



Commissioned Corps BULLETIN

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Upcoming Changes to the COMMISSIONED CORPS BULLETIN

Evolution: It's Not Only for Animals!

In August 1987, when the *Commissioned Corps Bulletin* was developed, there was a desire to communicate with officers about the changes that 'Revitalization' would bring to the policies and operations of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In the intervening years, the monthly *Bulletin* has changed both in format and content—sometimes diverting from its intended direction.

It is again time to evolve—or perhaps 'de-evolve'—the *Bulletin* to both return to its policy and operations information roots, and to move forward toward a more responsive, real-time system using the capabilities of the Internet.

We will be moving to a fully electronic format within the next few months. We want to make sure that our officers' information needs are met in the best manner possible, and we need your input to assist in meeting these goals. What should that format be? Do you subscribe to other organizations' electronic publications and have likes and dislikes about them?

Please send your thoughts of where the *Commissioned Corps Bulletin* should be going to OCCFMhelpdesk@hhs.gov.

Surgeon General's Column

As another new year approaches, we have the opportunity to reflect on a year of truly distinguished service by our U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps officers.

Together, we have risen to meet the challenges of a public health system that, for too long, has been stretched too far. Our leaders, President Bush and Secretary Thompson, have led the commitment to strengthen our Nation's public health infrastructure. This began with a series of unprecedented investments in Federal disaster response plans, new drug and vaccine investigations, the laboratory response network, and in hospital preparedness and surge capacity, and continues with efforts across public health. As members of the PHS Commissioned Corps we are directly responsible for preserving, protecting, and advancing public health.

Corps officers have stepped to the front lines of the war on terror with our brothers and sisters in other Uniformed Services. Although we don't carry guns, we do care for our Nation's soldiers and their brave families, we assist in the reconstruction in war-torn countries, and we fill gaps left by medical professionals who are deployed. We are building a homeland defense and a public health infrastructure that can identify, mitigate, or control any weapons of mass destruction used by our enemies to attack America.

Not since September 11, 2001, have so many of our Nation's citizens so desperately needed the help of the PHS. This year, thanks in large part to the willing-

ness of hundreds of PHS officers and the direction and coordination of the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment and the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, a record number of PHS officers were deployed to assist Americans after recent natural disasters. On behalf of President Bush and Secretary Thompson, I would like to thank all of those officers who spent time away from their loved ones to help communities and families in need. I can't be more eloquent than Governor Jeb Bush when he said to me, "The PHS saved us."

I'm also proud that PHS officers have helped facilitate the development of a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in communities across the country. To date, we have more than 200 MRCs and more than 30,000 volunteers throughout the United States.

As health leaders in our communities, we have also continued to spread our message to the general public about health prevention, health preparedness, and eliminating health disparities.

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Surgeon General's Column

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In short—we have been busy. With every success, we gain greater recognition in the eyes of our brothers and sisters in uniform and in the eyes of the public that we serve. With every success we grow closer to meeting our objective of becoming a mobile, fit, and ready uniformed partner in service to the Nation.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to strengthening our Nation's public health today and building an even brighter tomorrow. Your dedication is fundamental to America's public health promotion and disaster response capability. It continues to be an honor to serve as your Surgeon General.

With all that we've been challenged to do as part of our routine PHS service assignments, it's a testament to the quality of men and women of the PHS that hundreds of you also make time to volunteer. Your professional service coupled with your community service is making a tremendous impact. In this holiday season, I would like to highlight just a few ways that you are making a positive difference in your local communities.

Volunteering at a health clinic or mobile health van

We all know fellow officers who volunteer at a local clinic or health center. This is noble work, and I thank everyone who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help out where and when they're needed. For example, medical officers, ***CDR Sarah R. Linde-Feucht*** and ***LCDR Laura M. St. Martin***, volunteer at Mobile Medical Care, Inc. This non-profit organization provides primary medical care to the low-income, uninsured, working poor, and homeless people in Montgomery County, Maryland. These officers use their expertise to help address first-hand the growing needs of the underserved in this community. By working with this organization, they have been inspired by people from all over the world who are now living in the area. CDR Linde-Feucht will be glad to let you know how doctors, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and

physician assistants can become involved with Mobile Medical Care, Inc.

Participating in health education project or events

Many PHS officers employ a combination of their medical training and creative talents to initiate and support innovative health education projects. For example, ***CDR Stephen Keller***, physician assistant, wrote and produced "Smoke Busters" which is a 70-minute entertainment video on smoking cessation. Currently, he produces 1-minute Public Service Announcements titled "Aerospace TV with Doctor Theory," and 30-minute television productions called "The Scientific Adventures of Doctor Theory." To contact CDR Keller about his efforts or about starting your own local health education projects e-mail him at *DoctorTheory@Hotmail.com*.

CDR Keller also volunteers for SAFE KIDS, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury. At local health fairs he informs children and parents about fire safety and water safety. More than 300 State and local SAFE KIDS coalitions exist.

Being a leader in your community

Many PHS officers promote good health in their community by volunteering for leadership positions. ***CAPT Ivana R. Williams***, therapist officer, serves as a board member of the Woodridge Warriors Youth Organization (WWYO). WWYO is a non-profit organization composed of volunteers from northeast Washington, D.C. They serve over 400 inner city, low-income youth each year through educational and athletic programs, including tutorial programs, football, baseball, basketball, and cheerleading.

As past president, CAPT Williams oversaw the reorganization of WWYO, developed area partnerships, and expanded their programs. Many of the youth WWYO serves are being raised by single-parents, relatives, or individuals other than their parents. This

organization provides children an opportunity to improve their grades in school and participate in a competitive sports program that focuses on character development, promoting self-esteem, and reinforcing healthy behaviors.

Many more officers deserve recognition for all that you are giving back to your local communities. Your commitment to community service knows no bounds—it is pervasive and far-reaching. Like therapist officer, ***LT Jodi Tanzillo***, who has taken personal leave to use her occupational therapy skills to assist with a humanitarian mission in Russia; and nurse officer, ***CDR Angela Martinelli***, who has used her annual leave and personal funds to volunteer for six international Operation Smile missions.

To all of you who are so giving of your personal time, let me assure you that your volunteer spirit and efforts are noticed and appreciated.

Thank you to you, your family, and loved ones for your tireless commitment to improving the health of our Nation. Have a wonderful holiday season and a safe and healthy new year!

VADM Richard H. Carmona
Surgeon General

Note: For more information on some of the organizations where officers have volunteered their support, see the following Web sites:

- Mobile Medical Care, Inc. – <http://www.mobilemedicalcare.org/>.
- SAFE KIDS – <http://www.safekids.org/>
- Woodridge Warriors Youth Organization – <http://eteamz.active.com/woodridgewarriors/>.

□



Promotion Information

In November 2004, a notification of promotion eligibility was sent to all officers eligible for temporary and/or permanent promotion in the 2005 promotion year. At that time, the list of eligible officers included those reviewed for permanent promotion in 2004.

The 2004 permanent promotions were recently finalized, and the names of those officers successfully promoted to permanent positions will be removed from the list of officers eligible for permanent promotion in 2005.

Officers can verify their eligibility by accessing the Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) Web site (formerly the Division of Commissioned Corps Web site) at <http://dcp.psc.gov> and logging into the 'Secure Area.' The first screen should appear, informing the officer of his/her promotion eligibility for 2005 and directing the officer to a memorandum providing instructions on the 2005 Promotion Year (PY05). **Important:** Additional information on PY05 should be reviewed from the promotion link found on the main screen of the CCMIS Web site.

Officers may *not* 'Opt Out' of the 2005 promotion cycle. The privilege to 'Opt Out' was limited to the 2004 temporary promotion cycle. Officers who met the new 2004 promotion eligibility criteria and opted out of the 2004 temporary promotion review will be included in the 2005 temporary promotion review. For confirmation of the 2004 'Opt Out' limitation, refer to Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM), Subchapter CC23.4, INSTRUCTION 2, "Temporary Grade Promotions," Section F. Competitive Temporary Promotion Policy, Para. 5.

For general information regarding permanent promotions, refer to CCPM, Subchapter CC23.4, INSTRUCTION 1, "Permanent Grade Promotions," and for general information regarding temporary promotions, refer to CCPM, Subchapter CC23.4, INSTRUCTION 2, "Temporary Grade Promotions." The CCPM is available at <http://dcp.psc.gov/navigati.asp>.

Deadline for Submission of Applications for Assimilation into the Regular Corps

Are you interested in joining the ranks of officers who have achieved a career status with the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps? The Regular Corps, the career component of the PHS Commissioned Corps, is composed of officers who have expressed long-term commitment to the missions and goals of the Corps, applied for assimilation, successfully competed for this status, and completed the assimilation process.

The Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO) is currently accepting applications for assimilation into the Regular Corps. Applications for assimilation must be postmarked by Friday, **February 11, 2005**, in order to be reviewed by the 2005 Assimilation Board.

A complete assimilation package that includes form PHS-7034, "Application for Assimilation into the Regular Corps," as well as a table outlining the differences between the Reserve Corps and Regular Corps, is available on the

Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) Web site—<http://dcp.psc.gov/assimilation.asp>, or, on the CCMIS Web site home page—<http://dcp.psc.gov>, click on the 'Publications' tab to generate its pull-down menu, and then click on 'Regular Corps Assimilation Program.'

Important: Officers who applied for assimilation in the past but were notified by OCCO that they were 'not recommended' or were reviewed by three boards are reminded that a new application is required in order to be reconsidered. However, officers who were 'recommended' but did not make the cut off do not need to resubmit an application. These applications will automatically be resent to the board for a total of three times.

If you have any questions regarding assimilation, please contact the OCCO Assimilation Coordinator, LT Camille Hawkins, at 240-453-6036.

Call for Nominations for the 2005 AI/ANCOAC Honor Awards

The American Indian/Alaska Native Commissioned Officer Advisory Committee (AI/ANCOAC) is now accepting nominations for five different awards presented by the committee. They are:

1. Leadership Award;
2. Annie Dodge Wauneka Award;
3. Flag Officer Award;
4. Senior Officer Award; and
5. Junior Officer Award.

To be eligible, the nominee must be an American Indian/Alaska Native Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps officer who has been employed by the Federal Government for a minimum of 2 years during her or his current tour. The emphasis for nomination should be on sustained outstanding performance, a superior contribution to the field of their discipline, and evidence of dedication to the principles of the PHS mission and vision.

Please visit the AI/ANCOAC Web page at www.aiancoac.freesevers.com for more specific details regarding the selection criteria, and instructions for completion of the nomination form.

The AI/ANCOAC Awards Co-Chair must receive all nominations by the close of business on **April 1, 2005**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

LCDR Wil Darwin, Jr.
AI/ANCOAC Awards Co-Chair
Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Service
Unit
Pharmacy Department
P.O. Box 130
San Fidel, NM 87049

E-mail: wdarwin@abq.ihs.gov
Phone: 505-552-5393 MST
Fax: 505-552-5484

APAO Call for Nominations for the Annual Samuel Lin Award and Annual Junior Officer Award

The Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAO) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the Samuel Lin Award (for officers O-5 and above), and the Junior Officer Award (for officers O-4 and below). These awards have been developed to promote the future leadership of Asian Pacific Americans in the Public Health Service (PHS) by honoring members of the commissioned corps or equivalent civil service professionals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Nation's health.

Nominations must include the following:

(1) Nomination cover sheet that includes:

- Name and Rank
- Position Title
- Work Address
- Proposed Citation
- Nominated by:

- Work phone
- Relationship to Nominee

(2) Narrative, not to exceed two pages (font size 10 or 12), that describes the following:

- The nominee's contribution to the advancement of the Nation's public health. Nomination should address the impact of the work and the role of the nominee;
- The leadership of the nominee in the work being cited (e.g., providing vision or direction; developing an innovative approach; initiating significant activities; pursuing ongoing professional development; mentoring; etc.); and
- Involvement of the nominee in health-related professional or community activities.

(3) Current curriculum vitae.

These awards are open to both PHS officers and civil service professionals. Nominations may come from a supervi-

sor, professional colleague, or anyone who through a professional working relationship can attest to the impact of the nominee's contribution to the advancement of public health. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nominations will be accepted through **December 31, 2004**. No exceptions will be made. The awards will be presented in June in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the 2005 Public Health Professional Conference which is sponsored by the Commissioned Officers Association.

Please send eight (8) copies of the above items to:

LCDR Marjorie D. Baldo
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
Services (CMS)
CMM/HAPG/Division of Ambulatory
Services
MS C4-03-06
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244
Phone: 410-786-4617
E-mail: mbaldo@cms.hhs.gov



CMS Holds First Annual Promotion Ceremony

On October 13, 2004, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) held their First Annual Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps Officer Promotion Ceremony. The ceremony honored the 11 Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps officers listed below. CMS was privileged to have both the PHS Honor Guard and PHS Choir, complete with Ensemble, open the ceremony. RADM Stephen F. Jencks, USPHS (Ret.), presided as Master of Ceremony.

Ms. Leslie Norwalk, the Agency's Deputy Director, presented opening remarks on behalf of CMS. She acknowledged the tasks performed by CMS officers as well as the commitment to duty and the level of achievement of the officers promoted. She also expressed her gratitude for their efforts.

VADM Richard H. Carmona, Surgeon General, gave the keynote address and officiated along with Ms. Norwalk and family members in the placement of pro-

motion boards for each officer. VADM Carmona opened with a special thank you for allowing him to be part of CMS' first promotion ceremony. He thanked family members for their support of the officers promoted, and noted how crucial this support is to the success of each officer. He continued by reminiscing about previous visits to CMS, including the one in which the PHS Display case, which chronicles PHS history, was unveiled. He also recalled his invitation to a 'brown bag' lunch that included a question and answer period which further enhanced his great and deep respect for the CMS Corps officers, and provided him with additional ideas to help him serve as Surgeon General.

VADM Carmona took the opportunity during this ceremony to present LT Pauline Karikari-Martin with the *Surgeon General's Certificate of Appreciation* for her recent board certification as a Clinical Specialist in Community Health Nursing.

Officers promoted were:

- **MEDICAL OFFICER**
 - CAPT Marcel Salive
- **NURSE OFFICER**
 - CDR Mary Ellen Bruk (promotion to CAPT will be effective January 1, 2005)
 - CDR Sheila Blackstock
 - CDR Jacqueline Morgan
 - CDR Betty Shaw
 - LCDR Trina Boyce
- **PHARMACIST OFFICER**
 - LCDR Donald Reese
- **THERAPIST OFFICER**
 - CDR Mercedes Benitez-McCrary
 - CDR Rita Shapiro
- **HEALTH SERVICES OFFICER**
 - LCDR Marjorie Baldo*
 - LT Scott Cooper (promotion to LCDR will be effective April 1, 2005)

*Exceptional Proficiency Promotion



Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual

NEW ISSUANCES

COMMISSIONED CORPS PERSONNEL POLICY MEMORANDUMS (PMM)

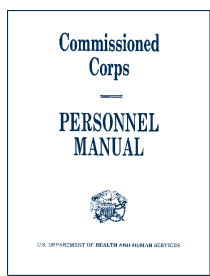
**PPM 05-003,
DATED
NOVEMBER 18,
2004**

Subject: Revision of Subchapter CC23.4, INSTRUCTION 6, "Chief Professional Officer Nomination Criteria and Selection Process."

**PPM 05-004, DATED
NOVEMBER 1, 2004**

Subject: Internal Guidance of Influenza Vaccination for Commissioned Corps Officers During the 2004-05 Influenza Season.

Please note: The PPMs listed above can be accessed on the Commissioned Corps Management Information System Web site—<http://dcp.psc.gov>—click on 'Publications,' 'Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual.'



Recent Deaths

Note: To report the death of a retired officer or an annuitant to the Office of Commissioned Corps Support Services (OCCSS), please phone 1-800-638-8744.

The deaths of the following active-duty officer and retired officers were recently reported to OCCSS:

Category / Rank / Name	Date
MEDICAL	
CAPTAIN	
Fred W. Thyng	10/29/04
NURSE	
LIEUTENANT J.G.	
Antonia M. Cobian	09/10/04
VETERINARY	
CAPTAIN	
Leo A. Whitehair	11/02/04

Office of Force Readiness and Deployment

Current Responses

- **Yellow Alert:** Deployment to Secretary's Operation Center, Department of Health and Human Services, through January 2005.
- **Yellow Alert:** Secretary's Emergency Response Teams (SERT) On-Call through January 20, 2005.
- **Dentists Deploy to Camp Lejeune,** October 2004 to February 2005.
- **Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe,** October 2004.
- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever,** December 2004.

Upcoming Response

- **Inauguration Day,** January 20, 2005.

The Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe

The Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provide emergency general assistance to deal with failed sanitary drain fields on residences due to unusually high saturation of soils from recent rain events. The Tribe was seeking assistance for 40 homes that have failed drain fields due to the recent high rainfall. Based on the approved FEMA mission, three Public Health Service (PHS) environmental health experts in the Aberdeen Area provided technical assistance to the Tribe.

On Call Responses

Recently, the Corps has been called upon to be in on-call status for a variety of high profile national security events. For each event, teams were designated for the east coast, central U.S. or west coast, as needed. In addition, PHS officers were on call to support an Incident Management Team in Washington, DC. It is anticipated that this on-call status will continue until after the Presidential Inauguration in January 2005.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

The Phoenix Area office of the Indian Health Service requested the support of a PHS Commissioned Corps veterinarian to assist in developing a plan for the

assessment, surveillance, and prevention of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). RMSF was recently found to be endemic in this region. If not treated, RMSF can have a case fatality rate of 13 to 25 percent. Twenty-six percent of the ticks taken from dogs on a reservation in this region were positive for RMSF, and of the 184 human blood samples taken at this location, 18 tested positive for RMSF antibodies. One PHS veterinarian is scheduled to deploy in December 2004 to plan for an eradication campaign. Other veterinarians will follow in the spring.

Policy Issues

Please immediately review Manual Circular PHS No. 377, "Basic Level of Force Readiness Standards for the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service," and Commissioned Corps Personnel Policy Memorandums 04-003, 04-006, 05-002, and 05-004 at <http://dcp.psc.gov/navigati.asp>.

Training

- **MMCBC:** Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD) officers attended the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease's Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties (MMCBC) course, October 31-November 5, 2004.
- **LNO (Liaison Officer):** OFRD will support the OASPH (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness) and has identified officers to be trained as Liaison officers for SERT. More than two times the number of applications than available slots for this course have been received. The next LNO (II)/SERT training will be held in Washington, DC, December 7-10. OFRD will have trained 200 officers to work with SERT upon conclusion of the December course.
- **Upcoming Training:** Fiscal Year 2005 OFRD Training Courses are listed at <http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/training.htm> as course offerings become available.

