

JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP (JOAG)
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE



JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP
2011-2012 Voting Membership Biographies



LCDR Krista Pihlaja
JOAG Voting Member
2011-2013

I am originally from Minnesota and earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University in 2003. While attending NDSU, I learned about the COSTEP program and served two summers as a COSTEP with the Indian Health Service in Bemidji, Minnesota and Bremerton, Washington. After graduating, I began full time with the Indian Health Service in Minot, North Dakota. After Minot, I was detailed to Belcourt, North Dakota where I earned my licensure as a Professional Engineer. In 2009, I landed a Senior Field Engineer position in Fort Hall, Idaho. My current position allows me to broaden my horizons as I function as an environmental and facility engineer as well as the IHS clinic's safety and security officer and emergency response coordinator.

I have been actively involved with JOAG's Awards Committee since 2006 and have also participated in the JOAG Recruitment and Retention Committee's COSTEP Connection Program since 2007. During my one year appointment as a JOAG Voting Member, I was one of the co-chairs of the Recruitment and Retention Committee. I am also pursuing my master's degree in engineering through the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and anticipate graduating in 2012. I am looking forward to continuing my service to JOAG and the USPHS Commissioned Corps as a whole during my second term as a JOAG Voting Member.