



**COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**



CAPT Kurt Kesteloot, MSE, MPH, PE, BCEE, CPH, ENV, SP

Board Position: Engineer Representative

CAPT Kurt Kesteloot currently serves as the Engineer Representative on the COA Board of Directors, where he holds the position of Chair and has previously co-chaired the Awards Committee.

With the National Park Service (NPS) since 2010, he is now the branch chief for the Field Services Branch (FSB), providing technical assistance to 62 national park units across 13 states. His role involves assessing water and wastewater facilities, conducting design reviews, and addressing food safety and various public health issues. CAPT Kesteloot manages the eastern U.S. program, overseeing four USPHS officers and serving as the go-to for engineering inquiries in the NPS Office of Health and Safety FSB. He received his USPHS commission in 2004, serving with the Indian Health Service on the Navajo Nation until 2010. Prior to commissioning with the USPHS he was enlisted and an officer in the MN Army National Guard.

CAPT Kesteloot has earned several accolades, including two Outstanding Service Medals, a Commendation Medal, and five Achievement Medals. He has been recognized as USPHS Engineer of the Year, NPS Engineer of the Year, and received the EPAC RADM John C. Villforth Leadership Award, along with the Society of American Military Engineers Green Medal and the Ian K. Burgess Outstanding Young PHS Commissioned Corps Engineer of the Year award.

Position Statement

CAPT Kurt Kesteloot, MSE, MPH, PE, BCEE, CPH, ENV, SP

Board Position: Engineer Officer (Applicant for 2024-2027)

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Directors for the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) for the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). I enjoyed working with the outreach committee and the awards committee to help inspire officers to join COA for all of the great benefits and help recognize the amazing work done by COA members. I have close to 24 years of service including my prior service time in the Minnesota Army National Guard. I think it is important that USPHS officers receive the same benefits as members of the military services. I appreciate the great work by COA to help USPHS officers receive similar benefits as military service members and would be honored to continue to serve on the COA board to help serve that mission.

I have enjoyed working with the fellow officers to help explain the great work done by COA. I also have attended a few meetings with MOAA to make sure they understand the great work done by COA. I enjoy attending the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, getting professional development hours, meeting with new and old USPHS officer colleagues, and working with vendors. I believe we need to have USPHS officers recognized by United Service Organizations (USO). I have been turned away and do not feel our officers should be treated this way. USPHS officers serve alongside military members and have to make similar sacrifices. Considering my experience serving as the Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) chair in 2017 and many other years of leading committees and leadership positions with EPAC, National Park Service, COA, NSF, etc., I feel well prepared to help and continue to serve on the COA boards of directors.

Having a Masters degree in Public Health and Engineer, helps me understand the connection and importance of engineers in the USPHS. Additionally, my Senior Executive Fellows (SEF) training completed at Harvard in 2019 provided a great knowledge to help serve on the COA board. The SEF executive certificate provides training on: Leading Change, Leading People, Results Driven, Business Acumen, and Building Coalitions which are required to serve as a leader in the federal government. I feel prepared and would be grateful to represent USPHS engineers on the COA Board of Directors with Awards, Outreach, or any necessary subcommittee. I'm also interested in serving as chair.

Very Respectfully, CAPT Kurt Kesteloot