

Alex Tortes



Alex Tortes is a tribal member of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe. Alex was born at the Soboba Indian Hospital in southern California. He is a father of four children, and proud grandfather of thirteen grandchildren.

Alex has over 30 years of law enforcement experience. During his law enforcement career of several decades, Alex worked a variety of assignments, including patrol, traffic, detective bureau, narcotics unit, special enforcement (SWAT), gangs, and special operations. He had promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Area Commander when he retired from the City of Riverside Police Department. The region where he served as Lieutenant Area Command had significant crime and community tensions with law enforcement. Alex happily saw positive success in that community as he worked with individuals from the community's leadership and formed common ground partnerships for community safety and quality of life. Alex also served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Policing Consortium. In this capacity he assisted minority communities and the public safety agencies who served these communities, break down barriers to proactively work toward practical solutions. Alex had the unique opportunity, beginning in 2008, to work with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a Tribal Liaison. He is the founding member of the Department's Tribal Liaison Unit. He helped shape the methodology of this non-traditional unit.

Alex has a Bachelor's Degree and has earned a Vocational Teaching Credential. He has consulted for both the Inter-Tribal Council of California and Western Oregon University – Western Community Policing Institute. He is an adjunct instructor for the Riverside Community College teaching a "Cultural Diversity" course. He helped develop the California Peace Officers Standard and Training course, "Policing on Tribal Lands," and assisted for many years teaching this course as a POST certified instructor. Also, as a certified POST instructor he traveled throughout California assisting a team in the course entitled, "Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault for First Responders on Tribal Lands."

Alex is co-author of the publication, "Understanding Jurisdiction on Tribal Lands, A User-friendly PL 280 Resource Guide," where he currently teaches this POST certified course through the California State University, San Marcos, Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center.

Alex currently serves his Tribe, the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, as the Legislative Committee Chairman. He has served in this capacity since 2014.