



NAME: CAPT NITA SOOD

**JOB TITLE: CHIEF OF STAFF, PHARMACY
OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**AGENCY: DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Captain (CAPT) Nita Sood graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Howard University, Washington, DC. She then obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia at Athens, and a Master of Public Health from Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health. She holds an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University, New York.

CAPT Sood is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute, Military Health System Executive Skills Capstone Symposium, and Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

Since 2010, CAPT Sood has been assigned to the Defense Health Agency (DHA), Pharmacy Operations Division (POD), where she serves as the Chief of Staff. She provides executive level oversight to management and operations of the Department of Defense's (DOD) \$9.7 billion worldwide pharmacy program for 9.5 million eligible beneficiaries of the seven Uniformed Services. She implements guidance and directives from the Assistant Secretary for Defense (Health Affairs) and Director, Defense Health Agency. CAPT Sood leads efforts to develop pharmacy initiatives and processes to ensure that the pharmacy benefit for the Military Health System is designed and operated in a manner that supports DOD mission requirements, fosters system integration, ensures data quality, and complies with fiscal and regulatory requirements. The pharmacy benefit design is guided with considerations to provide a high level of beneficiary satisfaction, promote health and disease prevention, and improve health outcomes.

In addition to providing executive level leadership of POD activities and interacting with senior level officials of DOD and other Federal and Civilian agencies, CAPT Sood is a member of the Shared Services Pharmacy Working Group, comprised of Pharmacy Consultants from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. She is also a member of the Federal Pharmacy Executive Steering Committee, made up of executives from the Uniformed Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal agencies, such as the Indian Health Service, and Bureau of Prisons.

CAPT Sood's collateral duties include serving as the Chair of the Defense Health Headquarters (DHHQ) Wellness Council. The DHHQ Wellness Council advises senior leadership on worksite programs, policies, projects, and environmental changes that

facilitate and sustain healthy behaviors. She serves as the DOD Representative to the Surgeon General's Policy Advisory Council, an advisory group to the Surgeon General that evaluates directives, policies and personnel operating memorandums affecting the USPHS. CAPT Sood is also the architect and administrator of the DOD-USPHS Officer Mentoring Program.

QUALIFICATIONS:

CAPT Sood served over twenty five years in the private sector as a pharmacist in various management and leadership positions with a Fortune 100 retail pharmacy company. She was commissioned into the USPHS in 2002, bringing with her broad leadership skills and management abilities honed through many years of experience.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

CAPT Sood began her career as a Pharmacy Consultant and was subsequently promoted to a Senior Health Quality Review Specialist at the Division of Survey and Certification with The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (2002-2006), where she evaluated health care delivery provided to Medicare & Medicaid beneficiaries, with particular emphasis to pharmaceutical services and medication use. As a Senior Advisor at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office of Global Health (2006-2010), she provided technical assistance and professional guidance to HRSA programs, and global health stakeholders on all aspects of Global Health.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

CAPT Sood speaks fondly of her lively and spirited maternal Grandmother who placed strong significance on family, education and continual learning. Her sage wisdom has guided CAPT Sood to become a knowledgeable and effective healthcare leader, and a caring member of society. After a successful career in the private sector, CAPT Sood joined the PHS to give back to the community and to serve her country. The USPHS career offered CAPT Sood unique opportunities to work in varied settings and a chance to impact public health.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CAPT Sood expresses sincere professional gratitude for the ability to make a difference in public health and the lives of persons affected by disasters. Two of her most memorable deployments and most humbling experiences include working on Team Orleans during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and on a Joint Medical Humanitarian Mission aboard United States Naval Ship (*USNS*) *Comfort* providing care in Colombia, Ecuador, and Haiti.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CAPT Sood served as voting member, including communication and career development sections co-lead and chair of the Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) (2004-2007). She served two terms as Commissioned Officers Association Board Director, including chairmanship (2007-2013). This professional activity allowed CAPT Sood to serve the interests of USPHS community at-large. She is active in various programs to benefit junior USPHS officers, including the DOD-PHS mentoring program, and the PharmPAC mentoring program. CAPT Sood has performed temporary duties as pharmacist at an isolated hardship duty station, and with the White House Advance Team in support of President's Official Trips abroad.

By LT Garrette Martin-Yeboah