



**2004 Public Health Professional Conference**  
*Sponsored by the Commissioned Officers Association*

**May 16 – 20, 2004**

P.O. Box 456 · Arnold MD 21012  
Toll-free: 866.544.9677 · Fax: 410-544-6395  
Visit our website: [www.coausphsconference.org](http://www.coausphsconference.org)

Egan Convention Center & Hilton Anchorage  
Anchorage, Alaska

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Tim O'Neill  
(410) 353-8004

## **U.S. Surgeon General to Address Public Health Conference**

Anchorage, AK—U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona will deliver the opening keynote address at the 2004 Public Health Professional Conference, which will be held May 17-20 at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage. The 3 ½ day conference, which is expected to draw nearly 1,000 public health officials from around the country, will conclude on Thursday with a keynote address by RADM Cristina Beato, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services.

“The Surgeon General and RADM Beato will discuss some of the emerging public health challenges facing our nation—from SARS to bioterrorism—and what is being done to transform our country’s public health system to meet those challenges,” said Jerry Farrell, the executive director of the Commissioned Officers Association, the conference organizer.

Other dignitaries attending the conference will include the head of the Indian Health Service (IHS), the presidents of the American Dental Association and the American Nurses Association and the Chief Executive Officer of Triwest Healthcare Alliance.

The conference will include a mix of mini and general sessions focusing on emerging trends in public health care, including efforts to rebuild public health infrastructure in Iraq. Attendees will include physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, engineers, researchers, administrators and others. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a major sponsor of the conference.

The Commissioned Officers Association, the organizer of the Public Health Professional Conference, is a private association representing more than 7,000 active duty, reserve and retired commissioned officers of the U.S. Public Health Service. COA’s members serve in direct care and leadership positions in such agencies as the Centers for Disease Control, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health and IHS.