



Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

RADM (Ret.) Richard F. Barror, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Retired Officer Representative



Richard F. Barror, Ph.D., M.P.H., retired as an Assistant Surgeon General (Rear Admiral) on November 1, 2009 from the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) after a 34-year career as a commissioned officer.

While in the PHS, Rick held a variety of senior level positions and appointments. In November 2005, he was appointed by HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt as the Chief Engineer Officer for the PHS.

Concurrent with his CPO assignment, he was designated by the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Response (ASPR) as a Senior Health Official (SHO) for the Department, an on-call position. Immediately following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he was the Executive Officer of HHS Emergency Support Function (ESF)-8 health and medical field operations in Louisiana for four weeks and became the SERT commander for Louisiana for 3 additional weeks.

From October 2000 through March 2003, Rick was the Chief of Staff, Office of the Surgeon General (OSG/PHS/HHS) where he was responsible for day-to-day operations and supervision of the OSG staff. He served as an advisor to the Surgeon General on national public health issues and Commissioned Corps affairs. He also coordinated OSG activities with the Office of the Secretary, HHS agencies, Department of Defense, and non-government organizations.

Prior to September 2000, Rick spent 25 years with the Indian Health Service (HHS) starting as a field engineer in Alaska and rising to become Acting Director of the IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE), an SES level position, responsible for all of the IHS environmental health and engineering programs, including responsibility for the planning, construction, and maintenance of 49 IHS hospitals and 197 health clinics on or near Indian reservations throughout the U.S.

He currently is a Senior Health Science Administrator at the Food and Drug Administration in the Office of the Commissioner.

Rick received a Ph.D. in engineering from the University of California, Davis, a Master's degree in engineering from Stanford University and a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. He is a licensed engineer and was board certified by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the PHS Distinguished

Service Medal, the PHS Meritorious Service Medal, and three Surgeon General Exemplary Service Medals.

Previous NGO positions include being a member and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS; member of the Board of Managers of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States; Vice-President of the Society of American Military Engineers; and member of the Board of Directors for The Infrastructure Security Partnership.

As of September 21, 2017