



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION HONORS WORLD WAR II COMANCHE CODE TALKERS

Featured Guest: Charles Chibitty, Last Surviving Comanche Code Talker

Washington, DC -- Today, the Comanche Code Talkers, members of a specialized communications unit of the U.S. Army 4<sup>th</sup> Signal Corps which served in World War II, were honored by the Federal Communications Commission for their meritorious service utilizing their ancestral Comanche language to create and use an “unbreakable code” on the battlefields of the Europe.

In a special program, held today in observance of National American Indian Heritage Month. Mr. Charles Chibitty of Tulsa, Oklahoma, a decorated veteran and the last surviving member of the Comanche Code Talkers, was the FCC’s guest of honor.

The Comanche code enabled the United States Army to communicate effectively at all levels of command as it advanced in the Allied liberation of Europe in 1944 and 1945. As American troops fought their way across France, Luxembourg and even into Nazi Germany, the Code Talkers’ efforts saved lives in battle and helped secure the freedom of the Allied countries and the rest of the world.

Mr. Chibitty shared how he and 16 other young men, who had grown up together and were all members of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma, used the Comanche language and their Army-trained communications skills to create a military intelligence code that was never broken by the enemy. He shared anecdotes from their enlistment and training, when they created Comanche code words for “bomber” and “tank”—words that did not exist in the Comanche language. Mr. Chibitty also explained how he and his fellow Code Talkers used their code in several combat missions.

The FCC program highlighted the significant contributions to our nation’s liberties not only of the Comanche Code Talkers, but also those of soldiers of other tribes, including Navajo, Choctaw and Sioux, who served in similar Code Talker units in World War II. American Indian Code Talkers and their languages proved precious to the United States war effort in an era well before modern code encryption techniques.

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FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell stated that, “Time and again the strength of our Nation is demonstrated when many diverse cultures come together as one. In addition, at important times in our history, a group has stepped forward to utilize their unique cultural background to make a special contribution to the well-being of our country, and this was particularly true in the case of the Comanche Code Talkers during World War II.”

Powell also stressed the significance of the FCC’s recently launched Indian Telecommunications Initiatives, designed to increase access to telecommunications services in Indian Country.

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