I hope you enjoy this brochure for the Environmental Health Officers of the Commissioned Corps, United States Public Health Service. As one of the 11 PHS categories, EHOs serve in a number of challenging assignments throughout this Nation.

The environmental health profession has evolved from primarily general practitioners to include highly specialized areas of expertise such as Industrial Hygienists, Epidemiologists, Consumer Safety Officers, Health Physicists, Injury Prevention Specialists, Emergency Response Coordinators and Hazardous Material Specialists. The practice of environmental health has developed into a cadre of committed public health professionals dedicated to public service and to the improvement of the health of our nation. As public health leaders our primary focus should be on the reduction and elimination of public health risk factors in the working and living environments. Our knowledge, skills and abilities are to be used daily to protect and improve the health and welfare of all people. The skills and abilities of Environmental Health Officers are in demand in a varied array of environments and duty stations. From isolated assignments in Alaska and the Southwestern United States to deployments at the Olympics, National Boy Scout Jamboree, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as training missions in South America and the Pacific islands. Disease outbreaks related to food-borne illness, water-borne and vector-borne disease, plague, rocky mountain spotted fever and hantavirus continually challenge our environmental health officers to maintain the highest level of knowledge, skills and abilities. We continue to serve as a highly skilled group of public health practitioners committed to preventing injury and illness throughout our country and the world.

In the near future, the global public health infrastructure must be further strengthened with qualified officers capable of serving at the local, regional, national or international levels. It will be imperative that the EHO component of the PHS work to maintain mission critical public health services while retaining the capability to respond to emergency and disaster events.

CAPT Michael Welch, RS, MSEH
Chief Environmental Health Officer
US Public Health Service

What Are Some of the Benefits?
Noncontributory retirement based on a 20 to 30-year career, Social Security coverage, non-contributory medical care at uniformed service facilities, noncontributory medical care for dependents at uniformed services facilities or shared cost care in the private sector, life insurance, survivor benefits, disability benefits, tax-deferred contributory investment program, burial allowances, Veteran’s Administration benefits, use of military commissaries and exchanges, and reimbursement of travel expenses related to assignment.

Internet Resources
USPHS Commissioned Corps
http://www.usphs.gov
Commissioned Corps Management Information System
http://dcp.psc.gov
EHO Professional Advisory Committee
http://ehopac.org
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS
http://www.coausphs.org
USPHS Commissioned Corps – Agencies and Programs
http://www.usphs.gov/aboutus/agencies.aspx

How Can I Apply?
The following website has a prescreening questionnaire that you need to complete in order to receive an active duty application: https://dcp.psc.gov/prescreen. Please note that the application process to be called to active duty in the Commissioned Corps of the PHS is a dual process. You must apply for a commission in the PHS, and you must also apply for jobs at Agencies or with Programs that accept PHS officers for assignments. Sign up for the Commissioned Corps LISTSERVE to receive job vacancy announcements.

For Additional Information Contact
LCDR Jennifer Freed
EHOPAC Marketing & Recruitment Subcommittee Chair
Ph: 770-488-3650, Email: jen7@cdc.gov

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What are the Required Qualifications to become an EHO?

A candidate must possess a qualifying degree or a degree and professional certification in one of the following:

- A bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in environmental health that is accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council, [http://www.ehacoffice.org](http://www.ehacoffice.org);
- A bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in the curricular areas of industrial hygiene, safety, or health physics that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, [http://www.abet.org](http://www.abet.org);
- A master’s or doctoral degree with a specialization in environmental health, occupational health, or industrial hygiene from a school of public health that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, [http://www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org);
- A bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree in any field and one of the following:
  - Certification as an Industrial Hygienist (CIH) by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, [http://www.abih.org/](http://www.abih.org/);
  - Certification as a Health Physicist (CHP) by the American Board of Health Physics, [http://www.hps1.org/aahp/](http://www.hps1.org/aahp/).

Additional Information

For information and considerations regarding appointment boards and appointment standards please consult the Division of Commissioned Personnel, Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual, at [http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCI2_3_1_01.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCI2_3_1_01.pdf)

Candidates must be a U.S. citizen, generally under 44 years of age, and must meet medical requirements including height and weight standards. Officer is in probationary status during the first three years of active duty.

Civil Service (non-commissioned) Environmental Health positions are available throughout the agencies/programs listed to the right. Specific qualifications and benefits for those positions are described within the specific job announcement.