

MEET THE TNTCX TEAM

Dr. Ronald Kneebone

TNTCX Director
Tribal Liaison



Dr. Ronald Kneebone is the Director of the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has worked for USACE over the past twenty-seven years as an Archaeologist, Project Manager, and Tribal Liaison. The Tribal Nations Technical Center was created in 2015 to support meeting the agency's Federal Trust responsibilities and to help organize the USACE Tribal Nations Program resources to improve the delivery of water resource's projects and other unique services provided by USACE in Indian Country.

Dr. Kneebone received his doctorate in archaeology from the University of New Mexico in 1991. He spent much of his career working in the southwestern United States and the Gulf Coast of Mexico. An eclectic researcher, Dr. Kneebone's interests include human space economies, development and maintenance of complex social systems, as well as the prehistory of Southern Siberia, Mesoamerica, and North America. As Director of the TNTCX, Dr. Kneebone's goal has been to improve the Corps' effectiveness in delivering the agency's missions Native American communities and fulfilling the agency's trust responsibilities to the nation's 574 federally recognized tribes. The Center provides support to USACE Headquarters, USACE Major Subordinate Commands (MSC) and Districts throughout USACE.



Mr. Michael P. Fedoroff
TNTCX Deputy Director
Tribal Liaison/Operations Chief



Michael P. Fedoroff serves as the Deputy to the Director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this position he manages the daily operations of the TNTCX's support program for both military and civil works.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Fedoroff was Tribal Liaison, Mobile District, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—a position he held from October 2012 to August 2017. Mr. Fedoroff also served as the United States Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Senior Inland Environmental Compliance manager with responsibilities for managing and conducting Tribal consultation involving cultural resource research designs, Section 106, historic properties management, mitigation work plans, avoidance plans, and other matters related to USACE Civil Works Planning and Environmental and Military Support. Mr. Fedoroff has developed extensive knowledge and experience in the field techniques required for working in rugged and remote locations, and his field experience includes work in the Southeastern United States, Central America, and Southeast Asia.

Fedoroff holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Anthropology from the University of Southern Mississippi where he graduated Cum Laude. He is currently enrolled in the PhD Program for Anthropology at the University of Alabama. Mr. Fedoroff's decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3 awards), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Navy Unit Commendation, and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service (3 awards). Additional accolades include the South Atlantic Division's 2016 Planning Achievement Award "Team of the Year" (Team lead), and the 2017-2018 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, Regional Director's Conservation Award

He also a member of several professional anthropology societies, including the Society of American Archaeology, the Southeastern Archaeology Conference, and the National Archaeology Council of Councils. Mr. Fedoroff also serves on several National Advisory Teams for USACE policy including Tribal Affairs, and is a registered professional archaeologist in the United States of America. He has worked with Indigenous groups all across the globe and enjoys exploring opportunities for collaboration with Native American communities.



Mr. Matthew M. Grunewald
TNTCX Program Analyst
Tribal Liaison



Mr. Matthew M. Grunewald, is the Program Analyst and staff Tribal Liaison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This position allows him to assist in managing the TNTCX's robust tribal nations support program for both military and civil works. Mr. Grunewald brings a wealth of analytical experience to the Army, USACE and the TNTCX and will be working with Dr. Kneebone, TNTCX Director, to move the organization forward as we seek to provide quality water resources projects to Tribal Nations and work with our partners to provide our technical services across the enterprise.

Prior to his work for the TNTCX, Mr. Grunewald served as an Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison for the Mobile District USACE and his duties included inland and coastal civil works associated with shallow and deep draft operations and maintenance/new work navigation projects, general land use investigations, Base Realignment and Closure support, various planning studies, Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) permitting and violation investigations, archaeological field investigations, and various military support projects for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Mr. Grunewald has served as an expert witness for the Federal Government during an ARPA criminal trial with an emphasis on tribal ancestral homeland issues. Mr. Grunewald holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, with a minor in Biological Sciences from Clemson University (Cum Laude) and a Master of Arts in Anthropology, specializing in prehistoric archaeology, from the University of Alabama. He is also a 2016 USACE Leadership Development Program graduate (Mobile District).

Mr. Grunewald is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), served two years as an assistant editor of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology, and three years as the Chairman of the Alabama Maritime Advisory Commission. His awards include a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, An Army Achievement Award, and a letter of commendation from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for 2014 Tribal Consultation work.



Mrs. Vanessa J. Alberto

TNTCX

Regional Tribal Outreach Specialist
Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison



Vanessa Alberto is a Tribal Liaison and Archaeologist serving as the Regional Tribal Outreach Specialist on assignment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this position Mrs. Alberto works to expand on remote partnering, learning how to better serve our Tribal partners while adapting to a more virtual environment, and develop tools and resources for USACE Tribal Liaisons to enhance their tribal trust responsibilities and relationships.

In addition to this assignment, Mrs. Alberto serves as the civil works tribal liaison and archaeologist for the USACE, St. Paul District. As a Tribal Liaison, she works to establish and execute a Tribal program within the St. Paul District by advising senior leadership on USACE responsibilities in regards to Tribal policy, reviewing any activity that has the potential to affect protected tribal resources, expanding the Tribal Partnership Program through outreach, and developing programmatic initiatives within the district to include consistency across the District in communication and representation. As an archaeologist, her duties include promoting a consistent, effective, and comprehensive cultural resources management program within the USACE. This involves fostering and maintaining positive and trusting relationships with Tribal governments, federal agencies, state entities, and the American public. Her duties also extend to Public Affairs and Emergency Management.

Mrs. Alberto holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. She holds several awards for her outstanding work including Certificates of Appreciation and Merit. Additionally, Mrs. Alberto has been awarded numerous command level coins for her work with Tribal Nations. She is currently participating in the USACE Mississippi Valley Division Emerging Leaders Program.



Mr. Brian A. Zettle
Senior Biologist/Tribal Liaison
Special Programs Manager

Brian A. Zettle is a Senior Biologist and Tribal Liaison serving as the Special Programs Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this position he manages the daily operations of the TNTCX's Tribal communications support for the South Pacific Border District's border barrier construction projects.

Prior to his current assignment (June 2017 - May 2020), Mr. Zettle served as the Senior Biologist for the Coastal Resiliency Program in Mobile, Alabama. In this position he managed the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan for the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP) barrier island restoration project, as well as, serving in a lead environmental role for the other numerous coastal resiliency and restoration activities occurring under the program. Previously, Mr. Zettle also served as the Section Chief for the Inland Environment Team, Environment and Resources Branch, Planning Division, Mobile District, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from July 2012-May 2017. Mr. Zettle also served as the United States Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Senior Inland Environmental Compliance manager for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basins (ACF) water control manual update and other ecosystem restoration and water management matters related to USACE Civil Works Planning and Environmental and Military Support. Mr. Zettle has developed extensive knowledge and experience in Endangered Species consultation, aquatic ecosystem restoration, environmental compliance, and monitoring and adaptive management.

Mr. Zettle holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Clemson University.

