



Deployment Narrative Form

Required Fields

Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/03/2022

Name (Rank, First, Last, Credentials): LT Andrew Mattocks, BSN, RN, NRP, CCHP

Deployment Team or Tier (e.g. Tier 3):

Title/Position at Duty Station (e.g. Epidemiologist): Clinical Nurse

OPDIV: Bureau of Prisons

Email Address: A1mattocks@bop.gov

Narrative Questions [respond to as many as applicable]

1. What is your current assignment in USPHS?

I am assigned to Federal Correctional Institution Allenwood as a Clinical Nurse.

2. What was the mission of your deployment? (e.g. dates, location, and other pertinent details)

I was assigned to assist an IHS-affiliated hospital in Nome, AK from December 6, 2021, through January 7, 2022, to augment staffing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Nome is a very remote town in western Alaska along the Bering Land Bridge and is accessible only by plane. The winter climate was brutal (-30 F temps and 50mph winds, coupled with approximately 3 hours of daylight per day).

3. What was your role during this deployment? What skills (scientific, personal, etc.) did you use?

Based off of my experience as a paramedic and an ICU nurse, I was assigned to work in the Emergency Department of the hospital. Triage skills, critical thinking, time management, and developmental/lifespan nursing knowledge were integral to success. There was also an alarmingly high amount of alcohol intoxication/withdrawal cases that required me to brush up on my CIWA scale and associated assessments.

4. Was this your first deployment? Either way, how did you prepare for the deployment, personally or work-wise?

This was my first deployment. It was challenging in that I was told I was going to 3 or 4 different locations with different time frames before finally getting officially assigned to this mission. What helped me was, communicating with my wife, making arrangements for home life in my absence, and finally, just submitting to the fact that I'm not in control and am willing to go where the help is needed.

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5. Do you have any advice or “pearls of wisdom” for fellow officers who are being deployed or are interested in deploying?

You probably need a lot less packed away than you think you do. It’s a great opportunity to make friends within the Corps and network with your new peers. Relying on each other during your time there is huge – we were lucky to have a close-knit group of great officers and truly enjoyed each other’s company. Pack scrubs! You may not end up wearing your ODU at all.

6. What was the most important thing you learned during this deployment?

7. What were some of the key challenges that you experienced?

Lack of cell service, difficulty with transportation (relying on a taxi that closes during inclement weather – in Alaska, planes being delayed because of weather, etc), challenging weather, miscommunication/misunderstanding of our presence and role with the hosting agency, missing luggage... we experienced a host of challenges but persevered and accomplished what we set out to do.

8. What did you enjoy the most (e.g., favorite memory) about this deployment?

Meeting officers from other agencies with varying backgrounds (professional, cultural, etc). We had a great, cohesive group. I can’t imagine being where we were without that network of support. There was, quite literally, nothing to do if you weren’t on shift.

9. What would you consider to be your major accomplishment stemming from this deployment?

I was able to fly by bush plane to two of the remote villages (Teller and Savoonga) surrounding Nome and brought initial access to pediatric COVID vaccines. I was able to vaccinate 67% and 75%, respectively, of the children in the villages in the 5-11 year old age bracket.

10. Were there any classes or trainings that helped you in your deployment?

I would say my career as a paramedic (10 years prior to becoming a nurse) set me up for success in just about every nursing role I’ve been a part of. Flexibility, critical thinking, confidence, competence in clinical skills, and comfort working in unusual and austere environments were all invaluable and will continue to be throughout my career.

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11. How was your post deployment/reintegration experience? Was it a smooth transition back to your daily activities?

I was fortunate to come back to an easy transition at home and work. Digging myself out of my email inbox was probably the biggest hurdle I had to clear, followed by adjusting to the time zone again and getting used to seeing the sun.

12. Please feel free to share anything else regarding your deployment to highlight your experiences or to increase the readiness of fellow officers.

13. Do you consent to your narrative being posted on Twitter?(y/n)

14. Do you consent to your narrative being posted on Facebook? (y/n)

Thank you for your service!

Please send your completed form, along with a personal portrait and any other optional approved media for posting (e.g. photos from your deployment) to photos from your deployment) to LCDR Kari Schlessinger (kschlessinger@bop.gov) and LT Benjamin Patrick (benjamin.o.patrick.mil@mail.mil)