



Gary J. Hartz

Director

Office of Environmental Health and Engineering

Indian Health Service

Gary J. Hartz, P.E., retired U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Rear Admiral, is the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE). The IHS is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native people. Mr. Hartz oversees health care facilities and staff quarters construction, facility maintenance and operations, and realty. He also has responsibility for a comprehensive environmental health program including institutional environmental health, injury prevention, and sanitation facilities construction services throughout Indian Country.

Mr. Hartz began his career with the IHS in 1971. His first assignment as a 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 with responsibilities for sanitation facilities construction throughout Southeast Alaska. In 1977, he transferred to the IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, where he was subsequently promoted to positions of increasing responsibility within OEHE, including Chief of the Sanitation Facilities Construction Branch, Director for the Division of Environmental Health, and ultimately to his current position of Director, OEHE. He has also been in numerous special assignments such as the Technical Training Director for the Moroccan Peace Corps Volunteer Skill Training Unit, a Self-Governance negotiator, and an agency witness before numerous congressional committees addressing budget and technical issues. He was promoted to Assistant Surgeon General in January 1996.

In August 1998, Mr. Hartz was named Acting Director for the Office of Public Health. The Office of Public Health had responsibilities for a wide range of health activities related to health leadership, policy development, and advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Native public health issues. He managed a staff that assisted 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.

During the period of the IHS restructuring, Mr. Hartz held the position of Acting IHS Deputy Director from August 2004 to February 2005. He shared the responsibility for management of a national health care delivery program responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community care for approximately 1.8 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Mr. 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. Mr. Hartz is a registered professional engineer.

In May 2005, he was one of two U.S. representatives to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, to finalize the Third Edition of the WHO Guidelines for the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta, and Greywater. A recipient of numerous PHS and IHS awards and honors, Mr. Hartz has received two Hazardous Duty Awards, two Isolated Hardship Awards, several Unit Citations, the Special Assignment Award, two Outstanding Service Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Surgeon General Award for Exemplary Service, and the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award of the Public Health Service. In 1986, Mr. Hartz received the HHS Federal Engineer of the Year Award presented by the National Society of Professional Engineers. He has been an active participant and leader in his community, church, and professional organizations.