



Rear Admiral Robert C. Williams

Chief of Staff, Office of the Surgeon General

Background

Rear Admiral Bob Williams is the Chief of Staff, Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), United States Public Health Service. He provides direction and oversight to five offices (Commissioned Corps Operations, Force Readiness and Deployment, Reserve Affairs, Military Liaison and Veteran Affairs, and Science and Communications). In this capacity, he serves as the Chief Operations Officer to the 6,000-plus members of the USPHS Commissioned Corps. He is also an integral leader in the ongoing Transformation of the Commissioned Corps.



Education/Training

RADM Williams received his Baccalaureate Degree in Civil Engineering in 1976 and a Masters of Engineering Degree in Environmental Engineering in 1979 from Texas A&M University and has continued his postgraduate education with courses in public health.

Professional History

A career officer, RADM Williams has more than 28 years of experience in environmental engineering and public health. Prior to his assignment to the OSG, he served as the Director, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). While at ATSDR, he was responsible for the development, direction, and control of two congressionally-mandated, national programs that affected over 20 million persons in all 50 states. He led the establishment and development of seminal policies and procedures for public health assessments near hazardous waste sites and spurred innovative scientific achievements in exposure investigations, exposure dose-reconstruction, and geographical and spatial analysis systems. He recently concluded 6.5 years as the PHs Chief Engineer, providing advice and consultation on public health engineering matters to the Surgeon General and to over 1,200 engineering officers.

RADM Williams is a Registered Professional Engineer and serves, or has served, as an officer and member of national committees for several professional organizations including: American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, American Society of Civil Engineers (Fellow), and the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS. He is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Engineers, currently serving on the Board of Trustees, and serves as National Vice President and Chair of the Academy of Fellows for the Society of American Military Engineers. An Adjunct Associate Professor at the Texas A&M University School of Rural Public Health, he has authored and presented more than 100 publications on a wide variety of environmental health issues, including the co-editing four books.

Awards

RADM Williams is the recipient of numerous awards and special honors, including the PHs Meritorious Service Medal, Surgeon General's Medallion, and Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal. The American Academy of Environmental Engineers awarded him the Stanley Kappe Award, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States awarded him the Gorgas Medal, and the American Society of Civil Engineers has awarded him the ASCE Government Engineer of the Year. He has also received many group awards, including the DHHS Secretary's Distinguished Service Award, the Society of American Military Engineers Cumming Plaque, and the ATSDRICDC Honor Award for Public Health Practice.

Updated: 27 July 2007