



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HHS Secretary Thompson Swears in Dr. Charles W. Grim as Director of the Indian Health Service

Today the Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson conducted the formal swearing in of Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., as the seventh director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The swearing in ceremony was held as part of a meeting the Secretary was having with Alaska Native tribal leaders and representatives of the IHS and Alaska Native health programs.

As director, Dr. Grim will direct the work of the nearly 15,000 employees of the agency, of which 13 percent are members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Dr. Grim has been a member of the commissioned corps throughout his 21-year career and was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in June 2001. The IHS employs more than 36 percent of the entire Commissioned Corps workforce. In addition to swearing in Dr. Grim as the Director, Secretary Thompson also promoted Dr. Grim to the second level of Rear Admiral.

Dr. Grim is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Secretary Thompson and senior HHS staff are on a 5-day visit to Alaska touring Alaska Native and federal health programs across the state.

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