The United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
America’s Health Responders

LCDRs Barbara Mason (Nurse), Steven Rush (Pharmacist), and Nuri Tawwab (Pharmacist) 13 April 2021

Established in 1889, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is solely committed to protecting the public’s health.

The Commissioned Corps is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is overseen by the Assistant Secretary for Health.

The U.S. Surgeon General and the Deputy Surgeon General provide operational command of the Commissioned Corps.

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS

INTRODUCTION

In Officio Salutis

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ABBREVIATED HISTORY

1798 Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen
1872 Marine Hospital Service
1871 First Supervising Surgeon (later Surgeon General) Dr. John Maynard Woodworth
1873 National Quarantine Act
1889 Legislation created the Commissioned Corps
1912 Public Health Service (with broader powers)
1930 Parker Act: Expanded Public Health Service to Non-Physicians
1935 Establishment of the Indian Health Service
1955 Department of Health and Human Services established
1999 First Dedicated Disaster Response Mission for the Commissioned Corps (10,000 Kosovar refugees)
**Who We Are**

The Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service is one of the eight uniformed services, and is the only one dedicated solely to protecting America’s public health.

- 6,000+ public health professionals dedicated to addressing public health and providing clinical care.
- One of eight uniformed services and the only one dedicated solely to protecting America’s public health.

**OUR MISSION AND VALUES**

**Protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation**

**Leadership**

We provide vision and passion in public health through inspiration, dedication, and loyalty.

**Integrity**

We exemplify uncompromising ethical conduct and maintain the highest standards of responsibility and accountability.

**Core Values**

- Protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our nation.
- Serve on the frontline of public health emergencies through rapid response to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and global public health emergencies, as well as serve on humanitarian missions.
- Lead public health programs and policy development.
- Advance innovation and science.

**What We Do**

- Provide essential health services where no one else will.
- Serve on the frontline of public health emergencies.
- Lead public health programs and policy development.
- Advance innovation and science.
Benefits of Service

Career Diversity
• Ability to create your own career path focused on health services practice, policy and programs, while working across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other federal agencies.

Professional Development
• Training and educational opportunities for service leadership and career advancement

Work/Life Balance
• 30-day paid leave per year that begins to accumulate on the first month of active duty.

Financial Advantages
• Nontaxable housing and subsistence allowance with possibility of specialty pay
• Comprehensive, economical health benefits for Public Health Service officers and their families
• 401-style retirement plan, life insurance and survivor benefits

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS
WHERE WE WORK

More than 6,000 officers in 800 locations, all 50 states and numerous foreign assignments including the World Health Organization

• Department of Health and Human Services
  • CDC, CMS, FDA, HRSA, INS, NIH, SAMHSA
• Department of Defense
• Department of Homeland Security
• U.S. Agency for International Development
• Federal Bureau of Prisons
• State Governments and Local Agencies

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES
**NURSE**

- Address critical public health needs, both domestic and globally and provide care for the nation’s most vulnerable populations.
- Work in diverse roles across the federal government to provide clinical care, develop health policy, perform research, and lead public health programs.
- Assess needs and identify barriers, inequities and health disparities through data analysis.
- Translate evidence-based research, findings, and solutions into action.
- Contribute to the health and wellness of individuals and communities.

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**READINESS AND DEPLOYMENT**

The Office of the Surgeon General, through Commissioned Corps Headquarters, is responsible for the coordination of readiness and deployment for:

- Domestic and international operations
- Teams and individuals
- Humanitarian assistance
- Disaster relief
- Emergency response
- Global training

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**COVID-19 Response**

>4,500 Officer Deployments | 200,000 Deployment Days

Commissioned Corps Officers are at the forefront of the COVID-19 response serving in multiple roles: leadership, operations, screening, quarantine, case management, and human services.
The USPHS Commissioned Corps offers rewarding careers for public health professionals who desire to protect and promote our nation’s health and treat those most in need. We are recruiting service-driven clinicians and public health professionals in 11 professional categories, including physicians, nurses, dentists and veterinarians. Learn more by visiting USPHS.gov.

JOIN OUR NOBLE EFFORT

Career Growth
Professional Development
Leadership Training
Mentorship
Assignment Mobility
Continuing Education Credits

Financial Incentives
Competitive Compensation Package
Housing Allowance
Comprehensive Health Care
Student Loan Repayment Programs
401-Style Retirement Plan
Life Insurance & Survivor Benefits

Work/Life Balance
30 Days of Paid Vacation
Paid Sick Leave
Paid Maternity Leave
Paid Federal Holidays

Join Our Noble Effort

CANDIDATES MUST

Meet basic requirements and basic education and training requirements
Meet height and weight standards, maintain physical fitness, and be medically qualified (if you have specific concerns about medical eligibility, please email CADMedical@hhs.gov)
Commit to displaying respect for our country and service by wearing the USPHS uniform

WE OFFER

Uniformed service benefits featuring comprehensive, low-cost medical, dental, vision care for officers and their dependents, retirement, and the Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit, which can be transferred to dependents after 10 years of service
Diverse career opportunities and professional growth
Potential ability to transfer from civil service or other uniformed services
Opportunities for involvement in the response to disasters and epidemics

WE OFFER

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, provides both the authority and funding for the establishment of the Ready Reserve Corps, the reserve component of the Corps. Applicants must meet same appointment requirements as Regular Corps.

The Ready Reserve Corps will provide trained and ready personnel to fill critical public health needs and will:
Support the USPHS Commissioned Corps’ capacity to respond to regional, national, and global health emergencies and improve access to health services
Preserve clinical care positions by maintaining a surge capacity of health professionals available for deployment without jeopardizing the service of clinicians in hard to fill roles
Offer an opportunity to serve for mission-driven clinical and public health professionals who cannot commit to a full-time active duty position in the USPHS Commissioned Corps
Enable access to highly specialized skill sets that would be impractical in full-time active duty positions

CANDIDATES MUST

Meet basic requirements and basic education and training requirements
Meet height and weight standards, maintain physical fitness, and be medically qualified (if you have specific concerns about medical eligibility, please email CADMedical@hhs.gov)
Commit to displaying respect for our country and service by wearing the USPHS uniform

To become a USPHS officer, an applicant interested in Regular Corps must complete the commissioning process and secure a position in an agency where USPHS officers serve. Applicants pursue both processes simultaneously during the 6 to 9 months commissioning process.

READY RESERVE CORPS
BCOAG Mission

Provides advice and consultation to the Surgeon General on:
- Issues of interest and concerns of Black officers.
- Issues relating to the professional practice and personnel activities of civil service and other Commissioned Corps personnel.
- Supports the Surgeon General’s initiatives.
- Establishes and supports programs to serve minority and local communities to assist in reducing health disparities.

One of four chartered minority advisory groups within the USPHS – including Asian and Pacific Officers Advisory Committee (APOAC), Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee (HOAC), American Indian Alaska Native Commissioned Officers Advisory Committee (AIANCOAC).

BCOAG Service to Our Officers & Communities

OFFICERS
- Mentoring
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)/PHS Awards Review
- Career Development/Leadership Training
- Networking Opportunities

COMMUNITIES
- PGB Katrina New Orleans, LA (NOLA) Mission
- Hometown Mission
- K-12 STEM & Science Fairs
- Surgeon General Initiatives
Thank You!

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