

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE  
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR  
LT JUSTICE B. LAMBON**



**Introduction**

LT Justice B. Lambon, MPH, REHS, CPH is the 2023 Indian Health Service Environmental Health Specialist of the Year. LT Lambon joined the Indian Health Service (IHS) in 2021, reporting to Parker, AZ as a civilian and converting to the Commissioned Corps in 2022. LT Lambon is the lead Environmental Health Officer in the Colorado River Service Unit serving the Colorado River Indian Tribes, Chemehuevi Tribe, Ft. Mohave Tribe, Havasupai Tribe and the Hualapai Nation. LT Lambon is a model environmental health professional and has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professional growth, technical expertise and initiative.

**Professionalism**

**Advanced Credentials:** LT Lambon has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Minnesota (2016) and Master in Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health from West Chester University (2018). On his own time, he is close to completing his Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) in Environmental and Occupational Health from SUNY Downstate Medical Center (2025 projected graduation). He maintains the following professional credentials: Registered Sanitarian/Registered Environmental Health Specialist (NEHA), Certified Safety Professional, Certified in Public Health (CPH), Child Passenger Safety Technician (Safe Kids USA), and *ServSafe* Certified Instructor and Proctor. Prior to joining IHS, LT Lambon served as a Preventive Medicine NCO with the U.S. Army and Industrial Hygienist with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. He has used his extensive training and experience in occupational safety, food safety and vector control to cross-train and mentor food service operators, tribal and county EHS personnel and his peers throughout the Phoenix Area.

**Leadership:** LT Justice Lambon possesses highly advanced leadership skills. Since March of 2023, he has assumed the training and mentorship of a recent graduate Environmental Health Specialist, freeing the District Environmental Health Officer to train junior staff in other locations. LT Lambon is an advisor to the Colorado River Indian Tribes Head Start Advisory Committee and serves as the OEHE Service Unit Office Manager. He is the team lead for the Black Commissioned Officer Advisory Group (BCOAG) Letter of Appreciation Team. He is also a Cultural Ambassador with the Minority Officer Liaison Council (MOLC). LT Lambon has developed a strong rapport with Colorado River Indian Tribes' leadership and Health Director becoming a trusted resource for the tribe. He is a trusted advisor to Service Unit leadership who often seeks out his guidance during emergencies, investigations and healthcare facility audits.

**Special Accomplishments**

**Climate Change Initiative:** LT Lambon partnered with Colorado River Service Unit Leadership to conduct a comprehensive audit of the facility's green-house gas (GHG) emission hotspots. He identified four (4) key areas that impact the hospital's carbon footprint: energy source, healthcare waste, distant employee commutes and emissions from its GSA vehicle fleet. The hospital consumes a significant amount of electricity for cooling during the summer months where ambient temperatures can reach near 120°F. Computed tomography (CT) scans and operating the autoclave for instrument reprocessing are also main consumers of electricity. Sources of greenhouse gasses include the 90 mile round trip commute to Lake Havasu where most hospital employees reside and the use of halogenated hydrocarbons such as nitrous oxide for anxiolysis during dental treatment.

Issues regarding clinical care don't readily lend themselves to solutions. However, LT Lambon identified the absence of a recycling program and the need to incorporate more fuel efficient vehicles in the GSA fleet. Both are areas being explored by Service Unit leadership.

***Field Coverage and Cross-Trainer:*** LT Lambon oversees one of the Area's largest environmental health workloads (12 person-years). For over a year including through the spring of 2023, LT Lambon managed this workload by himself. Immediately after the second EHS team member reported for duty, LT Lambon stepped into the role of peer mentor and field cross-trainer. LT Lambon's notable accomplishments and impacts in this realm included the following:

- Completed 97 environmental and institutional technical surveys and final reports, leading to corrective actions of hazardous working environments and reduction of foodborne illness within the CRSU;
- Conducted over 7 specialized trainings delivered to 121 participants to ensure high risk facilities including Head Starts, day cares, and childcare services receive federally mandated training on Hazard Communication and Bloodborne Pathogen Standards; Certified Food Protection Manager required under tribal food safety ordinances; and OSHA 10-hour certification to tribal programs and enterprises;
- Provided comprehensive cross-training to a new EHS team member on the assessments of food establishments, aquatic facilities and institutional establishments. He dedicated over 250 duty hours into staff development to ensure consistency throughout the program. The peer cross-training resulted in the new hire gaining technical competencies to independently perform routine inspections of food and aquatic establishments.

***Vector Surveillance and Control:*** Rabies prevention is a key vector control priority within the Phoenix Area due to both roaming and wild animals. LT Lambon partnered with tribal animal control programs and veterinary services to organize three drive-thru rabies vaccination clinics resulting in the vaccination of nearly 150 animals. Arbovirus surveillance continues to be a high priority in this region. Prior to the start of the West Nile virus surveillance season, LT Lambon organized and held key stakeholder meetings with each participating tribe to establish a needs assessment for the current surveillance season. He coordinated with authorized purchasers the procurement of supplies such as dry ice which is an essential tool for mosquito trapping. He provided cross-training to our newest EHS team member on all aspects involved in surveillance activities. The resumption of the Colorado River Service Unit West Nile virus surveillance program resulted in the >120 traps set in 3 communities, >1,500 mosquitoes identified and 40 samples pools tested. Areas with high mosquito counts were targeted for control and abatement. His efforts to build advocacy, raise awareness and get his hands dirty resulted in the resumption of enhanced disease surveillance services in the Service Unit and helped community members better understand how to reduce their exposures to disease vectors.

***Injury Prevention:*** LT Lambon models leadership and advocacy for injury prevention services in our region. He has completed key Injury Prevention courses (I & II) and obtained certification as a Child Passenger Safety Technician so he can resume and provide essential services that had been paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, he helped provide child passenger safety training to 10 caregivers resulting in distribution of 15 car seats. LT Lambon played a key role in the implementation of a firearm safety pilot project which resulted in 18 safety cabinets distributed and education provided to recipients. In an effort to promote injury prevention services, he coordinated and co-instructed an elder fall and fire prevention training for Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) tribal members resulting in 12 elders receiving training.

***Healthcare Facility Safety Support:*** LT Lambon's technical expertise in environmental health and safety is often sought after by Service Unit leadership. In response to a Legionella investigation involving a regional healthcare facility, LT Lambon provided facility-wide water chlorination testing services. Test results were submitted to Area OEHE leadership and The Joint Commission resulting in re-accreditation. LT Lambon also served in the healthcare incident command team during a Service Unit-wide network outage.

**Summary**

LT Lambon is a dedicated and talented Environmental Health Officer who has demonstrated leadership qualities and a work ethic that has inspired his colleagues, peers and tribal partners. In just two years with IHS, his growth and impact as an EH professional has been nothing short of impressive. He has consistently demonstrated high integrity and an exceptional ability to work with and gain the trust of tribal officials, community members and IHS staff. His performance, dependability and willingness to go above and beyond have allowed him to forge lasting relationships with tribal partners and deliver quality, highly impactful environmental health services.