

EXCEPTIONAL CAPABILITY PROMOTION
SENIOR SURGEON MICHAEL H. TRUJILLO (R)(T)

In accordance with the provisions of PHS CC PM, CC23.4A, Guide I, Section D1(b), Senior Surgeon Michael H. Trujillo is recommended for promotion to the grade of Temporary Medical Director. The justification is presented below with a current Curriculum Vitae and rated Billet attached.

Dr. Michael Trujillo is the epitomy of success and perhaps in many ways parallels the life of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Trujillo is a full blooded Laguna Pueblo Indian, born in a BIA Indian Hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico, who has spent half an average life working and achieving academic milestones to become the very best in the dominant society. He is the only Indian serving as Deputy Director and Chief Medical Officer for the Indian Health Service.

Dr. Trujillo's father provided the model progressing from his first exposure to the English language at age 12 to earning collegiate degrees at the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. levels. His father was the principal proponent to achieve voting rights for Indians residing in the state of New Mexico in 1946. At a very early age, Dr. Trujillo was strongly urged by his parents to obtain all the "Anglo" education he could pursue while still retaining the traditional customs and philosophy of life.

The cornerstone for Dr. Trujillo's thirst for knowledge was laid while attending Verde Valley High School, a four-year private college preparatory school near Sedona, Arizona.

Dr. Trujillo's academic pursuits continued leading to a B.A., B.S., M.S., M.P.H., and M.D. degrees with an internship in Family Practice and an Internal Medicine Residency. He also completed a Fellowship in the Division of Preventive Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

The Aberdeen Area of the Indian Health Service for many years and for many reasons failed to maintain parity in providing health care to the Native American consumers. Isolation, antiquated facilities, harsh climate on the Northern Plains coupled with an inadequate budget, and the cessation of the draft were and are factors in maintaining a quality professional staff. With Dr. Trujillo's input on the new management team, changes are rapidly evolving which include approval for \$50,000,000 in new hospital and health center construction at Rosebud, Fort Thompson, Kyle, and Sisseton, South Dakota. The credentials of the Service Unit administrators have been dramatically elevated with only health professionals being hired. Effective methods for physician and other health professional recruitment have been designed and are being implemented to identify, recruit, hire and retain these critical personnel. Dr. Trujillo's experience at Mayo Clinic, the Service Unit, Area and Regional Office levels, coupled with his academic credentials, make him a most effective manager, health provider, and model physician in the U. S. Public Health Service. His quiet, honest, sincere, and yet determined style earns him immediate respect from his peers, patients, subordinate employees, and Tribal leaders.