

CAPT (Ret) Alan Echt, USPHS, commissioned as a lieutenant on 4 August 1990 and retired on 1 August 2020 after 30 years of service. Prior to joining the Public Health Service, he worked as an industrial hygienist at the BP Oil Company's Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania refinery, the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and the North Carolina Department of Labor/OSHA. CAPT Echt earned a BS in psychobiology in 1981 from the University of California at Riverside, an MPH in industrial hygiene from the University of Michigan in 1985, and a DrPH from the University of Kentucky in 2012. He has been a Certified Industrial Hygienist since 1989 and has more than 35 years of experience in a variety of industries.

An Environmental Health Officer, CAPT (Ret) Echt spent his entire USPHS career at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Cincinnati, Ohio. In his last position, he was a senior research industrial hygienist with the NIOSH Office of Construction Safety and Health. CAPT (Ret) Echt's previous positions at NIOSH included more than 20 years working as a research industrial hygienist in the Engineering and Physical Hazards Branch and six years as an industrial hygienist in the Hazard Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch. His research at NIOSH focused on silica dust control in the construction industry, which contributed to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's regulation of respirable crystalline silica in construction.

CAPT (Ret) Echt's awards include the USPHS Outstanding Service Medal, the Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee's Moran and Todd awards, and the Commissioned Officers Association's (COA) Brutsche award.

CAPT (Ret) Echt served on the COA Legislation and Benefits committee for several years and recently rejoined that committee, renamed Legislative Affairs. He has worked on advocacy efforts for Commissioned Corps parity, including expanding Ohio's Armed Forces retired pay income tax exemption to include all eight Uniformed Services, Ohio military license plates that recognize the Commissioned Corps, Post 9/11 GI Bill transferability, and including the Commissioned Corps in military whistleblower protection.

CAPT (Ret) Echt and his wife Lisa Cope live in Mason, Ohio with two cats. They have three children, Daniel, a veterinarian; Joseph, an engineer; and Hannah, an industrial hygienist.