

The Signal

Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association



A C O A

ATLANTA COMMISSIONED
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

2018-2019 Signal Committee

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2nd Quarter 2019

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President's Corner: LCDR Katrina Sloan

Dear ACOA Members,

I attended the 2019 USPHS Symposium; I haven't attended a Symposium in several years. Honestly, I underestimated how engaging, refreshing and rewarding the conference would be. Attending the Symposium or any conference where officers are in abundance is an excellent way to engage with fellow officers. I met other local branch leaders and saw some OBC friends I haven't seen in a while. For the first time, I met officers who I have worked with on PAC and PAG committees. I had opportunities to share the benefits of joining COA which included Atlanta officers who I urged to join and become ACOA members! Surprisingly, I went with another officer who I met for the first time to the Mall of America. Why go alone???

My family would say that I'm a "forced extrovert." Naturally, I would like to remain solo, but through my acts of service is often how I engage with others. This issue of The Signal highlights ACOA Officers' excellent service to our communities and other officers. Some officers' love for service includes traveling many hours to serve and connect with others (LCDR Shayne Galloway and LT Darion Smith). I understand that our work and family lives put constraints on the time we can dedicate to participate in activities and serve others. However, I encourage you to explore options to participate so you can engage with others and build new relationships.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating with our Atlanta Area Promoted Officers at the promotion ceremony on 19 August (see the save-the-date pg.6). If you are a promoted officer or would like to volunteer please contact our Events Planning Committee Chairs, CAPT Bamrah-Morris (feu3@cdc.gov) and LCDR Tomov (yxm6@cdc.gov).



LCDR Katrina Sloan

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Sloan".

LCDR Katrina Sloan
ACOA President, 2018-2019

2018-2019 ACOA Executive Committee

President: LCDR Katrina Sloan, CDC
Vice President: LCDR Jona Johnson, ATDSR
Past President: CDR Erika Odom, CDC
Secretary: LT Shayne Gallaway, CDC
Treasurer: LCDR Aaron Grober, ATSDR

At-Large Members:

CAPT Sapna Bamrah Morris, CDC
CDR Dawn Braswell, FDA
CDR Shawna Coleman, CDC
CDR Sharon Rhynes, CMS
LCDR Rachael Cook, FDA
LCDR Sunshine Jones-Chaney, ATSDR
LCDR Samantha Morgan, CDC
LCDR Rashid Njai, CDC
LCDR Jessica Nadeau Tomov, CDC
LT Bradley Goodwin, ATSDR



Need variety in your professional contributions & services to the PHS?

Looking for opportunities to volunteer?

Want to get published?

Consider writing an article for *The Signal*!
ALL IDEAS WELCOME

If you participate in a PHS support activity or have information of interest to your fellow officers, please consider submitting an article. The deadline for article submissions for the 3rd quarter issue will be July 29, 2019. Submit your articles directly to Managing Editor, CDR Valarie Wilson at vxwilson@bop.gov



SAVE THE DATE!

19 AUG @ 1300



2019 U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ATLANTA METRO AREA PROMOTION CEREMONY

SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? ACOA EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE: CDR SAPNA BAMRAH MORRIS (SBMORRIS@CDC.GOV); OR LT JESSICA TOMOV (JTOMOV@CDC.GOV);

★ Uniform of the Day: Summer White
Don't forget you will need the correct shoulder boards!

Why Attending the USPHS Symposium Each Year is a Priority for Me

LCDR Shayne Gallaway

I get more out of attending the USPHS Symposium and my Category Day than I do out of every other PHS activity I participate in throughout the year combined. Like any conference, the PHS Symposium—held this year in Minneapolis—was a bit overwhelming, an overload to the senses, and very hectic. However, the symposium also offered a wealth of information, opportunities to network, a pulse on the Commissioned Corps, and lots of fun times. I've attended the Symposium each of the past three years. For me, the three things I always look forward to most are 1) Category Day, 2) hearing the Commissioned Corps update from the ASH and SG, and 3) catching up with my RDF PHS-2 teammates. This year was no exception.

The Scientist Category Day schedule was jam-packed and very well attended. I was a member of the Scientist's planning team and also served as a presenter. This provided an opportunity to be involved from two vantage points and also apply a bit of healthy pressure on myself to engage fully. For me, one of the best parts of Category Day is catching up with Scientists from other agencies and hearing about the work they are doing day-to-day. This is the only time of the year I learn about what a colleague in California is doing to support state efforts to promote public health. Following the on-site Category Day, most of the Scientists participated in a social event downtown which provided another opportunity to chat and network in a less formal capacity.

The Assistant Secretary of Health (ASH, ADM Brett Giroir), Principal Deputy to the ASH (PDASH, RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams), Surgeon General (VADM Jerome Adams), and CC HQ Director (RADM Susan Orsega) provided an update on the current modernization efforts in the Commissioned Corps. The auditorium was filled with more than 1,000 officers who eagerly listened to proposed plans to expand the Ready Reserve Corps and increase the total number of officers in uniform. All leaders reaffirmed their belief in the Commissioned Corps and noted the support at various political levels. RADM Orsega discussed the planned expansion of the newly renamed Commissioned Corps Headquarters and ongoing and planned efficiencies to support all officers.

Last but not least, the Symposium provides an opportunity to reunite with fellow officers, including RDF PHS-2 teammates with whom I've had the pleasure to deploy a couple of times. We remain in contact at all times. However, every opportunity we can catch up, tell stories, and reminisce about the people and places we have seen is always a highlight. We are a "unit" and all time spent together helps to foster trust, confidence, and respect that eases the often difficult experiences spent together in the field.

Bottom line: If you haven't attended a USPHS Symposium, you are missing out on a great opportunity and a wealth of information to successfully navigate your career. Get involved with the activities you are passionate about at the Symposium next year. There are ample opportunities to do so.



The 2019 USPHS Symposium in Minneapolis brought together officers across all 11 categories to network and build skills needed for deployment and day-to-day professional performance.

Paying our respects to those who came before us – CAPT (Retired) James D. Tovey, MD

LCDR Shayne Gallaway



I recently made the acquaintance of 90-year young retired CAPT James Tovey, who served as a surgeon in the Commissioned Corps. His son, David Tovey, reached out to the Atlanta COA Pride Store to inquire about a ball cap for his dad and briefly mentioned his dad's service. I was so overwhelmed with excitement that I asked if they would be willing to share a little bit more information about CAPT Tovey's career. They obliged, and I'm very happy to share that information with all PHS Officers.

Below is a brief summary of CAPT Tovey's career, as written by his son David.

"My dad did his medical school at University of California San Francisco, internship in Staten Island, and additional training in surgery at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, USPHS Hospitals in Baltimore and Seattle, Washington. He served as Deputy Chief and then Chief of the Department of Surgery at the USPHS hospital in Staten Island, N.Y. from 1960 - 1967, and then served two years as Chief of Manpower Development in Washington, D.C. (appointing residents for medical training programs for the PHS). He served out the rest of his 26 year term as Chief of Surgery at the USPHS Hospital in San Francisco, CA. He was proud to wear the uniform, and he loved every minute of his work. He was an excellent teacher, and he still hears from many of the residents who trained under him. My mother, my four siblings and I were very lucky to live in quarters on USPHS Hospital grounds. It was a paradise to us. We are all very fond of the Public Health Service."

CAPT (Ret.) James Tovey currently resides in Benicia, CA. If anyone would like to drop a postcard in the mail to say thank you or hello, please email LCDR Shayne Gallaway (MGallaway@cdc.gov) for his mailing address.

Atlanta Area Officers Engage with Mary Hall Freedom House T.R.O.O.P.S. to Discuss Opioids and Total Wellness

LCDR Shayne Gallaway

The Mary Hall Freedom House T.R.O.O.P.S. (Training Reintegration Outreach & Opportunities Program Services) supports female Veterans and their families, specifically those at risk of, or currently experiencing homelessness (<http://www.maryhallfreedomhouse.org/t-r-o-o-p-s>). The organization was founded in 1996 to address the need for residential substance treatment services for women in the metro-Atlanta area and to empower women to break the cycle of addictions, poverty, and homelessness for themselves and their children. Mary Hall Freedom House's current capacity can provide housing and services to over 200 single women and over 75 children on any given day, restoring over 500 lives annually. Mary Hall Freedom House has served more than 5,000 women since 1996.

LCDR Gallaway and LCDR Njai (both of the Science Category) coordinated a National Prevention Strategy-Prevention through Active Community Engagement (NPS-PACE) program on opioids and general wellbeing for the Mary Hall Freedom House. NPS-PACE program efforts incorporate both education and skills training components. This activity included an overview of and an in-depth discussion of opioids, as well as a discussion of opioid use-related precursors and outcomes, specifically financial difficulties. On March 29, 2019, eight PHS Officers participated along with 13 T.R.O.O.P.S. clients and staff members. It was an afternoon full of energy, education, and service. Clients and staff received specific skills training to enable them to make informed decisions about the use of opioids and financial planning in their lives or the lives of their clients.



Left to right: CDR Ali Danner LCDR Shayne Gallaway, LCDR Toscha Stanely, CDR Tara Foley, LCDR Matthew Lozier, LT Steven Rush, LCDR Rashid Njai (not pictured, CDR Evelyn Rodriguez)

Sam Nunn Officers Involvement in Prescription Drug and Opioid-Related Activities

CDR Gayle Lundberg

April was a month packed full of prescription drug and opioid related activities in Atlanta. I teamed up with Robin Elliott and Laurie Fugitt, RN BSN, from the Georgia Overdose Prevention Organization. Robin is a widowed realtor who lost her only child, Zack, to a heroin overdose in May 2011. Robin worked with Laurie to create and pass the nation's most comprehensive 911 Medical Amnesty and Expanded Naloxone Access laws for Georgia. She shared the heart-breaking story of her son's deadly struggle with heroin addiction. The two discussed the process it took to enact the Medical Amnesty Bill that provides protection to people who call 911 and seek medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug or alcohol-related overdose and for individuals administering naloxone, increases access to naloxone and allows pharmacists to dispense under a standing order prescription with the state. The 90 minute presentation captivated the audience and brought some attendees to tears; overall there was only high praise for the education it provided.

The Federal Prescription Drug Take Back 3-day Event was held on April 24-26 for three hours each day at the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center. CAPT Wanza Bacon, CDR Sherri Gholston, CDR Ihsan Um'Rani-Hasan, and CAPT Sye Bennefield from CMS and HRSA accepted unused, unwanted, and expired medications (a total of 60.84 pounds) from employees for proper disposal by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Finally, President Trump spoke at the 2019 Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit in Atlanta, GA. I attended the conference from April 22-25 amidst high security and extensive media coverage. The First Lady and President Trump's 45-minute total message was about the opioid crisis in America; the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 (SUPPORT Act**); decreasing prescription drug prices; increased naloxone distribution and access to treatment for all Americans, including: incarcerated individuals, expectant mothers and children, veterans; and stopping the international importation of drugs across our borders. The President commented that the best drug detection device was a dog, which brought about laughter from the audience.

Some of the key messages shared during the Summit were:

- The CDC reports for the eighth year in a row that opioid prescribing is decreasing yet opioid-related deaths are increasing – over 70,000 in 2017 alone
- The U.S. accounts for 4.3% of the world's population and 80% of the world's opioid consumption
- For the third year in a row, the life expectancy in the U.S. is declining
- Stimulants are the next emerging threat
- The use of illicit fentanyl laced in other drugs, especially cocaine, continues to increase opioid deaths due to overdose
- Eighty percent of heroin users began using drugs with an opioid and the majority got that drug from a family member or friend – only 20% from a doctor

- According to SAMHSA, 11.4 million Americans misused opioids in 2017, 2.1 million were diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD) yet only 1.1 million were receiving medication assisted treatment (MAT) - many don't know about MAT or other recovery services that are available in their communities
- Adults over 65 years old comprise 13% of the population and 36% of all prescription medication use in the U.S
- Estimated nonmedical use of prescription drugs will increase to approximately 2.7 million by 2020 in the 50+ age group (doubling from 1.2% in 2004 to 2.4% in 2020)
- Addiction and opioid misuse need to be treated as a chronic disease with lifelong treatment



President Trump addresses the audience at The 2019 Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit



Left to Right: CAPT Wanza Bacon, CDR Sherri Gholston, CDR Ihsan Um'Rani-Hasan, CAPT Sye Bennefield at the Federal Prescription Drug Take Back

Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association (ACOA) volunteers at the 2019 Atlanta Science Festival

CDR Tara Foley

Six officers and four friends and family members volunteered at the Atlanta Science Festival Exploration Expo held at Piedmont Park on Saturday, March 23, 2019. The festival is an annual public celebration of local science and technology that began in 2014 and takes place over the course of two weeks throughout the Atlanta metro area. Delta and Google are big sponsors and there were over 100 community partners represented, including CDC, school districts, post-secondary institutions (including Georgia Tech and Emory University), businesses, civic and community groups. This was ACOA's third year participating in the Atlanta Science Festival, and volunteers from CDC and CMS worked alongside other local volunteers to assist with festival operations. There were 119 events held between March 10th and 23rd, with over 55,000 attendees. CDR Danielle Mills, an industrial hygienist with the Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice in CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, partnered with a teacher on March 6th at the Partee Elementary School in Snellville, GA. She spoke to students ranging from kindergarten up to fifth grade about her job and used hands-on activities involving Glo-germ as a way to measure hand washing effectiveness (grades K, 1, 2, and 3), and a see-and-sniff chemical weapons kit (grade 5).



CAPT Iskander and LCDR Alaine Knipes

Festivities culminated with the Exploration Expo on the last day of the festival, with approximately 25,000 attendees, 104 exhibits and four stage shows. ACOA volunteers were positioned at various entry points for the event, and one officer accompanied the festival photographer on his festival route to assist with getting releases signed. The weather was perfect and they got a lot of steps in during the day! Everyone had a great time, participants and volunteers alike. We look forward to participating again in 2020.



CDR Danielle Mills at Partee Elementary School in Snellville, GA



Left to Right: CAPT John Iskander, CDR De'borah Boling, CDR Alan Ou, CDR Tara Foley, CDR Dawn Arlotta

ACOA Community Service Committee Volunteers with Atlanta Community Food Bank

LT Steven Rush

On Saturday, May 11, 2019—Mother’s Day Weekend, eight USPHS officers volunteered at the Atlanta Community Food Bank Product Rescue Center (ACFB PRC). Approximately 80,600 people are fed weekly thanks to the efforts of the ACFB PRC and its volunteers. Groups and individual volunteers come together to inspect, sort, and pack grocery donations, which are distributed to over 600 partner agencies across metro Atlanta and North Georgia. PHS officers coordinated with ACFB and packed 5,886 pounds of food, which translates to 3,895 meals prepared for those who are food insecure in our local community.

Currently one in every five Georgians and one in four Georgia children are at risk of hunger, and the number of people requesting emergency food assistance continues to grow. One dollar donated creates four meals; if every volunteer visiting the Atlanta Community Food Bank were to bring two cans of food, it would provide approximately 2,750 additional meals each month!

The ACFB PRC provided a great hands-on service experience in a diverse and social atmosphere. A huge thank you goes out to the officers who volunteered their time to serve our community.



Left to right: LT Steven Rush, LT Darion Smith, CDR Neelam Ghiya, LT Jennifer Beauregard, CAPT Jacqueline Thomas, LCDR Alaine Knipes, CDR Leslie Hausman

Not pictured: CDR Darrlyn Cornelius-Averhart



(Above) LCDR Alaine Knipes, CAPT Jacqueline Thomas, CDR Neelam Ghiya, LT Jennifer Beauregard, & CDR Leslie Hausman caught on camera unpacking food and inspecting expiration dates to ensure quality food items.



(Left) LT Darion Smith drove four hours from his duty station in FL to volunteer!

ACOA volunteers with Trees Atlanta

LCDR Tara Levine Houda and CDR Agam Rao

On December 15, 2018, 15 Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association (ACOA) members and five family members helped Trees Atlanta at the Kirkwood Urban Forest. Trees Atlanta is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving Atlanta's urban forest. Many of us live less than a mile and half from the Kirkwood Urban Forest and drive by it regularly but had no idea it was there. With the help of Trees Atlanta and volunteers, like our PHS officers, we hope more people will become aware of this 5-acre gem in the middle of the city. This event was different from other Trees Atlanta events that focus on planting native trees; this time we concentrated on fruit-producing native trees and shrubs, such as American persimmon and pawpaw. Volunteers planted trees and shrubs while learning about these edible native plants. Another new task to our volunteers was the removal of invasive bamboo, which can grow up to 100 feet tall. A bamboo thicket had developed over the years, crowding out native plants and creating an impassible monoculture. Our officers went to work with handsaws to clear the bamboo – and, wow, was this satisfying! There were more than a couple calls of, "Timber!" as our group felled bamboo stalks. If you are interested in volunteering in the future, stay tuned! ACOA normally organizes events with Trees Atlanta twice per year.



Left: LCDR Adam Bjork, LCDR Minesh Shah, LCDR Anagha Loharikar and, CDR Agam Rao prepare a tree for planting



Right: LT Emily Ussery, LCDR Colleen Scott, CDR Sylvera Demas, and LCDR Andy Boyd clearing invasive bamboo



**Left to right: Front Row: CDR Sylvera Demas, CDR Erin Sauber-Schatz
Second Row: LCDR Tara Houda, LCDR Anagha Loharikar
Back Row: LCDR Minesh Shah, LT Emily Ussery, LCDR Paul Young, LCDR Jenny Walldorf, LCDR Adam Bjork, LCDR Andy Boyd, LCDR Adam Bjork, LCDR Heather Joseph, LCDR Heather Scobie, LCDR Colleen Scott, CDR Agam Rao, and CDR Alan Ou**

ACOA High Five

CDR Zewditu Demissie



The ACOA High Five was developed to recognize ACOA members for contributions to their community, agency, or any of the PHS disciplines (medicine, science, etc.). In this issue, we recognize CDR Janell Routh.

CDR Janell Routh, Program Lead for Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) within CDC’s Division of Viral Diseases, was awarded the 2019 “Distinguished Friend of EIS” award at the 68th annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference in May. This award recognizes an individual who has championed and advocated for EIS and its officers, valuing its diversity, and embodying the principles of the EIS program’s creator, Alexander D. Langmuir. CDR Routh was the Epidemiology Task Force Lead for the 2018 CDC Incident Command Response to an increase in cases of AFM last fall led by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. AFM is a severe, paralytic illness found mostly in children for which no treatment or prevention currently exists. CDR Routh recognized that the AFM response was a great learning opportunity for EIS officers. She solicited a cadre of EIS officers to assist with the response. Her ability to efficiently teach officers about AFM, train them on how to complete their tasks, and her unfailing patience left a lasting impression on many of the officers. CDR Routh’s dedication to supporting the welfare and happiness of EIS officers and a strong, diverse EIS program is evident, and seemingly the result of strong mentorship she received as an EIS officer in 2010 in the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases. ACOA will honor *High Five* recipients in each issue of *The Signal*. Officers can self-nominate or be nominated for the ACOA High Five. Nominees must submit the name of the nominee, a brief (no longer than one paragraph) description of why the officer deserves the recognition, and a photo of the officer, if possible. Nominations for the next ACOA High Five are due August 2, 2019. Please email nominations to CDR Zewditu Demissie, izj5@cdc.gov, and CDR Valarie Wilson, vxwilson@bop.gov.



ACOA Awards Corner

CDR Zewditu Demissie

The goal of the Awards Corner is to educate officers about how to properly develop and submit awards. Officers may also submit questions about awards to CDR Valarie Wilson, *The Signal* Managing Editor, at vxwilson@bop.gov. For selected topics, a staff writer will research a response to the question.

Question: I am writing up an award for work done in a previous or temporary assignment in another Center/Institute/Office (CIO)? Should I route my award through my current CIO or through the CIO where the work was actually done?

Answer: In general, the award nominator should be someone who is familiar with the nominee's work; this may be another officer or a civilian. If an officer is nominated for an award for work done with another Center/Institute/Office (e.g. detail or deployment), the nomination should either be routed through the CIO where the work was done **or** should be discussed with the CIO where the work was done and should include documentation of their concurrence with the nomination. If an officer has changed positions but has an award nomination from their previous job, their current supervisor should indicate concurrence with the award as a check that the officer is in good standing. Proof of concurrence can be by electronic signature in the comment box or by attaching an email from the supervisor to the nomination package.

Question: What type of awards require concurrence?

Answer: It is recommended that officers reach out their agency Awards Coordinator for concurrence guidance. As mentioned above, awards written for work done for previous or temporary CIO assignments may require concurrence. Generally, unit awards that originate outside of your agency but include officers assigned to your agency (e.g., an FDA award that includes CDC officers if you are a CDC officer) require concurrence from your agency. This concurrence confirms that each nominated officer is basic ready and in good standing. The Awards Coordinator in your liaison office will validate each officer's status. Likewise, if you are leading a cross-agency award in which officers from other agencies are included, concurrence from those agencies will be needed. CDC awards that involve activities of multiple CIOs may also need concurrence from the non-lead CIOs. Some officers obtain concurrence before the award is submitted to the CIO's awards representative(s). Some CIOs manage this at the CIO level and will work to obtain the concurrence on behalf of the officer(s). This may also be the case for other agencies; checking with your Awards Coordinator is essential. Award nominations that include work completed while in the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program must have concurrence from the EIS program office. The EIS program supervisor can sign as the nominator (for field officers) or note concurrence in the comment section of the PHS Form 6342-2 (for headquarters officers). For the latter, a copy of the EIS program concurrence email should be included as part of the award package.

Question: Which cycle is my last shot to get my award listed on my Promotion Information Report (PIR) in time for the next promotion cycle?

Answer: This is difficult to answer concretely. It can take up to 90 days from the time an award is submitted to Commissioned Officers' Awards Program (COAP) for it to be processed and visible on the PIR. In 2019, Cycle 3 nominations are due to COAP in October. Therefore, it is *possible* for Cycle 3 awards to appear in one's PIR before Promotion Board materials are pulled. However, it is best to submit awards as early as possible. Also, keep in mind that not every award is approved by the agency board upon first review, and a resubmission in the subsequent cycle may be needed. Officers are encouraged to work with their awards representatives early in the process to develop the strongest award possible

PHS Updates

Compiled by LT Ashley Inniss

Uniform of the Day

1 Apr 2019 – PHS uniform of the day is the Summer Whites (SW). Alternate uniforms are the Service Khaki (SK), Service Dress White (SDU), Operational Dress Uniform (ODU), or the Service Dress Blue (SDB).

Resources

Uniform Policy

https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/POM17_002.pdf

Questions about uniform? Contact: PHSCCUniform@hhs.gov

or

Surgeon General's Policy Advisory Council Representatives and Liaisons of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service: https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/sgpac.pdf

CCHQ Move

Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) is in the process of moving to another floor in the same building beginning June 6, 2019! There will be a slight interruption in service while they settle into new offices on the 3rd floor of the same building at Tower. In the meantime, the Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) website and Officer Secure Area (OSA) applications will remain available. The Commissioned Corps Help Desk will also be fully operational and maintain regular hours of operation.

The information and timelines below will help set reasonable expectations during the move.

General Information:

- Email is the best method of contact during the CCHQ move.
- Anticipate a delay of three business days in addition to regular processing and response times.
- CCHQ will suspend reception of visitors until the move is complete on July 1st.
- Please do not mail or drop off documents to CCHQ until we provide the new address during the week of June 17.
 - * Of note, mail carriers have been notified to forward mail currently in transit to our new space on the 3rd floor.

Timeline:

- June 5, 5 p.m. ET: Current CCHQ offices on the plaza level will close permanently.
- June 6 to 10: Telephone contact will be unavailable while phones are transferred. *EXCEPTION: The Commissioned Corps Help Desk will be available by phone.*
- Week of June 10: CCHQ move to the 3rd floor with limited function during this time. Phone access will be returned by the end of the week. Continue using email to contact CCHQ. The telephone numbers will be the same.
- Week of June 17. Training of CCHQ staff on new equipment and procedures.
- Week of June 24: Move complete. Finalized training of CCHQ staff.
- Week of July 1. Training complete. Return to normal operations 9 a.m. ET July 1 at CCHQ new space at which point we will take in-person appointments.

The Department of Defense issued a mandatory change to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Beginning Friday, July 12, 2019, officers with more than 16 years of creditable active duty uniformed service will no longer be able to transfer education benefits. If you currently have 15 or more years of service, and would like to transfer your education benefits to an eligible family member, please submit a request now.

Important Information Regarding Transferability:

- You must have six years of creditable active duty service to apply
- There is a four-year service obligation from the date of your application
 - * Effective July 12, 2018, all service members must be able to complete four-year service obligation in order to receive the transfer benefits.
- You may only transfer education benefits to eligible family members.
 - * Any family member not eligible for Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is not eligible for transfer.
- Eligibility does not guarantee approval
 - * Administrative and adverse actions must be cleared

Instructions, forms, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are located on the Commissioned Corps Management Information Systems (CCMIS) [Education Benefits webpage](#).

Commissioned Corps Headquarters is in the process of updating forms and policy regarding education benefits transferability. We will provide updates on the Education Benefits webpage.

If you have questions, please email: phsdeersgibill@hhs.gov.



**SAVE THE DATE:
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

**CDC/ATSDR
ROYBAL CAMPUS**



COMMISSIONED CORPS EXPO

The CDC/ATSDR Commissioned Corps Activity Office will be sponsoring a Commissioned Corps Expo on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at CDC/ATSDR Roybal campus.

All Atlanta area Commissioned Corps officers are invited to attend.

CAL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31		

Breakout sessions on various topics including career management, readiness and deployment, proper uniform wear and effectively supervising officers will be offered.

Be on the lookout for more information to follow.

Contact Information: ccageneralinfo@cdc.gov



SAVE THE DATE!

ACOA OFFICERS APPRECIATION SOCIAL

Active Duty & Retired USPHS Commissioned Officers Welcome
(ACOA/COA members and non-members)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019
1200–1500**

**DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE
MARIETTA, GA**

Questions? Contact CDR Dawn Braswell (braswell.dawn@fda.hhs.gov) or
LCDR Samantha Morgan (hwp6@cdc.gov)



PUBLIC HEALTH CAREER PATH RESOURCES

Every day, public health professionals work in government, research institutions, and nonprofit organizations to improve the quality of our lives. Their significance to promoting the health and vitality of Georgia communities cannot be understated. The rapid growth of the public health field means it's more important than ever to encourage individuals in Georgia to consider this career path.

The following resources from *PublicHealth.org* dive into a wide array of public health career paths. These links provide relevant information on specializations, training programs, and career potential to help aspiring public health professionals find their best fit, from biostatistics to public policy.

Public Health Careers

<https://www.publichealth.org/careers>

Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Guide

<https://www.publichealth.org/degree/masters>

Georgia-Specific Public Health Opportunities and Career Outlook

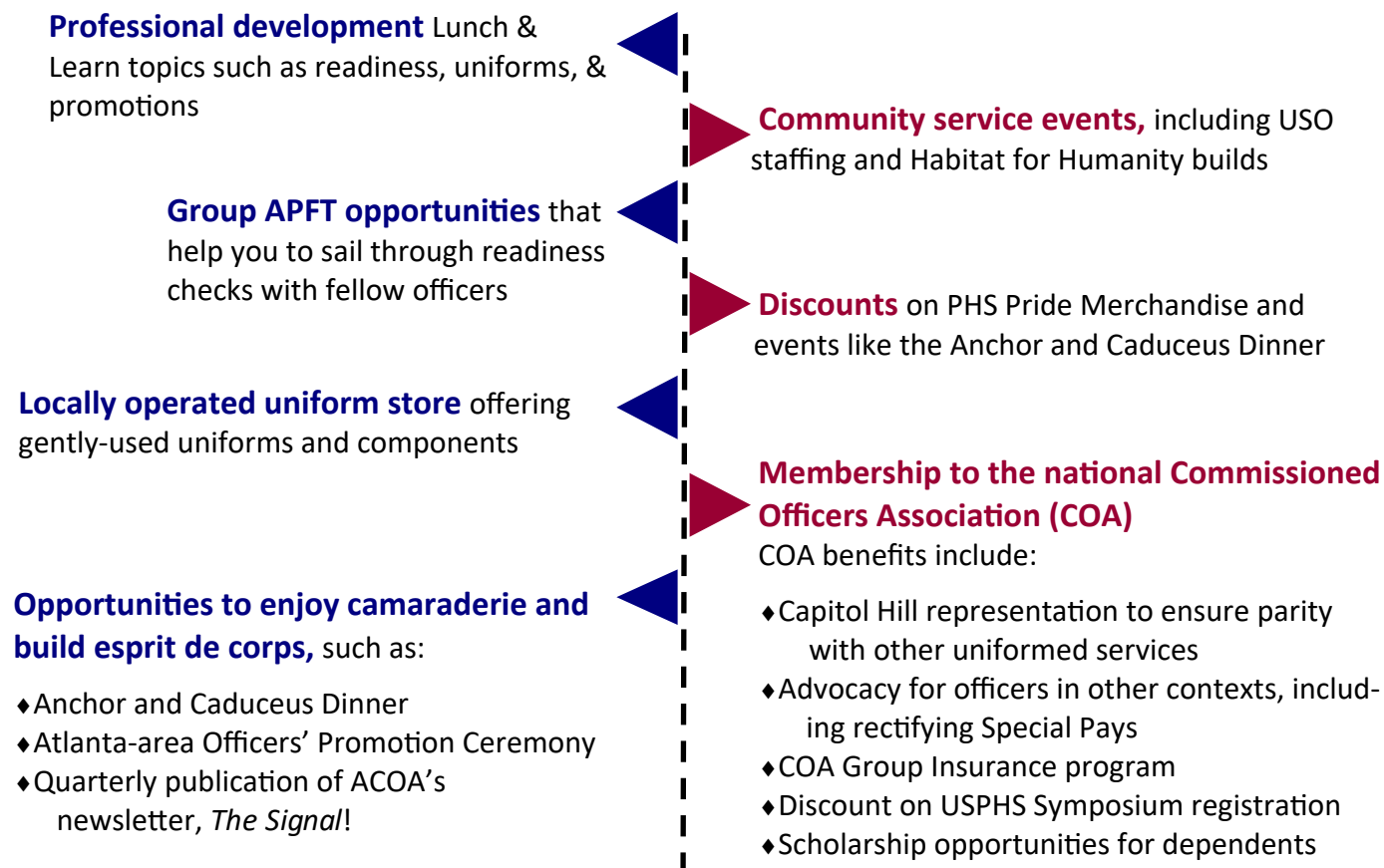
<https://www.publichealth.org/online-degrees/georgia>

ACOA Membership Information

ABOUT

The mission of the Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association (ACOA) is to offer opportunities to Atlanta-area officers to give back locally to the community, to enjoy camaraderie, and to build esprit de corps.

WHY JOIN?



HOW TO JOIN

An officer must be a member of our parent organization, the Commissioned Officers Association (COA). To become a member of the national organization, officers must complete the COA membership application available on the COA membership page at www.coausphs.org/membership/join-or-renew. When prompted, insert "Atlanta" as the name

Now Introducing our Newest ACOA Merchandise Item

The Black Leather Padfolio

These are perfect for taking to interviews, conferences, and presentations.

Sleek and professional

ACOA Members: \$30
Non-ACOA Members: \$34

Embossed with the PHS logo
(3½" W)

9 ½" (W)
x
12 ½" (H)
x
3/4" (D)

Order this and other PHS pride merchandise by visiting

<http://www.atlantacoa.com/uniform-store>

Our ACOA Merchandise Item

The PHS Ball Cap

A non-official, leisure-wear PHS ball cap, for Officers and Officers' Friends and Family.

One size fits all!

Navy blue with gold lettering

Price: \$16

Back Detail: Lettering and Velcro Strap

Order this and other PHS pride merchandise by visiting

<http://www.atlantacoa.com/uniform-store>

ACOA Uniform Store

Need a new pair of Oxfords? How about an extra cover? Are you between sizes and need a little more/less room in those pants?

Use the ACOA Uniform Store for your USPHS uniform needs!

BUY

The ACOA Uniform Store sells gently-used uniform components at 50% off Navy NEX prices. There is no actual storefront, but pop-up events are held throughout the year. Pop-up dates will be posted to the ACOA Facebook page. If you need items before the next pop-up, please email our volunteer Uniform Store Coordinators!

DONATE

What do you do with uniform items you no longer wear? Donate them to the ACOA Uniform Store! Reach out to the Uniform Store Coordinators to arrange a drop.

ACOA UNIFORM STORE

Women's Uniform Store (acoawomensuniforms@gmail.com):

LT Angela Coulliette Salmond

LT Sandra Miller

LT Amy Schuh

LT Regina Sullivan McCollum

Men's Uniform Store (acoamensuniforms@gmail.com):

LCDR Aaron Grober

LT Brad Goodwin

For ACOA Uniform Store policies, inventory, and FAQs, check out the web-site: <http://www.atlantacoa.com/uniform-store>

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Professional Development Subcommittee has a general need for volunteers for the following:



APFT CADRE

Officers proctor group or individual APFTs for ACOA members



LUNCH & LEARN SUBCOMMITTEE

Officers help identify topics and speakers, reserve rooms, pick up food or supplies, and assist with set-up and clean-up.



OFFICER PORTRAIT SESSION SUBCOMMITTEE

Officers help schedule portrait sessions and escort non-CDC officers to and from the portrait studio.

**Please send your area of interest to
LCDR Rachel Cook (Rachael.Cook@fda.hhs.gov) and
LT Bradley Goodwin (yln5@cdc.gov)**