

Be an Engineer Officer

in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

➤ About the Commissioned Corps

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps protects, promotes, and advances the health and safety of the Nation. With more than 6,000 officers, the Commissioned Corps is one of the Nation's seven uniformed services and resides in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the world's foremost public health service, it is composed entirely of officers who have been commissioned on the basis of their health-related training. The Corps relies on its Engineer cadre to meet its diverse and challenging mission requirements.

A career in the Commissioned Corps offers unlimited opportunities to serve your country and obtain extraordinary professional experience while improving the quality of people's lives and making a real difference in public health. Commissioned officers are also called on to provide onsite clinical and public health expertise in times of national emergencies and disasters.

➤ What It Means To Be an Engineer Officer in the Commissioned Corps

Engineer officers in the Commissioned Corps work throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in other Federal agencies and programs. The majority of Engineer officers are assigned to the following:

- Indian Health Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Food and Drug Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Park Service



Engineer officers in the Corps range in specialties from traditional chemical, electrical, mechanical, and civil engineering disciplines to the emerging biomedical, computer, and environmental specialties. Engineer officers:

- Promote public health and prevent and control the spread of disease by installing water treatment and delivery systems and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems for underserved populations
- Conduct research and evaluations to reduce workers' exposures to occupational safety and health hazards.
- Evaluate medical devices and electronic products at Federal testing facilities and inspect domestic and international facilities where these products are manufactured.
- Regulate the environmental impacts resulting from activities of industry and State/local government.
- Provide guidance on designing, constructing, and operating "healthy buildings."
- Provide facilities management, planning, and construction services for health care delivery facilities and laboratory research complexes.
- Identify, assess, and evaluate the health risks associated with hazardous waste sites, unplanned releases of hazardous substances, and environmental contamination or pollution, and help prevent or reduce further exposure and resulting illnesses.
- Maintain a mobile engineering force to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

➤ Pay

Starting base pay and potential special pays vary depending on level of training and experience, prior active duty military time, geographic location, and number of dependents, if any. Base pay increases with promotions and years of service. Tax-free compensation is provided for housing and meals. Take-home pay is very competitive with someone in the private sector because your base pay, in addition to an assortment of nontaxable income and benefits, provides a comparable compensation package that grows with years of service and promotions. The U.S. Public Health Service also understands the financial burden of professional schooling and, in coordination with certain Federal agencies, may offer loan repayment and other educational and family support programs.

More information comparing compensation in the Corps to pay in the private sector is available at www.usphs.gov.

➤ Benefits

As an officer in the Commissioned Corps, you will enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you will experience in the private sector, and Commissioned Corps benefits are generous. They include:

- Health care and dental care at no cost
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year
- Paid sick leave
- Paid maternity leave
- A retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service

Many additional benefits are listed at www.usphs.gov. Engineer officers in the Commissioned Corps have tremendous professional opportunities among many government agencies in both rural and urban settings in nearly every State. The Corps encourages you to move geographically and among the agencies to get a variety of experiences, expand your knowledge base, and grow professionally so that you can effectively deal with the challenges of improving public health. And you can do all this as a Corps officer, which means changing jobs and still having job security. Tuition and long-term training opportunities may also be available.

➤ Special Degree and License Requirements

All Commissioned Corps officers must meet several basic qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, be less than 44 years of age, and pass a physical examination.

To be an Engineer officer, you also need a bachelor's or master's degree in engineering from an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. (Degrees in an engineering-related curriculum, such as engineering technology, are not acceptable.)

➤ Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a student or practicing engineer interested in a different, challenging, and rewarding career and are attracted to an organization with a mission of service to our country, we want to talk to you about how you can make a difference with the Commissioned Corps. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our Web site at www.usphs.gov.

