Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

Media Contact: Nedra Darling, OPA-IA Phone: 202-219-4152
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WASHINGTON – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Aurene M. Martin today announced that she has confirmed Woodrow W. Hopper Jr., a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, as Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs for Management. "Mr. Hopper is an experienced manager and a dedicated public servant," Martin said. "His professionalism and commitment to excellence will serve both the BIA and the tribes well." Hopper had been serving as acting Deputy Assistant Secretary since June 12, 2003. His appointment became effective on September 24.

Hopper joined the Interior Department following his retirement in 1986 from a long and distinguished human resources career in the United States Air Force. He rejoined the Department in 2002 as Director of Human Resources within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. In the 1990's, he served as the Department's Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources from 1996 to 1997 and as Director of Personnel from 1993 to 1997.

Raised in Oklahoma City, Hopper joined the Air Force at 17 and completed his high school education while in service. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma through the Air Force "Airman" Education and Commissioning Program, he attended Officers Training School where he earned his commission. Hopper earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma-Norman in 1970 and a Master's degree in Personnel Counseling from Troy State University in Troy, Alabama, in 1975. He is also a graduate of the USAF Air Command and Staff College, Squadron Officers School, Academic Instructors Course, Personnel Officers Course and Professional Personnel Managers Course. Hopper served as an instructor in management and leadership at Southwest Texas State University from 1979 to 1981 and at the University of Texas at San Antonio from 1981 to 1983.

Hopper has two meritorious service medals and one Air Force Commendation medal for outstanding service. In 1997, he received the Interior Department's Meritorious Service Award.

Hopper and his family currently reside in Washington, D.C. He and his wife are HarleyDavidson enthusiasts and marathon runners.

Note to Editors: A photo of Woodrow Hopper may be viewed via the Interior Department's web site at www.doi.gov.

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