



U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

-Dietitian Officers- Best Kept Secrets

Who are we?

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is an elite team of more than 6,500 full-time, well-trained, highly qualified public health professionals dedicated to delivering the Nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science. Driven by a passion for public service, these men and women serve on the front lines in the Nation's fight against disease and poor health conditions. As one of America's seven uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps fills essential public health leadership and service roles within the Nation's Federal Government agencies and programs.



CAPT Suzan Gordon
Chief Dietitian Officer

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

What do Dietitian officers do?

Dietitian Officers in U.S. Public Health Service:

- Provide medical nutrition therapy as part of a team providing state-of-the-art health care.
- Plan and implement educational programs for patients, hospital staff, specialty clinics, community health centers, and through Federal agency outreach and public affairs teams.
- Develop and evaluate national health and nutrition programs and National dietary guidelines.
- Coordinate nutrition programs and establish standards for nutrition service in settings such as Federal and tribal health care facilities.
- Ensure the safety of our Nation's food and food products through research, testing, and inspection of food production facilities.

Our focus is on improving physical health for domestic and international populations and providing direct patient care. As a Commissioned Corps Officer, you have the chance to become involved in organized disease prevention and health promotion programs that have a positive impact on National and community disease rates as well as individual patients' lives.

Did you know you can:

- Enjoy fantastic medical and dental benefits for you and your family
- Use military bases around the world
- Use the GI Bill to advance your education
- Contribute pre-tax income to the Thrift Savings Plan

Quality of Practice

Dietitian Officers in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps are respected members of the health care team who play a key role in the provision of evidence-based care. They use their skills and expertise in medical nutrition therapy, research, food safety, epidemiology, wellness, health promotion, nutrition education, and emergency management while developing and strengthening their leadership skills through training and deployments to areas in need of public health crisis response. As a Registered Dietitian in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, you have the opportunity to control the course of your career. Dietitian Officers work in a wide variety of settings and for different agencies served by the U.S. Public Health Service.

Why Should You Be a Dietitian Officer in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Opportunities

Where are we located?

Commissioned Corps Officers work almost anywhere and everywhere in the country. Whether you prefer rural or urban, east or west, north or south, we have a location for you. Dietitian Officers can be employed as Commissioned Officers across the country in any of the following agencies.

- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
- Office of the Secretary (OS)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Program Support Center (PSC)

Opportunities for Growth

Imagine working for an organization that wants you to grow professionally, to expand your knowledge base as part of your duties, so that you can effectively deal with the challenges of improving the Nation's public health.

As a member of one of the seven branches of the Uniformed Services with Registered Dietitians serving Nationwide, you are involved in patient care, medical research, health promotion, health care policy, epidemiology, emergency management, and much more. You have opportunities to make an impact on the public health of this entire Nation with only one credential as a Registered Dietitian.



Map of current Dietitian Officers' duty stations.

Quality of Life

Is your quality of life all that it could be? Is it important to you to have time to spend with your family and friends, doing the things you enjoy? As a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, you receive 30 days of annual leave plus 10 Federal holidays. Many duty stations operate Monday–Friday during normal business hours. This organization allows you to pursue life in literally hundreds of locations from the largest cities to the smallest communities near the oceans, the mountains, the Grand Canyon, the Gulf Coast, or National parks. Be prepared to enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you have yet experienced.

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Benefits

Commissioned Corps officers working for the U.S. Public Health Service enjoy the same benefits as their counterparts in the armed services. Here are a few of them:

- No cost, comprehensive medical and dental care for Corps officers; excellent health benefits for families.
- Paid sick leave, maternity leave, and Federal holidays.
- Clinical practice liability coverage.
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year beginning the first year.
- Tax-free housing and meal allowances.
- Thrift Savings plan (retirement savings and investment plan similar to a 401(k)).
- Retirement plan with full benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service.
- Loan repayment potential – USPHS understands the financial burden of medical education. Assignments with certain Federal Agencies, such as the Indian Health Service, offer loan repayment and/or other educational and family support programs.
- Veterans Affairs benefits, such as Post-9/11 GI Bill & VA Home Loan Program. Education benefits do require a minimum service obligation and they may be transferrable to family members. Visit the Veterans Affairs Web Site for more information.



Hurricane Harvey Response 2017 - USPHS Dietitian Officers on deployment in Houston, Texas.



USPHS Dietitian Officer educating children.



USPHS Dietitian Officer providing Medical Nutrition Therapy.

Additional Uniformed Services Benefits

The Commissioned Corps offers you and your family many other exceptional benefits including:

- Paid moving expenses when you join the Corps, relocate with the Corps, and retire from the Corps.
- Access to military base lodging, recreational facilities and space-available flights on military aircraft.
- Shopping privileges at military base grocery and department stores.

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Next Steps

USPHS Officer Qualifications

All Commissioned Corps officers must meet several basic qualifications. To be a Dietitian officer, you must have a current, unrestricted, and valid registration by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Additionally, education requirements include at least one of the following:

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree (with no qualifying bachelor's degree)
- Doctoral degree (with no qualifying bachelor's degree) from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States with a major in foods and nutrition, dietetics, institution management, public health nutrition, food science, sports nutrition, or animal nutrition.

Applicants also must present verification of completion of one of the following AND accredited/approved pathways:

- Accredited Dietetic Internship Program
- Accredited Coordinated Program

If you have just graduated and have not yet passed the Registered Dietitian exam, you may still apply to the U.S. Public Health Service. Your call to active duty will occur after you have provided documentation of a current, unrestricted, and valid registration by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

Dietitian Student Opportunities

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps offers two excellent opportunities for students to serve their country while completing their education. If you are interested in a public health career, we encourage you to apply to the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JRCOSTEP) and the Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP). Both programs offer excellent benefits and are highly competitive.

If you have questions about COSTEP, please visit our website at <http://www.usphs.gov/student/>.

Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a Registered Dietitian, a Dietetic Intern, or a Dietetic Student interested in joining the fight for public health; or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605, visit our website at <http://www.usphs.gov>, or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usphs.



Whom Should I Contact?

AGENCY	RECRUITER	PHONE	EMAIL	WEBSITE
NIH	CAPT Madeline Michael	301-496-3312	mmichael@cc.nih.gov	www.nih.gov
BOP	CDR Mitchel Holliday	507-424-7469	mholliday@bop.gov	www.bop.gov
CMS	LCDR Stephanie Magill	206-615-2028	stephanie.magill@cms.hhs.gov	www.cms.gov
CDC	CAPT Graydon Yatabe	770-488-5002	ilq4@cdc.gov	www.cdc.gov
FDA	CAPT Jean Makie	240-402-9007	jean.makie@fda.hhs.gov	www.fda.gov
OS/OASH	LCDR Katrina Piercy	240-453-8271	katrina.piercy@hhs.gov	www.hhs.gov
HRSA	CAPT Kathleen Edelman	301-443-1209	kedelman@hrsa.gov	www.hrsa.gov
IHS	CDR Diane Phillips	505-946-9390	diane.phillips@ihs.gov	www.ihs.gov
PSC	CAPT Susan Steinman	385-285-7460	susan.steinman@foh.hhs.gov	www.psc.gov
DOD	CDR Jena Vedder	703-681-0362	jennifer.a.vedder.mil@mail.mil	www.dod.gov
USDA	CDR Malaysia Harrell	301-289-9650	malaysia.harrell@fsis.usda.gov	www.usda.gov

Compensation for Dietitian Officers

Compensation varies depending on grade/rank which is determined by number of years of academic coursework and work experience (training and education) in your qualifying area. Other factors that determine compensation include location of duty station, specialty certifications, and marital status and/or having children.

The minimum pay grade/rank for a Dietitian Officer in the USPHS is O-1 or Ensign (COSTEPs only). Most Dietitian Officers are commissioned at the grade/rank O-2 or Lieutenant Junior Grade or an O-3 or Lieutenant.

The chart below provides an example of salary based on rank, duty location, years of service, and no dependence. For a more accurate calculation based on the variables please visit <http://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/RMC-Calculator/>.

Dietitian Officers Compensation without Dependents 2019 serving 2 years or less

RANK	MONTHLY BASE PAY (TAXABLE) *	BASIC HOUSING ALLOWANCE (NO TAX) **	SUBSISTENCE PAY (NO TAX)	HEALTHCARE BENEFITS	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
O-1	\$3188	\$1137	\$254	no contribution	\$4579
O-2	\$3673	\$1287	\$254	no contribution	\$5214
O-3	\$4251	\$1455	\$254	no contribution	\$5960
O-4	\$4835	\$1560	\$254	no contribution	\$6649

* Military pay tables:

<https://www.militaryrates.com/military-pay-charts>

** Duty station: Sells, AZ