



Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan

Deputy Director for Field Operations Indian Health Service

Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan, an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, is the deputy director for field operations of the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS is the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As deputy director for field operations, Rear Adm. Buchanan oversees the 12 IHS area offices that include IHS and tribally managed service units. The Indian health care system delivers comprehensive services to nearly 2.6 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. He also provides management oversight and expertise in formulating policies, goals, and strategies related to program operations and resource allocation.

Rear Adm. Buchanan served as acting IHS director from January to June 2017, administering a nationwide health care delivery program responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community health care to approximately 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in hospitals, clinics, and other settings throughout the United States. He served as the acting IHS Great Plains area director in 2016, overseeing a complex health care program during a period of change. Previously, he served as director of the IHS Office of Direct Services and Contracting Tribes.

Rear Adm. Buchanan began his IHS career in 1993 as an environmental health officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps with more than 28 years of active duty. He has served in various environmental health positions in the Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Oklahoma City IHS areas. From 2005 through 2010, he held management positions in the Oklahoma City area. In 2010, he served as the administrative officer of Clinical Services for the Chickasaw Nation's Division of Health in Ada, Oklahoma. He has been serving as IHS deputy director since 2017.

Rear Adm. Buchanan has served on several national IHS workgroups and deployed to several natural disaster events. He has received numerous professional awards, including the National Council of Chief Executive Officer's Rookie of the Year. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental health from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, and a Master of Public Health in health policy and administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.