

IHS director retires

Dr. Emery Johnson, director of the Indian Health Service, has retired from active duty in the service effective Sept. 1.

Johnson has been with the IHS for 12 years and is credited with helping improve the Indian infant mortality rates. Infant mortality rates among Natives have declined to 13.7 deaths for each 1,000 live births, a reduction of 63 percent during his tenure.

Dr. Edward N. Brant, Assistant secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, said he will conduct a nationwide search for a physician with a solid clinical and community medicine experience who has a demonstrated ability to work with Indian tribal governments. He said he also will consult with tribal leadership before naming a replacement.