



**CDR James Gooch, MPH, REHS/RS**

**Board Position: Environmental Health Representative**

CDR James Gooch serves as the Environmental Health Representative on the COA Board of Directors and is the current Chair Elect for the Executive Board.

CDR Gooch serves as a Senior Emergency Coordinator for the Natural Hazards Team in the Office of Emergency Management at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other roles he has fulfilled include HHS Deputy Field Coordinator and Direct Assistance for US Virgin Islands Hurricane Recovery, 2017-2019: Served as Deputy Field Coordinator, Public Health Branch Chief, and CDC Liaison under ASPR Region 2 Field Coordinator with the Recovery Support Function for Health and Social Services at the FEMA Joint Field Office in U.S. Virgin Islands for the recovery from the 2017 hurricanes Irma & Maria.

CDR Gooch has enjoyed being active with COA. He served as Branch President for the Caribbean COA Branch. He was active in organizing activities with the Atlanta Branch such as: Anchor and Caduceus Dinner, Coordinator, 2016-2018 Retirement for RADM Clara Cobb, Old Glory Ceremony, and 2016 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Fun Factory Service Project. LCDR Gooch is well recognized for his officership and has received the USPHS Outstanding Service Medal 2020 USPHS Achievement Medal 2016 Covid-19 Pandemic Campaign Medal, USPHS Unit Commendation (8), USPHS Outstanding Unit Citation (2) and more.

CDR Gooch is eager to continue his work with COA to support of COA's advocacy, education, development, historic preservation, and research for active duty and retired officers.