The Emerging and Newly Developing CAP Health Services Program

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For many years, CAP Health Services has been somewhat "hidden" in the shadows, playing a minimal role in most CAP activities. Some Wings have created well-developed health services for their Encampments and major activities, while for others, the role of the Health Service Officer (HSO) has been limited for the most part to training members in First Aid.

Over the past 4 years, there has been a considerable effort put into developing CAP Health Services into a dynamic, effective, and integral part of the CAP system. The old CAPR for Health Services has been largely re-written and awaits a final "coordination and approval", with accompanying Specialty Track Guidelines, and includes a new position for the Mission Health Service Officer, comparable to the Mission Safety Officer.

Together with Safety and the Chaplaincy, Health Services is endeavoring to effectively address the important issues that are key for keeping our members strong, healthy and effective in carrying out our Missions for America.

Among the many new aspects of the Health Services program are the following:

- Opportunities for HSOs to serve at Wing, Region and National levels.
- Working groups developing aspects of HSO training that will be implemented through AXIS and active service in the role of the HSO.



- Other working groups helping to develop programs in:
 - o First Aid training, both for instructors as well as members.
 - o Aerospace Medicine, extending the Fit for Flying program significantly.
 - Development of a Library of solid, evidence-based briefings on a wide range of health & wellness topics.
- The Health Services Advisory Team remains committed to providing guidance and recommendations to Command at all levels.

This is a great time for members with health services backgrounds to consider joining the ranks of the CAP HSOs. There is much to be done and many opportunities to contribute to.