



# **NORTHEAST ARIZONA TRAINING CENTER JAKE FLAKE EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTITUTE**

*“Training Emergency Professionals for Public Service”*

Congressionally Directed Spending Request-

## **Critical Infrastructure for Public Safety Education and Training in Rural Arizona**

The purpose of this \$2.7 million request for Congressionally Directed Spending through the USDA Rural Development – Community Facilities Grant is to obtain sufficient resources to complete a capital improvement project, which is part of the master facilities plan for the Northeast Arizona Training Center (NATC), which was developed and approved by the NATC board and partners, including 22 public safety agencies across Navajo and Apache Counties. The exponential increase in the cost of construction has rendered the achievement of the master facilities plan, which is critical to meeting current education and training needs and to building capacity for all NATC partners, prohibitively expensive. Without congressional assistance, we are forced to scale back and scale down, compromising preservice and in-service training for agencies across rural Arizona who rely on NATC.

The Northeast Arizona Training Center (NATC)/Jake Flake Emergency Services Institute, 501(c) 3 was founded in 2004 to support its mission “Training Emergency Professionals for Public Service”, by providing a regional facility for the preservice preparation of public safety professionals, including law enforcement and fire personnel, and to provide for the ongoing training and recertification of these professionals. The NATC partnership is comprised of five key stakeholders, Navajo County Community College District dba Northland Pioneer College (NPC- education provider), the Town of Taylor, Arizona (provider of the land for the NATC facility), the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, the Northern Arizona Police Association and the Northeastern Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, and represents 22 public-safety (law enforcement and fire) agencies across Navajo and Apache counties. Northland Pioneer College, the only comprehensive community college serving the two-county area, operates NATC on the Taylor site, in addition to programs for certification in Fire Science including Wildland and Urban Interface and Law Enforcement training. All partner agencies pay annual dues to use the facility for ongoing instruction and training, utilizing its defensive driving track, burn building, flashover chamber, shooting range and meeting/classroom facilities. Outside agencies pay user fees. These membership fees and user fees generate revenue for maintenance and upkeep. NATC is overseen by three-member board of directors, supported by a four-member advisory committee with representation of all stakeholder groups.

Since 2012, NATC has graduated 139 regional officers who are all employed by law enforcement agencies primarily within Navajo and Apache Counties and eastern Arizona. NATC has trained 678 firefighters that supply regional fire agencies with certified structural and wildland firefighting personnel. The Jake Flake Emergency Institute provides workforce continuing education opportunities for law enforcement and fire fighting on a weekly basis.

The Town of Taylor, in partnership with Abitibi Consolidated, a paper mill (now closed) that operated near Taylor, provided the land for the NATC facility. In 2005 Northland Pioneer

College, by District Governing Board (DGB) action, entered into an MOU with NATC to provide \$300,000 for the construction of the burn tower at the proposed training facility. NPC made a commitment to be the educational provider of the facility, and the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) provided funding for construction of the driving track. The Town of Taylor secured a \$500,000 Greater AZ Development Association (GADA) loan to construct the NATC training facility. NATC by-laws were formalized in 2006, and in 2007, the Arizona State Legislature appropriated \$1 million dollars to NPC to be used for construction of a public safety and emergency services training facility. All expenditures of the appropriation were approved by the DGB. In September 2012, NATC altered the by-Laws of the organization in order to reach compliance with Arizona State General Session Law, after committing to full financial responsibility for repayment of principle and interest of the Town of Taylor GADA loan. The current NATC Board consists of three voting members, all appointed by the NPC DGB. Representatives from Navajo County, the Town of Taylor, NAFCA, and the Northeast Arizona Police Association (NAPA) serve as a non-voting advisory council. All stakeholders are provided with a Standard Operating Guide (SOG), revised and board approved each year that outlines the procedures for use of the facilities. The NATC Director, employed through NPC, oversees the scheduling and management of all aspects of the facility.

Funds will be used at the NATC training facility to allow for the expansion of an existing classroom structure from 3,925 square feet to 9,789 square feet. The 5,864 square-foot addition will include administrative space, and new centralized classrooms and staff offices. The addition to the existing building will also provide resources to recruits from partner public service agencies who are living on site to include but not be limited to; kitchen services, break room, and shower facilities.

The total cost of the expansion is based on the current rate of \$450.00/square foot, as quoted by SPS+Architects, for a total of \$2,638,800.00. The 25% match, totaling \$659,700.00 will be provided by NATC, Northland Pioneer College, and the NATC law enforcement and fire science partner agencies, all of whom have fully committed to the project.

(See floorplan below)

