

**Franklin “Dale” Keel M.S. CCC/A
Oklahoma City Area
Indian Health Service**

CAPT Dale Keel, a member of the Chickasaw Nation and an Oklahoma native, began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, in 1980 as an audiologist at the Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, New Mexico. In 1984 CAPT. Keel transferred to the Oklahoma City Area Office (OCAO) in Oklahoma City. He has served in a number of key OCAO senior management positions including Director, Office of Health Programs; Director, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation; Interim Area Director and Deputy Area Director.

As Deputy Area Director for the Oklahoma City Area, CAPT Keel is responsible for a comprehensive health program serving over 315,000 American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in Oklahoma, Kansas and a portion of Texas. The program provides in excess of 2 million outpatient clinic visits and 12,000 hospital admissions per year. With a staff of approximately 1800 personnel and an annual budget exceeding \$450 million, services are provided at three hospitals, 14 health centers and two urban health programs. Additionally, his program provides health professional technical and staff support for tribal programs that include an additional three hospitals, 26 free standing ambulatory clinics and a regional treatment center. Capt. Keel is the principal IHS spokesman for the 44 tribes in the region. He explains IHS policies to congressional groups, state programs, other federal agencies, and the public in general.

CAPT Keel was commissioned as an Officer in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) in 1980 and was appointed as a member of the regular corps in 1989. His service awards include the Outstanding Service Medal; Achievement Medal (awarded twice); Citation; Unit Commendation; Basic Officer Training and National Defense Service Medal.

CAPT Keel is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and Master of Science degree from Texas Tech University. He received his board certification in audiology in 1982.

The Therapist Category expresses congratulations and gratitude to CAPT Keel for his many career accomplishments. His leadership has positively affected the healthcare of many Native American and Alaska Native people.