



## DIETITIAN OFFICERS

# BEST KEPT SECRETS

## U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Opportunities

### Who Are We?

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is an elite team of more than 6,500 full-time, well-trained, highly qualified public health professionals dedicated to delivering the Nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science. Driven by a passion for public service, these men and women serve on the front lines in the Nation's fight against disease and poor health conditions. As one of America's seven uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps fills essential public health leadership and service roles within the Nation's Federal Government agencies and programs.



**“The dietitians in the Corps meet the mission of the USPHS by working in both traditional and non-traditional dietitian roles. Dietitians play key roles as they work to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the Nation.”**

**CAPT Edith Clark**  
Chief Dietitian Officer  
U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

### What Do Dietitian Officers Do?

Dietitian Officers in U.S. Public Health Service:

- Provide medical nutrition therapy as part of a team providing state-of-the-art health care.
- Plan and implement educational programs for patients, hospital staff, specialty clinics, and community health centers and also through Federal agency outreach and public affairs teams.
- Develop and evaluate National health and nutrition programs and National dietary guidelines.
- Coordinate nutrition programs and establish standards for nutrition service in settings such as Federal and tribal health care facilities.
- Ensure the safety of our Nation's food and food products through research, testing, and inspection of food production facilities.

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Our focus is on improving physical health for domestic and interNational populations and providing direct patient care. As a Commissioned Corps Officer you have the chance to become involved in organized disease prevention and health promotion programs that have a positive impact on National and community disease rates as well as individual patient's lives.

### Did you know you can:

- Enjoy fantastic medical and dental benefits for you and your family
- Use military bases around the world
- Use the GI Bill to advance your education
- Contribute pre-tax income to the Thrift Savings Plan

### Quality of Practice

Dietitian Officers in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps are respected members of the health care team who play a key role in the provision of evidence-based care. They use their skills and expertise in medical nutrition therapy, research, food safety, epidemiology, wellness, health promotion, nutrition education, and emergency management while developing and strengthening their leadership skills through training and voluntary deployments to areas in need of public health crisis response. As a Registered Dietitian in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, you have the opportunity to control the course of your career while staying with the same employer. Dietitian Officers work in a wide variety of settings and for different agencies served by the U.S. Public Health Service.



# Why Should You Be a Dietitian Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

## Where are We Located?

Commissioned Corps Officers work almost anywhere and everywhere in the country. Whether you prefer rural or urban, east or west, north or south, we have a location for you. Dietitian Officers can be employed as Commissioned Officers across the country in any of the following agencies.

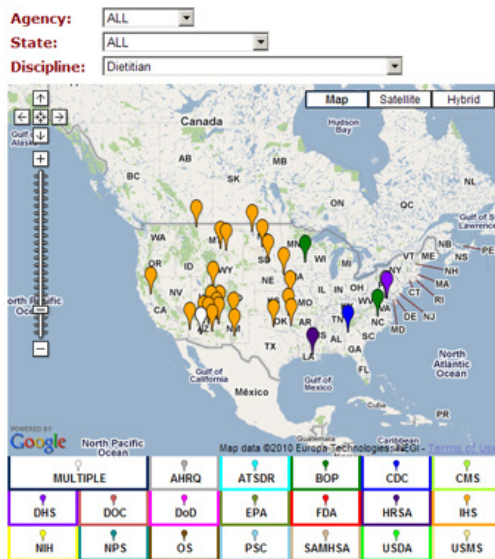
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
- Office of the Secretary (OS)
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Program Support Center

## Opportunities for Growth

Imagine working for an organization that wants you to grow professionally, to expand your knowledge base as part of your duties, so that you can effectively deal with the challenges of improving the Nation's public health.

As a member of one of the seven branches of the Uniformed Services with Registered Dietitians serving Nationwide, you are involved in patient care, medical research, health promotion, health care policy, epidemiology, emergency management, and much more. You have opportunities to make an impact on the public health of this entire Nation with only one credential as a Registered Dietitian.

If you are a Registered Dietitian, a Dietetic Intern, or a Dietetic Student interested in joining the fight for public health; or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our website at [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).



## Quality of Life

Is your quality of life all that it could be? Is it important to you to have time to spend with your family and friends, doing the things you enjoy? As a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, you receive 30 days of annual leave plus 10 Federal holidays. Many duty stations operate Monday–Friday during normal business hours. This organization allows you to pursue life in literally hundreds of locations from the largest cities to the smallest communities near the oceans, the mountains, the Grand Canyon, the Gulf Coast or National parks. Be prepared to enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you have yet experienced.



# U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Benefits

Commissioned Corps officers working for the U.S. Public Health Service enjoy the same benefits as their counterparts in the armed services. Here are a few of them:

- No cost, comprehensive medical and dental care for Corps officers; excellent health benefits for families
- Paid sick leave, maternity leave, and Federal holidays
- Clinical practice liability coverage
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year beginning the first year
- Tax-free housing and meal allowances
- Thrift Savings plan (retirement savings and investment plan similar to a 401 (k))
- Retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service
- Loan repayment potential—USPHS understands the financial burden of medical education. Assignments with certain Federal agencies, such as the Indian Health Service, offer loan repayment and/or other educational and family support programs.
- Veterans Affairs benefits, such as the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) which allows active duty members to enroll and pay \$100 per month for 12 months; and are then entitled to receive a monthly education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation.



USPHS Dietitian providing medical nutrition therapy in the Intensive Care Unit.



USPHS Dietitian Officer delivering meals to patients in a medical shelter.



USPHS Dietitian Officer providing public health information at a health fair.

## Additional Uniformed Service Benefits

The Commissioned Corps offers you and your family many other exceptional benefits including:

- Paid moving expenses when you join the Corps, relocate with the Corps, and retire from the Corps.
- Access to military base lodging, recreational facilities and space-available flights on military aircraft.
- Shopping privileges at military base grocery and department stores.



# U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Next Steps

## USPHS Officer Qualifications

All Commissioned Corps officers must meet several basic qualifications. To be a Dietitian officer, you must have a current, unrestricted, and valid registration by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the ADA. Additionally, education requirements include at least one of the following:

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree (with no qualifying bachelor's degree)
- Doctoral degree (with no qualifying bachelor's degree) from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States with a major in foods and nutrition, dietetics, institution management, public health nutrition, food science, sports nutrition, or animal nutrition.

Applicants also must present verification of completion of one of the following ADA accredited/approved pathways:

- Accredited Dietetic Internship Program
- Accredited Coordinated Program

If you have just graduated and have not yet passed the Registered Dietitian exam, you may still apply to the U.S. Public Health Service. Your call to active duty will occur after you have provided documentation of a current, unrestricted, and valid registration by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

## Dietitian Student Opportunities

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps offers two excellent opportunities for students to serve their country while completing their education. If you are interested in a public health career, we encourage you to apply to the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JRCOSTEP) and the Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP). Both programs offer excellent benefits and are highly competitive.

If you have questions about COSTEP, please visit our Web site at <http://www.usphs.gov/student/COSTEP.aspx>.

## Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a Registered Dietitian, a Dietetic Intern, or a Dietetic Student interested in joining the fight for public health; or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our website at [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov).

## Who Do I Contact?

AGENCY	RECRUITER	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE	EMAIL
Indian Health Service	CAPT Edith Clark	(602) 263-1200 x1030	<a href="http://www.ihs.gov">www.ihs.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:edith.clark2@ihs.gov">edith.clark2@ihs.gov</a>
Bureau of Prisons	LT Mitchell Holliday	(507) 424-7469	<a href="http://www.bop.gov">www.bop.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:mholliday@bop.gov">mholliday@bop.gov</a>
Centers Medicare/Medicaid	CDR Jean Kelahan	(212) 616-2231	<a href="http://www.cms.gov">www.cms.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:jean.kelahan@cms.hhs.gov">jean.kelahan@cms.hhs.gov</a>
Centers for Disease Control	CAPT April Shaw	(404) 498-1813	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:april.shaw@cdc.hhs.gov">april.shaw@cdc.hhs.gov</a>
Food and Drug Administration	CDR Janis Armendariz	(612) 758-7146	<a href="http://www.fda.gov">www.fda.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:janis.armendariz@fda.hhs.gov">janis.armendariz@fda.hhs.gov</a>
Department of Defense	CDR Susan Jordan	(301) 295-8385	<a href="http://www.dod.gov">www.dod.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:susan.jordan@tma.nsd.mil">susan.jordan@tma.nsd.mil</a>
U.S. Department of Agriculture	CDR Carma Pauli	Not Available	<a href="http://www.usda.gov">www.usda.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:carma.pauli@fsis.usda.gov">carma.pauli@fsis.usda.gov</a>
Health and Human Services	CDR Christopher Dunbar	(240) 453-6045	<a href="http://www.hhs.gov">www.hhs.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:christopher.dunbar@hhs.gov">christopher.dunbar@hhs.gov</a>
Health Resources & Services Administration	CDR Carol Treat	(301) 443-2027	<a href="http://www.hrsa.gov">www.hrsa.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:ctreat@hrsa.gov">ctreat@hrsa.gov</a>
Program Support Center	CDR Kathleen Edelman	(301) 594-0781	<a href="http://www.psc.gov">www.psc.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:Kathleen.Edelman@foh.hhs.gov">Kathleen.Edelman@foh.hhs.gov</a>