

# NHD Process Paper

We didn't find a topic easily. We had sifted through different topics and events but found none of them interesting. Later, I remembered a movie I had watched titled *Windtalkers*, a dramatization and film based on the Navajo Code Talkers' involvement in the Second World War in the Pacific. We thought it was interesting and it fits the theme of the year, communication, with how the Code Talkers created a code system that decisively determined how infantry campaigns against the Imperial Japanese would play out, so we pursued it.

We first researched by gathering basic information on the events regarding the Code Talkers, their founding, service, and legacy. Later, we focused on background information to do with how Native Americans were treated in America at the time in order to understand the significance of the Navajo using their native language as the basis of the code. Finally, we researched how their work determined the success of American forces in the Pacific Theatre. Most sources were secondary because of the nature of our subject and how it wasn't declassified until 1962. This meant that information from the time period was kept very securely from out of the public's reach and wasn't easy to come by. This left us with few primary sources except for the first-hand accounts, occasional documents, and photos.

Building our project as a website left us with lots of challenges, made evermore concerning with the amount of time left we had. One of us had made a website using the maker last year, but another had not. Due to the changes with the website builder, this left us with the challenge of putting our site together using a buggy and suboptimal website builder. We've learnt this year how to manage our time as well as being able to adapt to our situation quickly.

Our argument is that without the Navajo Code Talkers, the Pacific Campaign would not have been successful for allied forces and been a heavy disaster were it not for their service. This is due to how American forces used an inferior communication protocol prior which would have lead to tactical failures on the frontlines, leading to strategic losses in operations. Without the efforts of the Code Talkers, thousands of lives would have been lost, not to mention the prolonging of war in the Pacific, allowing the war to last longer and wreak more of its havoc. This would have led to thousands more deaths on both sides, allowing more suffering the conflict had inflicted upon the world. So, thanks to their service and sacrifice, the Code Talkers had not only saved countless lives but had changed the course of history, bringing the war to a swifter and less-bloodier end than what could've been, not to say that the war that did play out wasn't horrendous and bloody. Essentially, winning the war in the Pacific for Allied forces would have been impossible at without the code due to their communication systems and protocols at the time.

# Primary Sources

## Documents

Congress.Gov, 2000. [www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/4527/text](http://www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/4527/text).

This congress bill was useful because it shows how the Code Talkers were recognized for what they did. Because of the unbreakable code, they had to wait a while to recognize the Code Talkers for their work.

## Books

"Navajo Code Talker Dictionary". *History.Navy.Mil*, 2020,  
<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/n/navajo-code-talker-dictionary.html>. Accessed 2 Dec 2020.

This source was useful because it helped us understand how the Navajo Code was structured. We could use this source to see how the Code was so unbreakable.

## Quotes

Home, Unit, and News Display. "Marine Corps Heroes: Private Carl Gorman". *Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton*, 2020,  
<https://www.pendleton.marines.mil/News/News-Article-Display/Article/551319/marine-corps-heroes-private-carl-gorman/>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This quote was very useful because it showed us how the Navajo language was not written making it extremely difficult to break the code. Because Japanese could not figure out how to write the Code down, they were not able to break it.

Avila, Judith Schiess, and Chester Nez. "Unbreakable: The Navajo Code." HistoryNet, HistoryNet, 28 Nov. 2017, [www.historynet.com/unbreakable-navajo-code.htm](http://www.historynet.com/unbreakable-navajo-code.htm).

This quote was useful because it told us that there were already Navajo people in the Army that also helped to develop the code. It also helped us understand the situation the Code talkers were in because they didn't know many navy terms that they had to turn into Navajo Language.

Mejia, Antonia. "Navajo Code Talker Remembers WWII and the Code the Enemy Couldn't Crack." *king5.Com*, 15 Aug. 2019,  
[www.king5.com/article/news/history/the-navajo-weapon-code-talker-remembers-wwii/75-feb](http://www.king5.com/article/news/history/the-navajo-weapon-code-talker-remembers-wwii/75-feb)

25686-4c11-425b-8a6c-373f1b142abb.

This quote was extremely useful because it shows how the Japanese were ahead of the Americans because they were breaking eve code. This also emphasized the significance of the Navajo Code because unlike the other codes, this one was not broken.

### Websites

Monitor, The. "The Radio Code The Japanese Couldn't Crack ". *The Christian Science Monitor*, 1997,  
<https://www.csmonitor.com/1997/0107/010797.home.home.2.html#:~:text=Suribachi%20during%20the%20crucial%20battle,t%20the%20code%20ever%20broken%3F>. Accessed 12 Jan 2021.

This source was useful because it gave us some translations of key navy terms into the Navajo language. It helped us understand how the Code translated into words that weren't actually navy terms like bombs or aircraft carrier because the're wernet terms for those in the Navajo language. So instead they had to use words like egg, or bird carrier.

Avila, Judith Schiess, and Chester Nez. "Unbreakable: The Navajo Code." HistoryNet, HistoryNet, 28 Nov. 2017, [www.historynet.com/unbreakable-navajo-code.htm](http://www.historynet.com/unbreakable-navajo-code.htm).

This source was useful because it gave us a first person perspective of some of the Navajo Code talkers in the war. It showed us how the conditions of their lives during the war. It also showed us how they would go about sending and receiving information.

"Code Talkers". National Archives, 2016,  
[https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/military/code-talkers.html?\\_ga=2.232086751.1716472284.1606719568-1258034648.1606719568](https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/military/code-talkers.html?_ga=2.232086751.1716472284.1606719568-1258034648.1606719568). Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source gave us information about the different Native American Code talkers in WWI and WWII. This helped show that there were many other Native American Code talkers that were successful during the war.

"A People At War". Archives.Gov, 2020,  
[https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/a\\_people\\_at\\_war/new\\_roles/codetalkers.html](https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/a_people_at_war/new_roles/codetalkers.html). Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source was useful because it showed us how Philip Johnston went about asking the Commandant of the Marine Corps to use the Navajo Language to send Coded messages. It also gave us a picture that we will use in our website.

"John Werito Goes To War; A Story Of A WWII Diné [Navajo] Code Talker". The Text Message, 2019,  
<https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2019/01/29/john-werito-goes-to-war-a-story-of-a-wwii-dine-navajo-code-talker/>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source was useful because it gave us the story of one of the Code Talkers during the war. It showed us how the Code Talkers would send coded messages and receive them. It also gave us many photos for us to use in our website.

"Voting Rights – The Text Message". The Text Message, 2019,  
<https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/tag/voting-rights/>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source gave us information about the short term effects of the Navajo Code Talkers. It helped us understand how significant their participation in WWII helped to make the Native Americans have more rights.

## Secondary Sources

### Books

Donovan, Peter, and John Mack. *Code Breaking in the Pacific*. Springer International Publishing AG, 2014.

This source gave us information about the ciphers during WWII. It helped us to understand the challenges that had to be faced during WWII and how Codes and Ciphers were used.

"Multicultural America". *Google Books*, 2021,  
<https://books.google.co.th/books?id=VQ1zAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA541&lpg=PA541&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false>. Accessed 13 Jan 2021.

This source helped us to cross reference information for historical context. It also gave us information about WWI and WWII that would be very useful for our historical context.

### Websites

"Navajo Code Talker Dictionary". *History.Navy.Mil*, 2020,  
<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/n/navajo-code-talker-dictionary.html>. Accessed 2 Dec 2020.

We found this source useful because it helped us understand how the code was built. Giving us a better understanding of how the Code Talkers translate the messages and

helped us see how unbreakable the code was. It also proved to be useful because of the photos it provided for our website.

""Semper Fidelis, Code Talkers"". *National Archives*, 2016,  
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2001/winter/navajo-code-talkers.html>.  
Accessed 12 Jan 2021.

This website gave us a very useful photo of some Navajo Code talkers at a decoding machine. This showed us what the Code talkers used to decode messages. It also was useful for our website to show what it was like for the Navajo to decode messages.

"Japan Broke U.S. Code Before Pearl Harbor, Researcher Finds". *Los Angeles Times*, 2001,  
<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2001-dec-07-mn-12562-story.html#:~:text=While%20researching%20secret%20codes%20used,U.S.%20and%20British%20diplomatic%20codes>. Accessed 13 Jan 2021.

This website was extremely helpful because it showed us what codes that Japan had broken before WWII. Proving that the U.S. have had their codes broken. Proving the significance of the Navajo Code.

Budge, Kent. "The Pacific War Online Encyclopedia: Codes". *Pwencycl.Kgbudge.Com*, 2020, <http://pwencycl.kgbudge.com/C/o/Codes.htm>. Accessed 3 Dec 2020.

This website was extremely helpful because it showed us what codes that Japan had broken before WWII. Proving that the U.S. have had their codes broken. Proving the significance of the Navajo Code.

"Navajo Code Talkers And The Unbreakable Code — Central Intelligence Agency". *Cia.Gov*, 2020,  
<https://www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2008-featured-story-archive/navajo-code-talkers/>. Accessed 2 Dec 2020.

This source was helpful because of the information it gave us on the Navajo code talkers. Including how and why they were brought into the war to make the Code. It also supplied us with photos that we used for our website.

Eric Levenson, CNN. "The Incredible Story Of The Navajo Code Talkers That Got Lost In All The Politics". *CNN*, 2020,  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2017/11/28/us/navajo-code-talkers-trump-who/index.html>. Accessed 27 Nov 2020.

This source was helpful because of the information it gave us on the Navajo code

talkers. Including how and why they were brought into the war to make the Code. It also supplied us with photos that we used for our website.

“Honoring Native American Code Talkers.” *U.S. Department of the Interior*, 7 Nov. 2017, [www.doi.gov/blog/honoring-native-american-code-talkers](http://www.doi.gov/blog/honoring-native-american-code-talkers).

This source was helpful because of the information it gave us on the Navajo code talkers. Including other Native American codes that were created in WWI and how and why they were brought into the war to make the Code. It also supplied us with photos that we used for our website.

Morales, Laurel. “Navajo Code Talkers: The 'Miracle' That Ended World War II.” *Fronteras*, 1 May 2020, [fronterasdesk.org/content/1005301/navajo-code-talkers-miracle-ended-world-war-ii](http://fronterasdesk.org/content/1005301/navajo-code-talkers-miracle-ended-world-war-ii).

This source was helpful because of the information it gave us on the Navajo code talkers. Including how and why they were brought into the war to make the Code. It also supplied us with photos that we used for our website.

Mejia, Antonia. “Navajo Code Talker Remembers WWII and the Code the Enemy Couldn't Crack.” *king5.Com*, 15 Aug. 2019, [www.king5.com/article/news/history/the-navajo-weapon-code-talker-remembers-wwii/75-feb-25686-4c11-425b-8a6c-373f1b142abb](http://www.king5.com/article/news/history/the-navajo-weapon-code-talker-remembers-wwii/75-feb-25686-4c11-425b-8a6c-373f1b142abb).

This source is useful because this article is a Navajo Code talker remembering WWII. Giving a source that was more in detail and accurate because it came from a source that was there at the time. It helped us with photos and in-detail information of the Navajo Code Talkers.

Silversmith, Shondiin. “Navajo Code Talkers Created an Unbreakable Code. It Helped Win World War II.” *The Arizona Republic, The Republic | Azcentral.com*, 31 Jan. 2020, [www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2018/07/11/navajo-code-talker-facts-unbreakable-code/460262002/](http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2018/07/11/navajo-code-talker-facts-unbreakable-code/460262002/).

This source was useful to us because it gave us information about how the Code Talkers were brought into the navy. It also tells us about the battles that the Code Talkers participated in, and how they changed the tide of the war.

Staff, HistoryNet. “Codemakers: History of the Navajo Code Talkers.” *HistoryNet*, HistoryNet, 1 Dec. 2017, [www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-navajo-code-talkers.htm](http://www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-navajo-code-talkers.htm).

This source gave us basic information about how the Code Talkers entered the war and how the code was useful. It even gave us information about Philip Johnston. This source also gave us pictures that we used on our website.

W, Dave. "American Indian Code Talkers: The National WWII Museum: New Orleans." The National WWII Museum | New Orleans, The National World War II Museum, 14 Aug. 2017, [www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/american-indian-code-talkers](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/american-indian-code-talkers).

This source helped us get a better understanding of how the Code Talkers went about their jobs. We learned that they were not allowed to tell anyone, even their parents, about their success. It also gave us plenty of pictures for our website.

Wepman, Dennis. "Johnston, Philip (1892-1978), Proponent of Use of the Navajo Code-Talker System in World War II." American National Biography, [www.anb.org/view/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.001.0001/anb-9780198606697-e-0600889](http://www.anb.org/view/10.1093/anb/9780198606697.001.0001/anb-9780198606697-e-0600889).

This source told us about Philip Johnston, the man who had the idea of the Navajo Code. This source gave us a better understanding of how the Navajo Code was developed. It also gave us information of how the Navajo Code was created.

"Code Talkers". Library.Nau.Edu, 2020, <https://library.nau.edu/speccoll/exhibits/daysofarchives/codetalkers.html>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source was helpful because it gave us plenty of information and quotes we could use. It also gave us many photos that will be useful on our website.

Wilson, William. "Codemakers: History Of The Navajo Code Talkers". Historynet, 2017, <https://www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-navajo-code-talkers.htm>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source gave us information about how the code works, and all about the history of the Code Talkers and how they communicated. This also gave us many photos we can use on our website.

"Unbreakable: Remembering The Code Talkers". Pieces Of History, 2012, <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2012/01/05/unbreakable-remembering-the-code-talkers/>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source helped us understand how the Code worked so we could see how they communicated. It also had lots of information about the life of the Code Talkers.

"Navajo Code Talkers, 1943 | Records Of Rights". Recordsofrights.Org, 1943, <http://recordsofrights.org/records/256/navajo-code-talkers>. Accessed 30 Nov 2020.

This source is a photo of 8 code talkers during the war. This source helped us understand that the Code Talkers were just normal people caught in a war.

"75 Years Ago Today The First 29 Navajo Code Talkers Recruits Attended USMC Boot Camp". Station HYPO, 2017, <https://stationhypo.com/2017/05/04/5045/>. Accessed 12

Jan 2021.

This source gave us information about how the Japanese were skeptical of the Navajo Code. It also gave us information about the Navajo Code Talkers life in boot camp.

"Navajo Code Talkers". World War 2 Facts, 2020,  
<http://www.worldwar2facts.org/navajo-code-talkers.html>. Accessed 12 Jan 2021.

This source helped give us a Navajo Code Talkers dictionary, which helped us understand how the code was structured so we could see how good the code was. This code also gave us information about the Code Talkers. It also supplied us with photos for our website

"America's Secret Weapon: Navajo Code Talkers". DVIDS, 2021,  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/79570/americas-secret-weapon-navajo-code-talkers>. Accessed 12 Jan 2021.

This source was useful because it gave us general information about the Navajo Code Talkers. But it was especially helpful because it gave alot of quotes from some of the Navajo Code Talkers

"Help Last "Navajo Code Talkers" This Memorial Day! - Purple Heart Foundation Online". Purple Heart Foundation Online, 2020,  
<https://purpleheartfoundation.org/2020/07/15/help-last-navajo-code-talkers-this-memorial-day/>. Accessed 13 Jan 2021.

This source was useful because it gave us information about each of the Code Talkers. It also gave us some useful pictures.

"Code Talkers Gallery | Our World War II Veterans". Our World War II Veterans | May We Never Forget, 2013, <http://www.ourwwiiveterans.com/gallery/code-talkers-gallery>. Accessed 13 Jan 2021.

This source was useful because it gave us many pictures of the Code Talkers. It gave us pictures of the Navajo Code talkers when they were in WWII, and recent pictures also.

"How Native American Code Talkers Pioneered A New Type Of Military Intelligence". HISTORY, 2021, <https://www.history.com/news/world-war-is-native-american-code-talkers>. Accessed 13 Jan 2021.

This source gave us information and quotes about the Navajo Code Talkers. It also supplied us with many pictures.

"Native Americans, Impact Of The Great Depression On | Encyclopedia.Com". Encyclopedia.Com, 2021,  
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/economics/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/native-americans-impact-great-depression>. Accessed 14 Jan 2021.



This source was useful because it explained how the Native Americans were treated at the beginning of WWII. This information helped us understand the social situation of the Code Talkers helping to develop the code

Kelly, Kate. "Chester Nez: Navajo Code Talker & Marine". *America Comes Alive*, 2020, <https://americacomesalive.com/chester-nez-navajo-code-talker-marine/>. Accessed 22 Jan 2021.

This source was useful as it detailed the events and actions of Navajo Code Talkers in the Pacific Theatre. This information helped us understand how greatly the efforts of the code talkers impacted the success of American war efforts in the Pacific Island-Hopping Campaign.

Bocetta, Sam, "The Little-Known Story Of The Navajo Code Talkers: US Cryptography In WWII". *Medium*, 2018, <https://medium.com/@SpiderOak/the-little-known-story-of-the-navajo-code-talkers-us-cryptography-in-wwii-f647cc868172>. Accessed 22 Jan 2021.

This source was helpful as it provided information regarding the Shackle Protocol, the Platoon the code talkers were assigned to, and being able to cross check other details and facts from other sites. This information was useful in solidifying the importance and duty of the Navajo Code Talkers in the Second World War.

"Navajo Code Talkers - Original 29". *Genealogytrails.Com*, 2021, [http://genealogytrails.com/ww2/codetalkers\\_index.html#:~:text=Navajo%20Code%20Talkers%20%2D%20Original%2029&text=Code%20talkers%20was%20a%20term,transmission%20of%20secret%20tactical%20messages](http://genealogytrails.com/ww2/codetalkers_index.html#:~:text=Navajo%20Code%20Talkers%20%2D%20Original%2029&text=Code%20talkers%20was%20a%20term,transmission%20of%20secret%20tactical%20messages). Accessed 20 Jan 2021.

This source was useful because it listed the identity of all 29 code talkers. Which helped us understand more about them.

"NH 50930 Pearl Harbor Attack, 7 December 1941". *History.Navy.Mil*, 2021, <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/wars-and-events/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor-raid/overall-views-of-the-pearl-harbor-attack/NH-50930.html>. Accessed 1 Feb 2021.

This source was used to give us information about how the U.S. was pulled into the war due to the Bombing of Pearl Harbor. We needed this information to use for our historical context. This also supplied us with a useful photo we used on our website.

"Comanche Language Helped Win World War II". *Www.Army.Mil*, 2021, [https://www.army.mil/article/178195/comanche\\_language\\_helped\\_win\\_world\\_war\\_ii](https://www.army.mil/article/178195/comanche_language_helped_win_world_war_ii). Accessed 3 Feb 2021.

This source gave us information about the Comanche Code talkers, another group of Indian Americans who created a code with their language. This source also gave us a photo we used on our website.