

Corporation opens in New Town

By Dawn Charging

January 22, 2004 – Mandaree Enterprise Corporation, (MEC), and information technology service provider and electronic manufacturer of military weapons, has located office space on Main Street in New Town and will soon have full staff in operation.

An entity of the Three Affiliated Tribes, MEC reported earnings of \$7 million dollars last year and Chief Executive Officer Clarence O'Berry of Mandaree expects to do better in 2004.

" We have only scratched the surface," said O'Berry.

According to O'erry, finding office space in New Town was not an easy task. He researched space and was able to make arrangements with Cenex, who owns the old Kum and Go building. located on the northwest end of town. MEC has established office space in the interior of the facility while Cenex utilizes the main street frontage for the sale of farm, livestock and garden equipment.

MEC currently employs over 70 people. They have two locations on the Fort Berthold: Mandaree and White Shield.

According to O'Berry, the New Town location will house more than one operation. This year, MEC landed a \$14 million contract with HUD and will service the contract by processing a satisfaction survey nationwide. In addition, MEC landed a contract with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide services as a small business center to other fledging Native American businesses nationwide. Out of 45 applications for the SBA Contract, MEC is one of three entities selected by SBA to provide \$300,000 of contract services.

O'Berry said that MEC's past history of providing services to corporate American and the U.S. government has proven their company's capabilities. They have been in business since 1990. O'Berry has operated as the companies CEO of since 1994.

"It has taken years to build the relationships we have established in this business. We have proven that we have certain capabilities and that there are advantages of doing business with us, O'Berry said.

O'Berry returned form Washington, D.C. last week and is working toward securing additional government contract.

"We are looking forward to building a new facility in the near future. I have been invited to Watford City to look at properties. My first objective right now is to get White Shield back in full operation. We had to shut them down temporarily between contracts," said O'Berry.

"I love business," said O'Berry. "I look forward to hiring young people and building a partnership with the surrounding communities."

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