



Gary J. Hartz, P.E.

Assistant Surgeon General

Director, Office of Public Health (Acting)

Indian Health Service

Rear Admiral Gary J. Hartz began his career in 1971 with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. His first assignment as a Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps Officer and Field Engineer was with the IHS Navajo Area in Tohatchi, New Mexico, followed in 1974 with an assignment to the IHS Alaska Area in Ketchikan.

In 1977, he was transferred to the IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, where he was subsequently promoted to positions of increasing responsibility within the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE), including Chief of the Sanitation Facilities Construction Branch, Director for the Division of Environmental Health, and selection for a special assignment as the Technical Training Director for the Moroccan Peace Corps Volunteer Skill Training Unit. In 1995, Admiral Hartz was named the Acting Associate Director of OEHE, which was changed to the Division of Facilities and Environmental Engineering (DFEE) during the agency's reorganization in early 1997.

Since 1997, as Director of DFEE, Admiral Hartz continued to oversee the Facilities Appropriation that provides an extensive array of health care facilities and staff quarters construction, maintenance, and operation services, plus a wide range of community and institutional environmental health, injury prevention, and sanitation facilities construction services throughout Indian country.

As of August 1998, Mr. Hartz was selected as the Acting Director for the Office of Public Health. The Office of Public Health is responsible for a wide range of health activities related to health leadership, policy development, and advocacy for American Indian, Alaska Native, and public health issues. He manages a staff that assists the Agency on budget formulation and resource allocation regarding the operation and management of IHS direct, tribal, and urban public health programs; program evaluation and assessment; research agenda; and special public health initiatives for the Agency. In addition to the DFEE, the Office of Public Health also includes the Division of Community and Environmental Health, the Division of Clinical and Preventive Services, and the Division of Managed Care.

Admiral Hartz received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. In 1977, he earned a master of science degree in civil engineering: construction engineering and management from Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. He also has completed postgraduate studies at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, and continued management development at the Federal Executive Institute and the Senior Managers in Government program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Admiral Hartz is a registered professional engineer.

A recipient of numerous PHS and IHS awards and honors, Admiral Hartz has received two Hazardous Duty Awards, two Isolated Hardship Awards, several Unit Citations, the Special Assignment Award, two Outstanding Service Medals, and the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award of the Public Health Service. In 1986, Admiral Hartz received the Department of Health and Human Services Federal Engineer of the Year Award presented by the National Society of Professional Engineers.