



U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

DENTAL OFFICERS

BEST KEPT SECRETS



U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Opportunities

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 eight uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps fills essential public health leadership and service roles within the Nation's Federal Government agencies and programs.



RADM Timothy Ricks

Are you ready to discover an opportunity for a professional and personal life changing experience; one that blends your desire to serve our country with your passion for oral and public health? If your answer is "Yes!" or "I'm not sure," take a moment to learn about the career opportunities and experiences of the men and women serving within the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps... collectively working to "Protect, Promote, and Advance the Health and Safety of our Nation."

"Leadership, Service, Integrity and Excellence" are the core values by which the proud officers of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Dental Category serve their country. The Dental Category of the USPHS has proudly provided oral health expertise to the Nation since 1919 – whether deploying domestically or abroad due to a natural or man-made disaster; providing clinical care; serving as an administrator; conducting research; or performing epidemiological surveillance. Let us help you discover a career that could very well be the dental profession's best kept secret.

Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks
Chief Dental Officer
Assistant Surgeon General
U.S. Public Health Service

What Do We Do?

Dental Officers in Public Health:

- Perform clinical dentistry
- Prevent and control oral diseases
- Educate individuals and communities about oral health
- Improve oral, dental, and craniofacial health through treatment, research, surveillance, training, administration, and the dissemination of health information
- Deploy on humanitarian missions and respond to disasters, including using dental forensics to identify disaster victims

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Dental officers join the Commissioned Corps at many different levels. Some join as beginning clinicians while others are experienced dentists who also may have had training in public health, policy and administration, or research methodology. The focus is on improving oral health for entire populations. While there is plenty of direct patient care, there are opportunities to become involved in organized community disease prevention and treatment programs that can make an impact on overall community health rates.

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 you and your family's education
- Contribute pre-tax income to the Thrift Savings Plan

Quality of Practice:

Being a dentist in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps will allow you to focus on clinical practice without the demands of maintaining a business. Every day will offer new challenges as you bring oral health care and educational programs to underserved and disadvantaged patients who need it most. You can also participate in short emergency deployments, critical assistance in public health emergency response and disaster recovery efforts. What's more, any single, valid, unrestricted professional license opens the door to work in any one of our Federal facilities. As part of a national team of committed health care professionals, you'll be serving your country and making a difference while enjoying excellent benefits and work/life balance.



Why You Should be a Dental Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Where Are We Located?

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. Dentists can be employed as Commissioned Officers across the country in any of the following agencies:

- Indian Health Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps
- National Institutes of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Food and Drug Administration



Indian Health Service



Indian Health Service

Opportunities for Growth

Are you ready for an exceptional career and the experience of a lifetime? When you join the U.S. Public Health Service, you become part of a diverse group of individuals who have a unique sense of purpose.



Dental Team

Your commitment and willingness to take part in this incomparable opportunity will be rewarded with excellent pay and benefits, state-of-the-art facilities, collegial environments, opportunities for loan repayment and sponsored professional education; and the chance for advancement and challenging work, all on behalf of an appreciative patient population.

Finding the PHS career that is right for you is made easier because your skills and availability are marketed nationwide. In fact, a variety of opportunities are available right now that will allow you to practice and advance your clinical competencies. Whether you are a new graduate seeking a meaningful way to start your career, or an experienced dentist looking for a new opportunity, you'll be surrounded by dedicated, like-minded colleagues who have chosen to serve others.



United States Coast Guard

Quality of Life:

Is your quality of life all that it could be? Is it important 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. Most 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 Pay & 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:

- Low cost comprehensive medical and dental care for Corps officers and their dependents
- Paid sick leave, maternity/paternity leave, and Federal holidays
- No cost clinical practice liability coverage under the Federal Torts Claim Act
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year beginning the first year
- Tax-free housing and meal allowances
- Thrift Savings Plan, a retirement savings and investment plan similar to a matching 401(k) - Up to a 5% match of your contribution
- Military pension with eligibility beginning after 20 years of service – non-contributory
- Loan repayment potential – Assignments with certain Federal agencies, such as the Indian Health Service and National Health Service Corps, offer loan repayment and/or other educational and family support programs.
- Veterans Affairs benefits, such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill which allows active duty members and/or their dependents to receive an education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation.
- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) – provides low-cost term life insurance

Check out the commissioned officers pay table below:

<https://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/Pay-Tables/>

(Courtesy of DFAS)

As a reminder, this pay table simply displays base pay and does not include bonuses, special pays, or housing and subsistence allowances

Compensation Examples for USPHS Commissioned Corps Dentists

Compensation varies depending on factors such as grade/rank, years of training and experience (T&E) as a dentist, base-pay entry date, specialty training received, geographic location of the duty station, and whether or not the employee has a spouse and/or children.

Please use the pay tables at <https://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/RMC-Calculator> with the zip code of the duty station you are considering and the paycheck examples at the bottom of this web page to estimate pay.

Dentists

The minimum starting pay grade/rank for a dentist in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is O-3 or Lieutenant. Dental graduates receive eight years of T&E credit for education leading to the DDS or DMD degree regardless of how many years it took to obtain that degree.

Bonuses and Special Pays

All dentists are eligible for both contractual, special-pay bonuses, and monthly special-pay bonuses, which include:

- Incentive Special Pay (IP) – Prorated monthly pay, this special ranges from \$20,000 to \$75,000 annually based on level of training
- Multi-Year Retention Bonus (MRB) – Paid annually, amount depends on the dental officer's training and length of contract, the MRB bonus ranges from \$13,000 to \$52,000
- Board Certified Pay (BCP) – Prorated monthly pay for dental specialists, this pay is \$6,000 annually
- Accession Bonus (CWS-AB) – For newly commissioned officers, \$150,000 to \$300,000 paid over the 4 year service obligation (\$37,500 to \$75,000 per year)

More information about special pay rates at the website below!

<https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/HPSP/HPSP.aspx>

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: You must be a U.S. citizen, be less than 44 years of age, and pass a physical examination. To be a dental officer, you also need the following:

- D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from a program that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association
- Current, unrestricted, and valid dental license to practice in one of the 50 States; Washington, DC; Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands; or Guam

Pathways to Commissioning

- Dentists currently employed as contractors or civil service employees at an agency we serve in may be able to transition to the Commissioned Corps while maintaining their current duty station.
- Recent dental school graduates are encouraged to apply for employment with one of the many Agencies we serve. Once employed they may be able to transition to the Commissioned Corps while maintaining their current employment.
- Individuals with prior military service may be able to transfer to into the Commissioned Corps.

Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a dentist or dental 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 Commissioned Corps, we would like to talk to you! For more information, call us at 888-225-3302 or visit our website at <https://www.usphs.gov/>



USPHS Dentist

Learn more about the agencies we serve:

AGENCY	WEBSITE	CAREER POSTINGS
Indian Health Service	https://www.ihs.gov/dentistry/ Email: dentaljobs@ihs.gov	https://www.ihs.gov/dentistry/index.cfm/currentopenings/search https://www.usajobs.gov
U.S. Coast Guard	https://www.gocoastguard.com	https://www.gocoastguard.com/active-duty-careers/officer-opportunities/programs/dental-officer
Federal Bureau of Prisons	https://www.bop.gov/jobs/positions/index.jsp?p=Dentist	https://www.usajobs.gov
Health Resources & Services Administration	https://www.hrsa.gov	https://www.usajobs.gov
ICE Health Service Corps	https://www.ice.gov/ice-health-service-corps Email: IHSCRRecruiting@ice.dhs.gov	https://portal.max.gov/portal/home
Centers for Disease Control	https://jobs.cdc.gov	https://www.usajobs.gov
National Institutes of Health	https://www.nih.gov	https://www.usajobs.gov
Food and Drug Administration	https://www.fda.gov	https://www.usajobs.gov