

## **Major Dennis S. Palalay**

**Environmental Science Officer, United States Army Medical Service Corps**

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Major Dennis Palalay is an Environmental Science Officer assigned to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. His current duties as the Program Manager for the Army's Industrial Hygiene Field Services Program span far-reaching industrial hygiene support to Department of Defense customers worldwide.

His career assignments of the past 15 years include:

- Division Environmental Science Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas
- Chief, Environmental Health, Kenner Army Community Hospital, Fort Lee, Virginia
- Corporate Environmental Health/Food Safety Officer, Army Center for Excellence, Subsistence, Fort Lee, Virginia
- Commander, 224<sup>th</sup> Preventive Medicine Detachment, Fort Hood, Texas
- Chief, Field Preventive Medicine Division, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine – North, Fort Meade, Maryland

Major Palalay has served in various preventive medicine roles to provide occupational and environmental health support to the military. Most recently was to Operation Iraqi Freedom in conducting Environmental Health Site Assessments, Soldier Occupational Hazard Assessments and training to the Preventive Medicine Units in the Iraqi theater. A truly phenomenal feat, as part of a six-person team, they conducted twenty-six site assessments in less than 80 days. Prior to his deployment to Iraq, MAJ Palalay deployed as the Industrial Hygienist with the SMART-PM to New Orleans, Louisiana and the Gulf Port of Mississippi in support of Joint Task Force Katrina. In 1994, he deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to coordinate a tri-service comprehensive preventive medicine program to protect the health and welfare of over 45,000 Cuban and Haitian migrants to include the 8,000 U.S. military in support of Joint Task Force Operation Sea Signal.

He has also served as the Army Medical Command's primary operations officer for the Special Medical Augmentation Response Team – Preventive Medicine (SMART-PM). Major Palalay served in this capacity as the SMART-PM Operations Officer in response to the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. The overall efforts by the team that provided occupational and environmental health surveillance to the occupants of the Pentagon was awarded the 2002 American Academy of Environmental Engineers, Excellence in Environmental Engineering, Grand Prize for Operations/Management.

His areas of expertise are:

- Deployment Training for Army Preventive Medicine Units
- Deployment Occupational and Environmental Health Surveillance
- Environmental Health Site Assessments
- Operations, Special Medical Augmentation Response Team – Preventive Medicine
- Environmental Health Risk Communications

Major Palalay is a 2005 graduate of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland and earned a Masters of Health Sciences, in Industrial Hygiene (currently the Occupational and Environmental Hygiene Program). He also holds a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering Technology from the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army General Staff College, Combined Arms Services Staff School and the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School Officer's Advance and Basic Course.