



09 December 2009

Fellow Officers:

The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps continues to support inter-service, interagency Health Diplomacy initiatives by participating in missions designed to increase the operational capacity of U.S. Government personnel to deliver humanitarian assistance, perform public health assessments, conduct public health infrastructure repair, and provide health care training of indigenous health care workers. In this regard, the USPHS Commissioned Corps has been specifically requested to participate, along with our uniformed colleagues in the Department of Defense (DOD), in two shipboard missions and a riverine-based mission in 2010 which will further these goals.

Pacific Partnership 2010 (PP10) is a U.S. Navy ship-based training mission scheduled to begin in early May and run through August of 2010. PP10 will utilize the hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH-19) which will conduct direct care and public health missions in the Western Pacific.

Continuing Promise 2010 (CP10) is a U.S. Navy ship-based training mission scheduled to begin in July and run through November 2010. CP10 will utilize a U.S. Navy amphibious ship (TBD) and conduct direct care and public health missions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

OFRD will be embarking roughly fifty officers per mission, divided amongst three rotations for PP10 and four rotations for CP10. Officers required for actual mission execution will include those from most categories across the Commissioned Corps.

Peru Riverine Medical Readiness and Training Exercise (MEDRETE) is a training exercise with the U.S. Air Force and host nation personnel, to provide direct patient care and public health and preventative medicine activities. Roughly ten USPHS officers will be embarked along with Peruvian military medical personnel on two Peruvian Navy vessels and provide humanitarian assistance operations along the Amazon River over two weeks. U.S. Air Force personnel will provide logistical, communications and security support for the mission.

The following are specifics outlining each of these three missions and the need for Commissioned Corps officers:

-- Pacific Partnership 2010 (PP10) --

Dates (Duration): Team 1 – Guam: 23 May - Singapore 6 Jul (44 days)
Tentative Team 2 – Singapore 6 Jul - Darwin 8 Aug (34 days)
Team 3 – Darwin 8 Aug - Guam 2 Sep (25 days)

Mission Locations: Team 1 – Vietnam and Cambodia
Team 2 – Indonesia
Team 3 – Timor Leste

Travel: TBD

Billeting: Ship-board USNS Mercy

Roles: An officer-in-charge (OIC) will be required for the duration of the mission (~120 days); otherwise, the following roles are required per Team:

- 2 Primary care Physicians
- 2 Family Nurse Practitioners / Physician Assistants
- 1 Preventive Medicine MD/DO
- 1 Environmental Engineer (CEC)
- 1 Environmental Health Officer
- 1 Community Health Nurse – Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)
- 1 Dentist
- 1 Dental Hygienist
- 1 Pharmacist
- 1 Medical Planner/Admin
- 1 Epidemiologist – SMEE
- 1 Entomologist
- 1 Industrial Hygienist
- 1 Veterinarian

Number of officers: Total 49 (one OIC plus 16 officers per Team)

-- Continuing Promise 2010 (CP10) --

Dates (Duration): 19 July to 7 November
Tentative Rotation dates of four (4) separate teams TBD (~30 days per team)

Locations: Exact team rotations TBD, divided amongst the following countries:

Haiti	Nicaragua
Columbia	Panama
Costa Rica	Guyana
Guatemala	Suriname

Travel: TBD

Billeting: Ship-board U.S. Navy amphibious ship TBD (LHA/LHD class)

Roles: An officer-in-charge (OIC) will be required for the duration of the mission (~120 days); otherwise, the following roles are required per Team:

- 2 Primary care Physicians
- 2 Family Nurse Practitioners / Physician Assistants
- 1 Preventive Medicine MD/DO
- 1 Environmental Engineer (CEC)
- 1 Environmental Health Officer
- 1 Community Health Nurse – Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE)
- 1 Dentist
- 1 Dental Hygienist
- 1 Pharmacist
- 1 Medical Planner/Admin
- 1 Epidemiologist – SMEE
- 1 Entomologist
- 1 Industrial Hygienist
- 1 Veterinarian

Number of officers: Total 65 (one OIC plus 16 officers per Team)

-- Peru Riverine MEDRETE --

Dates (Duration): 20 March to 03 April (two weeks)

Location: Amazon River, embarking in Iquitos, Peru

Travel: TBD

Billeting: Onboard riverine vessels of the Peruvian Navy

Roles: The OIC for this mission has already been identified; otherwise, the following (tentative) roles are required:

- 1 Internal Medicine/Family Practice Physician
- 1 Dermatologist
- 1 Ophthalmologist
- 1 Dentist
- 1 Dental Hygienist
- 1 Family Physician or OB/GYN (Women's health)
- 1 Environmental Health Officer
- 1 Pharmacist

Number of officers to be identified: Eight (8), limited by berthing and stowage capacity of boats

Language skills: Spanish-speaking officers are being sought, given the very limited availability of translators for the mission.

Requirements concerning all three missions:

Officers must be Basic qualified, have no current or pending adverse actions, receive Supervisor/Agency concurrence, possess an official (maroon) U.S. passport, possess a government credit card, possess at least two sets of BDUs, and receive CPO concurrence (OFRD will obtain CPO concurrence). OFRD may be able to provide assistance in acquiring passports for qualified officers who do not currently have an official (maroon) U.S. passport; those without official government passports are encouraged to submit their names for consideration for these missions. Commissioned Corps officers are expected to possess those uniforms listed as required in Corps regulations. Additional uniform requirements (such as wear of the coverall uniform on U.S. Navy shipboard missions), minimum quantity of each uniform type to include in your seabag, and any other mission requirements will be provided in detail when available.

OFRD will cover the travel, lodging and per diem expenses for officers participating in these missions. (officers billeted on U.S. Navy ships during PP10 and CP10 will need to turn over a proportionate amount of their subsistence pay to the ship)

If you are interested in participating in any of these missions, please forward your name, CV, a recent full-length photo of yourself in uniform and a statement of interest as well as all pertinent information (including official passport status, preferred mission/role, and government credit card status) to LCDR Andrei Nabakowski in OFRD International Operations at Andrei.Nabakowski@hhs.gov.

OFRD will make the final decision regarding which officers will participate on these training deployments.

Thank you for your support of these inter-service, interagency health diplomacy missions.



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