

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (DC COA)
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**



District of Columbia Commissioned Officers Association

CDR Andrew Yang

Member at-large

**Engineer
Category**

CDR Andrew Yang is a passionate engineer officer whose 16-year career coursed through the ranks of FDA, NIH, and has brought him to the gates of BARDA. He graduated from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art with a Bachelor and a Master of Engineering degrees in Mechanical Engineering. He swears it's a real school in NYC. He converted from civil service to the Commissioned Corps early in his FDA days whilst stationed in Rockville. After dedicating a decade to reviewing medical devices, CDR Yang left his air-conditioned corner office at White Oak to get his hand dirty as a Facilities Management Engineer Consultant for the NIH Central Utility Plant (CUP) where they produce heating, cooling, and electricity for the entire NIH Bethesda campus. This was a wonderful change of pace as he always prided himself in being a practical engineer, preferring fieldwork to paperwork. Taking full advantage of NIH's wealth of training opportunities, he collected certifications and licenses like they're Pokémon: licenses to operate industrial boilers (FOE3), industrial powered trucks, combined cycle combustion turbine plants (CCTOE3), Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, and Contracting Officer's Representative Level 2 (COR2). The latter two revealed his "true talent" for administration and policy to management. CDR Yang was taken, kicking and screaming, out of the plant and into a leadership position at the Division that oversees the CUP. There, he built a team to lean existing processes and turn Tribal Knowledge into written policies.

Immediately upon commissioning in 2007, CDR Yang was a member of the premier Tier-1 team, PHS-1 Rapid Deployment Force (RDF-1), until they were tragically disbanded in 2020. It took a decade to rise from mere logistician to Logistic Section Chief. He honed his attention for details and aptitude for problem-solving under pressure on deployments to over a dozen disasters, epidemics, pandemics, and planned events. CDR Yang loved the camaraderie and energy of deploying alongside USPHSCC, ASPR, and NDMS colleagues and wished it could be his day-job. When he learned the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) was hiring, he jumped at the opportunity to join ASPR and exercise the COR and project management skills he'd accrued at NIH.

In his spare time, CDR Yang likes spending time with his wife and 2 children, engaging in professional organizations (SAME, ASME, FAPAC, APAOC, EPAC, and of course DC COA), practicing martial arts (Second Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, Fifth Kyu in Kendo), learning/forgetting languages (Korean, Japanese, French, Spanish, C++, BASIC, HTML), and is an automotive enthusiast.