



SOCIAL SECURITY
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy

August 26, 2014

Colonel James T. Currie (Ret.)
Executive Director
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 200
Landover, MD 20785

Dear Colonel Currie:

Thank you for your July 29, 2014 letter regarding military service wage credits for commissioned officers of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS). I am responding on behalf of Acting Commissioner Colvin because my component administers the provision for crediting military service wages. You asked whether PHS officers are entitled to military service wage credits. We consider commissioned officers of the PHS as members of the U.S. military; therefore, PHS officers are entitled to the military wage credit provisions in the same manner as members of the military.

Section 210(m) of the Social Security Act and Title 20, Section 404.1330 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) clarify that a member of the uniformed services includes commissioned officers of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the PHS. We explain our rules for providing wage credits to members of the uniformed services in 20 CFR 404.1341.

We apologize for the difficulty you experienced in receiving the information on military service wage credits. Furthermore, we thank you and all of the PHS officers for your service.

I hope this information is helpful. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me, or your staff may contact Nancy J. Martinez, our Associate Commissioner for Income Security Programs, at (410) 966-0607.

Sincerely,

Marianna LaCanfora
Acting Deputy Commissioner