



Gen. Crook often recruited White Mountain Apaches, such as those above, to fight against Chiricahua Apaches. These scouts had just returned from campaigning against Victorio and his band in October 1880.

The answer lies in the fact the Apaches did not live under a central government. The tribe was divided into tribal groups: divisions, bands and large family units.

Even though each group was culturally and linguistically similar, its members felt little bond with other groups.

Tribal jealousies or quarrels drove some warriors to hire on as scouts. The prospect of being confined to a reservation inspired others, since a scout was free to come and go. Some were coerced to enlist or be considered the enemy.

"Crook informed [the Apaches] that . . . by joining forces with the conqueror rather than resisting him, they would spare their own people further death and devastation," according to *The View from Officer's Row* by Sherry L. Smith.

Other incentives included the army's offer of money, weapons, ammunition, a good horse with saddle and warm clothing. Material wealth gave an Apache man status within his own group. A wealthy man could better care for his extended family, aspire to leadership and take a second bride.

No one thought the worse of an Apache who sold his marketable skills to the army for monetary gain. Throughout



Glory gained in battle was more important to Apache scouts than tribal unity.

Apache history, to acquire wealth by killing one's enemies was considered a virtue. Although it may seem strange today, at the time it took only a small step for Apache scouts to hunt and kill Apache renegades.

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# A Question of Loyalty

Apache scouts track their renegade kin.



In the years following the Civil War, the Apaches vigorously fought to stop Westward expansion into the Arizona and New Mexico Territories. Few other tribes could match the Apaches' tracking, hunting and scouting abilities. Movement, concealment, surprise and the land itself was used to their advantage, oftentimes as weapons.

As the Apaches' attacks on travelers, teamsters, ranches and towns increased, Pres. Grant sent troops into the territories to offer protection. The army had orders to subdue and control the Apaches any way it could. But the troops had to find them first. Many a weary soldier felt only an Apache could catch an Apache.

Gen. George Crook was first to use an Indian against members of his own tribe. He is reported as saying, "To polish a diamond, there is nothing like its own dust." The civilian and military populace was wary, however, and distrustful toward the new recruits. Where was the Apaches' loyalty to their own?

(Above) Capt. Emmet Crawford chose to do his operations solely with Indian troops, such as these scouts from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Scouts' field uniforms often consisted of calico shirts, cotton breeches, scarlet headbands and knee-length deerskin moccasins. The cartridge belts with 40 rounds of ammunition and Springfield breech-loading rifles were standard issue.

— ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —



(Inset) Al Sieber, chief of scouts at the San Carlos Reservation, is seated in the center of four Apache scouts in 1883. Directly behind him is Squaw Mack, who lived with the Indians.

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