

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007

Contact: HHS Press Office
(202) 690-6343

**Statement by Mike Leavitt,
Secretary of Health and Human Services,
On Robert G. McSwain Assuming the Role of Acting Director of the Indian Health Service**

I am pleased that Bob has taken on this position, having served as Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) since February 2005.

Over his 30-year career in the Department, Bob has played a pivotal role, most recently sharing responsibility with the IHS Director for managing a \$4 billion national health care delivery program. His leadership has helped ensure that the IHS is able to provide top quality preventive, curative, and community care to approximately 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

During his tenure, Bob has received two Presidential Rank Awards for Distinguished and Meritorious service. I am confident he will continue to provide strong leadership for the IHS in serving as its Acting Director.

###

Note: All HHS press releases, fact sheets and other press materials are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.