U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS

BEST KEPT SECRETS

AMERICA'S HEALTH RESPONDERS COMMISSIONED CORPS U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Opportunities

Who Are We?

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is an elite team of more than 6,500 full-time, well-trained, highly qualified public health professionals dedicated to delivering the Nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science. Driven by a passion for public service, these men and women serve on the front lines in the Nation's fight against disease and poor health conditions. As one of America's seven uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps fills essential public health leadership and service roles within the Nation's Federal Government agencies and programs.

"The environmental health profession has evolved from primarily general practitioners to include highly specialized areas of expertise such as Industrial hygienists, Epidemiologists, Consumer Safety Officers, Health Physicists, Injury Prevention Specialists, Emergency Response Coordinators and Hazardous Material Specialists. The practice of environmental health has developed into a cadre of committed public health professionals dedicated to public service and to the improvement of the health of our nation. As public health leaders our primary focus should be on the reduction and elimination of public health risk factors in the working and living environments. Our knowledge, skills and abilities are to be used daily to protect and improve the health and welfare of all people. The skills and abilities of Environmental Health Officers are in demand in a varied array of environments and duty stations."

Captain Michael M. Welch
Chief Environmental Health Officer
U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

What Do We Do?

Environmental Health Officers in Public Health:

- Provide leadership and support to public health programs designed to protect the public from exposure to hazardous substances.
- Provide services in disease prevention, environmental health, injury prevention, health promotion and education, and occupational safety.
- Undertake highly specialized services in areas such as counterterrorism, industrial hygiene, health physics, and hazardous waste.
- Conduct a wide variety of activities, including surveys, investigations, research, teaching and training, consumer education, technical assistance, regulatory compliance, and codes and standards development.
- Respond to public health emergencies.
- Review and regulate medical products and devices.
- Conduct biomedical and epidemiological research.
- Ensure the safety of food, water, and milk supplies.
- Develop and monitor national health policies.

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Did you know you can:

- Enjoy fantastic medical and dental benefits for you and your family
- Use military bases around the world
- Use the GI Bill to advance your education later on in life
- Contribute pre-tax income to the Thrift Savings Plan

Quality of Practice

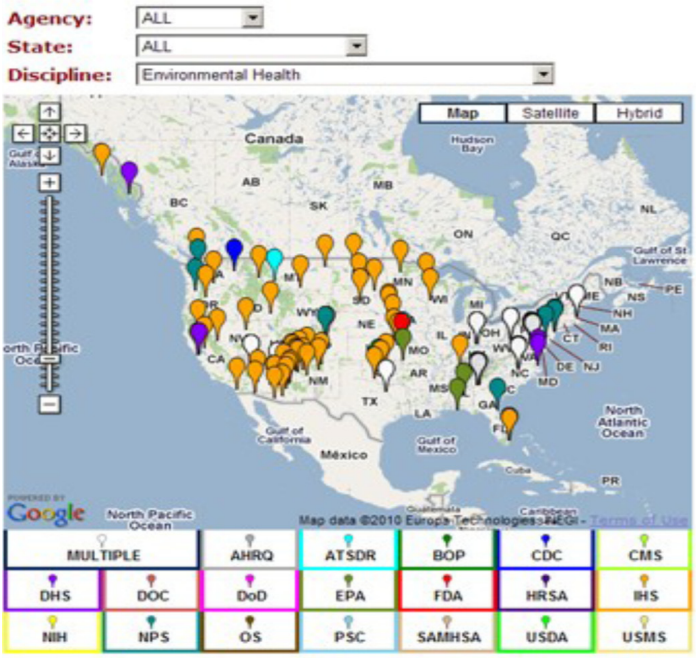
Environmental Health Officers in the Commissioned Corps ensure public health and safety in a variety of roles. For environmental health officers, work areas are diverse and numerous. Examples include epidemiological surveillance, disease prevention, radiological health, industrial hygiene, food safety, injury prevention and education, and emergency preparedness. During natural disasters and other emergencies, environmental health officers protect the public from environmental threats and help communities recover. As part of a committed cadre of health professionals, you will enjoy exciting assignments and opportunities, career stability, excellent benefits and work/life balance while protecting and improving public health.

Why you should be an Environmental Health Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Where are we Located

Almost anywhere and everywhere in the U.S.A. Whether you prefer rural or urban, east or west, north or south; we have a location for you. Environmental Health officers can be employed as Commissioned Officers across the country in any of the following agencies:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Department of Health and Human Services Program Support Center
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
- Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Department of Interior/National Park Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Food and Drug Administration
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Indian Health Service
- National Institutes of Health



Opportunity for Growth

Are you ready for an exceptional career and the experience of a lifetime? When you join the U.S. Public Health Service, you become part of a diverse group of individuals who have a unique sense of purpose. Your commitment and willingness to take part in this incomparable opportunity will be rewarded with excellent pay and benefits, state-of-the-art facilities, collegial environments, opportunities for loan re-payment and sponsored professional education; and the chance for advancement and challenging work, all on behalf of an appreciative patient population.

Finding the PHS career that is right for you is made easier because your skills and availability are marketed nationwide. In fact, a variety of opportunities are available right now that will allow you to practice and advance your clinical competencies. Whether you are a new graduate seeking a meaningful way to start your career, or an experienced dentist looking for a new opportunity, you'll be surrounded by dedicated, like-minded colleagues who have chosen to serve others.

Quality of Life

Is your quality of life all that it could be? Is it important to you to have time to spend with your family and friends, doing the things you enjoy? As a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, you receive 30 days of annual leave plus 10 Federal holidays. Many duty stations operate Monday-Friday during normal business hours. This organization allows you to pursue life in literally hundreds of locations from the largest cities to the smallest communities near the oceans, the mountains, the Grand Canyon, the Gulf Coast or national parks. Be prepared to enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you have yet experienced.

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Benefits

USPHS Commissioned Corps Officer Benefits

Commissioned Corps officers working for the U.S. Public Health Service enjoy the same benefits as their counterparts in the armed services. Here are a few of them:

- No cost, comprehensive medical and dental care for Corps officers; excellent health benefits for families
- Paid sick leave, maternity leave, and Federal holidays
- Clinical practice liability coverage
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year beginning the first year
- Tax-free housing and meal allowances
- Thrift Savings plan (retirement savings and investment plan similar to a 401 (k)
- Retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service
- Loan repayment potential – USPHS understands the financial burden of medical education. Assignments with certain Federal agencies, such as the Indian Health Service, offer loan repayment and/or other educational and family support programs.
- Veterans Affairs benefits, such as the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) which allows active duty members to enroll and pay $100 per month for 12 months; and are then entitled to receive a monthly education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation.

Additional Uniformed Services Benefits

- The Commissioned Corps offers you and your family many other exceptional benefits including:
- Paid moving expenses when you join the Corps, relocate with the Corps, and retire from the Corps.
- Access to military base lodging, recreational facilities and space-available flights on military aircraft.
- Shopping privileges at military base grocery and department stores.

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To learn more about Commissioned Corps Benefits while assigned to the Indian Health Service, view the following videos from the IHS Division of Oral Health. http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Dental/index.cfm?module=videos

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Next Steps

USPHS Officer Qualifications

All Commissioned Corps officers must meet several basic qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, be less than 44 years of age, and pass a physical examination. To be an Environmental Health Officer, you also need the following:

- A candidate must possess a qualifying degree or a degree and professional certification in one of the following:
- A bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree in environmental health accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council, http://www.ehacoffice.org;
- A bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree in the curricular areas of industrial hygiene, safety, or health physics that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, http://www.abet.org;
- A masters or doctoral degree with a specialization in environmental health, occupational health, or industrial hygiene from a school of public health that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, http://www.ceph.org;
- A bachelors, masters or doctoral degree in any field and one of the following: Certification as an Industrial Hygienist (CIH) by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, http://www.abih.org/; Certification as an Health Physicist (CHP) by the American Board of Health Physics, http://www.hps1.org/aahp/.

Environmental Health Student Opportunities

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps offers two excellent opportunities for students to serve their country while completing their education. If you are interested in a public health career, we encourage you to apply to the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JRCOSTEP) and the Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP). Both programs offer excellent benefits and are highly competitive.

If you have questions about COSTEP, please visit our website at http://www.usphs.gov/student/COSTEP.aspx.

Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are an environmental health professional or an environmental health student interested in joining the fight for public health, or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the Commissioned Corps, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our website at www.usphs.gov or www.ehopac.org.

Who Do I Contact?

AGENCY	RECRUITER	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE	EMAIL
Centers for Disease Control (ASTDR)	LCDR Jennifer Freed	(770) 488-3650	www.cdc.gov	jen7@cdc.gov
Centers for Disease Control	CAPT Mark Miller	(770) 488-7652	www.cdc.gov	MDMiller@cdc.gov
Indian Health Service	CAPT Kelly Taylor	(301) 443-1054	www.ihs.gov	Kelly.taylor@ihs.gov
U.S. Coast Guard	LCDR Mike Boley	(757) 856-2759	www.uscg.gov	Michael.D.Boley@uscg.mil
National Park Service	Ms. Sonya Coakley	(202) 513-7215	www.nps.gov	Sonya.Coakley@nps.gov
National Institutes of Health	LCDR Derek Newcomer	(301) 451-5811	www.nih.gov	newcomer@mail.nih.gov
Food and Drug Administration	CAPT Amy Anderson	(301) 827-4129	www.fda.gov	amy.anderson@fda.hhs.gov
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	CDR Don Ackerman	(215) 205-4140	www.usda.gov	Donald.ackerman@fsis.usda.gov

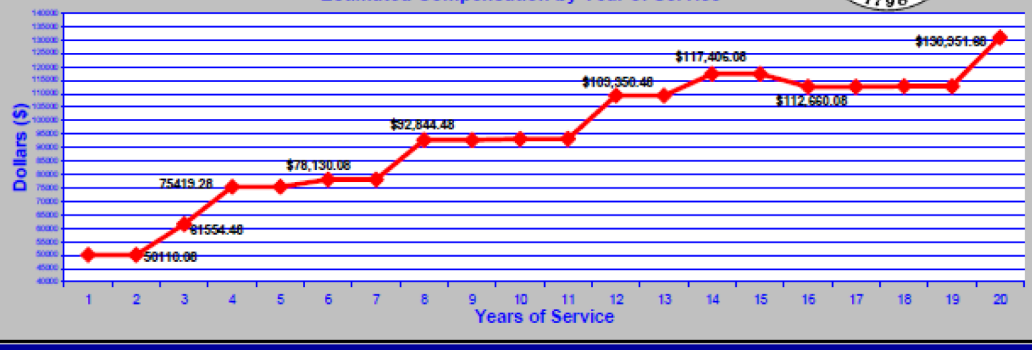
Commissioned Officer Pay Comparison— Private Sector

Typical Environmental Health Officer Compensation Over a 20-Year Career

	O-2 LTJG	O-2 LTJG	O-3 LT	O-3 LT	O-4 LCDR	O-4 LCDR	O-5 CDR	O-5 CDR	O-6 CAPT
Years In Service	< 2	3	4	6	8	12	14	16	20
Duty Station	Gallup, NM	Gallup, NM	Tuscon, AZ	Tuscon, AZ	Portland, OR	Rockville, MD	Rockville, MD	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA
Basic Pay	$3,058.80	$4,012.50	$4,722.90	$4,948.80	$5,640.00	$6,325.50	$6,853.80	$7,287.30	$8,796.60
*BAS	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04	$223.04
*BAH	$894.00	$894.00	***$1,339.00***	***$1,339.00***	***$1,874.00***	***$2,564.00***	***$2,707.00***	***$1,878.00***	***$1,893.00***
Total Monthly	$4,175.84	$5,129.54	$6,284.94	$6,510.84	$7,737.04	$9,112.54	$9,783.84	$9,388.34	$10,912.64
Estimated Annual Income	**$50,110.08**	**$61,554.48**	**$75,419.28**	**$78,130.08**	**$92,844.48**	**$109,350.48**	**$117,406.08**	**$112,660.08**	**$130,951.68**

Notes:
1. This is not an official pay chart
2. Assumes commission as an O-2 upon entry into service
3. Assumes receipt of temporary promotions when eligible
4. BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing) in ***bold italics*** indicates the 'with dependents' rate for that location
5. Wages listed are from January 2009 uniformed services pay and allowance charts
6. (*) indicates non-taxable portions of compensation

Estimated Compensation by Year of Service



Private Sector Salary Range

National Salary Data			
Job Title	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Environmental Health	$37,615	$50,362	$67,204
Industrial Health	$37,023	$51,312	$70,766
Occupational Health	$45,618	$53,593	$77,245

Data retrieved from PayScale, ww.payscale.com—8/2010

Commissioned Officer Pay Comparison—2011 with Dependents

PHS Environmental Health Officers					
Salary Base	O-3 w/ less than 2 yrs service	O-3 with over 3 yrs service	O-4 with over 4 yrs service	O-5 with over 10 yrs service	O-6 with over 20 yrs service
Monthly Base Pay (taxable)	$3207	$4,542	$5,286	$6,659	$9,223
Housing (no tax)	$897-2,955	$960-3,327	$1,056-3,846	$1,122-4,218	$1,134-4,260
Retirement Annuity	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory
Gross Income– Monthly	$4,328-6,386	$5,726-8,093	$6,566-9,356	$8,005-11,101	$10,581-13,707
Federal Income Tax	$329	$623	$677	$951	$1,982
Social Security	$135	$191	$222	$280	$374
Medicare	$47	$66	$77	$97	$134
State Income Tax	May be exempt	May be exempt	May be exempt	May be exempt	May be exempt
Health Care Benefits	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory	Non-contributory
Take Home Pay Monthly	$3,817-5,875	$4,846-7,213	$5,590-8,380	$6,677-9,773	$8,091-11,217
Monthly pension after 30 years service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	$5,024/month After federal taxes, for life