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## **Fort Sill Apache Tribal Chairman Jeff Haozous Elected Vice President of New Apache Alliance**

**Akela, New Mexico (May 23, 2013)** —On May 10, Fort Sill Apache Tribal Chairman Jeff Haozous was elected Vice President of the Apache Alliance. Seven of the nine Apache Tribes were present at a meeting at the White Mountain Apache Reservation to approve the organization's charter and elected its officers.

"I am honored in the faith that my fellow Apache tribal leaders have placed in me," said Chairman Haozous. "I look forward to working with the other board members to achieve our common goals and to address our shared concerns," added Haozous. "It's a big step forward for our member tribes."

The Alliance is intended to represent all nine Apache Tribes to improve the economies, education, and quality of life for each tribe and for the Apache people. Beginning in 2011, the leaders of all of the Apache tribes met regularly to establish the Alliance and to prepare its new charter. "We have made significant progress this past year in creating this organization and I can't wait to see what the future holds," said newly elected President Ronnie Lupe of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

The other elected positions to the Alliance include:

- Secretary - Stanley Montoya, Council Member, Jicarilla Apache Tribe
- Treasurer - John Bush, Vice Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Sergeant at Arms - Levi Pesata, Former President, Jicarilla Apache Tribe

*The Fort Sill Apache Tribe is the successor to the Chiricahua - Warm Springs Apache Tribe. In 1886, they were taken as prisoners of war by the U.S. Army and removed from their homelands of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona to Florida, Alabama and Oklahoma, where they were released. They organized as the Fort Sill Apache Tribe after a Federal Court affirmed their claim for the loss of over 14.8 million acres of their homeland. The Tribe has always maintained both its independence as Chiricahua – Warm Springs Apaches and its desire to return to its rightful home. After receiving an invitation from the Governor of New Mexico in 1995 and again in 2000 to return to New Mexico, the Tribe purchased the property at Akela Flats in 1998 and was granted a Reservation in November 2011.*

For more information and updates on the Tribe, please follow us on [Twitter](#) (@FortSillApache) and [Facebook](#) (Fort Sill Apache Tribe New Mexico).

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