

Attachment 1 - Supplement to LT Beamer's Testimony

History

The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) traces its origin to 1798, when the Marine Hospital Service (MHS) was established to care for itinerant merchant seamen who became ill or injured in the nation's port cities far from their homes, as well as for US Navy and Marine Corps personnel. Almost a century later, in 1887, the MHS established a "hygienic laboratory" that went on to become the National Institutes of Health, conducting investigations and supporting outside research essential to identifying and controlling major public health problems.

In 1889, Congress established a Commissioned Corps in the MHS under the direction of a Surgeon General. This law established a mobile corps subject to duty anywhere upon assignment, which included career service, merit appointment to general service rather than to specific locations, and the wearing of uniforms on duty. In 1912, the Marine Hospital Service formally became the U.S. Public Health Service, and provided a work force and developed policies and programs to investigate and successfully control many diseases affecting the nation, such as pellagra, yellow fever, and trachoma.

President Wilson militarized the USPHS Commissioned Corps when the United States entered World War I in 1917. Many officers were detailed to the Army or Navy. Others worked to safeguard military encampments from disease and protected workers in munitions plants. The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 required the services of 64 officers, nearly a third of the Commissioned Corps.

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, the USPHS Commissioned Corps was militarized again. Eight USPHS officers died in the conflict. USPHS officers helped lead the disease prevention and medical programs in displaced persons camps, performed a sanitary survey of the Burma Road, and led efforts to control malaria and to investigate occupational diseases.

Overview

The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation. The U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, leads the Commissioned Corps. The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is a diverse team of more than 6,500 highly qualified, public health professionals. Driven by a passion to serve the underserved, these men and women fill essential public health leadership and clinical service roles with the Nation's Federal Government agencies. Commissioned officers include physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians, engineers, scientists, dietitians, physical therapists, environmental health officers, and health service officers (a category of allied health professionals). Many USPHS officers have prior military service, including some who transferred their commissions to continue to serve their country in positions that relate to their training in public health.

Where do USPHS Officers Serve?

In the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), most USPHS officers are assigned to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), followed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Other DHHS agencies account for the remaining assignments: the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Office of the Secretary, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Administration for Children and Families, and the Program Support Center.

USPHS Commissioned Officers also serve in various departments of the federal government, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Interior, Justice, and Homeland Security, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition to their regular assignment, every USPHS officer has a deployment role in order to deploy in response to public health emergencies. The USPHS has a national response role under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 – Public Health and Medical Services of the National Response Plan.

USPHS Commissioned Corps' Place in Government

The United States of America has seven federal Uniformed Services as defined by Title 10, and those services are structured and organized by Title 10, Title 14, Title 33, and Title 42 of the United States Code (USC).

Executive Branch						
Department of Defense			Department of Homeland Security	Department of Health and Human Services	Department of Commerce	
Uniformed Services						
Armed Forces						
Army	Navy	Air Force	Marines	Coast Guard	Public Health Service Commissioned Corps	NOAA Corps

Commissioned officers of NOAA and USPHS wear uniforms derived from U.S. Navy uniforms, except that the devices, insignia, and buttons reflect the traditions of their specific service. The pay and allowances of NOAA and USPHS officers are the same as officers of the Armed Forces, determined by rank and time-in-grade, in accordance with Title 37, USC. Like the Armed Forces, NOAA and USPHS officers may retire after 20 years of service using the same formulas used by the Armed Forces in 10 USC Chapter 71. Retired and former NOAA and USPHS officers are veterans according to Title 38, USC.

Additionally, NOAA and USPHS Officers are included in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and subject to the provisions of 10 USC 1408, the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA). USPHS officers are protected by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and The Military Whistleblower Protection Act. Like the Coast Guard, commissioned officers of the USPHS and NOAA may be militarized by the President. However, USPHS and NOAA Corps officers are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice unless they are assigned to the DoD or militarized. Because they are commissioned officers, they can be classified as prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions, if captured by a belligerent. USPHS and NOAA officers use the military health system (TRICARE), and USPHS officers provide medical care to members of the Coast Guard and NOAA Corps. The Chief Medical Officer of the Coast Guard is RADM Erica Schwartz, MD, USPHS.

USPHS Duty Stations in Ohio

Elkton and Lisbon:

HRSA, Associate Administrator Bureau of Primary Health Care, Prison Health Services, Prison Health Services Region 5, FCI Elkton OH

Cincinnati:

CDC, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health

EPA

FDA

Dayton:

DOD, Tricare Management Activity

Columbus:

FDA

Brunswick:

FDA

Cleveland:

USCG, 9th District HQ