



Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee



The EHO Assessment

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 final issue of the Assessment for 2021, and a very warm welcome to our new Chief Professional Officer (CPO), CAPT Timothy Jiggins! As we look back and reflect on all that the PAC has accomplished this year, we can't help but stand in awe of your resilience and persistence through a very hard season. We have grown as a category and worked together to further the practice of environmental health. With webinars and readiness reminders and though policy changes, we hope you've felt supported and engaged by the PAC. We know there are areas for improvement, and we hope you continue to send us your feedback, engage in PAC work, and attend our PAC meetings to stay connected and informed. Be on the lookout for a call for volunteers to engage in the important work of the PAC. And read on to hear more important updates and learn where you can get involved.

As we look forward to 2022, we hope you all have a restful, safe, and happy holiday season.

Important Dates

December 2021:

- Dec 31: Annual Commissioned Officer's Effectiveness Reports (COERs) due to Agency Liaison – see Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) updates section.
- Dec 31: Deadline for many promotion documents – see CCHQ updates section.
- Dec 31: Deadline to complete Commissioned Corps Learning Management System (CCLMS) training – see Readiness subcommittee section.

January 2022:

- Jan 15: Annual COERs due to CCHQ – see CCHQ updates section

February 2022:

- Feb 15: Last day to verify promotion folder in the Officer Promotion Package Verification System (OPPVS) – see CCHQ updates section.

EHOPAC Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee

Congratulations to the incoming members of the EHOPAC Executive Committee (EC): Our 2022 EC members are:

- Immediate Past Chair: CDR Jessica Otto
- Chair: CAPT Jessica Havranek
- Chair-Elect: CDR Erin Evans
- Secretary/Treasurer: LCDR Corey Butler
- EC Liaison: LCDR Steven Merritt

As mentioned in the Leadership message, we also extend **CONGRATULATIONS** to our new CPO, CAPT Timothy Jiggins, and a sincere **THANK YOU** to our fearless leader and outgoing CPO, RADM Kelly Taylor!

Communications:

Thank you to all EHOs who submitted a photo for the EHO Photobook. This will be a great introductory tool to share the great and diverse work of EHOs with incoming Chief Professional Officer, CAPT Jiggins. Stay tuned for more opportunities to highlight our work in the future!

Readiness:

If you have not finished them, you only have until **December 31, 2021** to complete the new Commissioned Corps Learning Management System (CCLMS) training for all Public Health Service officers. **Required Training Topics** include:

- Cultural Awareness
- Harassment
- Resiliency
- Ethics

Completion data for all Public Health Service officers will be tracked and managed by Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ). You are not required to upload training certificates to your eOPF.

Mentoring and Orientation:

The Mentoring and Orientation Subcommittee extends a warm welcome to all **newly commissioned Environmental Health Officers who graduated OBC in 2021.**

Congratulations on becoming part of our professional category and our service. We are a category of professionals who are dedicated, friendly, and willing to go the extra mile to be of service and to get the job done. We are a profession of problem solvers, capable of doing more with less, and we excel at being both generalists and specialists. On behalf of all the environmental health officers, we are happy and excited about your inputs and your contributions to our category. The USPHS has a distinguished history of serving the public health needs of all Americans, and we look forward to working with you as you become one of tomorrow's public health leaders.

Please join us in welcoming the 2021 OBC graduates:

OBC 125:

- LT Joseph Sarisky (IHS)
- LT Sung Jik Park (IHS)
- LTJG Katherine Miller (IHS)
- LT Beau Carter (IHS)

OBC 126:

- LTJG Natalie Cataldo (OS)

OBC 129:

- LT Claire Tipton (FDA)
- LTJG Sydney Taylor (FDA)
- LT Johnny Nwankwo (OS/PHERST)
- LTJG Kiwanda McLemore (USCG)

OBC 130:

- LT Katelyn Watts (USCG)
- LT Nikia Jones Shaw (OS/PHERST)

Table 1. Mentoring Moments and Tips for December

Mentoring Moments and Tips
<p>“In order to be a mentor, and an effective one, one must care. You must care. You don't have to know how many square miles are in Idaho, you don't need to know what the chemical makeup of chemistry is, or of blood or water. Know what you know and care about the person, care about what you know and care about the person you're sharing with.” — <i>Maya Angelou</i></p>

Officer Leader Profile

We are happy to share another **Officer Leader Profile**, spotlighting fearless leaders in our category!

CDR Candis Hunter

Senior Public Health Adviser

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA

Leadership Perspective

CDR Candis M. Hunter is a Senior Public Health Adviser at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Environmental Health in the Lead Poisoning Prevention & Environmental Health Tracking Branch. In this role, she advises and assists state, local, and tribal health partners in the development, implementation, and evaluation of childhood lead poisoning prevention programs. She has provided environmental and epidemiological expertise for several public health emergency responses and investigations including the 2010 Navajo Birth Cohort Study, 2011 Japanese Earthquake/Nuclear Response, 2015 Ebola Response, 2016 Flint, Michigan Lead and Legionnaires' Disease Investigations, and the COVID-19 Response. She believes it is critical to bring a health equity lens to all environmental health related work and advocate that USPHS is as diverse as the populations that we serve. She is honored to serve as an EHOPAC Voting Member and co-chairs the EHOPAC Mentoring & Orientation Subcommittee.

CDR Hunter utilizes a servant leadership style and enjoys volunteering, teaching, learning, and mentoring. As a servant leader, valuing people, building trust, and fostering growth environments are critical to her work. Her interests include community gardening, environmental justice, evaluation, microplastics, maternal and children's environmental health, and mixed methods research approaches. A Louisiana native transplanted in Georgia, she is particularly passionate about good food, environmental justice, and climate change mitigation (she has family and friends in LA & TX deeply impacted by hurricane and flooding events). CDR Hunter is a life-long learner and went back to school for a PhD in Environmental Health Sciences while working full time and starting a family. She is grateful to her family, friends, supervisors, mentors, and peers who supported her and continue to support her during that stressful time and throughout the pandemic.

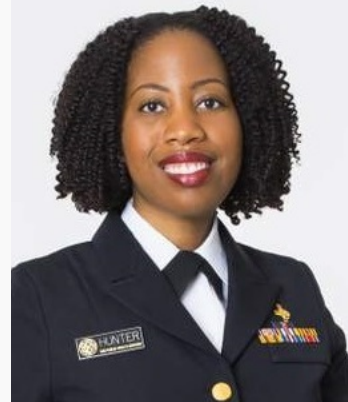


Figure 1. CDR Hunter

*Education is
for improving
the lives of
others and
for leaving
your
community
and world
better than
you found it.*

*~Marian Wright
Edelman*

Career Highlights/Accomplishments

- Her doctoral research was a part of a [soilSHOP](#) community-engaged research team that discovered lead deposits in Atlanta westside soils -which has now been designated as an [EPA superfund site](#). More information about this high-profile work is here:
 - <https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/it-could-take-50-million-decade-clean-up-lead-contamination-atlantas-westside/EXN2IFRNNNEE5M5NHRMWOG62CQ/>
 - [Rollins School of Public Health | Student Spotlight: Candis M. Hunter \(emory.edu\)](#)
- Received USPHS Outstanding Service Medal for leadership in advancing environmental health implications of microplastics and collaborating with agency and national federal leadership
- Recognized through [2021 Young, Gifted, and Green 40 Under 40 Award](#), 2021 CDC Emerging Leaders Program, 2020 NCEH/ATSDR Health Equity Award, and [2017 Emory University Alumni Association 40 Under 40 Award](#)
- Co-authored over 25 [publications](#) and reports and is the lead author of [Racial Disparities in Incidence of Legionnaires' Disease and Social Determinants of Health: A Narrative Review](#), which was recently published in *Public Health Reports*, the official journal of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Education/Training

- PhD, Environmental Health Sciences, Emory University; Dissertation: [Behaviors to Reduce Heavy Metal Soil Exposures among Community Gardeners](#)
- MSPH, Environmental and Occupational Health/ Epidemiology, Emory University- NIOSH Trainee & EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowship
- BS, Chemistry, Spelman College- NASA Women in Science and Engineering Scholar
- Certificates: REHS, Fundamentals of Environmental Justice Training, Truly Living Well Urban Gardening/ Farming, Environmental Health and Land Reuse Classroom Certificate

Professional Associations

- Commissioned Officers Association (COA)- Atlanta Chapter
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) Updates

COER 2021:

A reminder of upcoming important dates for the annual COER:

- Online Annual COER is due to the Agency Liaison by **31 December 2021**
- Online Annual COER is due to Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) by **15 January 2022**

Promotion Year 2022 CV Format

As a reminder, for **Promotion Year 2022**, RADM Taylor and the EHOPAC Executive Committee recommend Public Health Service officers **continue to use the old format and ensure your CV addresses the new benchmarks**. The old format can be found on the [EHOPAC Website Resources Page](#), under *Career Development - Current CV, CV Cover Sheet, and Continuing Education Summary Templates*. The new CV format will be used for **Promotion Year 2023** and will standardize the promotion process across all categories.

Note that most promotion documents are due to your eOPF by **December 31st**, including CV, Officer Statement, Reviewing Official Statement, and other eOPF support documents. If up for promotion, you have until **February 15th** to review your packet through the new Officer Promotion Package Verification System (OPPVS) in your Officer Secure Area.

Town Hall:

A recording is available for the November USPHS Commissioned Corps Town Hall. Topics ranged from officer deployments to strategic direction and future vision of the service.

To view a copy of the recording and slides presented at the Town Hall, please login to your [Officer Secure Area](#). Select Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) Presentations & Reports from the column on the left, then select "COMMISSIONED CORPS TOWN HALL – 11/5/21."

Physical Training Uniforms:

The issues leading to malfunction of the new [Physical Training Uniform](#) (PTU) have now been resolved. Navy Exchange has corrected the anchor and caduceus peeling off the PTUs, along with improper placement of the anchor and caduceus on the fleece hoodie. Public Health Service officers can now purchase these new and improved garments in Southeast D.C. and Bethesda Navy Exchange locations or through the NEX.com website.

CCHQ also updated Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) 413.01, "Special Uniform Situation," authorizing officers to wear compression leggings, shorts, and shirts underneath the PTU – as long as they are solid dark blue or black.

Health Misinformation Toolkit:

In November, the Surgeon General released the Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation to help Americans navigate the serious threat of health misinformation, especially online. The toolkit is interactive and collaborative using accessible language and examples to help

users understand and identify misinformation and disinformation. Check out the toolkit and accompanying guidance [Posted on the HHS Website](#).

Organization of the Month

American Society for Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

The mission of ASHRAE is to serve humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and their allied fields. They are the industry standard for ventilation systems, which has become a critical component of engineering controls to reduce COVID-19 air-borne transmission. ASHRAE has developed a wealth of [COVID-19 informational resources](#) to help facilities increase fresh air and improve filtration. Not only are these strategies critical for COVID-19 risk reduction, but they also support general indoor air quality.

As EHOs, we often support the populations we serve with guidance on workplace safety, to include considerations for disease exposure. From a [One-Pager or Core Recommendations](#) to technical guidance on [Filtration and Disinfection](#), ASHRAE's COVID-19 resources help translate ventilation research and technology into actionable measures to keep our stakeholders safe.

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, and LT Stephanie Bridges, stephanie_bridges@nps.gov!

For More EHOPAC Information:

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Thank you for all you do,

EHOPAC Communications Subcommittee – Publications Team

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