



National Security Career Pathway: Guide for a Career in Global Health Security

OVERVIEW

The Global Health Security (GHS) career track is one of five distinct national security career tracks for junior, mid-level, and senior office U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps officers interested in working at the intersection of national security and global public health. The GHS career track is for USPHS officers who want to lead and support transnational initiatives; collaborate with countries, agencies, and organizations; and use a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to protect and promote health. The other four national security career tracks are: Research and Policy, Preparedness and Response, Compliance, and Fundamentals. All five career tracks are aligned with the [National Security Strategy](#) (2022) and the [National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan](#) (2022).

The GHS track is influenced by the [Global Health Security Agenda \(GHSA\)](#), a global effort to strengthen the world's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats and achieve the core capacities of the [International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#).

IS A CAREER IN GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY RIGHT FOR YOU?

- 1 Discuss the Global Health Security career track with your supervisor and establish a professional development plan.
- 2 Complete learning and development opportunities to strengthen your competencies and skills.
- 3 Engage with professional organizations to expand your professional networks and support your career progression.
- 4 Participate in Global Health Security work groups, seminars, mentorship, and deployments.
- 5 Apply for Global Health Security-related fellowships, details, job shadowing opportunities, and job vacancy announcements.

OVERVIEW OF COMPETENCIES

In addition to the four U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps foundational competencies—Officership, Deployment, Specialty Skills, and Leadership—the Global Health Security career track is designed to equip officers with cross-cutting, global health security-specific competencies and transferable skills necessary to prevent and respond to the next global threat. These competencies are informed by the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management leadership competencies](#), [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#), [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services competency framework](#), [Intelligence Community Standard Core Competencies](#), [CDC's International Experience and Technical Assistance \(IETA\) program](#), and global health security subject matter experts.



- **Systems Thinking** – Analyzes facilitators and barriers affecting policies, programs, services, and research to achieve desired results.
- **Influencing** – Effectively balances negotiation and compromise to inspire, persuade, and gain the support of others.
- **Leading People** – Designs and implements strategies that maximize employee potential and leverage relationships in meeting the organization's vision, mission, and goals.



- **Political Savvy** – Maintains awareness of current events and understands the sensitive nature of cultural (e.g., regional, national, organizational), political, and policy nuances and their impact on the design and implementation of public health programs. Leverages relationships to achieve organizational goals.
- **Diplomatic Tradecraft** – Recognizes the role of the U.S. Department of State overseas and understands the structure and operations of U.S. embassies and overseas programs.



- **Ethical Oversight** – Applies public health ethics codes and laws in designing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, services, and research.
- **Ethical Reasoning** – Identifies and responds with integrity to ethical issues in diverse economic, political, and cultural contexts and promotes accountability to advise policy decisions that impact public health at local, national, and international levels.



- **Leveraging Diversity** – Fosters an inclusive environment where diversity and individual differences are valued and leveraged to achieve the vision, mission, and goals.
- **Cross-Cultural Sensitivity** – Maintains an awareness of one's behavior and considers the perspectives of others to resolve or avoid cultural issues or misinterpretations.
- **Cultural Insight** – Recognizes and actively considers other worldviews or perspectives in work products, interpersonal communications, and other interactions with colleagues and external collaborators, including arranging for interpreters to be present when necessary.



- **Communication** – Develops and implements communication strategies to convey public health messages to various audiences, including the public, technical experts, policymakers, governments, and international donors.
- **Partnership Development & Engagement** – Establishes and maintains effective relationships with various stakeholders, including governments, international donors, and local players, that may impact the success of public health interventions in global settings.
- **Public Health Sciences** – Uses evidence (data) to develop, implement, evaluate, and improve policies, programs, and services to improve health status in populations for global health impact.
- **Resource Management** – Using available financial and human resources, sets priorities, develops realistic program/project goals, and develops a plan to achieve these goals.



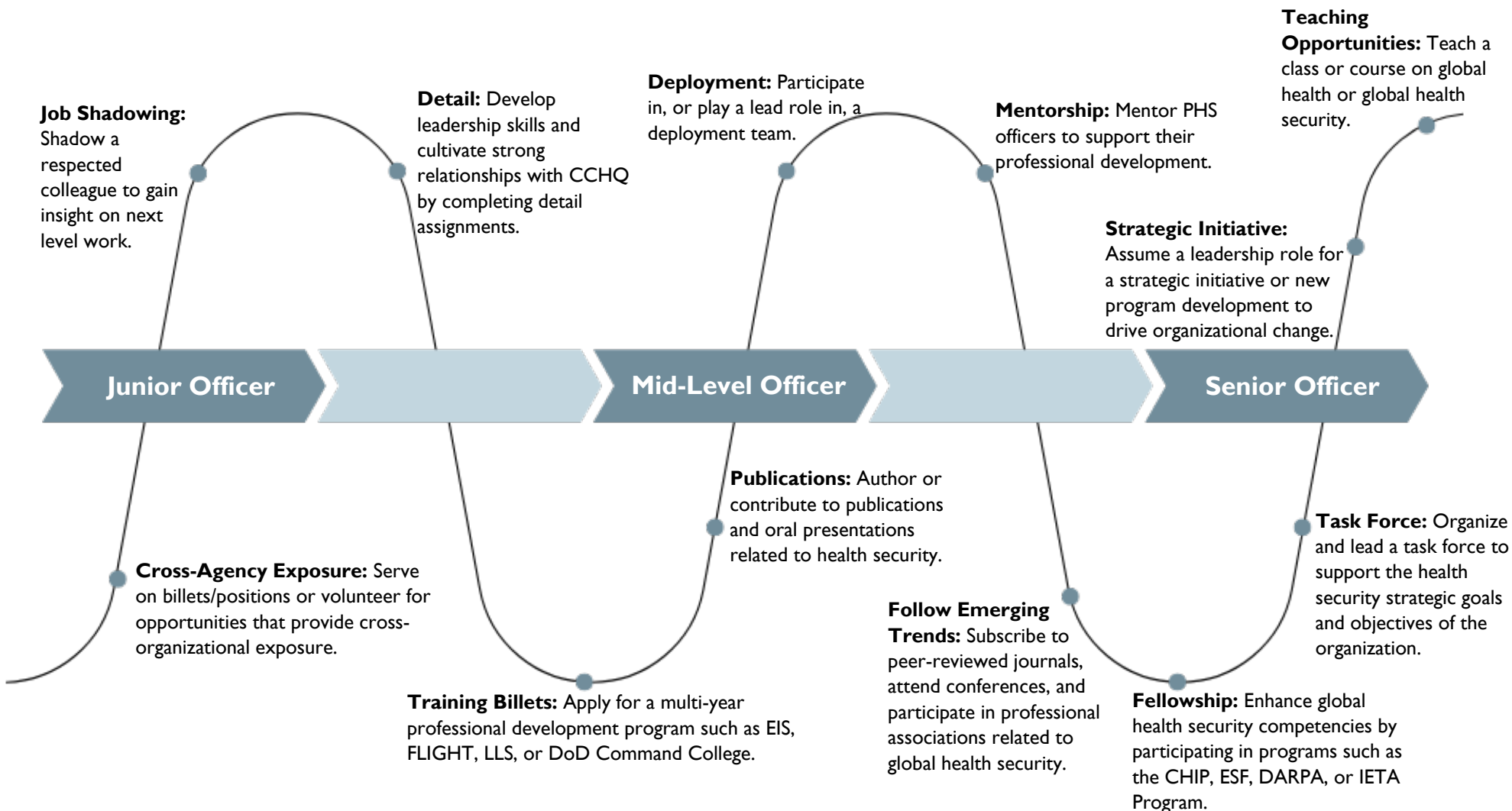
LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All learning and development opportunities listed are free or low-cost.

OPPORTUNITY	OFFICER LEVEL	COMPETENCY
FELLOWSHIPS:		
Participate in a program to enhance global health security competencies.		
International Experience and Technical Assistance (IETA) Program (CDC)	O-3 – Flag	1, 2, 4, and 5
Epidemic Intelligence Service (CDC/EIS)	O-2 – O-4	1, 4, and 5
Laboratory Leadership Service Fellow (CDC/LLS)	O-2 – O-4	1, 4, and 5
Capitol Hill Program (USPHS-Georgetown)	O-5 – Flag	5
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Fellows Program (DoD)	O-5 – Flag	5
Embassy Fellows Program (Department of State)	O-5 – Flag	5
EDUCATIONAL:		
Complete relevant courses and certificates to gain applicable knowledge.		
Bioethics Grand Rounds (NIH)	All	3 and 5
Cultural Awareness: Introduction to Cultural Competency and Humility (CDC TRAIN)	All	4
Cultural Competency Program for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response (HHS)	All	4
Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research (NIH)	All	3 and 5
Implicit Bias: The Influence of Your Unconscious Mind (CDC TRAIN)	All	1 and 4
U.S. Government Human Subjects Research International Working Group Contact IWG Executive Secretary at zgi7@cdc.gov to join	All	3
Global Health University's Certificate Programs (Unite for Sight)	O-2 – O-3	All
The Making of an Effective Diplomat: A Global View (AFSA)	O-2 – O-3	2
Fundamentals for Global Health Engagement (USUHS)	O-2 – O-4	1, 4, and 5
Global Systemic Risk, and Bats, Ducks, and Pandemics: An Introduction to One Health Policy (Princeton)	O-2 – O-4	5
Graduate Certificate in Global Health and Global Health Engagement (USUHS)	O-2 – O-4	1, 2, 4, and 5
Infrastructure Protection Certificate Program (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service)	O-2 – O-4	5
Master's degree of Strategic Studies U.S. Army War College (USAWC, CCHQ-managed opportunity for USPHS officers)	O-5 – O-6	1, 2, and 5
Global Health Strategies for Security (USUHS)	O-4 – Flag	2 and 5
Joint Humanitarian Operations Course (USAID)	O-4 – Flag	1 and 2
Global Health Diplomacy (DIPLO)	All	2
DETAIL:		
Apply for detail assignments and/or serve in an acting capacity for leadership roles to develop leadership skills and cultivate strong relationships with CCHQ.	O-4	1, 2, 4, and 5
TRAINING BILLETS:		
Apply for a multi-year professional development program.	O-2 – O-6	All

Career Development Examples

Utilize existing programs, professional advisory committees (PACs), and participate in career development opportunities to enhance the skills and competencies necessary for the Global Health Security career track.



Acronyms: EIS (Epidemic Intelligence Service – CDC), FLIGHT (Future Leaders in Infections and Global Health Threats – CDC), LLS (Laboratory Leadership Service Fellow – CDC), LECC (Law Enforcement Command College – DoD), CHIP (Capitol Hill Program – Georgetown), ESF (Embassy Fellows Program – Dept. of State), DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency – DoD), IETA (International Experience and Technical Assistance Program – CDC).

SAMPLE MISSION PRIORITY POSITIONS

Junior Officer:

- Consumer Safety Officer, Office of Regulatory Affairs (FDA, O-3 billet)
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Opportunity (ODNI, O-3 billet)
- Issuances Officer, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA, O-3 billet)
- Intelligence Operations Specialist (DHS, O-3 billet)
- Emergency Management Specialist (FEMA, O-3)

Mid-Level Officer:

- Epidemiologist, Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (DoD, O-4 billet)
- Epidemiology Advisor, Office of Administration (White House, O-4/O-5 billet)
- Veterinarian Epidemiologist (CDC, O-4/O-5 billet)
- Analyst, Office of Pandemics and Emerging Threats, Office of Global Affairs (HHS, O-4/O-5 billet)
- International Health Regulations (IHR), Program Manager (ASPR, O-4/O-5 billet)

Senior Officer:

- Chief Medical Officer (USCG, O-8 billet)
- Associate Deputy Director, Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) Program, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ACF, O-7 billet)
- Health Attaché (HHS, O-6 billet)
- Liaison Officer (COCOM, O-6 billet)
- Epidemiology Chief, Office of Public Health (NPS, O-6 billet)
- Director for Emerging Biological Threats, National Security Council (White House, O-5/O-6 billet)
- County Director (CDC, O-6 billet)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene ([ASTMH](#))
- Council on Foreign Relations ([CFR](#))
- Foreign Policy Association ([FPA](#))
- Global Health Council ([GHC](#))
- Global Health Security Alliance ([GloHSA](#))
- Global Health Security Network ([GHSN](#))
- Infectious Diseases Society of America ([IDSA](#))
- International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety ([IAHSS](#))
- International Federation of Biosafety Association ([IFBA](#))
- World Safety Organization ([WSO](#))

**Disclaimer: These organizations are not endorsed by the USPHS Commissioned Corps. This list is not exhaustive.*

