



NAME: CAPT DIANE SMITH

JOB TITLE: COMMISSIONED CORPS AGENCY
AWARDS COORDINATOR

AGENCY: FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
(FDA)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Captain (CAPT) Diane Smith graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1991 from Howard University College of Pharmacy. After obtaining her pharmacy license, she worked in the community pharmacy setting as a staff pharmacist and pharmacy manager for almost ten years before returning to school to obtain her Doctorate in Pharmacy from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. CAPT Smith is a certified immunizing pharmacist and holds a Certificate in Principles of Pharmacology.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

CAPT Smith is an Agency Commissioned Corps Awards Coordinator for the Food and Drug Administration in Bethesda, MD. She serves as the Team Leader for the Commissioned Corps awards process for all nine FDA Center Awards Coordinators and as a liaison to Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness and the Office of the Secretary. CAPT Smith is primarily responsible for reviewing and processing Commissioned Corps Awards for officers assigned to FDA. She provides training to new Center Award Coordinators and their management, and conducts workshops for officers in FDA on the Commissioned Corps awards process. CAPT Smith provides expert guidance to management and support staff for Commissioned Corps officers, concerning the awards process, procedures, and other Commissioned Corps matters.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

CAPT Smith has a broad range of experience from her previous assignments in PHS and within the FDA. She also has extensive PHS Support activities allowing her to have first-hand knowledge of the profession of pharmacy.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

In 1988, CAPT Smith served as a COSTEP at the FDA while in pharmacy school. What appealed to her the most was the ability to help people on a broader scale and the numerous opportunities for pharmacists that were not available in the retail setting.

PREVIOUS AND CONCURRENT USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

Senior Program Management Officer, Office of the Commissioner (FDA)
Senior Regulatory Reviewer, Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology (FDA)
Senior Regulatory Project Manager, Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology (FDA)

Regulatory Project Manager, Office of New Drugs (FDA)

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CAPT Smith's most rewarding experience in USPHS was her first deployment to Hurricane Katrina. She was excited to have the opportunity to help people beyond the retail setting. She saw firsthand how much the commissioned corps presence was needed and appreciated. She recalls a moment during the deployment when FEMA delivered the trailers in Lafayette and the American Red Cross delivered boxes. She recalls a time when she watched a little girl open a box that contained a teddy bear. The expression of excitement and surprise on the girl's face will always be remembered by CAPT Smith. Overall, the USPHS Commissioned Corps has provided her with many rewarding opportunities including doing a TDY in Bethel, Alaska in 2004.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CAPT Smith is involved in her community and believes in giving back. She is actively involved with her church by serving as a lead for the adult usher ministry and a co-coordinator for the youth usher ministry. She serves as a mentor to at-risk adolescent girls and is the coordinator of a program designed to instill in them the need to excel academically and to sharpen and enhance their skills to achieve high levels of academic success.

By CDR Shary M. Jones