

As you know, deployment readiness is a condition of service for all officers in the Commissioned Corps. In our Service, readiness depends on the appropriate levels of personal health, physical fitness, training, experience and credentials. We track individual and collective readiness to ensure we can meet our public health emergency response mission, and though we constantly monitor the Corps' readiness, we formally measure and report readiness on a quarterly basis.

I am delighted to convey that on 30 September 2008, the annual point at which we report the Corps' readiness to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), readiness reached its highest level to date: 89.4% of the 6,216 officers in the Corps were Basic Ready. The goal set by OMB was 82.5%. This accomplishment is particularly significant given that only 5 years ago our level of readiness was 35%. We now lead all uniformed services in this regard.

Congratulations for a job well done. We have accomplished this through our dedication and hard work and the support of many. What a great way to demonstrate our teamwork and commitment!

I look forward to even greater improvements in Corps readiness as we strive for 100%. We will formally measure the Corps' readiness again on 31 December 2008.

Sincerely,

Steven Galson, M.D., M.P.H.
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Acting Surgeon General