

**Commissioned Officers Association of the
United States Public Health Service
SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR REGARDING HAITI**

To go on local COA branch letterhead
{Fill in brackets with local chapter information}

As we watch the horrible images from the earthquake in Haiti, we applaud the selfless individuals from around the world who have risked their own safety to help alleviate human suffering. Many of them are volunteers, moved to serve in this time of need, while others serve in military and service organizations that stand at the ready to respond to emergencies. They are all heroes.

Here in the United States, we can take pride in our fellow Americans who have been and who will go in the weeks and months ahead to help. We can also take comfort that when disaster strikes here at home, there is a highly trained corps of medical professionals on call.

As President of the {CITY} branch of the Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service, I think it is important for people to know that when there is a natural or man-made disaster, USPHS Officers -- physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, engineers, environmental health specialists, therapists, dietitians, veterinarians and other medical experts -- are here, packed and ready to deploy within hours to serve. When they are not deployed on an emergency, they are working on the frontline against the spread of disease and at the forefront of the battles against all major public health concerns faced by our nation, such as foodborne illness, diabetes, heart disease, AIDS, cancer, drug abuse, product tampering, obesity, injury control and homelessness.

As one of America's seven uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps is an essential component of our nation's health system and security. We work every day to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation, and we stand ready to serve in case of an emergency.

In {City}, we have ## officers working in the areas of {describe the professions and the work they are doing}. ## have been deployed to serve in Haiti and ## more could be called on in the weeks ahead.

While the media attention will inevitably fade, the needs in Haiti will still be great. Untold numbers of public health professionals will be needed to manage longer terms needs and I am proud of my fellow Commissioned Corps officers who will answer that call.

The Commissioned Officers Association is the professional membership organization representing the interests of PHS Commissioned Corps officers and is no way affiliated with nor does the Association purport to speak for any department or agency of the federal government.