



U.S. Public Health Service: Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category 75th and Indian Health Service 50th Anniversaries

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PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1798 – The Public Health Service was established as the Marine Hospital Service, a component of the Treasury Department, providing for “the care and relief of sick and disabled seamen.”
- ❖ 1801 – a hospital at Ferry Point (Norfolk) Virginia, was purchased and opened as a Marine Hospital
- ❖ 1804 – the first new Marine Hospital was constructed at Charlestown, Boston Harbor



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1870 – The Marine Hospital Service was reorganized as a national hospital system with a central headquarters in Washington, D.C. The medical officer in charge, known at first as the Supervising Surgeon, was later given the title Surgeon General.
- ❖ 1871 – Dr. John M. Woodworth, physician (and pharmacist) was appointed as first Supervising Surgeon.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1873 – Marine Hospital Service Regulations provided for hospital stewards (generally, men qualified as pharmacists).
- ❖ 1878 – Passage of the National Quarantine Act began the transfer of quarantine functions from the states to the federal Marine Hospital Service.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1889 – an Act of Congress created the commissioned corps along military lines. While only physicians were commissioned at this time, pharmacists were the only other professionally trained individuals employed by the Service.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1891 – The Staten Island bacteriological laboratory was renamed the Hygienic Laboratory and moved to Marine Hospital Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. (forerunner of the National Institutes of Health).



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1891 – Passage of immigration legislation, assigning to the Marine Hospital Service the responsibility for medical examination of arriving immigrants.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1897 – a certificate graduation in pharmacy became a requirement for appointment for those performing pharmaceutical services in the Marine Hospital Service.
- ❖ 1902 – Marine Hospital Service changed to the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, reflecting a broadening of functions.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1912 – New legislation changed the Service's name to United States Public Health Service and provided for expansion of the Service's research program to include problems other than communicable disease.
- ❖ 1917 - the functions of the corps were enlarged and expanded when the Corps became part of the military under the Wartime Presidential Order.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1917 – PHS given responsibility for the hospital care of discharged war veterans under an arrangement with the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1918 – Congress created a Reserve Corps for the PHS, allowing recruitment of health professionals in addition to physicians for emergency duty. Emergency war conditions and the influenza pandemic of 1918 made clear the need for such a provision.



PHS The Early Years

- ❖ 1922 – The Bureau of War Risk Management was renamed the Veterans' Bureau and was made an independent agency. The Veterans' Bureau took 57 PHS hospitals and 9 new hospitals under construction.



Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category

- ❖ 1930 – The Parker Act - The regular component of the Commissioned Corps began to admit sanitary engineers, dentists and pharmacists.



The first two PHS pharmacists were commissioned on July 23, 1930 (l. to r.) LT Edwin M. Holt (Relief Station, Washington, D.C.) and LT Edgar B. Scott (Hospital Division, Washington, D.C.)



Edwin M. Holt – Started with PHS on February 24, 1900 (assigned to D.C. June 27, 1922)
Edgar B. Scott – Started with PHS on January 29, 1896 (assigned to D.C. July 10, 1929)



Eight other pharmacists were commissioned on September 5, 1930.

- ❖ LT William L. Stearns
Marine Hospital in New York, NY (assigned April 11, 1922)
(Started with PHS on March 1, 1892)
- ❖ LT Frank L. Gibson
Marine Hospital in San Francisco, CA (assigned Feb, 28, 1923)
(Started with PHS on June 10, 1898)
- ❖ LT Newton C. Comfort
Immigration Station in Manila, P.I. (assigned February 7, 1916)
(Started with PHS on February 4, 1899)
- ❖ LT Carl Stier
Marine Hospital Key West, FL (assigned February 2, 1923)
(Started with PHS on April 23, 1902)



Eight other pharmacists were commissioned on September 5, 1930.

- ❖ LT Clarence H. Bierman
Marine Hospital in Cleveland, OH (assigned May 10, 1919)
(Started with PHS on September 8, 1903)
- ❖ LT Walter H. Keen
Marine Hospital in Norfolk, VA (assigned August 3, 1929)
(Started with PHS on August 4, 1906)
- ❖ LT Raymond D. Kinsey
Supply Depot in Perry Point, MD (assigned July 26, 1928)
(Started with PHS on August 31, 1914)
- ❖ LT Thomas C. Armstrong
Marine Hospital in Memphis, TN (assigned August 25, 1928)
(Started with PHS on January 22, 1916)



First PHS Commissioned Pharmacist detailed to the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior

- ❖ Edwin M. Holt
July 18, 1931 to January 31, 1939
Washington, D.C.



Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category

- ❖ During World War II, the Commissioned Corps was once again declared a part of the military services by a Wartime Presidential Order, and remained so until July 1952. Service officers, including pharmacists, saw worldwide duty...



Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category

- ❖ – a group of physicians and pharmacists, including pharmacist Carl H. Gohman, were detailed to the China-Burma-Indian theater for support of the building of the China-to-Burma railroad to maintain strategic stockpiles of quinine and opium, expanded programs to prevent epidemics through enhanced sanitary procedures, and pioneered the use of DDT in insect control.



Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category

- ❖ 1944 – the new PHS Act lifted the promotion limitations and pharmacists could now be promoted to the director grade (the current PHS Captain).
- ❖ 1949 - the first PHS Commissioned Corps pharmacist to attain the rank of Pharmacist Director (Captain) was Raymond D. Kinsey in July 1949.



Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category

- ❖ By 1947, there were 32 commissioned corps pharmacists on active duty, 17 in the Regular Corps and 15 in the Reserve Corps.



Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Category

- ❖ In the late 1940s and 50s, pharmacists, including Donald E. Wenschhof, served primarily in the PHS system of hospitals and Medical Relief Stations. Seven PHS pharmacists also served in quarantine activities. Their duties included boarding of ships and planes to assure that certain Federal health regulations were complied with, to prevent the introduction of communicable diseases from other countries.



George F. Archambault



George F. Archambault

- ❖ Pharmacist and lawyer
- ❖ Was on faculty of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy 1931 to 1947
- ❖ During WWII served as Chief Pharmacist at the U.S. Marine Hospital in Boston
- ❖ 1947 – Chief, Pharmacy Branch, PHS Division of Hospitals
- ❖ 1965 – Medicare Planning Consultant



First PHS Commissioned Pharmacist at the National Institutes of Health



In 1952, Milton W. Skolaut became the first Director of Pharmacy Services at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

CAPT Skolaut served as ASHP President from 1963-64.

Early civilian pharmacists include F.J. Herty appointed August 26, 1904 and L.C. Spangler appointed May 15, 1909 to the Hygienic Laboratory in Washington, D.C.



Closing of PHS Hospitals

- ❖ Legislation in October 1981 closed the nine PHS hospitals and 27 clinics and terminated the longstanding role of the PHS in the care of merchant seamen.



Closing of PHS Hospitals

- ❖ Reserve Corps pharmacists and pharmacists without substantial time in the Corps were quickly released from active duty and Regular Corps pharmacists were reassigned to various parts of the remaining Service system. The number of pharmacist officers decreased from 582 to 452 within one year.



Revitalization

- ❖ The mid-1980s did not look good for the Corps. The Corps was under attack from the administration and appeared moving toward its demise.



Revitalization

- ❖ In the spring of 1987, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, with the support of HHS Secretary Otis Bowen and Undersecretary Donald Newman (a pharmacist), announced a comprehensive revitalization of the Commissioned Corps.



Revitalization

- ❖ Critical to this revitalization was the reinforcement of a total career system for all Corps officers:
 - Officers were required to wear their uniforms on duty;
 - Chief professional officers were appointed for each category; and
 - Career movement and geographic mobility once again became career benchmarks.



Revitalization

- ❖ Minorities, women, and other underrepresented groups were recruited and became actively involved in all aspects of Corps management
- ❖ Career planning and long term training were once again emphasized, and
- ❖ Programs to assure a fair and equitable system of billets were instituted.



PHS Pharmacists

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| ❖ 1910 - 46 CS | 1970 - 339 CO |
| ❖ 1920 - 58 CS | 1981 - 582 CO |
| ❖ 1930 - 10 CO, 20 CS | 1983 - 454 CO |
| ❖ 1940 - 4 CO, 6 CS | 1996 - 755 CO |
| ❖ 1947 - 32 CO | 2005 - 880 CO |
| ❖ 1952 - 50 CO | |
| ❖ 1960 - 65 CO | |



Leaders in PHS Pharmacy



RADM Edgar N. Duncan

- ❖ RADM Edgar N. Duncan was the first pharmacist, and first African American pharmacist to be promoted to Assistant Surgeon General. RADM Duncan received his O-7 on July 1, 1975 as Director of the Division of Facilities Management in the Health Resources Administration. He received his O-8 on May 26, 1976 while serving as Director, Office of Regional Operations, OASH. RADM Duncan retired on April 30, 1977.



Dr. Jere E. Goyan

- ❖ While not a commissioned Officer, Dr. Jere E. Goyan, pharmaceutical scientist and former dean of the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy was appointed the tenth Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration in 1979.