

Sean Scruggs was appointed as the Tribal Historical Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Fort Independence Indian Tribe in May 2018. As an enrolled member he lived on the reservation for 10 years. With few career opportunities in Payahuunadü (The Land of Flowing Water aka The Owens Valley) he joined and served in the United States Air Force from 1989 to 2009. He served in Afghanistan in 2003 and Iraq in 2007.

After 14 years of enlisted service, he became a commissioned officer. This career prepared him to represent his tribe with the Consolidate Groups and Tribal Organization (CGTO) at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The 17 tribes of the CGTO work to co-steward the Nevada Tonopah Test Range in Nevada. He began to reconnect with his culture as a tribal monitor and is now the cultural leader of his tribe.

Sean earned a M.S. in Organizational Management in 2000. As a THPO, he performs consultation on a regular basis with more than 40 local, state and federal agencies. He has with several agencies to complete four repatriations and is currently an advisor on the University of San Francisco State University NAGPRA Committee. Sean is a Distinguished Toastmaster and serves as a public speaker and is an instructor with the National Preservation Institute.