

Christie named to new BIA alcohol abuse post

Joe C. Christie has been named acting director of the new Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, according to Ross Swimmer, Interior assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

Christie, superintendent of the Northern California Agency in Redding, Calif., since 1984, assumed his new post earlier this month.

Swimmer said Christie will coordinate with his counterpart at the Indian Health Service in developing a program to carry out jointly the memorandum of agreement signed in September between the BIA and IHS to combat alcohol and substance abuse among Indian and Native people.

The BIA portion of the \$1.7 billion Omnibus Drug Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1987 includes \$22.5 million for the BIA to be used in various ways.

A total of \$5.4 million is appropriated for educational purposes — \$3 million for curriculum development and materials and \$2.4 million for additional school counselors — in the more than 180 BIA schools throughout the country.

School counselors are to develop special techniques relevant to the treatment of youth alcohol and substance abuse. One million dollars is targeted

for judicial training in the tribal government services area.

Law enforcement will receive \$3.6 million, of which \$3 million is to be used for training of officers in the investigation and prosecution of offenses relating to illegal narcotics and in youth alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment; \$100,000 is for the development of a model juvenile code; and \$500,000 will go to the Tohono O'odham (formerly Papago) Indian tribe in southern Arizona for the investigation and control of illegal narcotics traffic on the reservation.

The remaining \$7.5 million is to be used to construct or renovate and staff new or existing emergency shelters or halfway houses for juveniles. A total of \$21.7 million was appropriated to the IHS to help fight the problem of alcohol and substance abuse.

Christie, 41, is a native of southeastern Oklahoma and is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Tribe of that state. He served for 18 months as superintendent of the Winnebago Agency in Nebraska before assuming his most recent post in northern California. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army.