

Be an Environmental Health Officer

in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps



➤ About the Commissioned Corps

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps protects, promotes, and advances the health and safety of the Nation. With more than 6,000 officers, the Commissioned Corps is one of the Nation's seven uniformed services and resides in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the world's foremost public health service, it is composed entirely of officers who have been commissioned on the basis of their health-related training.

Commissioned officers deliver ongoing health promotion and disease prevention programs and are called on to provide onsite clinical and public health expertise in times of national emergencies and disasters. A career in the Commissioned Corps offers unlimited opportunities to serve your country while improving the quality of people's lives and making a real difference in public health.

➤ What It Means To Be an Environmental Health Officer in the Commissioned Corps

Environmental health officers in the Commissioned Corps work throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in other Federal agencies and programs, including the following:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Department of Health and Human Services Program Support Center
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of the Interior/National Park Service
- Environmental Protection Agency

- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Food and Drug Administration
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Indian Health Service
- National Institutes of Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Environmental health officers in the Corps:

- Work in a variety of domestic and international assignments
- Conduct a wide range of activities, including surveys, investigations, research, training and education, and codes and standards development
- Provide services in general environmental health, health promotion and disease prevention, injury prevention, and occupational safety
- Provide highly specialized services in areas such as counterterrorism, industrial hygiene, health physics, hazardous waste, and biomedical and epidemiological research
- Review and regulate medical products and devices
- Develop and monitor national health programs and policies
- Provide leadership and support to public health programs designed to protect the public from exposure to hazardous substances
- Respond to public health emergencies

➤ Pay

Starting base pay varies depending on level of experience, accreditation and training, geographic location, and number of dependents, if any. Base pay increases with promotions and years of service. Tax-free compensation is provided for housing and meals. While it is difficult to compare your take-home pay with someone in the private sector, your base pay, in addition to an assortment of nontaxable income and benefits, provides a competitive compensation package that grows with years of service and promotions. The U.S. Public Health Service also understands the financial burden of professional schooling and, in coordination with certain Federal agencies, may offer loan repayment and other educational and family support programs.

More information comparing compensation in the Corps to pay in the private sector is available at www.usphs.gov.

➤ Benefits

As an officer in the Commissioned Corps, you will enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you will experience in the private sector, and Commissioned Corps benefits are generous. They include:

- Health care and dental care at no cost
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year
- Paid sick leave
- Paid maternity leave
- Malpractice insurance coverage
- A retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service

Many additional benefits are listed at www.usphs.gov. Officers in the Commissioned Corps have opportunities for mobility among government agencies and career advancement in diverse work settings. The Corps encourages you to expand your knowledge base and grow professionally so that you can effectively deal with the challenges of improving public health. Tuition and long-term training opportunities may be available.

➤ Special Degree and License Requirements

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 an environmental health officer, you also need one of the following:

- A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in environmental health from a program accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council
- A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the curricular areas of industrial hygiene, safety, or health physics that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- A master's or doctoral degree with a specialization in environmental health, occupational health, or industrial hygiene from a school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
- A bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in any field and one of the following:
 - Certification as an industrial hygienist by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene; or
 - Certification as a health physicist by the American Board of Health Physics

➤ Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a student or an environmental health professional 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 Web site at www.usphs.gov.

