

# AIR FORCE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CORPS PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER



## WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

**Q** What would my role be as an Air Force public health officer?

**A** Air Force public health officers prevent disease, disability, and premature death through effective population-based public health programs. They conduct epidemiologic surveillance and analyze communicable, environmental, and occupational disease to establish and prioritize prevention and control strategies. They manage programs to reduce the effects of communicable disease, occupational illness and disease-carrying pest populations. They also manage food safety programs, preventive medicine programs and respond to disaster situations. They are consulted in infection control, health promotions, and medical readiness programs. During wartime contingencies, public health officers lead preventive actions to reduce the impact that endemic diseases, dangerous plants, animals, and climate have on personnel. They direct patient decontamination in the event of exposure to hazardous substances. Air Force public health officers are assigned to the Public Health Flight at a base clinic or hospital. The number of public health officers at each base varies from one to three, plus support personnel, depending on the mission of the base.

**Q** Where will I be assigned? Will I have opportunities for travel?

**A** Although most assignments are located within the continental United States, you also have opportunities to be assigned overseas in places like Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Korea,

Germany, and England. You may also work and travel in other countries on a temporary duty assignment.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Q** What Air Force career opportunities are available?

**A** Air Force public health officers are members of the Biomedical Sciences Corps. Usually they enter active duty as first lieutenants. You may enter at a higher rank with advanced education and experience. Most new public health officers are assigned to base-level public health offices for their first assignment. Before or during your first assignment, you'll attend a 12-week course at the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks City-Base, Texas. Assignment opportunities include medical intelligence and readiness, applied research, and managed medical care. You could also be a consultant in a specialty area, or a medical inspector on the health services inspection team.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Q** What Air Force educational opportunities are available to me?

**A** You must take local and national continuing education courses and seminars. Most are funded by the local unit, the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) or the School of Aerospace Medicine. You may be selected for an advanced degree through AFIT. Depending on the needs of the Air Force, master's and doctoral degrees are available in areas such as epidemiology, public health, food technology, and toxicology. You may also want to pursue a graduate degree

on your off-duty time. The Air Force may pay up to 100 percent of your tuition and fees. You'll also take professional military education courses to broaden your view of national security issues, the Air Force mission and its operations.

## QUALIFICATIONS/ CREDENTIALS

**Q** What credentials do I need to qualify?

**A** You must have a doctorate in veterinary medicine or a bachelor of science in nursing, plus a master's in public health. A bachelor of science degree in biomedical or biologic sciences area and a master's in public health with emphasis in epidemiology, environmental health, occupational health or related areas, is also acceptable.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Q** I want more information about becoming an Air Force public health officer—where can I get it?

**A** Contact an Air Force health professions recruiter for details, or call 1-800-423-USAF for an information packet. Visit our web site at [AIRFORCE.COM](http://AIRFORCE.COM).



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