

AMERICA'S UNIFORMED HEALTH RESPONDERS



The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps (Corps) is a cadre of 6,200 uniformed officers from many health and science disciplines. The Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services, has a rich history of commitment to protect and improve the health of the nation. Since 1889 it has demonstrated its strength and agility by continuously adapting to meet the nation's health priorities and challenges.

Combining the high standards set for its officers with a streamlined and flexible personnel system, the Corps proves its unique value every day by enhancing the effectiveness and expertise of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and each of its agencies and other federal health and security organizations in almost 40 countries around the world. The Corps deploys trained personnel that address urgent public health needs at home and abroad. No matter what assignment or location, each officer is closely linked to a global network of officers who can be called upon to rapidly and effectively deliver federal assets to address any health issue. The experience, training, network capability, and camaraderie of Corps officers amplify each agency's ability to meet any program challenge.

THE USPHS COMMISSIONED CORPS IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, PROMOTING, AND ADVANCING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR NATION.

PROTECTING—FOR A SAFER AMERICA

The Corps responds to domestic and foreign public health threats.

Corps officers have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to respond to external threats (e.g., SARS), natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, tsunamis), and terrorist attacks (e.g., the events of September 11, 2001). Corps officers serve in every Federal health agency, in many major international health organizations, and in numerous State, local, territorial, and Tribal health agencies. Their ability to network across all Federal health programs, with state and local communities and foreign governments, adds to the Corps' effectiveness in emergency response and mitigation. As a uniformed service with experience in working with community leaders and organizations, the Corps is uniquely situated to serve as a bridge between

the public, the government, and the private sector. Corps officers also work alongside the U.S. military; for example, the Corps worked with the Navy on the USNS Comfort in providing care to 9/11 responders. Currently, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, the Corps provides mental health care for returning war fighters and their families; the Corps provides medical care for Coast Guard officers year round.

The Corps strengthens America's global health capacity.

Corps officers extend the reach of HHS programs globally by working with individual countries and international organizations. Officers are assigned to countries across the globe to protect and promote health, including global disease detection; capacity building through training in epidemiology, surveillance, and management; refugee health; laboratory systems and infrastructure development; and injury prevention and control.

In addition, while working on Navy vessels, Corps officers provide public health expertise and services on health diplomacy missions. They also improve health conditions around the world by preventing and containing infectious diseases, sharing our nation's health care expertise, building a sustainable public health infrastructure, and reconstructing public health systems in war-torn areas. These humanitarian efforts not only create international good will, but also improve America's security through the detection of and response to threatening global health issues.



PROMOTING—FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA

The Corps embodies a prevention-oriented health philosophy led by the Surgeon General.

The U.S. Surgeon General, America’s recognized and influential health leader, is a trusted source of credible, evidence-based health information. Every Corps officer is an ambassador for the Surgeon General. They work to promote health, prevent disease, and empower people to improve their own health, as well as that of their families and communities. The Surgeon General strongly advocates for healthy lifestyles, most recently focusing on the national epidemic of obesity and the prevention of chronic diseases. Under the Surgeon General’s leadership, the Corps promotes a cost-effective, prevention-oriented health philosophy by example and through the education of others.

The Corps helps provide comprehensive health services to underserved populations.

While our nation’s health has improved, not all populations have benefited equally, and too many Americans in minority groups still suffer from illnesses at a disproportionate rate. The Corps has a long and proud tradition of working to increase access to health care and

to reduce health disparities across the nation, especially among vulnerable populations, including American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, racial and ethnic minorities, the economically disadvantaged, incarcerated individuals, migrant farm workers, and people in rural communities. Many officers are assigned to health facilities in isolated locations to deliver needed health care and administer programs.

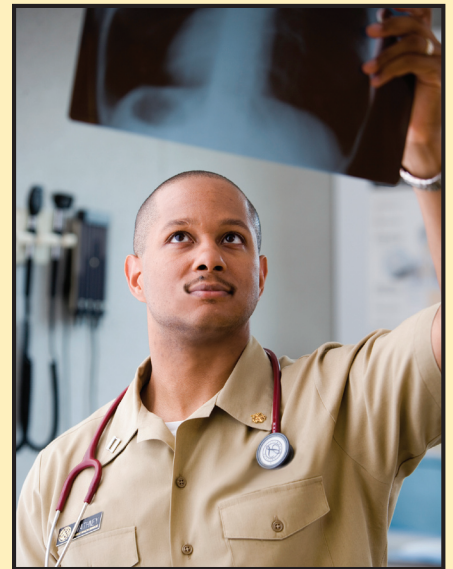
ADVANCING—FOR A STRONGER AMERICA

The Corps works to build the capacity of U.S. public health systems.

A strong America is an America with resilient public health systems at the local, State and Tribal levels that are poised to address any threat or disaster. Corps officers, who are assigned to regional HHS offices and those who serve State and local governments, foster collaboration, support the public health infrastructure and train the public health workforce. The Corps attracts health professionals to the field of public health, provides them with valuable training and experience, and creates future public health leaders.

The Corps applies evidence-based practices to improve public health.

The Corps has strong expertise in both research and field-based applied public health. Embedded in Federal research, demonstration, and intervention programs, Corps officers identify, adopt, and promote the best evidence-based health practices. By leveraging Federal research capabilities, the latest scientifically developed technical tools and methods are disseminated and integrated into public health programs at the local and regional levels to improve their cost-effectiveness and achieve better health outcomes.



A CORPS OF HEALTH LEADERS

USPHS Commissioned Officers are health professionals who lead with vision, scientific expertise, and operational experience to selflessly defend the public’s health. They embrace the common core values of leadership, integrity, service, and excellence, and share a compelling public service mission—to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the Nation. They are prepared to confront the global and domestic health challenges of the 21st century.

