



Richie K. Grinnell

Assistant Surgeon General

Acting Albuquerque Area Director

Indian Health Service

Richie K. Grinnell, R.S., M.P.H., a member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, is the Acting Director of the Albuquerque Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. He is an Assistant Surgeon General and holds the rank of Rear Admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service.

RADM Grinnell continues a family heritage of professional environmental health service within the IHS first started by his father, Earl F. Grinnell, who was one of the first sanitarians hired by the IHS when it assumed responsibility for Indian health care from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1957. Beginning in 1980 he served field assignments as an environmental health sanitarian at the Wewoka (Oklahoma) Service Unit, the Shawnee (Oklahoma) Service Unit, the Southern Colorado Ute Service Unit, and the Santa Fe (New Mexico) Service Unit. He served in several mid and upper management assignments with the IHS Albuquerque Area Office as the District Sanitarian; Director of the Division of Environmental Health; Associate Director, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering; Acting Area Executive Officer; and Acting Area Director. In 1999, he relocated to the IHS Nashville Area as the Associate Director, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering. He has also served as Acting Area Executive Officer and Acting Area Director while in Nashville.

RADM Grinnell earned a bachelors of science degree in environmental science from East Central State University in 1978 and a master of public health degree from the University of Hawaii in 1990. He is a registered sanitarian with the National Environmental Health Association. RADM Grinnell has received several Public Health Service honors and awards, including an Exceptional Capability Promotion to Captain, the Outstanding Service Medal, two Commendation Medals, two Achievement Medals, a Citation, an Outstanding Unit Citation, three Unit Commendations, and the Crisis response Service Award. He received the 2007 Flag Officer Award from the American Indian Alaska Native Commissioned Officer Advisory Committee for his continuous record of outstanding leadership.