

James Gooch, MPH

Environmental Health Officer Representative

LCDR James Gooch is a Senior Emergency Manager at the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health. He provides expertise to jurisdictions on how to reduce the public health impacts from natural disasters.

LCDR Gooch joined the Commissioned Officer Association (COA) Board of Directors in 2021 as the environmental health officer representative. He has previously served as Caribbean COA Branch President, member of the Atlanta COA Branch, and member of numerous committees with the Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee.

LCDR Gooch has over twenty years of experience in the federal and nonprofit sectors. At the federal level, he has recently completed a three-year term assignment in the US Virgin Islands to provide technical assistance with public health recovery following the 2017 hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic response. He has served as technical project officer overseeing community engagement and health assessments under cooperative agreements with Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Massachusetts and Connecticut. He has deployed in support of nine public health emergencies for a total of 89 weeks. In addition, he has also served as regional representative in Region 4 to address community concerns around environmental contamination. Prior to his call to duty in 2013, LCDR Gooch was an environmental emergency responder for the Environmental Protection Agency. In this role, he served as a hazmat responder, designed decontamination and industrial hygiene trainings for EPA on scene coordinators, conducted site assessments, and supported bioterrorism preparedness. At the nonprofit level, LCDR has served as a community organizer and as a scientist for over ten years - conducting citizen science projects in over 30 environmental justice communities across the US to adjudicate environmental health impacts using community based participatory research.

LCDR Gooch earned a Master of Public Health in Global Environmental Health from Emory University and Baccalaureate of Arts in Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development from Rollins College.