



Surgeon General of the United States

Washington, DC

June 11, 2012

Dear Commissioned Officers,

Please join me in welcoming **Captain Robert DeMartino, MD** as our new Chief of Staff. He is currently Director, Behavioral Medicine Division in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense (DoD). He is a physician trained in both internal medicine and psychiatry. In addition to his great enthusiasm and professional demeanor, he brings a skill set that will benefit the commissioned corps tremendously.

I have included biographical information and a photo so that you may get to know a little about him.

We look forward to Captain DeMartino joining us July 1, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regina Benjamin MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA
VADM, USPHS
Surgeon General



Captain Robert DeMartino, MD, USPHS

is current Director, Behavioral Medicine Division in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense (DoD). He serves as principal behavioral health advisor to the Chief Medical Officer and is engaged in a comprehensive effort to revitalize behavioral health benefits to the more than nine million beneficiaries of the Department of Defense's health care system. CAPT DeMartino is the DoD chair for the DOD/VA Health Executive Committee Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury Work Group, which is leading joint Departmental efforts to improve access to care and the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of, mental health services for Active Duty Service members, National Guard and Reserve Component members, Veterans, and their families. CAPT DeMartino is Co-Chair of the DoD Addictive Substance Misuse Advisory Committee, which serves as the lead advisory group to DoD medical and personnel communities on addictive drug use deterrence, demand reduction, and the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

CAPT DeMartino is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He earned his medical degree from Tufts University before completing residency training in both **internal medicine and psychiatry** in Boston, Massachusetts. Before entering Federal service he worked with war-traumatized refugees, the seriously mentally ill and persons ordered by the Massachusetts courts for psychiatric evaluation.

In previous work with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), CAPT DeMartino received the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal for leading the development of and authoring the US National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, the first such comprehensive plan created in the US. CAPT DeMartino served on the DHHS *Anti-Bioterrorism Strategic Planning Committee* and contributed to the DHHS

Counter-Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan. In support of that work, he guided the DHHS writing and publication of *Communicating in a Crisis: Risk Communication Guidelines for Public Officials.*

In response to the events of September 11, CAPT DeMartino was deployed to New York City to establish a Federal Mental Health Response team in support of the emergency response personnel participating in rescue efforts. As part of the US Government humanitarian response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, he served aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy at Banda Aceh, Indonesia. After Hurricane Katrina, CAPT DeMartino served as the DHHS Secretary's Mental Health Lead for Louisiana in Baton Rouge.