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# Media Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **National Indian Gaming Association Launches National Intelligence Network “EagleIntel”**

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**New state-of-the-art technology provides new layer of protection for tribal gaming**

**Washington, D.C., July 12, 2005**—The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) today launched the Indian Gaming National Intelligence Network, known as “EagleIntel.” The organization is a subsidiary nonprofit corporation of NIGA comprised of nine regions encompassing all geographic locations within the United States that have Indian gaming.

“The success of Indian gaming has sparked national interest and provides new opportunities for employment, business development, economic diversification and opportunities that enhance the quality of life in and around many Indian reservations throughout the United States,” said NIGA chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. “There are many legitimate opportunities associated with Indian gaming, but those seeking to devise illegal or wrongful methods to cheat or scam our gaming operations will be met with the full force of the tribes and the law.”

Currently, there are over 3,400 regulators overseeing 408 facilities nationwide, including 2,800 tribal regulators, over 500 state regulators and 80 federal regulators that include the FBI, the IRS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Annually, tribes spend over \$290 million annually to regulate Indian casinos.

The primary purpose of EagleIntel is to share information among tribal regulators, gaming security personnel and other authorized state and federal agencies to promote, protect and preserve the security of tribal gaming facilities from illegal activity.

EagleIntel is an Internet-based, state-of-the-art network that provides timely, accurate and reliable reporting to all authorized and registered members. User-friendly queries provide detailed information on each reported incident. Within seconds, of a new incident being posted to the network, every registered member will receive an email notice of that posting, prompting them to log onto EagleIntel for the complete report.

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The network database will file information, including photographs, on persons and their methods used to conduct wrongful or illegal activity at Indian gaming facilities. Additionally, EagleIntel will assist Indian tribes and authorized local, state, and federal agencies by sharing relevant information that benefits the common interests of tribes, authorized agencies, and the tribal gaming community.

“To address the potential for illegal activity, regional networks have been established throughout Indian Country that identify and share information on persons and their methods used to bring harm to Indian gaming operations,” said project consultant, Jerry Danforth. “While the networks have been very successful within their regions, the reported information has not always reached all tribal gaming facilities in a timely, accurate and reliable manner. The perpetrators have recognized this weak point and have established their own network, and their activities don’t stop at regional borders.”

The design and development of EagleIntel and its related policies and procedures have come from experts in gaming operations, gaming regulatory boards and commissions, casino security and observation departments, and law enforcement agencies from every level of government.

“Indian gaming is one of the most tightly regulated industries in the world,” said Stevens. “Tribes are dedicated to maintaining strong regulatory systems because their sovereignty, economic development and tribal welfare depend on it. We believe that EagleIntel will serve to strengthen the relationship between the regulatory and security operations of Indian gaming and will enhance security techniques that protect tribal gaming facilities and their communities from illegal activity.”

The National Indian Gaming Association is a non-profit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian Nations and other non-voting associate members. The common commitment and purpose of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people – economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational, legislative and public policy resource for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development.

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