



# U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

## ENGINEER CATEGORY

# BEST KEPT SECRETS



The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation. As America's uniformed service of public health professionals, the Commissioned Corps achieves its mission through rapid and effective response to public health needs, leadership and excellence in public health practices, and advancement of public health science. Its core values are leadership, service, integrity and excellence.

### Who Are We?

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) is the major health arm of the Federal Government made up of more than 6,700 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. 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. The USPHS is home to around 400 Engineer Officers.

### What Do We Do?

Engineer officers in the USPHS range in specialties from traditional chemical, electrical, mechanical, and civil engineering disciplines to the emerging biomedical, computer, and environmental specialties. Engineer officers:

- Promote public health and prevent and control the spread of disease by installing water treatment and delivery systems and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems for underserved populations.
- Conduct research and evaluations to reduce workers' exposures to occupational safety and health hazards.
- Evaluate medical devices and electronic products at federal testing facilities and inspect domestic and international facilities where these products are manufactured.

- Regulate the environmental impacts resulting from activities of industry and federal/state/local government.
- Provide guidance on designing, constructing, and operating "healthy buildings."
- Provide facilities management, planning, and construction services for health care delivery facilities and laboratory research complexes.
- Identify, assess, and evaluate the health risks associated with hazardous waste sites, unplanned releases of hazardous substances, and environmental contamination or pollution, and help prevent or reduce further exposure and resulting illnesses.

### Opportunity For Growth

Are you ready for an exceptional career and the experience of a lifetime? When you join the USPHS, 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:

- The chance for advancement and challenging work
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Ability to seek work in literally hundreds of locations-near the oceans, the mountains, the Grand Canyon, the gulf coast or National Parks-from the largest cities to the smallest communities
- Be prepared to enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you have yet experienced

### Benefits of Life in Service

Is your quality of life and self satisfaction 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 while also being challenged at work? As a Commissioned Officer in the USPHS, you are eligible for:

- 30 days of annual leave
- 12 weeks of paid maternity leave
- 10 days of paid paternity leave
- Shopping privileges at military base grocery and department stores and access to military lodging and morale, welfare, and recreational facilities
- Veteran Affairs programs including the Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits and VA home loans
- No cost medical and low-cost dental benefits for you and your family
- Pre-tax contributions to Thrift Savings Plan (similar to 401(k))
- Standard military pay and allowances
- Retirement pension plan with eligibility after 20 years of service

To learn more about Commissioned Corps Benefits access the following website:

<https://usphs.gov/profession/engineer/compensation.aspx>



# Why you should be a part of the USPHS Engineer Category

## Where Are We Located?

Engineer officers in the USPHS work throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in other federal agencies and programs. The agencies with the greatest number of engineer officers are:

- [Indian Health Service](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Department of Interior/National Park Service](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration](#)
- [National Institutes of Health](#)



## Engineer Student Opportunities

The USPHS offers 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). This program offer excellent benefits and are highly competitive.

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

The Commissioned Corps values personal and professional growth to empower officers to address the challenges of improving public health. Engineer officers in the Commissioned Corps have tremendous professional opportunities among many government agencies in both rural and urban settings in nearly every state. The Commissioned Corps encourages mobility both geographically and within federal agencies and your skills and availability are marketed nationwide. A variety of opportunities are available right now that will allow you to practice and advance your competencies. Whether you are a new graduate seeking a meaningful way to start your career or finding yourself in search of a more rewarding and challenging career, you'll be surrounded by dedicated, like-minded colleagues who have chosen to serve others.

**Competitive opportunities are available and exceptional engineers with excellent qualifications are encouraged to apply!**



## Engineer Officer Qualifications

All Commissioned Corps Engineer officers must be: a U.S. citizen, less than 44 years of age, pass a physical examination and hold a bachelor's or master's degree in an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology certified program (degrees in an engineering-related curriculum such as engineering technology, do not qualify). If you are an engineer or an engineering 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 [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).

For more information on the engineer category visit: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/subcommittees.aspx> or send an email to [USPHSEngineerApplicants@ihs.gov](mailto:USPHSEngineerApplicants@ihs.gov)



# USPHS Engineers In Action

## At Work:

- Consulting
- Designing
- Constructing
- Testing
- Evaluating
- Analyzing
- Training
- Management



## Deployments:

Engineer officers in the Commissioned Corps are deployed to serve in various capacities domestically and across the globe. Examples include:

- Haiti 2010 – Earthquake
- Hurricane Sandy 2012
- Liberia 2015-2016 – Ebola
- Hurricane Maria - 2017



Hurricane Maria 2017- Puerto Rico, image includes 4 Engineer Officers



Liberia 2015-2016, Monrovia Medical Unit construction or establishment task force



Hurricane Sandy 2012, CDR Marnell with contractors inspecting generators



Hurricane Maria 2017 – Puerto Rico, PHS Engineers respond to support mission



Liberia 2015-2016, CDR Leo Gumapas operating a fork truck

## Deployments

As a USPHS Engineer you will have opportunities to serve in a deployment role in response to national and global public health emergencies. USPHS has a skilled engineer workforce with specialties including Civil, Environmental, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Computer, Nuclear, Biomedical, Bioengineering, Material Science and Nano engineering. In addition to those specialties our engineers are problem solvers, equipped with public health and emergency medical response training to provide deployment support in the areas of: logistics, commutations, computer operations, hazard evaluation and management, security, waste water management, solid waste management, water purification, facility engineering/management and health care.