



Dental Professional Advisory Committee Newsletter

Volume XIV, Issue 1

February 2015

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Professional Advisory Committee
Newsletter

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ADA Annual Session

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Co-Editor LCDR Justin Vos
Co-Editor LT Mariely Marquez-Lorenzo

The USPHS Dental Newsletter is published 2 times annually, and is distributed electronically through the USPHS Dental Bulletin Board, agency distribution lists, and the USPHS Dental Directory. The next issue of the newsletter will be published in the summer of 2015. If you have suggestions or comments about the newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact the co-editors [LCDR Justin Vos](#) or [LT Mariely Marquez-Lorenzo](#).

2014 ADA ANNUAL SESSION CAPT PHILLIP WOODS



CDR Sharon Raghubar, RADM Nick Makrides, CAPT Lynn Van Pelt, CAPT Phillip Woods

Greetings from the PHS Delegation attending the 2014 ADA meeting. The meeting held October 9-14, 2014, featured more than 300 continuing education courses, two pre-session CE options, and more than 550 exhibitors in the ADA exhibit hall. There were networking opportunities and a variety of special events, including the second ADA Mission of Mercy charitable dental event. RADM Nicholas Makrides and I served as the PHS Delegates for the annual House of Delegates meeting, while CAPT Lynn Van Pelt and CDR Sharon Raghubar served as Alternate Delegates.

Playing host to the meeting was historic San Antonio, Texas's second largest and most diverse city. [Continued on page 6.](#)

CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER COLUMN

RADM NICHOLAS MAKRIDES, DMD, MPH

Happy New Year!!! I hope that each of you had a good holiday and were able to get away from the rigors of the office. Making time to rest and relax is a necessity to regain balance in your life, avoid burnout, and recharge for the year ahead.

Each New Year comes with new resolutions and transitions. Since I last wrote, there have been some very important developments. On December 15th, Dr. Vivek Murthy was confirmed as our 19th Surgeon General (SG). Special thanks are in order for RADM Boris Lushniak and RADM Scott Giberson, who respectively served as Acting Surgeon General and Acting Deputy Surgeon General, for providing superb leadership at a critical time for the Corps. They will now return to their previous duties as Deputy Surgeon General and the Director of DCCPR, respectively. In 2014, we said goodbye to RADM A. Isabel Garcia, who served as the director of NIDCR. Dr. Garcia has been selected as the new Dean at the University of Florida's School of Dentistry and assumes her new role this February. RADM(ret) Garcia will be greatly missed.



RADM Nick Makrides

In October, I had the opportunity to travel to San Antonio with CAPT Lynn Van Pelt, CAPT Phillip Woods, and CDR Sharon Raghobar to participate in a meeting with the American Dental Association's House of Delegates (HOD). This was a first for me and provided great insight to the world of organized dentistry. I would like to encourage dentists to attend at least one ADA meeting during your career. It is a great way to network with fellow federal and civilian dentists and provides an opportunity to educate our private practice colleagues about the important work we do as Corps officers and government dentists.

We have been continuing the good work started by our past Chief Dental Officer, RADM(ret) William "Bill" Bailey, and have submitted the Oral Health Strategic Framework draft to OASH. For those of you not acquainted with this project, the Oral Health Strategic Framework is a cross-agency (HHS and non-HHS) plan to improve the oral health of the nation. The Framework provides a roadmap that collates agency initiatives and provides stakeholders with actionable goals. Special thanks go to the members of the Oral Healthcare Coordinating Committee and the writing team for their dedication to this important project.

Transitioning into my new responsibilities has been challenging. I want to thank you all for helping me turn the corner and bringing me up to speed with the many oral health initiatives you are working on within your agencies. I am very proud and honored to work with so many dedicated officers. I wish you the best in 2015 as we protect, promote and advance the health and safety of our nation.

DENTAL PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRPERSON COLUMN

CAPT CHRISTOPHER BENNETT, DDS, MSHS

US COAST GUARD

Hails and Farewells

I would like to start off my last newsletter article by saying what a privilege it has been to work with so many dedicated officers and civil servants. I certainly could not have completed my duties without input and help from many individuals; it has truly been a team effort. I particularly would like to thank CAPT Deborah Smith, CDR Leira Vargas-Del Toro and LCDR Li-Kuei Hung for the many hours they spent helping me sort through the daily operations of the DePAC.

This past fall we had the honor of welcoming RADM Nick Makrides as our new Chief Professional Officer. RADM Makrides brings an extraordinary amount of experience and insight into his office. I look forward to his leadership as he guides the Dental Corps through future challenges. I would also like to welcome our new voting members; CDR Kathryne Feng, LT Eleanor Fleming, CDR Minh Kevin Lee, LCDR William Lopez, CDR Sharon Raghubar, CDR Nixon Roberts, and Dr. Julius Theophilus. I know they will find their experience very rewarding.

Finally, I look forward to the future. The new Executive Committee; Chair- CDR Vargas-Del Toro, Vice –Chair CDR Vicky Ottmers and Executive Secretary CDR Shani Lewins have an ambitious agenda for the year and I am confident in their success.



CAPT Christopher Bennett

DENTAL COINS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

GET YOUR ORDER FORM AT THE [DEPAC WEBSITE](#)



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DENTAL PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON COLUMN

CDR LEIRA VARGAS-DEL TORO, DMD, MPH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Colleagues, 2015 is here!

Hope you enjoyed the past Holiday Season and you are ready for a great year as 2015 promises to be. I am committed to serve the Dental Category as your 2015 DePAC Chair. I am thankful for the leadership and dedication of CAPT(sel) Angie Roach and CAPT Deborah Smith, who motivated me to join the DePAC. I am thankful for the past leadership of CAPT Christopher Bennett who has been a great mentor and resource.

This is the time of changes in DePAC as we say goodbye to our departing voting members who had fulfilled their three year term and we welcome our newest voting members. Our Executive Committee also transitioned with CAPT Christopher Bennett as Ex-Officio, CDR Vicky Ottmers as Vice-Chair and CDR Shani Lewins as Executive Secretary. We are looking forward to a productive year.



CDR Leira Vargas-Del Toro

We are actively looking to recruit Dental Officers. We are planning to reach out to dental schools and potential candidates via social media and live broadcast webinars. There will be more to come in this fascinating aspect as changes in technology have opened gates of communication and provided outreach to dental schools. We are currently working on some challenges as we encounter the broadness of social media and other live online resources.

We are proud to have RADM Nicolas Makrides as our Chief Professional Officer. I had the opportunity to attend to his promotion ceremony on January 15, 2015. It was an honor to see one of our very own officers being promoted from CAPT to a two star RADM. It makes us, the Dental Category, immensely proud of working under his leadership. VADM Vivek Murthy, US Surgeon General, was present along with RADM Boris Lushniak and RADM Chris Bina. It was a great ceremony celebrating the achievements and new endeavors of RADM Makrides as the Chief Professional Officer of the USPHS.

If you haven't done so, please reserve the dates of May 18-21, 2015, for the USPHS Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. It will be a great opportunity for great dental and public health continued education opportunities, not to mention the camaraderie and fellowship seeing colleagues and fellow Commissioned Officers. The Dental Category Day planning committee is tirelessly working to bring great continuing education and a memorable day.

Stay up to date by enrolling in the Dental Bulletin Board, you can subscribe here: <https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=DENTALBULLETINBOARD&A=1>

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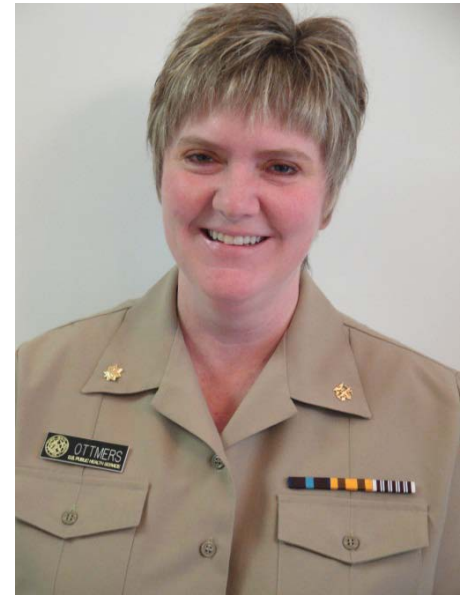
DENTAL PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VICE-CHAIRPERSON COLUMN

CDR VICKY OTTMERS, DDS

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

I am honored to be the DePAC Vice Chair this year. I will strive to keep up the long standing tradition of the position, be available to all of you, and support the PAC Chair, DePAC members, and RADM Makrides. I look forward to not only supporting CDR Leira Vargas-Del Toro but also learning the intricacies so I can be a true steward next year. I have been blessed with many mentors that have imparted their knowledge and experience and will continue to obtain new mentors. Recognizing the value of mentors is integral to performing your job well and being the complete Federal dentist, civilians and PHS officers alike. I learn something new every day and welcome the lessons learned so I can perform at my best, not only as a dentist but more importantly as a person. Early on in my agency, I was given the nickname “Sponge Head Khaki pants” by IHSC Dental Leadership. It’s not only funny but so true. The uniform I mainly wear is the khaki and I admit to being a sponge. I’m proud of it. Look at my picture – even my hair is thick and sponge-like. You know, I should really have a Service Dress Blue (SDB) picture of me but the truth is I have never taken a SDB picture. I think it’s only fitting that if I have to include a picture of me for this newsletter, it should be in the working Khaki uniform (plus I don’t have a SDB picture). Hmm ... a new goal may be to obtain not only an updated picture but also a SDB picture for next time?



CDR Vicky Ottmers

In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to contact CAPT Vargas-Del Toro or me (Vicky.S.Ottmers@ice.dhs.gov) if you want to get involved in DePAC Workgroups or contact any of our 2015 DePAC voting members. We want you!



Note from the Editors

The DePAC Communications Work Group would like to thank all who have contributed to this edition of the DePAC Newsletter. We would encourage each officer to contribute information for publication through their DePAC work groups to help improve our newsletter and communication to all dental officers.

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ADA ANNUAL SESSION CONTINUED

While it's the seventh largest and third fastest-growing city in America, it retains its low-key reputation as a safe, friendly, walkable city which is rich in the arts, dining, nightlife, historic architecture and shopping. Attendees at the 2014 ADA meeting found many opportunities to soak up the sun, the energy and the culture of this great city.

Before the meeting started, several daylong courses were offered. The American Association of Women Dentists held its 93rd Annual Meeting in conjunction with the ADA 2014 meeting. An early highlight of the meeting was former President George W. Bush, keynote speaker for the Opening General Session and Distinguished Speaker Series, held in the Alamodome. President Bush, the 43rd president of the United States and a favorite son of the Lone Star State, fielded questions asked by member dentists and posed by current ADA President Charles Norman.



President George W. Bush with ADA President Charles Norman, 2014 Keynote Session

An energetic Welcome Celebration, a Texas tailgate party at Historic Sunset Station on Thursday evening, live music, food and drinks to help kick off the meeting.

During the opening session of the ADA meeting, the 2014 ADA Humanitarian Award was presented. In recognition of his nearly 20 years as a volunteer dentist and the many significant humanitarian contributions he has made, the ADA named Dr. Raymond S. Damazo as its 2014 ADA Humanitarian Award recipient.

Driving a Land Rover with portable dental equipment and a massive amount of supplies in tow, Dr. Damazo and his wife Gail traveled to nearly two-dozen remote villages in Kenya and other parts of Africa twice a year, staying in tourist lodges and providing free dental care and education to thousands of people in need.

As is anticipated for ADA delegates, a majority of our time and energy was dedicated to the actions and concerns of the ADA House of Delegates (HOD), starting with its official opening ceremonies held on Friday afternoon in the Convention Center. As the legislative and governing body, the House of Delegates is the supreme authority in the American Dental Association. As such, it speaks for the 158,000 dentist members of the Association and for the dental profession in the United States. The San Antonio meeting



Federal Services Panel

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presented a great opportunity for our newest PHS delegates to the ADA, CDR Raghubar and our Chief Professional Officer RADM Makrides to get their feet wet with the actions and procedures of the ADA House. As in the previous 3 years, CAPT Van Pelt represented the PHS as a panelist for the Careers in Federal Dental Services session. Also featured on the panel were representatives from the VA, the Air Force, the Navy and the Army. This session was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for dentists to learn of programming and dental employment opportunities available with each of the federal services.

On Saturday morning the four of us attended the Reference Committee hearings where discussions and resolutions related to Governance, Dental Benefits/Practice, Budget, Membership, and Dental Education were presented. Meeting hours were staggered so attendees might attend more hearings. Several items of interest to USPHS officers were raised and we're happy to share the following with you:

1. **No dues increase** proposed for the second year in a row
2. ADA is exploring new ways to better serve the **federal dentists' needs**
3. **ADA's Social Media Campaign** to support Water Fluoridation
4. **New Advocacy for Student Loan Forgiveness** and Other Educational Debt Reduction Programs
5. ADA Review of the **Impact of Student Debt on Dentistry** as a Career Choice
6. Revisiting **Dental Examinations for Pregnant women** and women of child bearing age
7. **Revisiting guidelines for Dental treatment** during pregnancy
8. **Designation of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities** as a Medically Underserved population.
9. **Developing new ADA Practice Management Guidelines** to help dentists better understand the business side of dentistry

The ADA Board of Trustees recognized four individuals at the meeting in San Antonio for their service to organized dentistry by conferring honorary membership in the Association. Doctors Alice Horowitz, Orlando Monteiro da Silva, Poul Erik Peterson and Jim Williamson were all recognized for their years of dedication, and each of their significant impacts on oral health, oral health research and global oral health and oral health advocacy. Other high points of the 2014 ADA meeting included the New Dentist Reception, and the ADA Foundation Give Kids a Smile Gala.

On Tuesday during the final session of the HOD, we heard several rousing speeches by the current and incoming ADA leadership. Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, ADA Executive Director and CEO, spoke of our great opportunity to embrace the changing ADA member demographics. She compared the Alamo to our organization, saying, "The Alamo, dating from 1836, is a meditation to change. It has born silent witness to much change, yet still remains the same. Continues to serve its original purpose, embracing and welcoming new.... The ADA is same. We, as a profession, are similarly challenged as we have a very different, very diverse population today from what we started with at our origin. . . Every year we lose half of the 5100 new dentists to membership. Why is this? Millennials are coming, so we better recognize this fact and engage them in new ways, if we're to ensure the future."

Dr. Maxine Feinberg, the incoming and 151st ADA President, spoke of, "living the power of three together – national, state and local, serving the needs of our members." Describing a recent trip back to her alma mater, the New York University College of Dentistry, she noticed just how different are the instrument toolboxes of today's dental students, compared to those of her day. Similarly, she asked us to consider, "What no longer serves us? What are we as an organization still holding onto? What needs to be pruned? Where might we still have "pocket markers" versus probes? What things no longer serve us, like copper bands and compound? How do we as an organization anticipate challenges before they become problems? Now we have a great opportunity to take inventory, a 360-degree view."

Dr. Carol Gomez-Summerhays, of California, was elected president-elect at the San Antonio meeting and will succeed Dr. Feinberg, noting, "The ADA is getting stronger, and we are in great financial shape. We are really in a position to

make a lot of changes over next two years. I very much look forward to working with everyone throughout the country."

For the second year, annual meeting attendees gave back by volunteering for the ADA Mission of Mercy free dental clinic all day Sunday from 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. A handful of patients began lining up Saturday evening and by 7:45 a.m. Sunday, the line of patients waiting for dental care wrapped from Market Street around the corner on Alamo Street around two sides of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. This year's event employed 930 volunteers (including 161 dentists from San Antonio and across the U.S.), ready to mask and glove up to give back to the



ADA coordinated Missions of Mercy event. People are lining up for free dental services.

community that offered them such generous hospitality

during ADA 2014 — America's Dental Meeting. In total, 1,207 patients received dental treatment valued at \$526,474.

A special shout out is also due to CAPT Phillip Driscoll and CDR Letich Ligon who also attended the ADA Reference Committee meetings.

Future locations for America's Dental Meeting:

November 5-10, 2015 Washington Convention Center – Washington, D.C.

October 20-25, 2016 Colorado Convention Center - Denver, CO

October 19-24, 2017 Georgia World Congress Center - Atlanta, GA

September 27-October 2, 2018 The Moscone Center - San Francisco, CA

Plan now for the 2015 ADA – America's Dental Meeting, to be held in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. We hope to see you there!

ADA membership represents a powerful commitment to your profession, and provides access to a range of resources that can help you achieve success. The ADA represents all federal dentists and your continued involvement helps strengthen the ADA's voice. Renew your membership or join the ADA today! You can renew online by visiting <http://www.ada.org/renew>, or by contacting the FDS Membership Office at 800.232.2083 or 312.440.4646. For more information, please visit <http://www.ada.org/belong>.

CIVIL SERVICE SPOTLIGHT:

MICHELLE JUNGER, DDS, MPH

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Can you please provide a brief summary of your training and education?

I attended college at the University of Virginia and graduated with a BA in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. I received a DDS degree from the University of Michigan and received an MPH in Health Policy and Management from Emory University. I then completed a Dental Public Health Residency and a Research Fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Can you tell our readers how long you've been involved in dental public health and describe your duties at your present site?

I completed my dental public health residency in 2011, and then stayed at CDC as a research fellow until I transitioned to the Health Resources and Services Administration. Currently, I am a Project Officer in HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce, Division of Medicine and Dentistry. During my time at HRSA, I have actually been able to work on six different grant programs and cooperative agreements. I currently work with the Postdoctoral Training in General, Pediatric,

and Public Health Dentistry Program and the State Oral Health Workforce Program. As a Project Officer, I am a programmatic subject matter expert and assist from pre-funding through post-award. I also enjoy traveling to visit grantees on site visits, working on HRSA-wide workgroups, and working on a variety of special projects here at the agency.

What led you to consider a career in dental public health?

I first became interested in a career in dentistry due to the quality care and kind staff of my family's dentist. I decided to pursue a career in dentistry in college, and during the summer before my senior year I volunteered at the Good Samaritan Clinic in downtown Atlanta. That sparked my interest of working in a community-based setting. When I graduated from dental school, I worked with a mobile dental company. I visited a variety of environments ranging from schools to housing authorities, and observed how living conditions directly influence health. I learned to be flexible and creative and deliver care in a culturally sensitive manner. However, during this time I saw such high levels of oral disease in children, and I knew I wanted to somehow make a difference on a larger scale. Desiring to approach public health using population measures, I received my MPH and worked for a year as an intern at the Georgia State Health Department with the State Dental Director. This is what really made me want to work in program development. I actually feel very fortunate to have experience at both the state and federal level, because both experiences complement each other and allow me to understand the fundamentals of our grant programs.



Dr. Michelle Junger

What did you find to be the most challenging aspect of your transition into dental public health?

Transitioning into dental public health can be difficult. I knew that I ultimately wanted to work at a Federal agency, but it can take years to accomplish this. Throughout my career, I have just been open to the opportunities that have become available to me, and each one has led me to the next step of my career path. I truly feel that I received the best training in the field, and when I came to HRSA I was so well prepared that I did not feel that the transition was difficult. I was really able to hit the ground running.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your service thus far?

The most rewarding aspect of my career thus far is being able to work directly with the HRSA grantees. On a day-to-day basis, I am able to see firsthand how our grant programs are able to reach vulnerable, underserved, and rural populations. I also find our training programs incredibly exciting. Our grantees are performing a variety of innovative activities designed to increase access to services.

Describe some of your outside hobbies and activities?

I have always enjoyed being active and being outside. When I was younger I swam, rowed crew, and participated in wilderness leadership courses. I love to cook, read, and spend time with my friends and family. I am also an animal lover and have an eight-year old Weimaraner who takes up a lot of my time.

Has your experience in dental public health thus far lived up to your expectations?

I would say that my experience in dental public health thus far has exceeded my expectations. I find the dental public health community to be filled with a special caliber of professionals who are highly professional and committed to their work, and who are also very compassionate, positive, and always willing to help their colleagues. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with amazing mentors throughout every stage of my career. I would not be the professional that I am today without all of the people who took their time to teach me and work with me, and for that I am truly grateful.

The Tooth of the Matter

Do you enjoy listening to *stimulating discussion* concerning the Dental profession?

Are you interested in learning about the *latest advancements* in dental products, techniques and infection control?

Do you like to earn *continuing education credit* while doing these things?

If so please plan to join us for:

Dental Category Day during the 2015 Commissioned Officers Foundation Symposium

May 19, 2015

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel

Stay tuned for additional information about Dental Category Day 2015!

<http://symposium.phscof.org/>

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RADM NICHOLAS MAKRIDES' PROMOTION CEREMONY

LCDR JUSTIN VOS, DDS, MPH

BUREAU OF PRISONS

On Thursday, January 15, 2015 in the Hubert Humphrey Building, RADM Makrides held his formal promotion ceremony. CAPT Michael Johnson, Regional Chief Dentist for the Bureau of Prisons, served as the master of ceremonies for the event. The program started with an invocation BY Chaplain Anders Pedersen of the Bureau of Prisons. RADM Chris Bina, Director of Pharmacy Programs for the Bureau of Prisons, gave remarks on behalf of the



RADM Makrides with his three daughters assisting to change out his ranks in front of the Surgeon General, VADM Murthy and Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Lushniak..

Bureau of Prisons and in support of their long standing friendship. Deputy Surgeon General RADM Boris Lushniak delivered impassioned remarks about RADM Makrides and the importance of oral health to the overall mission of the Public Health Service.

RADM Makrides was later joined on stage by his daughters Alexis, Kaitlyn, and Lauren, who helped change out his ranks from Captain (O-6) to Admiral (O-8). RADM Makrides' wife, Linda, participated in the oath of office which was delivered by the newly confirmed 19th Surgeon General, VADM Vivek Murthy.

Following the oath of office VADM Murthy spoke about the importance of leadership regarding mentorship, the Commissioned Corps, and public health goals. The event was well attended by additional USPHS leadership, Chief Professional Officers, and other agency branch chiefs. Attendees also included other friends, family, and career mentors.



Surgeon General VADM Murthy administering the oath of office to RADM Makrides, who was accompanied by his wife.

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INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TRIP TO THE VILLAGE OF KOYUKUK, ALASKA

CDR STELLA WISNER, DDS

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

I'm writing to tell you about one aspect of my new job at the Indian Health Service clinic in Fairbanks, Alaska. I transferred from the Coast Guard to the Indian Health Service just last August. Much of my day here in Fairbanks is spent providing dental care exclusively for the Native American population. In addition to traditional care at the clinic, I have been assigned seven trips this fiscal year to provide onsite care in remote villages. There are no dentists in these villages. It would be prohibitively expensive for them to come to us routinely, so we go to them. The twelve dentists in our clinic will serve 25 villages over the course of the year, making a total of 76 week-long trips. Three hygienists will serve nearly all of these same villages and make a total of 28 trips.



CDR Stella Wisner

My very first trip was to the village of Koyukuk from Monday December 1st to Friday December 5th. Koyukuk is a small city with a population of about 95 people with 42 households, 24 of which are families. The city is not accessible by roads. The residents are primarily KoyukonAthabscans with a subsistence lifestyle. Some of them work at outside jobs, such as teachers, health aides, tribal council members, custodians, power and water maintenance workers, oil field workers, public safety officers, and others. However, many depend on hunting and fishing for nutrition and cultural practices.



Two dental assistants in the single engine plane

On Monday, my two assistants and I flew on small planes from Fairbanks to Koyukuk. Reaching Koyukuk required two legs for a flying time of two and a half hours. The first leg was on a 9-seat single engine plane, and the second leg was on a 16-seat twin engine plane. The flights were smooth and uneventful, and the surrounding wild and rugged Alaskan scenery was very beautiful. Usually, there is only one dental assistant to accompany each dentist per trip. However, since one of my two assistants was a trainee, I was very fortunate to have the extra help for my first trip. There were very few passengers on our flights as most of the space and weight were taken up by our luggage and our heavy equipment.

A new clinic is currently being built in Koyukuk. For now, there is absolutely no dental equipment or supplies there, so we brought all the equipment needed to set up a dental clinic. That would include a portable air compressor, dental chairs, field units for handpieces and suction, x-ray equipment, ultrasonic cleaner, sterilizer, dental charts for everyone in the village, abundant supplies and instruments for restorations, extractions, even pulpectomies. If needed, we were prepared to start root canal therapies for those who were willing to travel to Fairbanks at their own expense to have that, as well as other advanced care, completed. Infection control is crucial, and we perform spore tests on the sterilizers on every trip.

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There are no hotels or restaurants in Koyukuk, so we brought cots, sleeping bags, and food. We packed enough food to last not only for the week but for the occasional times when our flights home might be delayed, mostly due to weather. For this trip, we worked and stayed in an elementary school classroom. The school is one of two places in Koyukuk that have running water. The other place with running water is the washeteria. The residents use the washeteria for laundry, showers, and fetching water to take to their houses for washing and cooking.



Repairing the dental chair

During our stay, there were at least four power outages, affecting phone service and heat, but none lasting more than 10 minutes each nor during operative procedures. There were four incidents of loss of water pressure that were somewhat inconvenient for us but did not affect patient treatment. However, we didn't have water for showers one morning, and that's where baby wipes came in handy. Although the temperatures were unusually warm, with highs in the 20's and lows in the teens, we had a snow storm on the evening of the 2nd, severe enough to cut off long distance telephone service until the next morning. We were not able to contact our loved ones back home during that time. We had no internet service during our stay, though one of the teachers offered the use of student computers to access the internet if needed. We did not take advantage of the offer as we were kept very busy with our workload.

Out of a population of 95 people, we saw almost 30 adults and 20 kids in four days of clinical work, putting in over 10 hours per day. We pulled the children out of the classrooms for their appointments during school hours and focused on doing exams, sealants, and applying fluoride varnishes. We will make return trips to make sure all the planned work is completed. Conscientiously keeping track of their needs and following-up has led to a significant decrease in the children's decay rates over time. The adults were seen during non-school hours and during lunch time for exams and emergency treatment. Our patients were very happy to have us there and accommodated us in any way they could.

In my 15 years in the PHS, these village trips were the closest to the work I grew to love during dental school. As a dental student at Loma Linda University, I would regularly travel along with a cadre of medical and dental students to provide care on weekends to the residents of impoverished Mexican border towns. These trips were arranged by my mentor, Loma Linda oral surgery clinical professor and director of the student missionary program, the late Dr. Jerome Jablonski, who was also a former PHS dental officer. Interestingly, when he was first commissioned in 1963, he was supposed to be detailed to the Coast Guard in Alaska but wound up instead with the IHS in the Dakotas. I believe it was his experience as a PHS officer in the IHS that equipped him with the necessary skills to manage the mission trips program that ultimately influenced my own career path towards the IHS.



Dr. Jerome Jablonski USPHS(ret) and CDR Stella Wisner

JUNIOR OFFICER SPOTLIGHT:

LCDR ABBY SHANNON, DDS

U.S. COAST GUARD

Can you please provide a brief summary of your training and education?

I received my Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science from Iowa State University in 2004 and then my Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Iowa in 2008. I am currently enrolled in a Master of Public Health program with Des Moines University.

Can you tell our readers how long you've been a PHS officer and describe your duties at your present site?

I was commissioned in January 2010 to USPHS in Sisseton, SD with Indian Health Service (IHS). I am currently detailed to the U.S. Coast Guard at the Training Center in Cape May, NJ. I transferred to this duty station in August 2014. I work with a team of restorative dentists and specialists to provide comprehensive care to recruits going through basic training (i.e. boot camp) as well as active duty members assigned to Cape May and the surrounding areas. We manage comprehensive dental health care needs and prepare members for worldwide deployability. Collateral duties that I have at my current duty station include being the student intern liaison for a dental assisting student program as well as a member of the infection control committee, the dental hygiene services officer, and the back-up social coordinator.

What led you to consider a career in the PHS dental program?

After graduation I worked in private practice in Northwest Iowa for one year. Due to the impact of the recession on the private market, I found myself looking for a new position. I accepted a position as a civil servant with IHS in Sisseton, SD at Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Healthcare Center. I learned about PHS from my then Chief Dental Officer CDR Jennifer Borden, coworker pediatric dentist CAPT ret John Zimmer, and CAPT Lynn Van Pelt. I met CAPT Van Pelt as part of a recruitment video that she was creating for IHS in which I was given the opportunity to share my positive experiences regarding the benefits of working for that agency. They all encouraged me to investigate PHS further. I had been unaware of what opportunities and benefits PHS offered. I was inspired by my positive impact as a civil servant serving the Native Americans and Alaskan Natives and PHS offered the opportunity to make a broader impact as a Commissioned officer on public health and other vulnerable populations in need of dental care. After deciding I wanted to make public health and public service my career, I applied for the PHS. I have been very blessed with this decision since then. The Commissioned Corps has offered me mentorship, opportunities for learning and training, and lifelong friends in all the people I have been able to meet through this unique career. I have even had the opportunity to be an adjunct professor to dental students that participated in the IHS externship program from the University of Iowa and was able to share my love of public health dentistry with them as well as introduce the students to what possibilities a career in the U.S. Public Health Service has.



LCDR Abby Shannon

What did you find to be the most challenging aspect of your transition into the Public Health Service?

One of the most challenging aspects of my transition into the Public Health Service was learning about public health dentistry on the job. My previous education only touched on the concepts of public health and what this meant for the community. By working on a Masters in Public Health, it has helped me to understand why we do a lot of the things that we do conceptually. It has also allowed me to become a better dentist with the education that I provide to the patient. I was also able to share this aspect with the dental students that I encountered while at IHS.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your service thus far?

One of the most rewarding aspects of my service so far is all the friends and mentors I have met. I have yet to meet a PHS officer that is not willing to help another in any way they are able. Everyone wants you to be prosperous and succeed in your goals. This is great motivation when the job gets hard. Many of us are stationed in locations that are far from our families and therefore our duty station coworkers become our family. I have also made many professional connections through the PHS. Other PHS dentists are very willing and generous with their time and knowledge, an aspect of this position one would not find in private practice.

Describe some of your hobbies and activities outside of the PHS?

I have always had a love for photography but much of my free time is now consumed with assignments for my MPH. My 4 children, ages 15, 7, 4, and 2 keep my remaining free time very busy. Activities such as soccer, dance, gymnastics, and music keep our family on the run.

Has your experience in the PHS thus far lived up to your expectations?

So far the short 4+ years I have been in the PHS have far exceeded my expectations and I cannot wait to see where my career leads me. One of the best things about PHS is the amount of opportunities that are available to work in different areas of Public Health as a dentist, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE TIP OF THE MONTH

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NURSING CATEGORY

Dear Commissioned Officers,

To transfer Post 9/11 education benefits to your dependent(s), you agree to a 4-year service obligation. You can visit the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Education and Training website for additional information:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp

Once your request to transfer Post-9/11 education benefits to your dependent(s) is approved, your dependent(s) should take the following steps:

Each family member must first apply for a certificate of eligibility (COE) from the DVA before they can use their transferred benefits. Once the DVA receives the requested data and DVA Form 22-1990E, they will be able to process your family member's requests to use their benefits.

The application for the COE (DVA Form 22-1990E) can be found through the Veterans On-Line Application website:

<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.



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A paper form is also available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-1990e-ARE.pdf>. Or you can call the DVA for Education Benefits information at 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

If you have transferred benefits to your spouse, he or she may use the benefits immediately.

If you have transferred benefits to your child, you must have served ten years of active duty before the child can use the benefit. However, the child does not have to complete the form until she/he is ready to actually use the benefits. After receiving their COE from the DVA, your family members must provide the certificates to the school.

If your family member(s) do not receive their COE from the DVA before they enroll in school, they should ask the veterans' certifying official at the school to submit to the DVA an enrollment certification for the academic term. Tuition funds will be sent direct from the DVA to the school. Children are eligible for the monthly living stipend, books and supplies stipend while you are serving on active duty. Your spouse is eligible for the books and supplies stipend, but because both you and your spouse are already receiving the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), your spouse will not receive the monthly living stipend. If you are not currently serving on active duty, then both your spouse and children are eligible for the monthly living stipend, and the books and supplies stipend.

Note For the service member: you and your spouse can continue to use the benefit for up to 15 years after you are last released (discharged or retired) from active duty. Children can use their benefits until their 26th birthday.

The DVA administers the Post-9/11 program. Therefore, your dependent(s) should contact the DVA Education Benefits Coordinator/Counselor or DVA Certifying Official at their College or University for further guidance. They can also speak to a DVA Representative at 1-888-442-4551.

Source: Mary Boone PHS DEERS Project Officer, PHS Education Benefits Coordinator

HAILS AND FAREWELLS:

WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONED CORPS

CAPT DAVID BRIAN FOLEY - BOP



FARE WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS IN THE NEXT LEG OF YOUR JOURNEY

CAPT STEVEN C. BROCKETT - DHS - RETIRED

CAPT ANDREA G. FEIGHT -FDA – RETIRED

CAPT KELLY L. BUTTRICK - DHS – RETIRED

CAPT RICK D. VACCARELLO -BOP– RETIRED

CAPT PAUL J. FARKAS –BOP –RETIRED

IN MEMORIAM

CAPT DANIEL L. SPETH

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014-2015

Agency/Organization	Web Link/info	Meeting date	Meeting Location
Academy of Laser Dentistry	Academy of Laser Dentistry 2015 meeting	February 5 - 7, 2015	Palm Springs, CA
150th Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting	2015 Midwinter Meeting	February 26 - 28 , 2015	Chicago, IL
American Dental Education Association Annual Meeting	2015 ADEA Annual Session	March 7 - 10, 2015	Boston, MA
IADR/AADR Annual General Session	IADR/AADR Annual General Session 2015	March 11-14, 2015	Boston, MA
Western Regional Dental Convention	Western Regional Dental Convention 2015	March 19-21, 2015	Phoenix, AZ
Hinman Dental Meeting	Hinman	March 26-28, 2015	Atlanta, GA
National Oral Health Conference	http://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/	April 27-29, 2015	Kansas City, MO
Academy of Prosthodontics	2013 Academy of Prosthodontics Meeting	April 28 - May 2, 2015	Austin, TX
California Dental Association Spring Scientific Session	CDA Presents: Annual Sessions	April 30 - May 2, 2015	Anaheim, CA
American Association of Endodontists	AAE - 2015 Annual Session	May 6-9, 2015	Seattle, WA
American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry	http://www.aacd.com/education.html	May 6-9, 2015	San Francisco, CA
The Texas Meeting: Annual Texas Dental Association Convention	TDA	May 7-10, 2015	San Antonio, TX
USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium	http://www.phscofevents.org/	May 18-21, 2015	Atlanta, GA
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session	Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Calendar	May 21-24, 2015	Seattle, WA
Pacific Northwest Dental Conference	WSDA - PNDC Overview	June 11-12, 2015	Bellevue, WA
Academy of General Dentistry Annual Meeting	AGD Annual Meeting	June 18 to 21, 2015	San Francisco, CA
National Dental Association	http://ndaonline.org/nda-convention/	July 24-28, 2015	Chicago, IL
American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry	http://www.estheticacademy.org/	August 5-7, 2015	Telluride, CO
American Association of Women Dentists	http://www.aawd.org/?page=AnnualConference	November 5-8, 2015	Washington, DC
American Dental Association Annual Meeting	ADA: American Dental Association - ADA Annual Session	Nov. 5-10	Washington, DC
American Academy of Periodontology. 100 th Annual Meeting	http://www.perio.org/meetings/am/index.html	Nov. 14-17	Orlando, FL
Mid-Continent Dental Congress	http://www.gslds.org/education-mcdc.php	TBD	TBD

ONLINE ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES & CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Agency/Organization	Description	Web Link
American College of Dentists	CE - Dental Ethics Course	http://www.dentaethics.org
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Resource - Oral Health Resources	http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Resource – Video, HRSA Deputy Administrator Marcia	http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/
HRSA	Resource - HHS Oral Health Initiative 2010	http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/hhsinitiative.html
IHS Division of Oral Health	Resource - Early Childhood Caries Initiative	http://www.doh.ihs.gov/ecc
Inside Dentistry	CE - online continuing education	http://id.cdeworld.com/
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	CE - Practical oral health care for patients w/ developmental disabilities	http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/EducationalResources/
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	Resource - Dental Providers Oncology pocket guide. Quick reference on treating pts before, during and after cancer treatment	http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/supportivecare/oralcomplications/HealthProfessional
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	Resource - Presentation explaining the clinical trial process	http://www.nih.gov/health/clinicaltrials/index.htm
National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center	Distance Learning	http://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/DL.html
Naval Postgraduate Dental School	CE - Correspondence Course Program	http://www.wrnmcc.capmed.mil/ResearchEducation/NPDS/SitePages/ContinuingEducation.aspx
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice	CE - Basic Public Health principles study modules	http://www.nwcpnp.org/training/courses
Ohio Department of Health, the Indian Health Service, and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors	Resource - Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual	http://www.dentalclinicmanual.com/
Proctor & Gamble	CE – online continuing education	http://www.dentalcare.com/en-US/conteduc/conteduc.jsp
The University of Iowa	Resource - Oral Pathology Image database	http://www.uiowa.edu/~oprml/AtlasHome.html

DePAC does not advocate for any of the products, materials or information in articles included in this list, it is merely a compilation of online resources and continuing education opportunities for category members.