



# **Rear Adm. Kevin D. Meeks**

## **Deputy Director of Field Operations Indian Health Service**

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Rear Adm. Kevin Meeks, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, is the Deputy Director of 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.

Meeks 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. Meeks also provides management oversight and expertise in formulating policies, goals, and strategies related to program operations and resource allocation.

Meeks began his IHS career as a Commissioned Corps Officer in 1987 when he served as a Service Unit Sanitarian at the Lower Brule/Crow Creek reservations in South Dakota. Afterwards he held a variety of Sanitarian/Environmental Health Officer positions in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Alaska.

In 1995 he was directly reassigned from Alaska to Oklahoma City for the primary purpose of representing the Oklahoma City Area and the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering in Tribal Self-Governance negotiations. From 1995 to 2009, he served in various management positions in the Oklahoma City Area Office. From 1995 to 2000, he served as the Assistant Associate Director for the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE). From 2000 to 2006 he served as the Chief, Division of Environmental Health Service, and then from 2006 he served as the Associate Director, OEHE. In 2007 he was selected as the SE Regional Commissioned Corps Liaison, providing service to over 300 officers assigned to the Oklahoma City, Nashville, and Albuquerque Areas.

Meeks served as the Oklahoma City Area Director from 2009 to 2017, where he was responsible for the provision of comprehensive healthcare services to one of the largest and most diverse service populations in IHS.

Meeks has served on a variety of national and area IHS workgroups, special projects, and other committees. He is a graduate of East Central University in Ada, OK, and received his Masters of Public Health from the University of Oklahoma Health Services Center.

Meeks has been married to his wife Janice for more than 35 years and together they have three children, two of whom are PHS Commissioned Corps officers, and four grandchildren.