



Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee



The EHO Assessment

August 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,

Welcome to the August issue of the EHO Assessment. World Environmental Health Day is September 26, and the EHOPAC is celebrating for the entire month of September. While we won't be holding the Virtual Training Series this year, we do hope you'll participate in our other planned activities throughout the month to celebrate the contributions you have made to the nation, public health, and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Read on to hear more about what we're doing to support and promote you and your work. *In Officio Salutis!*

CAPT Jessica Havranek, MPH, CPH, REHS/RS
EHOPAC Chair

CPO Updates

Protecting the Protectors

When our country most needs the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, the USPHS Commissioned Corps most needs our EHOs. We most often deploy as Safety Officers (SOFRs), fulfilling the noble mission of protecting the health and safety of those who protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our nation. An aggressive, visible SOFR enhances team cohesion and reduces anxiety and stress. When we excel at force health protection, we advance the Surgeon General's priority of improving the well-being of Public Health Service officers.

I've been very impressed by the EHOPAC Deployment Skills Webinar Series these last couple of years, and I look forward to more progress in improving the quality and quantity of deployable SORFs. Eventually, I hope to integrate the highly specialized skill sets of Public Health Emergency Response Team (PHERST) and Ready Reserve officers into our efforts. A larger pool of qualified SOFRs will prevent the burnout endured these last few years by the most qualified and experienced SOFRs of the category. Until then, I hope the transition to on-call months has reintroduced some much-needed predictability in your lives.

CAPT Timothy Jiggins, MSPH, REHS/RS, CIH
EHO Chief Professional Officer

Anonymous Feedback System: EHOPAC CV Template

As we approach promotion season again, there have been questions and comments submitted to the EHOPAC Anonymous Feedback System about the new CV template and whether additional guidance is forthcoming from the EHOPAC about how to use it.

Q: "Last year the EHOPAC notified officers to hold on using the new CV format and that work was underway to develop a more user-friendly version. When can we expect an update on when that will be released? Provide an update to the category on progress and anticipated release date and then post the document on the EHOPAC webpage with a notice sent via the LISTSERV."

A: "The Career Development Subcommittee is working to finalize a user-friendly CV template and guidance to EHOs on how to migrate and translate environmental health career information into the new format. The CV template will be forthcoming before the end of September with some of the preliminary guidance in an EHOPAC LISTSERV message. The guidance document and the template will be posted to the EHOPAC website by mid-October. Career Development is also considering hosting an informational webinar to discuss the CV template, best practices, and answer questions to prepare officers for the upcoming promotion cycle. Please stay tuned to the LISTSERV."

To provide anonymous feedback to EHOPAC leadership for future responses at EHOPAC meetings or in the EHO Assessment, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDXMFWX>

Officer Leader Profile

CDR Jamie Mutter, Team Lead CDC, Commissioned Corps Activity

Leadership Perspective

I currently serve as a Team Lead in the CDC/ATSDR Liaison office. I am an advocate for CDC/ATSDR PHS Commissioned Corps officers and provide guidance/advice on Commissioned Corps policies to officers and supervisors. Previously, I served as an Environmental Health Officer in ATSDR's Office of Community Health and Hazard Assessment. In this role I worked with communities that have been impacted from contaminants in their drinking water. I helped give communities a voice and feel heard when the actual contamination is out of their control.

My previous assignments include 5 years with CDC/ATSDR's Liaison office where I assisted the incoming Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers as they started their CDC fellowship and joined the Commissioned Corps. Prior to that assignment, I worked for 5 years as an Industrial Hygienist in CDC's Office of Health and Safety where I performed ergonomic assessments, food inspections, indoor air quality and water sampling.

I would describe my leadership style as leading by example: providing others a guide to succeed and achieve a common goal.

Career Highlights/Accomplishments

- Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service: World Trade Center and Anthrax Investigation Emergency Response Team
- Deployments: Hurricane Katrina/Rita (daycare assessments), Hurricane Maria/Irma (clinic assessments), COVID-19

Education/Training

- BS, Biology – Florida State University in 1998
- MS, Biology – Georgia State University in 2001
- MPH, Environmental and Occupational Health – Emory University in 2003

Professional Associations

- National Environmental Health Association
- The Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS



Figure 2. CDR Mutter

“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others”

~Jack Welch

Upcoming Events

World Environmental Health Day is September 26. The EHOPAC is celebrating September as Environmental Health Month! Stay tuned for upcoming events and celebrations of Environmental Health via the EHOPAC Listserv.

Organization of the Month

National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

[About EHAC | NEHSPAC](#)

Mission: The mission of the National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) is to enhance the education and training of students in environmental health science and protection. The EHAC Council develops and applies accreditation guidelines for institutions of higher education that wish to ensure premium quality education and training of environmental health science and protection practitioners.

Purpose: The purpose of EHAC is six- fold. The Council:

- Promotes a high-quality education for persons studying environmental health science and protection.
- Assists and supports universities and colleges developing or offering a curriculum in environmental health science and protection, advising them on curriculum content and faculty qualifications.
- Promotes commonality in coverage of basic concepts of environmental health science and protection education.
- Promotes undergraduate curricula of a quality and content compatible with admission prerequisites of graduate programs in environmental health science and protection.
- Evaluates academic programs in environmental health science and protection using criteria established by the Council.
- Publishes a list of the institutions with programs accredited by the Council.

****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, LT Stephanie Bridges, stephanie_bridges@nps.gov, and LT Stephen McLane, 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.

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Thank you for all you do,

EHOPAC Communications Subcommittee – Publications Team

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