

# Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service



January 27, 2020

Hon. Dale Cabaniss  
Director, Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20415

Re. Error in USA Jobs

Dear Director Cabaniss:

The non-profit organization of which I am Executive Director represents the uniformed officers of the U.S. Public Health Service. These officers comprise one of the seven federal uniformed services, along with services like the Army, Navy, and so on. One difference between USPHS officers and those in other uniformed services is that the USPHS does not have “detailers” who assign them to their next position and assignment. Unlike soldiers and sailors, they have to locate their own assignment—similar to the way an Army Reservist does—and in this endeavor they often go to the listings in *USA Jobs*.

It was recently brought to our attention (please see enclosed screen shot) that whoever manages *USA Jobs* apparently does not understand that the US Public Health Service (and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) are two of the seven federal uniformed services, and not some branch of the Peace Corps. We cannot understand what exactly is meant by the question, captured on this screen shot, about whether someone has served in the Peace Corps, followed by “Public Health Service Commissioned Corps” and “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” in parentheses, but it is clearly confused. Both of the latter have nothing to do with the Peace Corps. The USPHS is lodged in the Department of Health and Human Services, and NOAA resides in the Commerce Department.

We trust that you can get this corrected without undue delay so that our USPHS officers and NOAA officers will not be confused when they go to *USA Jobs*.

We stand willing to assist in any way you might request.

Sincerely,

Col. James T. Currie, USA (ret.)  
Executive Director