

CDR Betty A. Garner
Audiologist
11/05/90 to 12/06

In 2006, CDR Betty A. Garner retired from the Commissioned Corps after 29 years of dedicated service to the Indian Health Service as an Audiologist. The Therapist Category is honored to recognize her accomplishments during her years of service.

CDR Garner received her Master of Arts in Audiology from Michigan State University in 1973. She began her Audiology career at a children's hospital in New York before returning to her home state of New Mexico. After returning to New Mexico, CDR Garner began 13 years of Civil Service work for the Indian Health Service that included work at Gallup, NM, Tuba City, AZ, and Anchorage, AK. During her eleven years in Alaska, CDR Garner became a career officer in the Commissioned Corps, served as Chief Audiologist, and earned a Masters degree in Public Health from the University of Washington. She also coordinated and provided Audiology services for not only the busy Anchorage Medical Center, but for six outlying ENT clinics in the Anchorage area.

In 1992, CDR Garner transferred to the Chickasaw tribal facility in Ada, Oklahoma. She served as Chief Audiologist for the next 12 years. During that period of her career, she worked on the Oklahoma State Task Force for developing standards and protocols for the newly mandated newborn screening program. She managed the newborn program at the facility in Ada and continues to serve on the Chickasaw Nation Head Start Advisory Committee.

During her Audiology career, CDR Betty Garner participated in numerous Audiology seminars. She gave presentations on topics that included "Hearing Testing in the New Born", "Working Across Cultures", and "Yupik Translation of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly". She took the lead in research conducted regarding the health belief system of non-Indo-European populations on standardized tools used in Indo-European cultures.

CDR Garner is presently enjoying her retirement, having recently returned to her native state of New Mexico. The Therapist Category extends our best wishes and gratitude for her years of dedicated service and contributions to the health and well-being of the American Indian and Alaskan Native people.