

August 25, 1986

Director, IHS

Exceptional Capability Promotion - Senior Surgeon Michael H. Trujillo (R)(T)

Director, Commissioned Personnel Operations Division  
Through: Administrator, HRSA

As Director for the Indian Health Service, I am most pleased to submit a request for the subject Exceptional Capability Promotion for Dr. Michael H. Trujillo to be favorably considered.

Enclosed please find a two-page justification, a current Curriculum Vitae, and a current rated Billet.

Dr. Trujillo has a dual responsibility in his present position, i.e., serving as the Deputy Director and Chief Medical Officer for the entire Aberdeen Area. This Area includes North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa, and provides comprehensive health care to approximately 70,000 Indian people. He manages the day-to-day operations of nine hospitals, four health centers, and numerous clinics staffed by nearly 1,000 employees with a budget of over \$80,000,000.

Dr. Trujillo is a career Officer and is one of the very few, if not the only, full-blooded Native American physicians in the United States Public Health Service. He is also very unique and dedicated in that he willingly accepted the request to be reassigned to this very difficult Area. He is a model officer wholly committed to the improvement of the quality of health care for the Indian people and the populace as well.

Although the promotion opportunities for Commissioned Officers are extremely competitive, especially at the 06 level, it is paramount that a person with his academic background and experience, coupled with the responsibilities of his position, be appropriately graded at the Medical Director level.

I implore the members of the Board to understand the dire need to retain senior physicians on these isolated Indian Reservations which in turn will abort the rapid outward migration of these critical personnel.

Should the Board find that adequate information needed to reach a favorable decision has not been provided, it will gladly be furnished upon request.

Everett R. Rhoades, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director, Indian Health Service

Attachments