

# Commissioned Corps Awards

## Overview

- The purpose of the Commissioned Officer's Awards Program, established in 1961, is to: (a) recognize officers for outstanding achievement or service; (b) encourage maximum performance; and (c) improve esprit de corps among officers.
- There are several different award types including: Honor Awards, Unit Awards, and Service Awards. Commissioned Corps officers are not eligible for cash awards. Factors to consider when selecting an appropriate award level include: (a) scope of impact; (b) magnitude of achievement; (c) leadership; (d) length of time; and (e) valor. More details on each of these factors as well as a description of each USPHS award available can be found at: [http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF\\_docs/CCPM\\_P67.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF_docs/CCPM_P67.pdf).
- Updated official guidance on the Awards Program was disseminated 8/6/2007: [http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM27\\_1\\_1.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM27_1_1.pdf). This updated guidance described three types of deployment service awards – the Response Service Award (RSA), the Crisis Response Service Award (CRSA), and the Global Response Service Award (GRSA).
- Award nominations may be prepared by an officer's supervisor. Officers are also encouraged to be proactive in obtaining awards given that awards play an important role in promotions and reflect career development. Officers can request that their outstanding performance in a specific project or completed task be considered for an award.
- Nominations procedures include a correctly completed PHS 6342-1 ([http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF\\_docs/PHS-6342-1.PDF](http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF_docs/PHS-6342-1.PDF)) for Unit Honor Awards, or 6342-2 ([http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF\\_docs/PHS-6342-2.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF_docs/PHS-6342-2.pdf)) for Individual Honor Awards. Nominations must also include a correctly formatted narrative of no more than two pages. Nominations must be formally initiated within 13 months after the specific period of service to be recognized. Check your Agency for guidance on how to write a successful award nomination.
- Award ribbons are worn on the left breast of an appropriate uniform in a specified order. Photos of PHS ribbons, in order of precedence, can be found at: <http://coa.spsp.net/webpage/uniforms/ribbons.html>. In addition, a website has been developed to help officers "build their rack" or determine the proper order of earned award ribbons: <http://www.armyawards.com/phsawards.shtml>
- Award ribbons can be purchased from the PHS Officers Device Supply Center: [http://bphc.hrsa.gov/nhdp/PHS\\_Officers\\_Device\\_Supply\\_Center\\_Main\\_Page.htm](http://bphc.hrsa.gov/nhdp/PHS_Officers_Device_Supply_Center_Main_Page.htm)

## **Additional Resources**

N-PAC Awards Subcommittee

<http://phs-nurse.org/awards-sub-committee>