



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. CDR 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 for active duty, Ready Reserve, and retired officers in support of COA's mission.

Position Statement

CDR James Gooch, MPH, REHS/RS

Board Position: Environmental Health Officer (Applicant for 2024-2027)

Thank you for the consideration of my application as a candidate for the environmental health officer representative to the COA's National Board of Directors. As the EHO Representative from 2021-2023 and Chair of the board for 2023-2024, I'm seeking re-election to serve a second term to continue my support to COA and my fellow PHS officers. Since joining the CCUSPHS in 2013, I have come to appreciate COA in different ways over the course of my career. Early on, I was grateful for the COA events. I invested my time to improve these events and developing standard protocols, training evaluation, and professional quality of activities with the EHOPAC, Atlanta COA, and USPHS Ensemble. As I enter the middle of my career, I'm now appreciating even more the great work COA does behind the scenes with advocating and advancing the interests of the CCUSPHS. I can now intimately attest to this effort too following my first term on the board. It's an intricate balance COA maintains with advocating for issues while maintaining strong engagement with key stakeholders. I'm incredibly proud of the larger COA's accomplishments over this time as well. However, those are very much due to the fantastic CDC volunteers and staff. As I have discovered in my first tenure, the board is very much about providing standing to officers, supporting the strategic planning of COA, retaining talent, and keeping the lights on. This upstream and high-level approach appeals to me. I naturally work in this space and have felt my contributions have been helpful in the development of the recent COA strategic plan, targeted COA initiatives, and problem solving the sticky issues. As I stated in 2021 when I applied to join the board, I think COA is a remarkable organization. If re-elected, I would be honored to continue this support at the national COA. My focus of second term would be on increasing our membership, enhancing our engagement with members and branches, maintaining a healthy balance with PHS-CCHQ, and exploring beneficial legislative opportunities for USPHS. Thank you for the consideration of my candidacy.

CDR James Gooch

