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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Selected for Participation in
Program Enhancing Tribal Access to National Crime Information
Databases**

Acting U.S. Attorney Richard G. Frohling of the Eastern District of Wisconsin joined Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco and other Department of Justice officials in announcing that the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin was one of 12 federally recognized tribes selected to participate in the expansion of the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP), a program that provides tribal governments with means to access, enter, and exchange data with national crime information systems, including those maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division and the states.

The program provides training as well as software and biometric/biographic kiosk workstations to process fingerprints, take mugshots, and submit information to FBI's CJIS systems. With these additional tribes, there are now 108 federally recognized Tribes participating in TAP.

TAP has been an important resource for the department's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative and the Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives known as Operation Lady Justice. The Department of Justice began TAP in 2015 in response to concerns raised by tribal leaders about the need to have direct access to federal systems.

Using TAP, tribes have shared information about missing persons; registered convicted sex offenders; entered domestic violence orders of protection for nationwide enforcement; run criminal histories; identified and arrested fugitives; entered bookings and convictions; and completed fingerprint-based record checks for non-criminal justice purposes such as screening employees or volunteers who work with children.

“Timely access to federal criminal information can help protect domestic violence victims, place foster children in safe conditions, solve crimes, and apprehend fugitives on tribal land, among other important uses,” said Deputy Attorney General Monaco. “Increasing tribal access to criminal databases is a priority of the Justice Department and this Administration, and essential to many tribal government efforts to strengthen public safety in their communities.”

Acting United States Attorney Frohling stated “Having access to these databases will allow for the timely exchange of critical information – all with the goal of increasing public safety for everyone living, working, and going to school on the Menominee Indian Reservation.”

TAP is managed by the Justice Department’s Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Office of Tribal Justice. It is funded by the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART), the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). For more information on TAP, visit www.justice.gov/tribal/tribal-access-program-tap.

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