



With Pride & Distinction

With Pride & Distinction

Junior Officer Advisory Group

Vol. 5, March 2012: Spring and Summer Uniforms

A Day in the Life of an Admiral

Contributed by LT Jessica Schwarz

One of the questions frequently submitted to the With Pride & Distinction (WP&D) Committee is "what is a day in the life of an admiral like?". Over the next few issues of WP&D, we will publish excerpts from interviews with Admirals to give junior officers insight into the daily life of an Admiral and their vision for the Corps. We hope you enjoy them.

Interview with RADM Scott Giberson, Director, DCCPR, OSG

Contributed by LT Chitra Mahadevan



What has been your greatest achievement as an admiral?

Instead of "achievement", I would say "reward" and it would most certainly be the fact that you are given a 'leadership platform'. You now have the opportunity to proactively do something good with it for both the mission and the

Corps – and accept the privilege and responsibility that comes with it. When you inspire others, it is more than enough reward and "achievement" in my book.

What are your primary duties?

My full-time responsibility is Director of Commissioned Corps Operations and Personnel; however my other "full-time" collateral duty is the Chief Professional Officer, Pharmacy.

What is the process like for applying to be the Chief Professional Officer?

It differs among Agencies; however if you succeed in getting beyond your Agency, the process is long and thorough. That said, it is not something you generally "apply" for, it is something that is sort of earned across a career. When you are eligible, you submit a packet (including written vision/platform) and can be nominated by your agency/OPDIV and then recommended by a Board to start the process. Then multiple rounds of interviews usually ensues.

Please describe some interesting projects that you have worked on as an admiral.

A collaborative Federal Pharmacist Vision and Scope of Practice agreed upon among all the federal services, DOD, VA and PHS. First time we've done that in Pharmacy.

I've submitted a report to the U.S. Surgeon General on Pharmacy Practice and garnering her support to move forward.

The overall consolidation of 4 former Offices (each with flag-level leadership) into the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness (DCCPR)

A 'Visioning/Future's Group' project with DOD leadership and colleagues.

What presentations/speeches have you given recently?

Well, quite a few...OBC Graduation Keynote, OBC Pinning Ceremony, Sam Melendy Honorary Lecturer (U of Minn), Oklahoma Area IHS Pharmacy Annual Meeting. I'm also scheduled for American Pharmacists Association Plenary in April and Maryland Pharmacy School Commencement in May.

Interview continued on next page...

What do you look for in an Aide-de-Camp?

Passion, compassion, and the ability to follow-up or follow through. In addition, the candidate should have genuine pride in our uniformed service and a person with the right motives for being an Aide.

What is your vision of the future of USPHS?

The Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service will be the premier uniformed cadre of choice for all facets of public health. The Commissioned Corps will be known around the world as flexible, adaptable, dynamic, and responsive to internal and external customers that proudly engage and value the Corps as their primary and unique public health asset to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation – both domestically and abroad.

What advice do you have for Junior Officers?

Serve the mission of the PHS, accept additional responsibility of being an officer, and honor the values and traditions of our uniformed service.

What types of interactions do you have with the Surgeon General, the ASH, or the Secretary of HHS?

I have had the privilege to work with the US Surgeon General closely on the Pharmacy report mentioned above. I've worked with the Assistant Secretary for Health on DCCPR consolidation, the new accountability structure, and the performance improvement as well as workforce planning for the Corps.

Please describe any projects in which you have collaborated with other Admirals (or Generals) in the other uniformed services.

Quite a few, but for the most part, being a part of the CPO Board is the most frequent work I've had with other Admirals. It is personally a privilege for me to have the opportunity to collaborate and partner with the wonderful leadership in our Corps from all the other Categories and Disciplines. Good people.

USPHS Trivia: Who designed the original PHS Seal?

DID YOU KNOW ?

Got spring fever? Did you know that you have to wait for the Spring/Summer uniform memo before jumping into those summer whites? Typically the Spring/Summer Uniform of the Day Memo authorizing officers to wear warm weather uniforms is posted to the CCMIS website in early April. Keep an eye on the website at <http://www.dcp.psc.gov/ccmis> for the memo and future issues of WP&D for answers to questions on your warm weather uniforms.