



# The Commissioned Corps Bulletin

April 2021

Volume 1, Issue 1

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<https://www.usphs.gov/>

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## Financial Services News:

- W2's were mailed on January 31, 2021. If you didn't receive the printed copy, contact the Financial Services Branch (FSB) via [PHSCCHQCompensation@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSCCHQCompensation@hhs.gov) to verify your payroll mailing address and request a duplicate mailing. Electronic delivery is not available at this time.
- TSP Catch-up forms are no longer required beginning in 2021. Additional information is available on the FSB CCIMS webpage [https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF\\_docs/2021%20TSP%20Contributions.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/2021%20TSP%20Contributions.pdf).
- Contacting FSB: The best way of contacting the FSB is via email at [PHSCCHQCompensation@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSCCHQCompensation@hhs.gov) or eCMCS to CCHQ Financial Services (Mailbox). Due to staffing shortages and the high volume of requests, response times are greater than normal. We greatly appreciate your continued patience.

The Commissioned Corps Bulletin is a U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps newsletter that serves to provide officers with a monthly update on matters pertaining to the Service.



## Medical Affairs News:

Medical Affairs continues to work closely with the Readiness and Deployment Branch to help reduce health risks to USPHS officers during deployment. We encourage you to try to complete a vaccine series. Memos have been provided in the [Officer Secure Area](#) from the former Acting Surgeon General, RADM Susan Orsega and Lieutenant General Ronald J. Place, Director of Defense Health Agency (DHA) to make accessing your vaccine easier. If you are able get vaccinated, please upload documentation of your vaccination as soon as possible after each dose. Upload your documentation through the medical section of eDOC-U using the document name, "Immunizations/Other."

Several medical policies were recently modified. The updated policies will be published soon. Probably the most impactful change involves the Pregnancy Waiver. As of January 18, 2021, the waivers associated with the pregnancy waiver will expire 12 months after the estimated date of birth of the child rather than 6 months after that date. The pregnancy waiver continues to include waivers for deployment, APFTs, weight standards, and live-virus vaccinations. Breastfeeding waiver requests will no longer be necessary since the pregnancy waiver will expire when the child is 1 year old. One important change is that due to the potential length of the waiver to 20+ months, the pregnancy waiver no longer includes a waiver for BLS certification. If you know that your certification will lapse during your pregnancy, plan to get recertified early in the pregnancy. The policy also defines the length of the pregnancy waiver, if the pregnancy ends prior to 20 weeks gestation.

## Announcing PHERST:



The PHERST will serve as an enhancement of our active duty personnel, having the ability to deploy within 8 hours of receiving orders. Officers assigned to PHERST teams must maintain high-level clinical skills and have the flexibility to deploy immediately and hit the ground running in response to national or public health emergencies.

The PHERST will provide the capability to surge during national emergencies and public health crises will provide trained and ready personnel to fill critical public health needs and will:

- Support the USPHS Commissioned Corps' capacity to **respond** to regional, national, and global health emergencies and improve access to health services within 8hrs of National Emergency Declaration
- When not-deployed, PHERST officers would train, maintain skills, and fill **short-term** staffing gaps in priority agencies (Indian Health Service, Bureau of Prisons, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) of greatest need providing public health and direct clinical care to underserved and vulnerable populations
- 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 emergencies
- Enable **access** to highly specialized skill sets that would be impractical in full-time active duty positions but are readily available to meet nations needs within hours

The USPHS Commissioned Corps is looking for service driven individuals who work in public health and clinical settings. The PHERST team is now accepting officers. If you are interested in applying, please visit <https://www.usphs.gov/> for more information.

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## Ready Reserve News:

Recruitment for the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps' Ready Reserve is underway. It's remarkable for the nation to witness the re-establishment of the Ready Reserve Corps provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The Ready Reserve Corps will serve as a cornerstone of our Modernization efforts, bringing the USPHS Commissioned Corps on equal footing with our sister uniformed services. Similar to other uniformed services, the Ready Reserve Corps will provide trained and ready personnel or teams on short notice to fill our nation's most critical public health needs. The CARES Act has provided funding to support an initial cohort of up to 300 Ready Reserve officers, as well as funding to establish an infrastructure that will allow for development, staffing and management of the Ready Reserve. We are scheduled to begin commissioning officers in the Ready Reserve Corps in spring 2021.

The Ready Reserve Corps will:

- Ensure the USPHS Commissioned Corps has the resources to meet its mission to respond to regional, national, and global public health emergencies;
- Maintain a sufficient supply of health professionals available for deployment without jeopardizing the ongoing service to underserved and vulnerable-population;
- Offer an opportunity to serve for mission-driven clinical and public health professionals who cannot commit to a full-time active duty position in the USPHS Commissioned Corps;
- Enable access to high-cost and/or highly specialized skill sets (e.g., critical care transport teams);
- Create an option to retain high-demand, already-trained clinical professionals (e.g., physicians and dentists) that have the highest separation rates from the active duty USPHS Commissioned Corps.

If you have colleagues, friends or family members interested in joining the Ready Reserve Corps, please ask them to go to

<https://www.usphs.gov/ready-reserve> to learn more about and apply to the Ready Reserve Corps. All of you play an instrumental role in talking to your friends and colleagues about joining the Ready Reserve.



## Readiness Deadlines:

Please see information below regarding recent and upcoming deadlines:

- **March 31, 2021**
  - Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT)
  - 2020 practice hours
    - All Corps officers who are in clinical deployment roles or applying for Health Professional Special Pay (Incentive Pay (IP) and/or Retention Bonus (RB)) must obtain 80 practice hours annually
  - Periodic Health Update (PHU) for officers born in January
    - 2020 PHUs are no longer required
    - 2021 PHU requirements resumed this January
  
- **June 30, 2021**
  - Basic Life Support (BLS)

# Policy and Evaluation News:

## Newly Posted Policies for Reference:

1. CCI 511.02, "Award of Uniformed Services Decorations"
2. CCD 151.05, "Health Professions Special Pay"
3. CCD 151.06, "Assignment Pay"
4. CCI 221.01, "Medical Accession Standards"
5. CCI 231.04, "National Security and Suitability Background Investigations"
6. CCI 633.01, "Special Pay"
7. CCI 633.06, "Assignment Duty Pay"
8. POM 821.70, "HPSP Submission, Effective Dates, and Subspecialty Rates"
9. POM 821.79, "Assignment Pay Locations, Rates, and Agreements"
10. POM 821.80, "Annual Leave Carryover"

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## For Officer Situational Awareness:

### There are Two Options to Obtain Officer Statement of Service Requests:

1. An immediate online confirmation of service letter can be obtained at: <https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/scra/#/single-record> or
2. Send an email to CCHQ Records Management Request: [CCHQRecordsManagementRequest@hhs.gov](mailto:CCHQRecordsManagementRequest@hhs.gov)

To correct documents in your eOPF, please send an email to eOPF Document Corrections: [PHSOPFFix@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSOPFFix@hhs.gov).

For all military advisory panel, retirement, HHG's extensions, invitational travel requests, please contact [PHSTRAVEL@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSTRAVEL@hhs.gov).

For all call to active duty and PCS travel requests, please contact [PHSCADTRAVEL@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSCADTRAVEL@hhs.gov).