

**Senior Advisor to the Junior Officers Advisory Group (JOAG)  
CAPT Sara B. Newman, DrPH, MCP**



CAPT Newman has been assigned to the National Park Service (NPS) since 2007 and currently serves as the Director of the Office of Public Health (OPH) where she is the principal advisor to the Director and executive leadership of NPS for public health decisions affecting 300 million visitors to 409 parks nationwide. In this position, CAPT Newman also serves as Commanding Officer to all Corps officers (currently 50) assigned to the Department of the Interior (DOI), providing support, guidance and management. As OPH Director, CAPT Newman is the NPS lead public health policy and management expert. Through her outstanding staff, she provides technical expertise to the NPS on food safety, drinking water safety, waste water and communicable diseases, infectious disease surveillance, outbreak response, and health promotion.

Previously, with NPS, CAPT Newman served as the Deputy Chief, Office of Risk Management and Program Manager of the Public Risk Management Program where she provided management support and strategic planning input for the safety, occupational health and wellness programs and provided policy guidance and technical support to parks to undertake injury prevention initiatives.

CAPT Newman's prior assignments as a Commissioned Officer include serving as Special Projects Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures in the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the Department of Health and Human Services. Before that, she served as Senior Epidemiologist with the Division of Immigration Health Services at the Department of Homeland Security. In her first Corps assignment, as an Ensign, CAPT Newman was a Co-Step with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, conducting epidemiologic research on infectious diseases.

CAPT Newman has held multiple leadership roles including Chair of the Board of Directors of the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) of the US Public Health Service, Chair of the Scientist Category, Command Staff on the PHS2 Rapid Deployment Team, co-founder and Chair of the Commissioned Corps Epidemiology Interest Group, and Chair of the Injury Section of the American Public Health Association. She has mentored numerous officers and students and started an internship program at the National Park Service to train and place students in public health positions nationwide. Her efforts have resulted in the placement of more than 60 students in parks to date. She was an active member of JOAG early on in her Corps career.

CAPT Newman earned her doctoral degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) focusing in epidemiology and social and behavioral sciences. Prior to this, she earned her Master in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. CAPT Newman lives in Arlington, VA with her husband, David, her three daughters, Sharon, Emily and Carolyn, and her dog Jethro.