

## 2022 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: June

I am pleased to nominate LT Charlene Caddo for the DNS IHS Headquarters Nurse of the Month. LT Caddo has performed her nursing career at an exemplary level both as a civilian and as a United States Public Health Service Commissioned Officer. She is dedicated to continuing and advancing her professional development which is self-evident in her nursing skills and experience in Outpatient, Inpatient, Obstetrics, Pre-op, Urgent Care and since November 2019 to present in Public Health Nursing. LT Caddo's valuable nursing experience, knowledge, commitment, leadership and service to our hospital and White Mountain Apache community make her an excellent nominee.

During the initial phase of the current pandemic, LT Caddo effectively carried out her deployment mission to Customs and Border Patrol Peach Arch in Blaine, Washington to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, effectively screening international travelers arriving into the US from Canada. After her deployment, LT Caddo went above and beyond her normal duties often staying over her normal tour of duty. LT Caddo volunteered organizing and co-leading N95 FIT Testing, training for donning/doffing personal protection equipment, venipuncture training, and COVID-19 swab competencies to over 150 hospital and community frontline workers both in Whiteriver and Cibecue communities respectively. LT Caddo's exemplary leadership and dedication was evidenced by being appointed primary Team Lead for COVID-19 Blitz Field missions using rapid antigen tests that provided weekly testing to over 20 Tribal organizations and businesses, facilitating their operations, and testing over 9,600 persons from December 2020 to April 2021. LT Caddo trained over 70 paraprofessionals to create sustainable field testing models. In addition to that, LT Caddo was entrusted and appointed to serve on behalf of Acting Deputy Director of Preventive Medicine from July to November 2021, with primary duties of acting Team co-lead for Whiteriver Service Unit COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing program to over 17,000 tribal members during 'delta wave' of pandemic; required continuous daily review of all COVID-19 cases; triaging each case by vaccination status, co-morbidities, and monoclonal eligibility at time of assignment to multi-disciplinary tracing team of over 20-30 tracers. Over 50% of WRSU COVID-19 cases are monoclonal eligible. LT Caddo serves as a Subject Matter Expert on Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine administration and COVID-19 Binax AG field missions. The Program has earned National recognition by earning the Indian Health Board – 2021 Outstanding Service Award, IHS Directors Award and has been on the PBS/Cronkite News in May 2021, New England Journal of Medicine in July 2020, New York Times in Aug 2020, and the Arizona Republic in October 2020/April 2021. The Program has been nationally recognized for its creativity, efficiency, and contribution to measurable reductions in morbidity and mortality, including a COVID-19 case fatality rate of 0.3% since October 2020, that is several fold below State and National averages. Over 75% of all WRSU cases treated with monoclonal antibodies were referred within 24 hours by the Contact Tracing team, contributing to measurable reductions in hospitalizations, deaths, and ICU admissions. LT Caddo continues with the Contact Tracing Co-Lead tasks to-date.

LT Caddo's dedication to the IHS and USPHS mission is observed daily by leadership staff and coworkers. LT Caddo serves in an isolated hardship area. LT Caddo's demonstrates firm commitment to service and compassion to her patients as a public health nurse and as a leader to a team that has been nationally recognized on multiple occasions. We honor her hard work, leadership, and positive impact during these unprecedented times.