



NAME: CDR VERNON T. LEW

JOB TITLE: REGIONAL PHARMACY CONSULTANT,  
ATLANTIC AREA

AGENCY: U. S. COAST GUARD (USCG)

**EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:**

- Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (1979), University of Texas College of Pharmacy
- Bone Marrow Transplant Preceptorship (1990)
- Certificate of Training- Oncology Pharmacy Practicum (1991)
- Certificate Program- Sterile Admixture Services (1993)
- Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacy (1995)
- Master of Science in Health Sciences with a specialization in Emergency and Disaster Management (2005), Touro University International

**CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:**

CDR Lew was recently selected for his new position as the U.S. Coast Guard's Regional Pharmacy Consultant for the Atlantic Area in Norfolk, Virginia. In this position, CDR Lew is the pharmaceutical quality assurance consultant for all U.S. Coast Guard ambulatory care clinics on the Atlantic Coast. Some of his varied and challenging responsibilities are: to conduct regularly scheduled quality assurance clinic surveys, to participate in twice yearly meetings to discuss policies and procedures to improve the quality of pharmaceutical services delivered in U.S. Coast Guard facilities, and to represent the U.S. Coast Guard on a quarterly basis as a voting member of the Department of Defense's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

**QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:**

CDR Lew has a broad appreciation for the many practice opportunities that the profession of pharmacy has to offer. Early in his career, he practiced as a staff pharmacist in chain-store and independent community practice for approximately five years. He then transitioned to being a staff pharmacist in medium-sized community hospitals and a large level one trauma center practice for the next five years.

At this point in his career, CDR Lew felt he desired a change from civilian pharmacy practice settings, and decided to serve as a commissioned pharmacy officer in the U.S. Air Force. "Capt" Lew was stationed at the Air Force's largest and premier level one trauma center - Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center for seven years. "Capt" Lew's extensive civilian experience was immediately

apparent to his supervisors, and he was immediately appointed as the Officer-In-Charge of compounding intravenous sterile products. While at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, "Capt" Lew developed his interest in the field of nutrition support pharmacy practice. "Capt" Lew continued to increase his knowledge of intravenous sterile products and develop the clinical skills needed to monitor patients on parenteral nutrition support. "Capt" Lew was continuously assigned to positions of higher responsibility. He became the Chief of Oncology Pharmacy Services at the Department of Defense's only Military Treatment Facility that performs allogeneic bone marrow transplants. He also served as the Clinical Pharmacist on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and the Clinical Pharmacist on the hospital's Nutrition Support Team.

CDR Lew separated from the Air Force and accepted a position as the Chief Pharmacist at a new home health care agency. He held this position for approximately 6 months before he accepted a civil service position as the Clinical Pharmacist on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Brooke Army Medical Center. Again he held this civilian position at the Army medical center for approximately 6 months before he felt the desire to put on a uniform again.

While exploring his options, an Air Force colleague who had transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard as a U.S. Public Health Service commissioned officer informed him of an available position in the Coast Guard. So, "LCDR" Lew's career as a Public Health Service commissioned corps officer began at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami as the Chief Pharmacist. CDR Lew served in this position for five years, the normal tour duration for Coast Guard assignments, and then transferred to the largest clinic in the Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May as the Chief Pharmacist. CDR Lew served at the Coast Guard's busy "boot camp" for two years before being selected to become the Coast Guard's Regional Pharmacy Consultant for the Atlantic Area in Norfolk, Virginia- his current position.

**REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:**

CDR Lew was strongly attracted to the U.S. Public Health Service because of the diverse practice opportunities and settings available to Commissioned Corps officers.

**PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:**

- U.S. Coast Guard- Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Health Services Division Pharmacy (1998-2003).
- U.S. Coast Guard- Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, Health Services Division Pharmacy (2003-2005)
- U.S. Coast Guard- Regional Pharmacy Consultant, Atlantic Area (2005-present)

**MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

CDR Lew's most rewarding USPHS professional experiences have been the camaraderie he has shared with other Commissioned Corps officers while attending various training courses, national meetings and deployments.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:**

CDR Lew is an active member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Strategic National Stockpile program and was prepared to deploy in response to the 2001 Anthrax attack in south Florida. CDR Lew has been an active participant in the Department of Defense's annual Combined Forces Pharmacy Seminar - serving as a planning committee member for four consecutive years. CDR Lew believes in mentoring his colleagues and is therefore a pharmacy preceptor for three colleges of pharmacy. In addition, CDR Lew is a strong proponent of supporting the pharmacy profession by being an active member of several organizations- the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Officers Association of America, the Association of Naval Services Officers, and the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. CDR Lew enjoys writing about the practice of nutrition support pharmacy and has written many articles, including a book chapter. He has been published in *The Journal of Air Force Pharmacy*, the *Baptist Medical Center Pharmacy Newsletter*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*. CDR Lew is an active USPHS Associate Recruiter for Pharmacy and never passes up the opportunity to speak about the numerous benefits of being a Commissioned Corps officer.