



National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health Career Opportunities for Personnel Leaving Military Service

Need for Qualified Environmental Health Practitioners

The United States is facing a critical shortage of qualified environmental health professionals to fill vacancies at state and local public health departments throughout the country. These are the local health professionals who ensure the safety of food and drinking water supplies, ensure proper disposal of wastewater and solid waste, and eliminate environmental health threats such as rodents and mosquitoes. Federal agencies such as CDC, FDA, and EPA also recruit highly trained and qualified environmental health professionals.

Potential for Military to Help Relieve the Shortage

Approximately 1,300 environmental health officers and 5,500 environmental health and safety specialists (enlisted) are serving in the U.S. armed forces. Each year, many of these professionals retire or are honorably discharged from service. This skilled cadre of environmental health practitioners is an underutilized resource that could fill many crucial vacancies throughout the nation and enhance the field of environmental health. However, former military environmental health professionals may not be aware of job opportunities and minimum requirements for employment at various federal, state, and local public health agencies.

Opportunities for Collaboration

The Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB) of the CDC National Center for Environmental Health, in collaboration with partners from the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs and the National Environmental Health Association, will prepare a *Military Environmental Health Practitioner Career Resource Guide* to provide important career information to environmental health professionals who are leaving or have left military service.

The resource guide will include:

- Important Web-site information for education, training, and job opportunities.
- Minimum educational requirements for each state.
- Information on accredited environmental health academic programs.
- Professional registration requirements for each state.
- Conference and other networking opportunities for job seekers.
- Success stories from persons who have successfully transitioned from the military to the public sector environmental health workforce.

For more information on this project, please contact CAPT Mike Herring (CDC/EHSB) at 770-488-7351 or mherring@cdc.gov. The guide should be available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/> by early 2006.

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