

**Commissioned Officers Association of the  
United States Public Health Service  
CORE MESSAGES**

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As one of America's seven uniformed services, the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is dedicated to protecting, promoting and advancing the health and safety of the Nation.

The Office of the Surgeon General oversees the operations of more than 6,500 full-time, highly trained and qualified public health professions who serve as uniformed officers in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

- Commissioned Corps officers are not members of the U.S. armed forces, but are considered active duty officers.
- The Corps serves on every public health front delivering clinical and humanitarian care and protecting national public health security.
- Public health officers serve on the frontlines in the Nation's fight against disease and poor health conditions responding to the health needs following natural disasters, providing health care to underserved populations, and conducting cutting edge medical research.
- The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA) is the professional membership organization dedicated to representing the interests of PHS Commissioned Corps officers. COA is not a government entity and does not speak for any department or agency of the federal government.