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, 12 weeks 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) - contributory
- Retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service - noncontributory
- Loan repayment potential - 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 the Post 9/11 GI Bill, which allows active duty members or their dependents to receive an education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation.
- 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.

CDR Abby Shannon, DDS, MPH
As an officer in the USPHS, I feel fortunate to be able to provide quality dental care to diverse populations. I have served with Indian Health Service in Sisseton, South Dakota and now am serving at Training Center Cape May, which is boot camp for the U.S. Coast Guard in Cape May, New Jersey. The Public Health Service has allowed me to find an excellent work life balance as a female dentist. I am a mother of four children and having a paid maternity leave is an important advantage the USPHS offers. The opportunities and benefits the USPHS has offered for me and my family are hard to beat. It has allowed us to live and explore multiple areas of the country while providing excellent health insurance and the possibilities of school loan repayment.

LT Vy Vy Vu, DMD, MPH, CHES
I am serving as a dental officer in the Indian Health Service in Fairbanks, Alaska. I have the opportunity to provide care in remote villages via small aircraft 8-10 weeks of the year. I am fortunate to be able to provide quality dental care to diverse populations. I have served with Indian Health Service in Sisseton, South Dakota and now am serving at Training Center Cape May, which is boot camp for the U.S. Coast Guard in Cape May, New Jersey. The Public Health Service has allowed me to find an excellent work life balance as a female dentist. I am a mother of four children and having a paid maternity leave is an important advantage the USPHS offers. The opportunities and benefits the USPHS has offered for me and my family are hard to beat. It has allowed us to live and explore multiple areas of the country while providing excellent health insurance and the possibilities of school loan repayment.

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 800-279-1605 or visit our website at http://www.usphs.gov/
WOMEN IN DENTISTRY

When imagining the future trajectory of your career in dentistry, many women see private practice or an associateship as the obvious choice. However, many opportunities to work in dynamic environments exist, one of those being working as an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). As one of the seven uniformed services, the USPHS is lesser known than our Department of Defense counterparts (Navy, Army, Air Force, etc.), however the directions that your career can take are nearly endless. Please take a moment to learn about the exciting opportunities available to you should you choose to pursue a career with the USPHS.

WHO WE ARE/ WHAT WE DO

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.

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
- Respond to disasters, including using dental forensics to identify disaster victims

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-quality not quantity. 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 will be serving your country and making a difference while enjoying excellent benefits and work/life balance.

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. 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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

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. 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.

DENTAL 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: http://www.usphs.gov/student/COSTEP.aspx

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

COMPENSATION

The minimum starting pay grade/rank for a dentist in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is 0-3 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 actually took to obtain that degree.

Please use the pay tables at: http://militarypay.defense.gov along with the zip code of the duty station you are considering.