



PHERS+ Public Health Emergency Response Strike Team



CAPT Wanza Bacon | CAPT Tonjus Mason | CDR Stephanie Felder | CDR Akara Ingram | CDR Kans Lewis | LCDR Daveta Bailey | LCDR Jamillah Bynum | LCDR Jason Harris | LT Mirabelle Adamu | LT Danielle Eustace | LT Tessa Fletcher | LT Nikia-Jones-Shaw | LT Christine Nappa | LT Johnny Nwankwo | LT Jamla Rizek | LT Erica Stoll | LT Dorcas Yoder | LT Helen Young

WHAT IS PHERST?

The Public Health Emergency Response Strike Team (PHERST) is composed of a small, **highly skilled**, select cadre of full-time active duty United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps officers.

PHERST officers are **trained, prepared, and ready** to immediately respond and assess critical requirements in emergent situations such as outbreaks, domestic events, and natural disasters.

PHERST ensures the Corps has resources to meet its mission for **regional, national, and global public health emergency responses** and ensures the Corps can rapidly respond to urgent and emergent public health operations with highly trained professional staff.

PHERST provides **reduced response time**, minimizes stress on the system, and allows officers to get ahead of the disaster. If needed, PHERST officers deploy for extended durations; thereby ensuring **continuity of care** and minimizing information loss that occurs during the rotation of personnel during a deployment.

TEAM COMPOSITION

- Advanced Practice Clinicians (ARNP, MD, PA)
- Behavioral Health Officers (LCSW, Psychologist)
- Environmental Health Officers
- Nurses
- Pharmacists

TYPES OF DEPLOYMENTS

- Domestic and international operations
- Humanitarian assistance
- Disaster relief
- Emergency response
- Global training

TYPES OF MISSIONS

- COVID-19 response
- Afghanistan repatriation
- Hurricane response
- Unaccompanied children

In recent years, emergency management response demands have expanded considerably. Between 2013 and 2020, greater than 47% of Corps officers deployed to support 154 different missions. The Corps has deployed over two-thirds of its officers in support of COVID-19, the highest historic deployment of officers to date. As the U.S. continues to experience natural disasters and other emergencies, and risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic or intentional threat, the Corps must engage in new strategies to better protect the Nation.

MOTTO

“Semper Primus”

MISSION

To rapidly deploy resilient, prepared, and highly skilled public health professionals committed to empowering and aiding in stabilization of communities in their time of public health need.

VISION

PHERST will serve as the Nation's premiere rapidly deployable health and safety teams for all Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) sponsored deployment requests.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Life, Safety, and Health for All Responders

Restoration and Stabilization of Community Essential Public Health Functions

Operational Communication and Coordination with All Response and Recovery Stakeholders

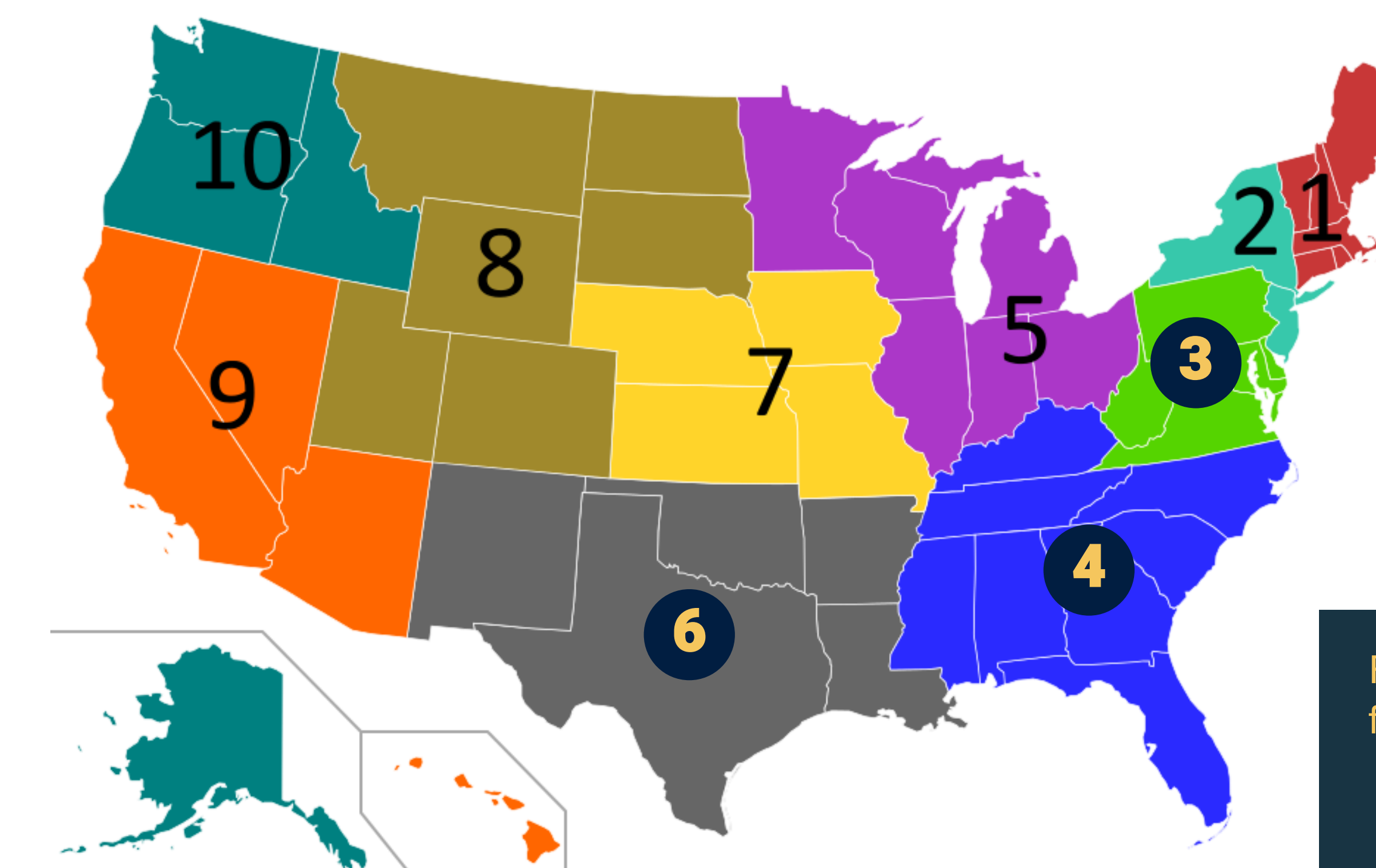
WHEN NOT DEPLOYED

PHERST officers train, maintain their skills, and may fill short-term staffing gaps in priority agencies in the areas of greatest need providing public health and direct clinical care to underserved and vulnerable populations, including Indian Health Service (IHS), Bureau of Prisons (BOP), or Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties (FCBC)
- Hospital Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Incidents (HM-CBRNE)
- Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)
- Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties (MCBC)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training Program—Intermediate Incident Command Structure (ICS) for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)

REGIONS



Recruitment is ongoing for PHERST Officers in Regions 3, 6, and 4, respectively.