



**Environmental Health Officer (EHO)  
Professional Advisory Committee**



# The EHO Assessment

**April 2022 News and Updates**

*A place to learn about current events and updates from the EHOPAC*

## **EHOPAC Leadership Message**

Welcome to another edition of the all-digital format for EHO News and Updates!

*Disclaimer: This newsletter/article is for informational purposes only and does not reflect official views of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or USPHS Commissioned Corps leadership.*

EHOs,

I want to take this opportunity to thank CDRs Erin Evans, EHOPAC Chair-Elect, and Jessica Otto, EHOPAC Immediate Past-Chair, and the EHOPAC Executive Committee and Voting Members for all the great work they did while I was out. I'm excited to be back and to get to work! We have a lot to accomplish this year. The changes keep coming, and the PAC remains committed to helping our category and its officers to successfully navigate those changes.

We hope you find this issue helpful. Please read on for important updates and resources. As always, we are proud to serve alongside you and always thankful for you!

CAPT Jessica Havranek, EHOPAC Chair

## **CPO Updates**

### **Commissioned Corps Modernization Policy Revisions**

Spring is here and the first daffodils and crocuses have now given way to cherry blossoms and tulips. Change and rebirth are here again. Of course, you know where this is going, we are all in the midst of a historic rebirth. The creation of the Commissioned Corps from a chain of civilian hospitals was tumultuous. So was rearranging the Bureaus, Divisions, and Offices of the Public Health Service into the Agencies of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This Modernization Initiative will be nearly as profound.

As several long-term deployment responses linger, the Surgeon General and Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) continue their focus on modernization and bringing the Corps into the 21st century. Keep a weather eye out for outreach sessions at your Agency, perhaps at your duty station, and within the category. I encourage everyone to read the latest directives and instructions. Analyze but don't act - nobody needs to make an immediate career decision based on partial information. I'd suggest discussing issues with your peers, liaison, or me; or perhaps crystallize an idea succinctly and ask a well-formed question at a town-hall, all-hands, or other OSG or CCHQ engagement.

I had a chance recently to mention to the ASH that we EHOs are her 'prevention people', the foundation of public health and of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. The ASH and the Surgeon General remain impressed with the commitment, performance, and sacrifices of the EHOs and all Officers. I'll continue to keep them apprised of your needs and make sure your voice is heard.

CAPT Timothy Jiggins, EHO Chief Professional Officer

## **Policy Links and Details**

As part of the ongoing modernization efforts, in 2018, two independent assessments on the value of the USPHS Commissioned Corps were performed. Based on the results of these independent assessments, the Commissioned Corps began amending its policies to ensure we remain aligned with statutory requirements. Additional detailed information is available in the Officer Secure Area of [CCMIS](#) under the *Commissioned Corps Modernization* tab.

The following Directives were signed by the Secretary and are pivotal to the next steps of our modernization efforts. These policies include Commissioned Corps Directive (CCD) [122.02](#), "Force Distribution and Management," CCD [122.01](#), "Promotions," CCD [124.01](#), "Retirement," CCD [125.04](#), "Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants," and CCD [121.06](#), "Protected Communications."

CCHQ has developed [FAQs](#) to help Public Health Service officers better understand these revisions.

## **CCHQ Connect**

CCHQ has introduced a new communications initiative entitled, "CCHQ Connect." CCHQ Connect is a short-term 'lunch and learn' style discussion session created to connect directly with Public Health

---

Service officers. The goals of these sessions are to address any concerns and to provide accurate, up-to-date information. CCHQ Connect will run every Wednesday 1200 – 1300 ET, spanning from the second week in April through the third week in May. The first CCHQ Connect session will occur on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Please see the weekly schedule and topics listed below.

Each session will be recorded for those that are unable to attend the live session. The recording and slides from the first CCHQ Connect session are now available to view. Please login to the [Officer Secure Area](#) on the Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) server, select Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) Leadership Presentations & Reports from the column on the left, and then select “CCHQ Connect Session” of interest.

April 13: Promotion Categories / Rank Conversion

<https://www.hhs.gov/live/cchq-connect-april-13/index.html>

April 20: Readiness and Practice Hours

<https://www.hhs.gov/live/cchq-connect-april-20/index.html>

April 27: Failure to promote/restricted vs non-restricted/opt out

<https://www.hhs.gov/live/cchq-connect-april-27/index.html>

May 4: Force Distribution vs Promotion Rate

<https://www.hhs.gov/live/cchq-connect-may-4/index.html>

May 11: New Promotion Score Sheet; Rank Order/ The Line Number

<https://www.hhs.gov/live/cchq-connect-may-11/index.html>

May 18: Retirement

<https://www.hhs.gov/live/cchq-connect-may-18/index.html>

---

---

## Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) Updates

### Dental Coverage Transition:

Commissioned Corps Headquarters is converting your dental insurance coverage to the TRICARE Active-Duty Dental Program (ADDP), provided through United Concordia, the current contractor for the ADDP. This is the same dental coverage used by other uniformed service active duty servicemembers.

The existing Public Health Service contract with Delta Dental **expires on July 2, 2022**; therefore, starting on **July 3, 2022, Public Health Service officers will receive their dental insurance benefits through United Concordia (current contractor for the ADDP).**

No action is required by individual Public Health Service officers for enrollment in the new dental plan. Public Health Service officers should make sure that their information (e.g., address if they have moved) is correct in DEERS. Instructions for updating DEERS can be found [here](#).

For any questions, please refer to the CCHQ e-mail from March 14, 2022 or contact the Medical Affairs Branch mailbox: [MABDental@hhs.gov](mailto:MABDental@hhs.gov).

### **Uniform of the Day:**

The Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service Summer White (SW) uniform is now authorized for wear. Alternate uniforms are the Service Dress Blue (SDB), Service Khaki (SK), and the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). Public Health Service officers detailed to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), please follow the USCG uniform guidance.

For more information on uniform policy and the uniform of the day, please reference the Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) [821.61 \(Previously 17-002\)](#) “Uniform of the Day” and Commissioned Corps Instruction CCI [411.01](#) “Required Wear of the Uniform.”

If you have questions about uniform wear, please contact your agency liaison or the Commissioned Corps Headquarters Uniform Coordinator at [PHSCCUniform@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSCCUniform@hhs.gov).

## **Important EHOPAC Subcommittee Updates**

### **Communications:**

We are pleased to present the [2021 EHOs in Action Photobook](#). The creation and distribution of this photo book is important as it shows the amazing, diverse, and impactful work of our category across agencies, and throughout the country. *Thank you to all those that submitted photos – we hope you enjoy the results!*

If you are thinking that you missed an opportunity to be included in last year’s book, don’t worry! We are already on the hunt for 2022 action shots. We are requesting photos and stories of distinctive/significant work conducted in 2022. Photos can be from your duty station, deployments (PHS or agency), JrCOSTEP assignments, fitness events, volunteer work, or recruitment events. We also need photos with interesting scenery/events that may not include an officer, but represent unique work environments, an environmental health issue, or an accomplishment. The goal of the *EHOs in Action* photobook is to raise Commissioned Corps leadership’s awareness of the great work EHOs do. Be creative, be proud, and have fun!

### **How to contribute a photo:**

- High resolution photos to CDR Christopher Smith at [nxz0@cdc.gov](mailto:nxz0@cdc.gov) and LT Shelby Haddeland at [Shelby.foerg@ihs.gov](mailto:Shelby.foerg@ihs.gov) with “2022 EHOs In Action Photobook Submission” in the subject line.
- A succinct description (1-2 sentences) that can be used as a caption and identifies the officer(s) in the photo.
- A photo release form for images with non-PHS personnel. Forms can be requested from CDR Christopher Smith at [nxz0@cdc.gov](mailto:nxz0@cdc.gov) and LT Shelby Haddeland at [Shelby.foerg@ihs.gov](mailto:Shelby.foerg@ihs.gov).

Photos will be accepted through the end of October 2022 and may be used for other PAC purposes

## **Readiness:**

As spring approaches, it’s a great time to jump ahead and check your readiness.

### **Meeting and Maintaining Basic Readiness Webinar**

On the Commissioned Corps Learning Management System (CCLMS), there is a webinar presented by Readiness and Deployment Branch (RDB) at CCHQ. The purpose of this webinar is to provide sustainment training of why Basic Readiness is important, how it is achieved, and how it is maintained. This webinar includes information from the following policies: CCD 121.02 ‘Deployment and Readiness’, CCI 241.01 ‘Readiness and Duty Requirements’, CCI 241.02 ‘Deployment of Corps Officers’, POM 821.75 ‘Readiness Compliance’, POM 821.76 ‘Deployment Procedures’, and POM 821.66 ‘Retention Weight Standards.’ [Course: Basic Readiness \(hhs.gov\)](#)

### **Annual Retention Weight Standards Requirements**

Officers having difficulty completing their annual weight requirement (BMI and/or estimated percent body fat (EPBF) or “taping”) with a medical provider or healthcare professional and have exhausted all options to make an appointment, can reach out to RDB’s Readiness Team with documentation at least two weeks prior to the readiness deadline via email at [PHSReadiness@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSReadiness@hhs.gov). Note that the CCHQ obtains an officer’s official annual weight from their yearly Periodic Health Update or Verified Weight Report and not the Annual Physical Fitness Test.

### **Cultural Competency Deployment Refresher Program**

A new 30-minute online training will serve as a just-in-time refresher on cultural competency best practices for officers preparing for deployment. Future pre-deployment correspondence from RDB will have a CCLMS link with the refresher. This training will be highly recommended, but not a requirement for basic readiness.

\*If any EHOs have photos of EHOs doing EHO work and are willing to be featured in a meme, please send them to LCDR Mark Otto [rwv3@cdc.gov](mailto:rwv3@cdc.gov)

## Mentoring and Orientation:

The Mentoring and Orientation Subcommittee would like to welcome the February 2022 OBC 134 EHO graduate, LT Justice B. Lambon, who is stationed at Indian Health Service in Parker, AZ.

*Table 1. Mentoring Moments and Tips for April.*

<b>Mentoring Moments and Tips</b>	
	Diversity <b>M</b> ENTEES Lead by <b>E</b> XAMPLE Inspire the <b>N</b> EXT generation Get <b>O</b> UTSIDE your comfort zone Pay it <b>F</b> ORWARD <b>L</b> EARN new skills
Shared by CAPT Jill Shugart, 2021 EHOPAC Thomas E. Crow Mentor Award Winner	

## Officer Leader Profile

We are happy to share another **Officer Leader Profile**, spotlighting fearless leaders in our category! If you would like to self-nominate or nominate an EHO you admire to be profiled, please send names forward to CDR Danielle Mills ([hku1@cdc.gov](mailto:hku1@cdc.gov)), LCDR Dana Williams ([ihh6@cdc.gov](mailto:ihh6@cdc.gov)), and LCDR April Hill ([April.Hill@hhs.gov](mailto:April.Hill@hhs.gov)).

**CAPT Bobby Villines, CCFE, RPS, MPH**  
**Health Systems Specialist**  
Indian Health Service, OK

***Leadership Perspective***

Information technology has a significant hand in improving the status in the fields of environmental education and human health. The emerging growth of the internet services and facilities, geographic information system or GIS, and the data that gets transmitted through satellites, etc. have generated a higher affluence of the updated information on several aspects of the environment as well as health. I currently serve as *the Federal Lead for the IHS Health Information Exchange*. Although this is not necessarily the role of a traditional Environmental Health practitioner, this role is essential in protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of our Nation.

During my time as an Area ISSO I was very involved in leading ISSO discussions, provided comments on IHS security policies on behalf of the Area ISSO group and HQ staff would often reach out to me regarding an issue when they needed an Area perspective. This type of involvement only increased as I assumed the Area CIO role. My experience at the Area level has allowed me to provide vital input in my new position and my new team often looks to me to provide that perspective as it relates to new projects.

My leadership style tends to be Situational leadership. Situational leadership is all about adapting. I am a problem solver who often helps other troubleshoot so we jointly come up with the solution to fit the problem like incorporating new technology to support EH programs.

**Career Highlights/Accomplishments**

- 1997-2000 Communications Committee Co-Chair – American Indian/Alaska Native Commissioned
- 1999 Sanitarian of the Year – Navajo Area Indian Health Service (IHS)
- 2000 Exceptional Performance Award – Shiprock Service Unit – Navajo Area IHS
- 2002 Area Director’s Award for Outstanding Group Performance – Navajo Area HIS



**Figure 1. CAPT Villines**

“If you are asked for guidance or input, always be honest even if you know it is not what the other person wants to hear, but what they need to hear.”

- 2001 Injury Prevention Specialist Fellowship Participant – IHS
- 2003-2005 EHO Voting Member – Junior Officer Advisory Group
- 2005-2007, 2012-2015 Voting Member – EHOPAC
- 2009 Merit Award – Oklahoma City Area IHS
- 2002-2015 EHOPAC Website Administrator
- 2005 – Jefferson Parish School Assessment Team Lead
- 2005-2007 Chair – EHOPAC IT Subcommittee
- 2007-2015 Co-Chair – EHOPAC IT Subcommittee
- 2017, 2018 – IHS Leadership Training – Information Technology Overview

### ***Education/Training***

- Bachelor of Science – Environmental Health Science – East Central University
- Master of Public Health – Occupational Health and Safety Medicine – Tulane University

### ***Professional Associations***

- Commissioned Officers Association
- National Environmental Health Association

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium**

May 23 – 26, 2022  
Renaissance Glendale  
Glendale, AZ

It's that time of the year and we are thrilled to see you during the 2022 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium. **Don't forget to register!**

EHO Mentoring Session: **Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

EHO Category Day & Awards Luncheon: **Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM**

Stay tuned for details on the EHO Social!

**For questions, please reach the EHO Category Day Planners:**

[LCDR Sandra Carpio \(Lead Planner\)](#)



[LCDR Jona Johnson \(Senior Planner\)](#)

[LT Kelly Genskow \(Junior Planner\)](#)

[LCDR Laura Annetta \(Ex Officio\)](#)

---

## Organization of the Month

### National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

The **National Environmental Health Association** (NEHA) serves “To advance the environmental health professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all.” The Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) is the most widely held NEHA credential. Professionals credentialed by NEHA meet an established standard of excellence, with sufficient environmental health experience and knowledge as verified by examination.

The 2022 Annual Education Conference & Exhibition (AEC) is approaching. The conference will be held in Spokane, WA or virtually on June 28 – July 1, 2022. Register and learn more [here](#).

Another great NEHA resource is the [Community Calendar](#). This calendar is community shared and vetted by NEHA staff to ensure applicable environmental health related events are highlighted. Check this calendar often to see training opportunities locally, nationally, and virtually.

To learn more about NEHA, visit: <https://www.neha.org/>

*\*\*Do you have an ‘Organization of the Month’ you’d like to see highlighted? The organization can be local or national but should provide resources applicable to all Environmental Health Officers. Please share your organization and a summary of its resources with your EHO Assessment Team below!\*\**

## About EHOPAC News

**Do you have a news story to share?** Submit your *EHOPAC News* stories or questions for inclusion in a future edition to LCDR Matthew Kozler, [matthew\\_kozler@nps.gov](mailto:matthew_kozler@nps.gov), LT Stephanie Bridges, [stephanie\\_bridges@nps.gov](mailto:stephanie_bridges@nps.gov), and LT Stephen McLane, [Stephen.mclane@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Stephen.mclane@fda.hhs.gov)!

---

## For More EHOPAC Information:

Visit the [EHOPAC Website](#)

Check out our **FACEBOOK** pages:

[EHO Closed Facebook Group](#)

To join, please log in, and click the green “Join Group” button.

---

[EHOPAC Open Facebook page](#)

[EHO LinkedIn Page](#)

---

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the [EHOPAC Listserv page](#).

Thank you for all you do,

**EHOPAC Communications Subcommittee – Publications Team**

For more information, please visit the EHOPAC website at: <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/>

To subscribe or unsubscribe from the EHOPAC ListServ, please visit:

<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/ehopaclistserv.aspx>

To provide anonymous feedback to EHOPAC leadership, please visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDXMFWX>