

Invisible Corps

In Officio Salutis

In Service of Health

Who protects and promotes the health of the citizens of the United States?

Narrated by Ali MacGraw, this one-hour PBS documentary covers the history and evolution of the Public Health Service and the PHS Commissioned Corps. It explores the politicization of public health and the potential for change that will affect the nations' health for years to come.

“When you think of some of the most difficult, challenging tragedies or public health challenges that we've experienced over the last several decades, these are the folks who've been there from the start: after 9/11, after hurricanes, after Sandy, after Deepwater Horizon or the Boston Marathon bombing.”

President Barack Obama, Sept. 2015

“Commissioned Corps officers were the only United States Government asset to provide direct patient care to health care workers with Ebola in West Africa.”

President Barack Obama, Presidential Citation, Sept. 2015

While the uniformed services of the United States include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the **Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service is the only uniformed service in the world dedicated to public health**. The Commissioned Corps first guiding principal is to ***“protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation”***.

Although invisible, they touch millions of lives every day: from fluoridated drinking water to an America free of malaria. The PHS CC cared for veterans before there was a Department of Veterans Affairs and worked on water and air pollution before there was an Earth Day.

Well over 100 years ago, the Commissioned Corps began as a health care agent but soon added public health to its focus.

“What we want to do, in the words of Ben Franklin, is to give you an ounce of prevention to save us from having to provide a pound of cure on the back end. That is public health. It's giving you complete streets, and access to fresh fruits and vegetables, so you don't get diabetes in the first place.”

20th U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, Aug. 2022

The PHS Commissioned Corps has 11 professional categories; physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, engineers, environmental health officers, dietitians, therapists, pharmacists and health services officers in 800 locations across the US and around the world. They work in over 20 federal agencies from the Indian Health Service to the National Park Service and Federal Bureau of Prisons. They are the link through our governmental health agencies.

“I think that they are the thread that transcends these different agencies, not just FDA, but when you look at CDC, NIH, the other operational components of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Corps officers play a really foundational role”

Former FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb, Sept. 2022

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APPROACH: UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE VALUE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

The pandemic has accentuated divides in our country, especially regarding belief in science and healthcare professionals. **It is crucial to un-politicize public health and to understand how it works and what will ultimately create a healthy country.** Over the past several decades, the PHS CC has been altered in ways that defeat its purpose and have affected our nations' health. The pandemic is a frightening example of the need for the PHS CC.

Interviews for the program include **four former Surgeons General, the current Surgeon General** along with excerpts from past Presidents as well as "boots on the ground" retired Commissioned Corps officers and administrators. Viewers will learn how officers throughout history have saved millions of American lives up to and through the current pandemic.

This project will help Americans understand the USPHS Commissioned Corps' role in health care, research, regulation and disaster relief. We will explain how this Corps currently works throughout ALL of our governmental health care agencies, with American Indians and Alaskan Natives in the Indian Health Service and even the national park and federal prison systems. Our Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is positioned to be the connection and leader for the nations' health for decades to come.

RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTION

The program will be released in May 2023 and will be made available to every PBS station throughout the country via presenting station KNME. The film will also be placed in a variety of targeted film festivals and screened at Universities and health organizations across the country along with Q&A panels. Additionally, the program will be divided into small segments for social media and classroom use. The full interviews will be made available to educational institutions nationwide.

CHRISTOPHER PRODUCTIONS LLC

Christopher Productions, LLC most recent project: **Vaccination from the Misinformation Virus** reached over 50% of the PBS national market. Focusing on educational and social issues, CP has created over 100 television programs in the past 25 years. Clients have included the United Nations, the National Institute of Mental Health, the PBS network, the CBS Network Foundation as well as networks and governments worldwide. Honors include: The Grand Award, Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards at the New York Festivals; Two International Iris Awards; The National Education Association Award for the Advancement of Learning through Broadcasting; Two CBS network awards for Excellence in Community Service; Two Service to Children's Television Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters and The Parents' Choice Award.

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