

# The Sky is the Ceiling in the U.S. Public Health Service!

**Rear Admiral Michelle E. Dunwoody, MS, APRN, BSN, WHNP-BC, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service (Ret.)**



Rear Admiral (RADM) Michelle E. Dunwoody, (Ret.) served as an Assistant U.S. Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). She provided national level policy, programmatic, administrative, and health leadership as the Chief Nurse Executive/Director of the Nursing Program for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). RADM Dunwoody led the largest discipline of health services staff within the BOP with over 1,400 nurses

and nurse practitioners across the nation's federal correctional healthcare system. In this role, RADM Dunwoody created new nursing positions and implemented new nursing programs to support and elevate the nursing profession within the BOP. These innovations significantly improved resource utilization of nursing services and inmate healthcare outcomes within the BOP.

RADM Dunwoody served on numerous workgroups within multiple federal agencies and departments including appointments to the Surgeon General's Professional Advisory Committee and adjunct faculty for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Women's Health Doctoral Nurse Practitioner program. She was an Editorial Board member for the American Nurses Association's Online Journal of Issues in Nursing and Editor for the nursing journal, Nursing Economics. She served as Incident Commander during the response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and as the USPHS Nurse Professional Advisory Committee Chair in 2009. In 2016, RADM Dunwoody served as Senior Public Health Advisor to the Mayor of Flint, MI in support of the Flint Water Crisis deployment. As such she facilitated capacity building and strengthened health diplomacy among City/County/State/Federal governmental and non-government organization's stakeholders.

RADM Dunwoody is the recipient of over 30 uniformed services awards and nursing accolades, including induction as a Fellow for the American Academy of Nursing in 2018, a Meritorious Service Medal in 2014 for BOP Leadership and Nursing Excellence, and the USPHS Nurse of the Year in 2013. RADM Dunwoody served in diverse roles throughout her USPHS career, commissioning as a participant with the **Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP) in the BOP** as a Nurse Practitioner at Federal Medical Center Carswell. She had also been assigned to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and most recently, served as Chief Nurse of the BOP from March 2010 to Feb 2019. RADM Dunwoody graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Hampton University in 1989 and a Master of Science Degree and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Certification from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1999. She retires with 34 years of service to her country which includes 28 ½ years with combined United States Army and United States Public Health Service commissions.

**Help serve the underserved and kick-start a fulfilling career with the Bureau of Prisons through SRCOSTEP!**



*Rear Admiral Michelle Dunwoody, USPHS (Ret), addressing the public in Michigan during the Flint Water Crisis*



*Rear Admiral Michelle Dunwoody, USPHS (Ret), pictured with Barack Obama, 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States*