

# Be a Mental Health Officer

## in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

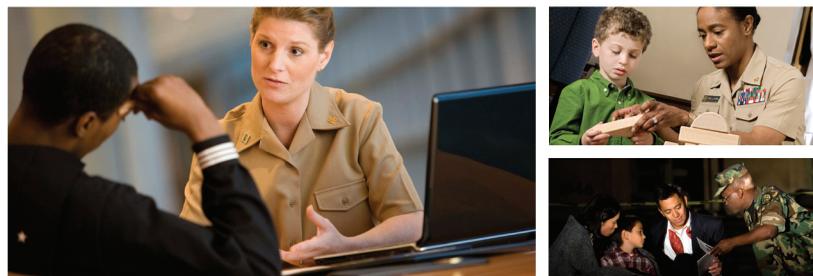
### ➤ Be a Partner in Providing Mental Health Care to the U.S. Military

Many service members returning from combat areas are affected by mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries, insomnia, anxiety, flashbacks, substance use disorders, and depression. To expand the military's capacity to meet their mental health care needs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established a partnership between the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). Under this partnership, entitled *DoD-PHS Partners in Mental Health: Supporting Our Military Service Members and Their Families*, the Commissioned Corps will assign specialty health care Corps officers to military treatment facilities across the country to provide a broad range of physical and psychological health-related services.

### ➤ Health Professionals Are Needed

The Commissioned Corps needs many new health professionals to help fulfill our country's responsibility to provide high-quality physical and psychological health care to active-duty and retired service members and their families. Among the health specialties most needed are:

- Psychiatrists, including child psychiatrists;
- Licensed social workers;
- Nurses (e.g., mental health/behavioral health nurses, case managers, rehabilitation nurses, nurse practitioners);
- Psychologists;
- Physicians;
- Physician assistants;



- Pharmacists;
- Physical therapists;
- Speech-language pathologists;
- Occupational therapists;
- Neurologists/neurosurgeons;
- Traumatic brain injury program administrators.

### ➤ You Can Help Make a Difference

As a Commissioned Corps health care provider, you can make a significant contribution to the quality of care provided to service members and their families. Based on your professional expertise and certifications, you may have an opportunity to:

- Diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders;
- Coordinate psychiatric services and other medical activities;
- Conduct individual, family, and group psychotherapy;
- Provide clinical medication management;
- Offer rehabilitation services for traumatic brain injury;
- Develop and coordinate treatment plans that improve recovery from traumatic brain injuries;
- Coordinate and support the integration of mental health policy into a continuum of care for active-duty and retired service members and families.

Interested Corps officers should note that the initiative seeks to target new health professionals rather than transfer existing officers from one position to another.

### ➤ Receive Competitive Compensation

Commissioned Corps officers receive a competitive compensation package that includes their base salary, as well as an assortment of nontaxable income and benefits that grow with years of service and promotions. Starting base pay and potential bonuses vary, depending on a new officer's level of experience, accreditation and training, geographic location, and number of dependants. Tax-free compensation is provided for housing and meals. In addition, PHS understands the financial burden of professional schooling. In coordination with certain Federal agencies, such as the Indian Health Service, new officers may be offered loan repayment and other educational and family support programs.

More information about how Corps compensation compares with that of the private sector is available at [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).

### ➤ Enjoy Generous Benefits

Commissioned Corps benefits are generous and include:

- Health care and dental care at no cost;
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year;
- Paid sick leave;
- Paid maternity leave;
- Malpractice insurance coverage;
- A retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service.

**Additional benefits are listed at [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).**

In addition, Commissioned Corps officers enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything experienced in the private sector. Commissioned Corps officers also have an unparalleled opportunity to be mobile among government agencies and to achieve career advancement by working in diverse work settings. The Corps encourages its officers to expand their knowledge base and grow professionally so that they can effectively deal with complex and emerging public health challenges. Tuition and long-term training opportunities may be available.

### ➤ Corps Qualifications and License Requirements

To be considered for the Corps, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- Less than 44 years of age;
- Able to pass a physical examination.

Your degree and training requirements will vary depending on your area of practice. Mental health officers must be licensed in their respective professional categories.

### ➤ Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a health professional interested in protecting, promoting, and advancing our Nation's public health, or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the Commissioned Corps, we want to talk with you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our Web site at [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).

