



**U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Human Services**

**GEORGE F. ARCHAMBAULT PHS CAREER ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD IN PHARMACY COVER SHEET (please print or type)**

CANDIDATE'S

GRADE/RANK/NAME: O-8 / RADM John T. Babb

POSITION TITLE: Regional Health Administrator, HHS Region VII

WORK ADDRESS: 601 East 12th Street, Room S-1801
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

PROPOSED CITATION (not to exceed 25 words):

In recognition of outstanding leadership, advancement of the HHS readiness
response doctrine and safety of the nation, and committment to the Public Health
Service and service of the Nation.

RECOMMENDED BY: RADM Robert Williams, Chief of Staff, OSC

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NAME OF CANDIDATE'S

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: ADM John O. Agwunobi, Assistant Secretary for Health

**SIGNATURE OF IMMEDIATE
SUPERVISOR:**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL):

GEORGE F. ARCHAMBAULT PHS CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN PHARMACY

RADM John T. Babb is nominated for the George F. Archambault PHS Career Achievement Award in Pharmacy for his exemplary and distinguished leadership. Since receiving his U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) commission in 1989, RADM Babb has consistently been an extraordinary Federal pharmacist, an exceptional officer, an unparalleled public health professional, and a man of high integrity. He has always demonstrated leadership in the pharmacy profession, and his work routinely transcends the boundaries of the Federal services. He truly deserves this highest recognition of his PHS peers.

RADM Babb currently serves as the Regional Health Administrator for HHS Region VII. Other positions he has held throughout his exemplary career include: Chief of Pharmacy Services (FCI Memphis, TN); Director of Pharmacy Services for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP); Deputy Chief and Chief of the Health Programs Branch for BOP; and, most recently, Director of the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment in the Office of the Surgeon General. In addition, he has served in an "acting" capacity as Director of the Office of Emergency Response, and as the PHS Pharmacy Chief Professional Officer.

RADM Babb is a consummate professional and a skilled collaborator. He has frequently represented the Office of the Surgeon General, always providing a trusted voice of reason whether it was through his work with the White House, OMB, Federal partners, non-governmental organizations, or professional associations. He eloquently delivered the message of the Surgeon General in a coherent and credible manner. He made numerous inspiring presentations to groups across the country - promoting the pharmacy profession and the PHS Commissioned Corps. His rousing, emotionally powerful presentations after the September 11th attacks moved many fellow officers and pharmacists to become personally involved in preparedness and response.

He has been a key leader during a period of major Departmental reorganization. The political and strategic challenges he navigated were immense but his successes were numerous and exceptional. RADM Babb developed a new paradigm of national readiness and response wherein the entire Corps is now the Nation's elite health response force. Deployment of PHS officers increased exponentially under his leadership and vision. For example, deployment days increased from 2,158 in 2002 to 51,178 in 2005. RADM Babb was responsible for the deployment efforts for 18 natural or man-made disaster missions (including 106 sub-missions of hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma); 37 urgent public health needs missions; 38 national special security events (e.g. Presidential Inauguration, State Funeral for President Reagan, Republican and Democratic National Conventions, State of the Union); and also lead the response operations for PHS participation in many national bioterrorism exercises (i.e. TOP OFF III, Unified Defense, and Determined Promise).

RADM Babb's leadership was clearly demonstrated in 2005 when he coordinated the largest PHS activation ever - the response and recovery efforts following the devastating Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. These storms forced the evacuation of over 5 million people, destroyed tens of thousands of businesses and over a hundred thousand homes, forced the long term relocation of more than 680,000 families, destroyed at least 8 hospitals, and were responsible for the deaths of over 1,300 people. RADM Babb was responsible for the deployment of over 2,500 PHS officers to over 100 separate mission assignments at sites throughout the gulf coast and across the Nation. Through his tireless, dedicated, and consistent leadership over the eight months of the operations, the victims and evacuees were provided with the care and support they needed and deserved: tens of thousands of people were treated in shelters; tens of thousands of people were triaged during evacuation processing; health departments in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Dallas, Waco, San Antonio, Houston, Jackson, Biloxi, Palm Beach, and Gulfport were supported; over 250,000 people received immunizations; safe drinking water, food and pharmaceuticals were provided to hundreds of thousands of individuals; and waste water systems were re-

established across the Gulf Coast area. The outcomes of this effort included thousands of saved lives, hundreds of thousands with their quality of life returned, and restored hope across the entire Gulf States Region. RADM Babb's success (and therefore the success of the PHS Commissioned Corps) was validated with the highest-level acknowledgement - the White House's "Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned" document highlighted the Corps in the "What Went Right" section.

His visionary leadership has created a PHS Commissioned Corps that is "ready" at unprecedented levels. In 2002, only 1000 officers (or approximately 17% of the Corps) met basic readiness standards. By the end of 2006 when RADM Babb departed OFRD, the number of ready officers had increased to more than 4500 officers (over 75%). This level exceeded the White House Office of Management and Budget's annual readiness target. The total training modules completed by Corps officers rose from 1500 in 2002 to over 190,000 in 2006. This level of readiness has resulted in a Corps with the size, strength and ability to address a broad range of public health and medical issues during a single large response or multiple responses occurring concurrently. Officers are able to work well and safely within environments prime for exacerbation and spread of disease, such as those in overcrowded shelters and post-disaster settings.

RADM Babb was instrumental in transforming the strategy and platform for Corps deployments - from individual officers to pre-configured and trained teams of officers. He established five Rapid Deployment Force teams, ten Incident Response Coordination Teams, five Applied Public Health Teams, and five Mental Health Teams. This fully integrated tiered structure addresses all members of the Corps, and institutes a response plan that provides for a phased response, taking advantage of both team concepts and the technical expertise of individual officers. This tiered structure was tested - and proved highly effective - in activations for the Lebanese repatriation, Kansas City heat wave and hospital power outages, and Tropical Storm Ernesto.

RADM Babb also provided oversight for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program. During his tenure, the MRC program grew from a concept (with no units or volunteers) to over 600 units and almost 120,000 volunteers in all 50 states. In addition to the many other medical, public health and other volunteers, there are over 3,400 pharmacists in MRC units across the nation. The outcome has been a volunteer force that strengthens the public health infrastructure and improves the emergency response capabilities in local communities across the nation. This force has also proven some members can serve effectively and efficiently as Federal assets when needed for catastrophic events.

He provided the framework and impetus to maximize the PHS pharmacist skill set through the APhA Pharmacy Based Immunization Delivery Certificate Program. Through a coordinated effort between multiple agencies and the Surgeon General's Pharmacy Professional Advisory Committee, RADM Babb has improved the nation's response capabilities for possible pandemic flu and bioterrorism incidents.

RADM Babb's career serves as an inspiration to all who know him. A skilled coach and mentor, he has enhanced the career planning of many officers and has directly mentored over 150 individuals. He personally wrote more than 300 Commissioned Corps Honor Award nominations, recognizing the accomplishments and achievements of more than 10,000 individuals.

In summary, RADM Babb's leadership has vastly improved pharmaceutical and healthcare delivery to federal inmates; increased the Commissioned Corps' readiness and response capabilities; improved the resiliency of communities through the MRC Program; accomplished a wide-sweeping transformation of HHS' readiness doctrine through tiered individual and team structure; and personally impacted and mentored thousands of officers. RADM Babb should be recognized by his peers with the receipt of the George F. Archambault PHS Career Achievement Award in Pharmacy.