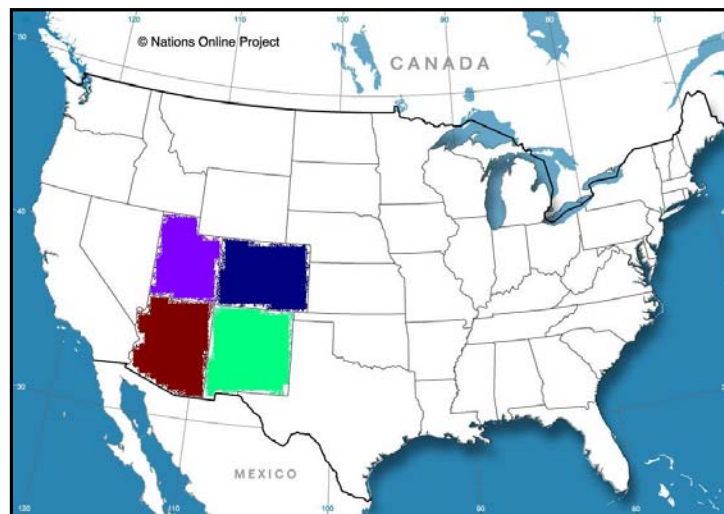


The Navajo Code Talkers: Uncommon Marines, Uncommon Valor

The Navajo Code Talkers were a group of Native Americans who served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. Their mission was to send and receive secret coded messages that the enemy could not understand. The job of these brave Marines was critical to the American victory over Japan. This was especially true on the island of Iwo Jima, scene of some of the most brutal fighting during World War II. In fact, one Marine officer said: *“Were it not for the Navajo, the Marines would have never taken Iwo Jima.”*



1. The historical home of the Navajo Indians is in the Southwest United States. Using this map, can you identify the four (4) states that Navajo Indians call home?

- a. b. c. d.

Enter the Museum’s World War II Gallery (1940-1945: Uncommon Valor). Near the end of the gallery—just after the Iwo Jima flag—you will find an exhibit about the Navajo Code Talkers.

Find the device that looks like a telephone. Listen to the oral (spoken) history of Navajo Code Talker Jimmie King. Then answer questions 2-4.

2. According to Code Talker **Jimmie King**, the final Navajo language test message ended with what phrase?

- a. “God bless America”
- b. “Good luck and God bless”
- c. “In God we trust”
- d. “Only God can save us now”

3. How did Japanese soldiers attempt to interrupt the Navajo messages?

4. The Navajo Code Talkers were not only signalmen (communication specialists).



They were also _____ men.

Examine the rest of the *Navajo Code Talker* exhibit to answer questions 5-10.

5. Private First Class (PFC) **Carl Gorman** was one of the original _____ code talkers.

- a. 15 b. 29 c. 37 d. 50

In 2001, President George W. Bush presented Congressional Gold Medals to each of the original code talkers. Only five of the original code talkers were still alive to receive the award. The remaining medals were presented to surviving family members.

6. **True or False.** Japanese troops never cracked the Navajo code. _____



7. Navajo code talkers Henry Bahe and George Kirk (pictured at left) used field telephones and wireless radios to transmit urgent _____, intelligence, and _____ reports.

8. A total of _____ Navajo Indians joined the United States Marine Corps as code talkers.

- a. 100 b. 400 c. 700 d. 1,000

9. Proud of being combat Marines, they became one of the country's _____, serving with distinction from Guadalcanal through Okinawa. The Navajo Marines transmitted thousands of very important classified _____ without once being compromised.

10. How did Navajo Code Talker **Keith Little** describe his feelings about "our land" (meaning the United States) being attacked?