

**Functional Title:** Public Health Emergency Response Strike Team (PHERST) MTF (Military Treatment Facility) Officer

**Unit:** Defense Health Agency collaboratively with Commissioned Corps Headquarters

**Billet Grades:** O-5

**Supervisory (Y/N):** No

**Category:** Multidisciplinary

**Duty Location:** Multiple Locations

- Joint Base San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)
- Madigan Army Medical Center (Tacoma, WA)
- Naval Medical Center San Diego (San Diego, CA)
- Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune (Jacksonville, NC)
- National Capital Region (Bethesda, MD; Fort Belvoir, VA)

**Application Deadline:** Until positions are filled

Since its inception in 2021, the Public Health Emergency Strike Team (PHERST) has supported numerous Federal and Department of State collaborative operations such as repatriation, community stabilization, population health, and short-term staffing gaps. PHERST officers have deployed 147 times with some PHERST officers deploying more than once and for extended durations up to 90 days.

In October 2023, the PHERST Team will pivot into the next phase of its program and become full-time clinical, safety, and behavioral health providers augmented for the military community as part of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs). The PHERST presence will assist select DHA MTFs with clinical staffing gaps to ensure the continuity of care of our uniformed service members and their families.

PHERST officers will continue to support the nation as rapidly deployable assets that are available to deploy within 24 hours of activation but will be on a five-month on-call rotation the same as Public Health Service officers assigned to USPHS Commissioned Corps deployment teams 1 to 5. It is anticipated that this on-call schedule will limit the duration of most deployments to 30 days or less.

PHERST is looking for service-driven Public Health Service officers to fill the following positions:

Physicians	Ranks O-5 and below are eligible to apply.
Physician Assistants	
Nurse Practitioners	
Registered Nurses	
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	
Clinical Psychologists	

Pharmacists	
Environmental Health Officers	
Physical Therapists	
Occupational Therapists	

**Duties:**

1. PHERST officers will be primarily assigned to participating DHA MTFs and serve in the clinical team within their respective discipline.
2. Serve as a member of the PHERST.
3. Deploy in support of response operations as required.
4. Support the USPHS Commissioned Corps' capacity to respond to regional, national, and global health emergencies and improve access to health services within 24 hours of the National Emergency Declaration.
5. Trains with the PHERST MTF Officer in Charge (OIC) to plan and execute field missions and exercises that prepare PHERST officers for building/re-building health infrastructure during public health emergencies, natural disasters or other all-hazard events.
6. Assist the PHERST MTF OIC in developing PHERST standard operating procedures in response to disasters or emergencies (e.g., hurricanes, nuclear accidents, and terrorist attacks) and in recovery from these events.
7. Serve as an asset for federal and non-federal systems that require surge capacity and the sustainment of qualified medical personnel within communities during a National Emergency declaration or a Federal public health emergency.
8. The incumbent will collaborate with the PHERST MTF OIC to support integration with CCHQ Readiness and Deployment Branch for requests, response, and recovery missions for public health and urgent public health needs.
9. Perform other duties as required.

**Minimum qualifications (education, experience, skills):**

- Applicants must be licensed to practice in a state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory of the United States, if applicable.
- Current basic readiness and no adverse actions.

- Ability to handle crisis situations with efficacy and resilience under conditions of pressure and uncertainty.
- Experience with community engagement and team-building.
- Commitment to the core values of the USPHS Commissioned Corps and to the high standards of officership and uniform wear.

**Reports to:**

**PHERST Officers will report to their DHA MTF Unit/Department Commander and their PHERST MTF OIC. This shared reporting and rating structure will ensure the prioritization of operational readiness as well as the patient care mission.**

**How to apply:**

Interested officers should submit the following in **one PDF document**:

1. Detailed cover letter not exceeding one page (12-point font; single-spaced) explaining your interest and how you meet the requirements and qualifications of the position.
2. CV/résumé.
3. Contact information (email and phone number) for two references (one must be either your current supervisor or a previous supervisor) who can attest to your qualifications for this position.
4. Preferred Duty Location.

Email the materials above in one PDF with “PHERST Officer Application” in the subject line to the [dha.ncr.admin-mgmt-j-1.mbx.phs-pherst-recruitment@health.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.admin-mgmt-j-1.mbx.phs-pherst-recruitment@health.mil)

**Please email the above materials and any questions to the point of contact listed in the vacancy announcement. Applications are being accepted until all positions are filled.**