

TRIBAL INSIGHTS

THE SMALL RURAL TRIBAL BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

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Officer CJ Weaver Awarded 2026 Indian Country Officer of the Year



Miami Nation police officer stood his ground under direct gunfire during a residential active shooter call last May—and has now earned one of tribal law enforcement’s highest honors for it.

Officer CJ Weaver of the Miami Nation Police Department in Oklahoma was named the 2025 Indian Country Officer of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) at its Indian Country Law Enforcement Section (ICLES) midyear meeting in Tulsa. The award provides international recognition to officers who have demonstrated exceptional valor in service to the people of Indian Country.

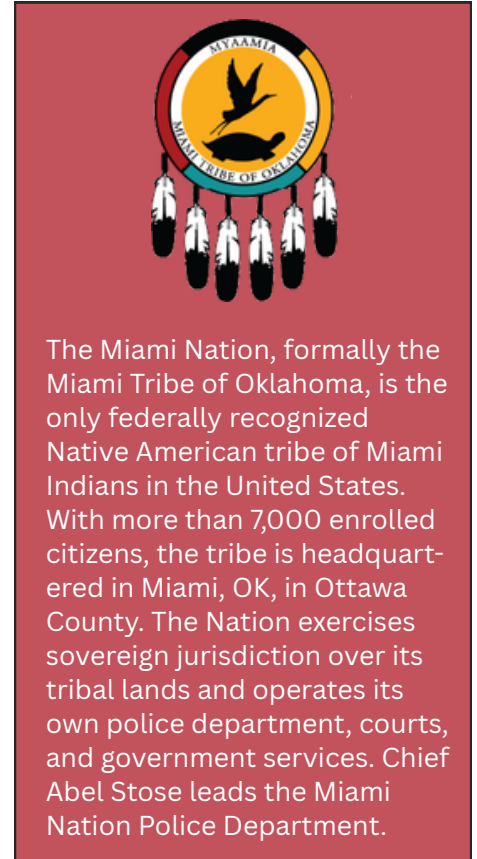
On May 31, 2025, Weaver responded to reports of shots fired on North Main Street on Miami Nation tribal lands in Ottawa County. He arrived to find an armed suspect actively firing in a residential neighborhood.

As additional officers moved in, the suspect ignored repeated commands to drop the weapon and continued moving erratically through the property.

Weaver positioned himself at the southeast corner of a nearby residence to help contain the threat. Moments later, the suspect turned toward him, raised his firearm, and fired directly at him. Despite being under direct fire, Weaver held his position and continued coordinating with responding officers to protect nearby residents.

When the suspect raised his weapon a second time, officers acted swiftly, using necessary force to stop the threat. The coordinated response ended without injury to any officer or civilian. The suspect was taken into custody.

Weaver’s composure, tactical awareness, and commitment to public safety under extreme



The Miami Nation, formally the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, is the only federally recognized Native American tribe of Miami Indians in the United States. With more than 7,000 enrolled citizens, the tribe is headquartered in Miami, OK, in Ottawa County. The Nation exercises sovereign jurisdiction over its tribal lands and operates its own police department, courts, and government services. Chief Abel Stose leads the Miami Nation Police Department.

pressure helped prevent further violence and ensured the safety of both the community and his fellow officers.

Miami Nation Police Chief Abel Stose also awarded Weaver a Life Saving Award and issued a formal letter of commendation. “It is with deep respect and sincere appreciation that I issue this formal letter of commendation in recognition of your courageous and life-saving actions during the active shooter incident,” Stose wrote.



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