



AIR FORCE ROLE

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

A As a public health officer you'll help prevent disease, disability and premature death through effective public health programs. You'll conduct epidemiologic surveillance and analyze communicable, environmental and occupational diseases to establish and prioritize prevention and control strategies. A public health officer manages food safety programs, preventive medicine programs and responds to disaster situations. You'll conduct consultations in infection control, health promotions and medical readiness programs. During wartime contingencies, you'll lead preventive actions to reduce the impact endemic diseases, dangerous plants, animals and climate have on Air Force personnel. You'll direct patient decontamination in the event of exposure to hazardous substances.

ASSIGNMENTS/TRAVEL

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

A 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. Although most assignments are located in the continental United States, you'll 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 and usually



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 U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) 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 USAFSAM. 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.

GREAT BENEFITS!

Q What are some benefits the Air Force offers?

A As an Air Force officer, you'll receive a competitive salary and benefits package that includes:

- Pay increases with your rank and time in service

- Tax-free housing and food allowances
- Comprehensive health and dental care
- Low-cost life insurance
- No loss of seniority when moving to other hospitals or clinics
- 30 days of vacation with pay each year—beginning the very first year

QUALIFICATIONS/ CREDENTIALS

Q What credentials do I need to qualify?

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Q Where can I get more information about becoming an Air Force public health officer?

A Contact an Air Force health professions recruiter for details or call 1-800-423-USAF for more information. Also, visit our web site at AIRFORCE.COM.



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