initiatives to Tackle the MMIP Crisis in Indian
Country**

**PRESENTED
July 14, 2026**

UNCLASSIFIED



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Chairman, Ranking Member, and other members on the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to provide a written statement.

My name is Heith Janke, and I am the Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I apologize that I could not be there in person to talk about the work that the FBI is doing across Indian Country (IC). The Bureau is deeply committed to working in partnership with Tribal nations, federal and local agencies, and the Department of Justice to address the evolving threats posed by a wide range of criminal activity occurring on sovereign Tribal lands.

Overview:

The FBI has investigative jurisdiction throughout the United States over a variety of federal crimes to include terrorism, counterintelligence, cybercrimes, and criminal matters like bank robberies, violent gangs, public corruption, health care fraud, and human trafficking. The



FBI also has a jurisdiction specific to IC that gives us investigative responsibility for violent crimes committed on many of the federally recognized Indian reservations across the country.

The FBI shares that jurisdiction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and conducts investigations alongside our partners at the federal, state, local and Tribal levels. Together, we are working to make Tribal communities safer by focusing our efforts on the most dangerous and violent criminal offenders.

FBI Efforts in Indian Country

There are 39 FBI field offices that have IC in their areas of responsibility and 35 have IC specific investigative jurisdiction. However, over 95% of FBI IC criminal investigations occur in the following field offices:

- Albuquerque
- Billings
- Denver
- Detroit
- Minneapolis
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Portland
- Phoenix
- Seattle
- Salt Lake City

The FBI has approximately 350 full time personnel addressing threats in IC. That includes more than 200 full time agents, as well as intelligence personnel, victim specialists, and professional support employees, investigating IC crimes, prioritizing the most egregious criminal violations on approximately 200 Indian reservations.

FBI Special Agents investigating IC crimes carry large caseloads due to high rates of violent incidents, expansion of jurisdiction, and other circumstances unique to IC. Due to these factors, the amount of pending unresolved IC violent crime cases being investigated by the FBI have remained high. At the start of FY2026, the FBI's IC program had approximately 4,100 open investigations to include Child Sexual Abuse, Death Investigations/Murder, Domestic Violence Assaults, Drug Trafficking Investigations, Child Physical Abuse, Fraud, Assaults on Law Enforcement, Organized Crime/Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) Investigations in Indian Country, Indian Country Gang Investigations, Trafficking in Cultural/Human Remains/NAGPRA, Human Trafficking, and Public Corruption.



FBI Initiatives in Indian Country

In FY2023, Operation Not Forgotten (ONF) was created to surge resources to FBI field offices to address violent crime investigations in IC. ONF is a joint operation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Missing and Murdered Unit (BIA-MMU). Between FY2023 and FY2025, the FBI has conducted 3 iterations of ONF and surged almost 150 personnel resulting in renewed focus for over 760 IC investigations.

In April 2026, building on the successes of ONF, the FBI began Operation Steadfast Promise (OSP), a comprehensive surge of resources to IC. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the FBI, the BIA, and federal, state, local and Tribal partners. FY2026's iteration of ONF is one of the operations under the OSP umbrella.

During the 2026 ONF, the FBI is deploying more than 70 Special Agents across the following 11 Field Offices:

- Albuquerque
- Billings
- Denver
- Detroit
- Jackson
- Las Vegas
- Minneapolis
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Portland
- Phoenix

Thirteen intelligence personnel will TDY to FBIHQ to provide additional ONF support.

Another initiative under OSP is Operation Ballistic Backlog (OBB). OBB is a surge of resources occurring between April 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, to address firearm-related violent crime threats and improve public safety in Tribal communities. Through OBB, the FBI is partnering with ATF, BIA, and Tribal law enforcement to review firearms in Tribal law enforcement evidence holdings, test fire them, and enter the spent casings into ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to generate potential leads on existing violent crime investigations. OBB is just one example of the proactive measures the FBI has been taking to address cases which would otherwise remain unsolved.

OSP includes various other mission-specific initiatives and surges to address threats such as criminal organizations/gangs/drug trafficking, crimes against children, and fugitive matters on Tribal Lands.



FBI Efforts related to Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)

The FBI approaches missing or murdered indigenous persons with a three-prong approach; 1) investigative efforts and response, 2) intelligence, and 3) outreach.

These investigations are predicated based on allegations that a crime within the FBI's jurisdiction has occurred as the FBI cannot take the lead role in cases in which there is no federal nexus or jurisdiction, including adult missing persons matters within IC when no indicia of criminality exist. When requested, the FBI can provide investigative assistance while the state, local or Tribal law enforcement agency maintains primary investigative authority. The FBI may provide investigative assistance to include Evidence Response Teams (ERT), Child and Adolescent Forensic Interviewing Specialists (CAFI), Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (CARD) teams, Cellular Analysis Survey Teams (CAST), Victim Services Response Teams (VSRT), and other specialized teams and agents.

Beginning in 2024, ONF has included joint MMIP focused case work with BIA-MMU investigators and analytic personnel. During this time, the FBI and BIA have applied resources to over 30 joint nominated cold cases for both murders and missing persons.

FBI intelligence components continue to analyze various data sets related to missing persons as well as homicides to better understand the public safety and public health implications and trends. These components also analyze information for proactive initiatives and case assistance.

Another FBI Intelligence initiative, worked in concert with Health Care Fraud investigators, identifies and locates individuals who have been reported missing to law enforcement and may be victims of a health care fraud scheme. This initiative was started in response to an illicit rehabilitation facility fraud in Arizona. The initiative provides leads to law enforcement when missing persons are identified as receiving health care benefits and may also be victims of health care fraud.

In 2023, BIA-MMU embedded an investigative analyst into FBI's Indian Country and International Violent Crime Unit (ICIVCU) as a Task Force Member. The embedded analyst is located in FBI's Albuquerque Field Office and receives notification when any FBI IC investigation is opened through their access to the FBI case management system. In 2026, an FBI Intelligence Analyst (IA) received similar access to BIA-OJS's systems. This partnership facilitates deconfliction across FBI and BIA-OJS systems and improves information and intelligence sharing.

Finally, Community Outreach Specialists (COSs) and Public Affairs Officers (PAOs) at FBI Field Offices across the country work with investigative and intelligence personnel to share information related to MMIP, as well as other potential threats to Tribal communities. PAOs work with our law enforcement partners, often providing public affairs guidance on joint messaging efforts and aid law enforcement who do not have a PAO of their own. ICIVCU and



VCIU participate in MMIP working groups such as the Operation Lady Justice, DOJ's DAG MMIP Steering Committee, and the Not Invisible Act Commission.

Training Initiatives

The National Indian Country Training Initiative (NICTI) is a DOJ initiative that provides training to professionals working in IC. The FBI provides instructors for in-person and online training courses. FBI agents who are newly assigned to IC attend the Violent Crime Basics Seminar for exposure to additional instruction on the matters they are about to work on.

Over the past several years, the FBI's Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (CARD) Team provided training to local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies situated in regions with IC responsibility on the investigative steps that should be taken following a child abduction in their areas of responsibilities.

In collaboration with the FBI's Lab Division, three iterations of the Indian Country Evidence Collection and Crime Scene Management Training will be provided in FY2026. These in-person courses will detail techniques for managing basic to complex crime scenes and collecting evidence following violent crimes occurring in rural/remote areas with a limited number of responding personnel.

Closing:

In closing, the FBI's unwavering commitment to this mission is a top priority. The FBI appreciates the committee's interest and for the support in our ongoing efforts to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks and violent crime in IC, and your commitment to bringing justice to victims in IC. Together, we are building stronger and safer communities. Thank you.