



Peace Corps Success Story

Health



Matthew Stockton

Entomology Branch Deputy Chief at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Agriculture Extension Volunteer, Gabon, 1997-1999

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Wabash College;
Master of Public Health, University of South Florida

CURRENT JOB SUMMARY: “As the Deputy Branch Chief, I oversee all management and operations for the Entomology Branch in the Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria in the CDC’s Center for Global Health. Our branch is made up of entomologists, biologists, and chemists who work to reduce the threat of insect-borne diseases to humans such as malaria and Chagas disease. I have been very fortunate to travel all over the world working for CDC.”

SLICE OF SERVICE: “As a young man in Peace Corps, I thought I was impervious to falling ill and was careless about my health. Needless to say, during my two years in Gabon I got sick—a lot. When I returned to the U.S. in 2000, I decided to pursue an MPH in Communicable Diseases. Experiencing many developing countries’ public health issues and diseases firsthand definitely was a benefit in graduate school and my work at CDC.”

CAREER SKILLS GAINED: “My Peace Corps experience taught me the ‘art’ of flexibility, sensitivity, and patience when working overseas and dealing with other people and their cultures—even bug-chasing scientists.”

CAREER ADVICE: “As an RPCV, you have a leg up in any situation. Employers know that you are adaptable, flexible, and probably have some pretty neat stories to tell or that you can relate to any job interview question. Also, a great way to get your foot in the door at any organization, especially CDC, is to start with a fellowship, work-study, or internship. Once you acquire the skills needed to succeed, you can often times make it a life-long career.” (August 2014)

“My two years in Peace Corps instilled in me the value of Public Health and the challenges people face when they lack basic health education and services.”



Matthew (1) and colleagues with US Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga. outside the CDC offices in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Matthew in front of Mt. Medouneu, Gabon, Africa during his Peace Corps service.

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