



## **James Lawrence Toya, M.P.H. Albuquerque Area Director Indian Health Service**

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James Lawrence Toya, a member of the Laguna Pueblo, was selected as the Indian Health Service (IHS) Albuquerque Area Director in August 1998, marking his return to the IHS. He began his career with the IHS in 1980 as a Health Systems Administrator at the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Service Unit of the Albuquerque Area. In 1993 he left federal service to accept the position of Chief Operating Officer for the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

As the Director of the IHS Albuquerque Area, Mr. Toya manages a varied health care and environmental health services program. His geographic area of responsibility covers the States of New Mexico and Colorado, with additional services provided in Texas and Utah. This four-state area provides medical care to more than 85,000 American Indians comprising 20 Pueblos, 3 Navajo Tribes, 2 Apache Tribes, and 2 Ute Tribes. Health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities. Health services are available at 5 hospitals, 12 health centers, 7 health stations, and one regional treatment center. As part of a national Indian health system of Federal, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs, the Albuquerque Area also contributes to the support of one Urban Indian health program in Albuquerque and one in Denver.

The Albuquerque Area Office is part of a multi-billion dollar national health program managed by the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Indian Health Service is composed of 12 Area Offices and a system of hospitals and clinics, and works with Tribal and Urban programs to provide health services to approximately 1.8 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more than 560 federally recognized tribes in 35 states. The Indian Health Service is the principal Federal health care provider and health advocate for Indian people and its goal is to raise their health status to the highest level possible.

Mr. Toya is also the Chairman of the IHS Director's Executive Council which is a decision-making body for the Agency on broad issues of policy, programs, and public health advocacy. The Council is composed of senior leadership from Headquarters, Area Offices, and the four IHS National Professional Councils.

Mr. Toya earned a bachelor of science degree in zoology from Northern Arizona University and a masters in public health administration from the University of Oklahoma. He served as a United States Marine Corps Infantry Officer in Vietnam, and also completed tours of duty at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and Camp Pendleton, Calif. Mr. Toya earned a Purple Heart and a Combat Action Ribbon.