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**NEW - Rachel Levine sworn in as "first openly transgender, female four-star admiral" in the U.S. Public Health Service.**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
 Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**Statements by Officials of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Commemorating the First Openly Transgender Four-Star Officer and First Female Four-Star Admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps on October 19, 2021**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) publicly announced today the nation's first openly transgender four-star officer across any of the eight uniformed services of the United States. Admiral Rachel Levine, who serves as the HHS Assistant Secretary for Health and head of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps, was ceremonially sworn in as a four-star admiral. Admiral Levine now serves as the highest ranking official in the USPHS Commissioned Corps and its first-ever female four-star admiral. Admiral Levine will lead 6,000 Public Health Service officers who are dedicated to serving our nation's most underserved and vulnerable populations.

Today's historic announcement builds on the accomplishments of LGBTQ+ History Month and is a major step forward as we work to create a more inclusive society. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, and the U.S. Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy issued the following statements to commemorate the first openly transgender four-star officer and the first female four-star admiral of the USPHS Commissioned Corps:

"Admiral Levine's historic appointment as the first openly transgender four-star officer is a

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