

**AFSC 43H4\*, Staff**  
**AFSC 43H3\*, Qualified**  
**AFSC 43H1\*, Entry**

**★PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER**  
**(Changed 31 Oct 23)**

**1. Specialty Summary.** Applies public health, preventive medicine and medical entomology knowledge, techniques, and skills to promote health and reduce the incidence of communicable/zoonotic/vectorborne diseases, occupational and environmental illnesses and injuries, food borne diseases, and disease and non-battle injuries while in-garrison and deployed. Promotes public health through epidemiological surveillance of health and disease trends in populations, as well as monitoring food safety practices, and sanitation levels in public and food service facilities. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260803.

**2. Duties and Responsibilities:**

2.1. Develops, plans, and implements public health activities. Conducts preventive medicine communicable disease control, occupational health, food protection (food safety and food defense), and disaster response programs. Establishes and maintains liaison with other medical treatment facility personnel and local public health agencies to ensure an integrated public health program. Advises on public health issues, including manning, and training. Identifies required facilities, personnel, funding, and other resources. Prepares regulations and operating instructions, acquires technical bulletins, and presents training programs to support public health. Evaluates existing public health programs and recommends changes in policies and procedures. Supports Reserve and Guard component units assisting with the determination of program effectiveness and compliance with standards.

2.2. Initiates, directs, and conducts preventive medicine and communicable disease control programs. Applies epidemiological and statistical methods to identify and evaluate factors increasing disease morbidity and mortality. Collects and reviews beneficiary morbidity data to establish baseline data and identify trends. Compares data to local, state, and federal morbidity reports. Notifies the Chief of Aerospace Medicine about trends or outbreaks that may affect the Air Force population. Directs and conducts epidemiological investigations of communicable diseases and food borne disease outbreaks and makes recommendations to curb and prevent their occurrence. Conducts contact investigations of patients with sexually transmitted infections and active or latent tuberculosis. Monitors the medical facility employee health program and reports compliance to facility leaders. Plans and develops disease vector surveillance program, coordinating efforts with local community programs where possible. Provides communicable disease education to all beneficiaries.

2.3. Directs and conducts food safety and public facility sanitation programs. Evaluates food preparation and storage facilities, distributors, equipment, and sanitary practices to assess compliance with public health standards for construction, cleanliness, personal hygiene, and food safety. Oversees periodic vulnerability assessments of on-base facilities and food supplies, as well as off-base distributors delivering food to Air Force installations. Supervises inspection of government owned and retail sales food to determine origin and wholesomeness. Advises procurement, contracting, and accountable property officers on proper disposition of nonconforming and unwholesome food supplies. Collects food samples for laboratory analyses, ensures appropriate testing is completed, interprets test results, and recommends appropriate food disposition actions. Ensures hazardous or suspect foods identified through Federal recall systems are removed from service and are appropriately processed for final disposition. Supervises or conducts courses in food safety for food service personnel and facility managers to prevent foodborne illnesses. Reviews and coordinates plans for renovation or construction of food serving facilities, commissaries, and warehouses. Inspects or supervises inspections of public facilities such as childcare centers, barber and beauty shops, and gyms.

2.4. Participates in the base Occupational Health Program along with members of Flight and Operational Medicine, Bioenvironmental Engineering, Primary Care, Ground Safety, as well as workplace supervisors and individual workers. Establishes procedures to identify personnel requiring pre-placement, periodic, and termination medical surveillance examinations. Participates in formulating medical health surveillance examination requirements for workers at risk for hazardous exposures. Maintains close liaison with other agencies to develop procedures for prompt identification, investigation, evaluation, mitigation, and reporting of occupational illnesses. Serves as technical advisor to shop supervisors for planning and presenting occupational health education programs. Manages administrative aspects of the Fetal Protection program for active duty and civilian workers.

2.5. Serves as the Installation Medical Intelligence Office and provides medical intelligence to members deploying to exercises and contingencies to reduce disease incidence and promote mission effectiveness. Ensures medical records of deploying members are reviewed and updated by their Primary Care Managers and all required medical tests, health screenings and other preventive medicine measures are completed prior to deployment and after redeployment. Directs public health efforts in deployment settings and field conditions. Advises on issues relating to site selection, field sanitation, disease threats, physical threats such as heat and cold stress, vector and pest hazards, and contamination control procedures. Monitors disease trends and advises on interventions to mitigate endemic and epidemic morbidity. Monitors food procurement, storage and preparation, and training and hygiene of food handlers. Advises food service personnel on protection and disposition of food items subject to nuclear, biological, or chemical contamination, and effects of natural and other peacetime disasters.

2.6. Ensures the most effective disease vector and pest control capabilities are implemented to prevent adverse effects on personnel, weapons systems, supplies, sustenance, and equipment in combat deployment, disaster relief, or humanitarian operations, and on installations. Surveys for, identifies, and recommends control measures for disease vectors, arthropod pests, and hazardous plants and animals. Maintains liaison with public health organizations, municipal authorities, and other Federal agencies concerning control of diseases or infections transmitted by animals prevalent in off-installation areas to which Air Force personnel are exposed.

2.7. AFSC 43HXE (Medical Entomologist): Subject Matter Expert for developing and sustaining medical entomology and pest management programs in contingency operations and at installation, MAJCOM, Air Force, and DoD levels. Formulates policy, plans, and guidance for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and provides IPM technology transfer to the field. Advises and consults on environmental matters regarding vector control and pest management and formulates policy and guidance in order to balance national defense and environmental stewardship goals. Ensures vector and pest control operations are effective and do not present unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. Determines pest management certification and training requirements and assists in developing curricula for pest and vector management education. Manages the environmental impact analysis and validation process for aerial application of pesticides to control disease vectors, pest organisms and vegetation, and to treat oil spills in combat areas, on DoD installations or in response to declared emergencies. Engages in laboratory and field research/studies of arthropods, vertebrates, hazardous plants, and other organisms of medical or pest importance. Coordinates pest management and medical entomology activities with military and civilian agencies. Prepares comprehensive interpretive research reports pertaining to medical entomology. Maintains close coordination with DoD medical entomologists, pest managers, natural resource managers, agronomists and related professionals. AF Medical Entomologist may rotate through instructor positions at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine teaching enlisted and officer personnel fundamental skills to support in-garrison and contingency installation medical entomology programs and/or roles and responsibilities described above for 43HX.

### **3. ★Specialty Qualifications:**

3.1. Knowledge. The following knowledge is mandatory for the AFSCs indicated:

3.1.1. For AFSCs 43HX and 43HXE, knowledge of basic epidemiology, microbiology, food technology and hygiene, communicable diseases, occupational and environmental health, and medical entomology.

3.1.2. For AFSC 43HXE, knowledge of medical entomology, arthropod biology, vertebrate and invertebrate hazards, and Integrated Pest Management principles.

3.2. ★Education. All degrees must be from accredited institutions and programs, in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2032, *Military Recruiting and Accession* (e.g., Veterinary colleges are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, MPH/MSPH and BSPH programs are accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) (<http://www.ceph.org/>)). Applicants must have/maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale for all applicable degrees. For entry into this specialty, the following are mandatory:

3.2.1. ★Possess either: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM/VMD), or Master Degree in Public Health (MPH/MSPH) plus a baccalaureate degree in either biology, entomology, microbiology, public health, zoology or nursing OR a baccalaureate degree of science in Public Health with a minimum of 2 years of Public Health related work experience. Note: the nursing degree must be from a nationally accredited baccalaureate degree program in nursing.

3.2.2. ★Enlisted 4E0X1 (Public Health) technicians may possess a baccalaureate degree in biology, entomology, microbiology, public health, or zoology. Enlisted applicants must be at least a 5-level. Enlisted applicants must also meet the experience requirement listed in para 3.2.3. See 43HXE (Medical Entomologist) Specialty Shredout (Paragraph 4.) for specialty qualifications.

3.2.4. Education waivers are handled on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the Associate Corps for Public Health.

3.3. Training. The following training is mandatory for the AFSCs indicated:

3.3.1. For award of AFSC 43H3, completion of the Basic Public Health Officer (PHO) course and the Contingency Preventive Medicine (CPM) course.

3.3.2. For award of AFSC 43H3E, completion of the Basic PHO Course, completion of Operational Entomology Course, CPM and certification as a DoD Pesticide Applicator through a DoD-approved course.

3.4. Experience. The following experience is mandatory for the AFSCs indicated:

3.4.1. ★For entry (43H1), Enlisted Public Health Technicians must have 4 years of experience in the Public Health career field at the time of application. See AFMAN 36-2032 and AFI 36-3203 for age and retirement eligibility requirements. AF Reserve and ANG Enlisted (4E0X1 – Public Health) service members should have 2 years AD (730 points) or at least 2 years as a fulltime Public Health Federal Technician. With an approved age waiver, AF Reserve and ANG PHO candidates should be no older than 50 years of age to allow completion of 10 years as a commissioned officer before mandatory retirement at the age of 60.

3.4.2. For award of AFSC 43H3, a minimum of 24 months on extended active duty filling a RegAF Public Health Officer position.

3.4.2.1. For non-prior service officers, experience count begins on the date of entry to extended active duty.

3.4.2.2. ★For inter service transfers and enlisted 4E051 commissionees, experience count begins on the date officer reports to their first permanent duty station.

3.4.3. For Air National Guard affiliation, a minimum of 48 months after assignment to their units.

3.4.4. For award of AFSC 43H3E, a minimum of 24 months on active-duty filling either a Public Health Officer position or a 43HXE-specific position is required. Time count begins as noted in 3.4.2.1 and 3.4.2.2. above.

3.5. Other.

3.5.1. For Air Force Reserve (AFR) affiliation: must be fully qualified (awarded AFSC 43H3) Public Health Officers to fill 43H1 positions. For 43HxE positions, a minimum of 48 months experience after assignment to the unit/IMA duty position is required for award of AFSC 43H3E.

**4. ★\*Specialty Shredouts:**

*Suffix    Portion of AFS to Which Related*

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| E      Medical Entomologist | ★Possess a Master's Degree or Doctorate in Entomology with a Bachelor's degree in biology, entomology, microbiology, or zoology. Bachelor degrees in other biological sciences, and Master's degrees or Doctorates in disciplines related to, or with emphasis in Entomology will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Associate Corps Chief. All degrees must emanate from accredited academic institutions/programs in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2032 and applicants must have a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale. |
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