



Richie K. Grinnell

Assistant Surgeon General

Deputy Director for Field Operations

Indian Health Service

Richie K. Grinnell, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, is the Deputy Director for Field Operations for the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. RADM Grinnell is an Assistant Surgeon General and holds the rank of Rear Admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the U. S. Public Health Service.

In this position, RADM Grinnell oversees the 12 IHS Area offices that include IHS and tribally managed service units. The Indian health care system delivers comprehensive services to 2.2 million eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives residing on or near reservations directly served by the IHS or through tribally contracted and operated health programs. RADM Grinnell also provides management oversight and expertise in formulating policies, goals, and strategies related to program operations and resource allocation.

RADM Grinnell previously served as the Area Director of the IHS Albuquerque Area Office, where he was responsible for providing leadership to 9 service units and 27 Pueblos and Tribes in New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas.

During his career with the IHS, RADM Grinnell served field assignments as an environmental health sanitarian at Service Units in Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. He completed several 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. Starting in 1999, he served in the IHS Nashville Area as the Associate Director, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering. He also served as Acting Area Executive Officer and Acting Area Director while in Nashville before becoming the permanent Area Director in early 2004.

RADM Grinnell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science from East Central State University and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Hawaii.

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, one 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.