

Opportunities for U.S. Public Health Service Environmental Health Officers in the U.S. Coast Guard

Safety and environmental health officers (SEHOs) in the Commissioned Corps detailed to the Coast Guard ensure public health and safety in a variety of domestic roles. For environmental health officers, work areas are diverse and numerous. Examples include epidemiological surveillance, disease prevention, radiological health, industrial hygiene, food safety, injury prevention and education, and emergency preparedness. During natural disasters and other emergencies, environmental health officers protect Coast Guard personnel from environmental threats and help communities recover. As part of a committed cadre of health professionals, you will enjoy leadership opportunities, excellent benefits, and work/life balance, all while protecting and improving the health of the Coast Guard.

Our SEHOs may have the opportunity to attend training courses such as the Homeland Security Medical Executives, Senior Leadership, Joint Operations Medical Management and Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties courses.

On an average Coast Guard Day, the United States Coast Guard saves 15 lives, assists 114 people in distress, conducts 82 search and rescues, 23 waterfront facility safety inspections, 202 law enforcement boardings, services 40 aids to navigation, interdicts 26 illegal migrants at sea, protects \$4.9 million in property, seizes \$12.4 million worth of illegal drugs, and provides 4 cutters in support of Theatre Security Operations. The missions of the United States Coast Guard include national defense expeditionary, homeland security, maritime safety/maritime security, protection of natural resources and maritime mobility in addition to our contingency medical support. Historically, the Coast Guard functions under the Navy in times of war. Since March 1, 2003, the Coast Guard became part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

We have 20 SEHOs in our organization, which consists of 10 field and field support positions. We provide support to all Coast Guard units which are located mainly along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coasts, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Coast Guard SEHO Sites

ATLANTIC COAST	PACIFIC COAST
Portsmouth, VA (1)	Alameda, CA (1)
Cleveland, OH (1)	Oakland, CA (1)
Elizabeth City, NC (2)	Kodiak, AK (1)
Norfolk , VA (7)	
Yorktown, VA (1)	
Washington, DC (3)	

- 2 SEHOs are currently in graduate school

If you are interested in joining our program, you must first be commissioned by the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). Information about commissioning and the application process can be obtained by calling the USPHS at (800) 279-1605 or by visiting their web site at: <http://www.usphs.gov>.

To read about the appointment process including the tabulation of your training and education date which will determine what rank at which you will be commissioned, go to:

http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF_docs/ccpmtransmittal663_2.pdf

Training and Experience Date (T&E): The T&E date calculation varies by profession. In general, 4 years credit is given for baccalaureate level degree, regardless of how long it took to obtain the degree and then additional credit is given for the pharmacy degree.

The number of years of T&E credit required for each rank is as follows:

Rank	Temporary	Permanent
O-2 Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTjg)	4 years	7 years
O-3 Lieutenant (LT)	8 years	10 years
O-4* Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)	12 years	17 years
O-5* Commander (CDR)	17 years	24 years
O-6* Captain (CAPT)	24 years	25 years

* These three ranks are restricted grades – new officers cannot be given this rank unless they have enough credit to earn a permanent O-4 (the full 17 years are required).

To get an idea of what your starting salary will be, go to Military Pay Rates: <http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/militarypaytables.html>. Your military pay will include the following:

- **Basic Pay:** The years of service reflects the years of active duty service in the military and uniformed services
- **Basic Allowance Housing (BAH):** This varies based on the area of your duty station and whether you are single or married and have children

For assistance with your USPHS application please contact CAPT Wade McConnell at 202.475-5186 or Wade.B.McConnell@uscg.mil. For additional information on the Coast Guard SEHO program please contact: