



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

October 14, 2004

Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201

TO: All Commissioned Corps Officers

FROM: Acting Assistant Secretary for Health
Surgeon General

SUBJECT: Readiness Status of the Corps

This is the sixth status report related to Commissioned Corps readiness. We are reporting to you the results of our recent efforts to increase the number of officers that are available to deploy. As of October 1, 2004, 3,008 officers met basic readiness standards. That is 50.09% of the Active Duty Corps. We are pleased to report that in the Office of Public Health and Science, the following flag officers meet Basic Readiness standards: the Surgeon General, the Chief of Staff, the Deputy Surgeon General, the Director, Office of Force Readiness and Deployment, the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, and the Special Assistant to the Secretary for Transformation.

Many of you are very close to meeting the readiness requirement. In fact, 169 of you lack only a single requirement to meet basic readiness. With those officers added to our readiness role, we would be at 53 percent and climbing. This is very encouraging. As of today, 2,254 officers have enrolled in the President's Challenge program at <http://www.presidentschallenge.org>. This is even more encouraging, as this represents a huge pool of officers that are almost ready. In mid-August, 794 officers were enrolled in the President's Challenge program, so it's easy to conclude that almost 1,500 officers have enrolled in the interim, and will soon be nearing completion of the six week program participation requirement. When those officers complete their readiness requirements, we will indeed be well on our way to Corps-wide readiness.

For those of you who are up for promotion in PY 2005, you have just 11 weeks before the end of the year. Keep in mind that you must meet basic readiness requirements before that time to receive scoring for readiness for promotion. Don't delay. In addition to the time requirements of the President's Challenge program, some other requirements cannot be met overnight. Physical exams must be scheduled and completed, immunizations or titers completed, a BLS course must be scheduled and completed, and the 12 training modules finished.

For those of you who do not meet readiness standards and who are not up for promotion, we invite you to get ready now with your fellow officers. Get ready because your country needs you to be ready. Get ready because it's the right thing to do.

To 3,008 of you, we thank you for accepting this challenge and this responsibility. To 2,997 of you who are working toward Basic readiness, keep moving forward. To all of you who have shown leadership in meeting the standards yourself, and then assisting others in their efforts, we owe you particular appreciation. The magnitude of the recent responses in Florida presented significant challenges for us, but the day may come when every single one of us will need to be ready to respond to more significant challenges. Let's be ready - all of us together as we aggressively pursue "One Department, One Corps."

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