



## Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee



# The EHO Assessment

## July 2023 News and Updates

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

### EHOPAC Leadership Message

*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.*

Hello EHOs and Welcome to the June Edition of the EHO Assessment –

It was wonderful to see some of you at the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Scientific and Training Symposium in Tulsa. Between the introduction of our new mascot LCDR Abigail, the screening of the new documentary the *Invisible Corps*, and learning about the exceptional work being performed by our officers – it was a great event. It was fun to connect with old friends, meet some of our new EHOs, and to be inspired by the passion and dedication of our officers.

I was personally inspired by several officers and leaders over the course of the week. Our own Chief Professional Officer (CPO) told a story of taking a stand for what's right and making small changes that can save lives. RDML Kelly Battese asked us not to judge a leader when they make a mistake, rather consider what they do after their mistake to fix it. CDR Jackanicz reminded us that challenge and discomfort allow us to grow as people. I really enjoyed connecting and walked away grateful for all that this career and this service has given me.

I want to extend my congratulations to all our EHOPAC award winners. We had an amazing group of nominees, and I'm truly awed by the amazing work each of you do. Stay tuned for our upcoming **General Meeting June 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 p.m. EDT**. We'll be announcing our open Voting Member seats for the 2024 Operational Year, and we'll have a **special presentation** from the **American Industrial Hygiene Association**. We hope to see you there!

In Officio Salutis,

CDR Erin Evans

## Chief Professional Officer Message

Public Health Service Environmental Health officers have played a critical role in the development and leadership in the field environmental health and continue to do so.

The American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS) began in November 1956, when the Sanitarians Joint Council (SJC) met at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The professionals who made up the SJC were representatives from three associations whose membership represented the majority of sanitarians in the country: the APHA, the International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians (IAMFES) now the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), and the National Association of Sanitarians (NAS) now the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).

The twelve founding members of AAS included CAPT Darrold Taylor, Director of the USPHS Milk and Food Branch. In 1963 CAPT Taylor was appointed as the first “Liaison Officer for the Sanitarian Category,” in essence our first CPO. Today our category continues to be represented on the AAS Board of Directors:

CAPT (ret) Wendy Fanaselle, (Awards Chair)  
CAPT Jill Shugart, (Finance Chair)  
CDR Jennifer Dobson  
CDR Jessica Otto

We also have EHOs serving in leadership positions with NEHA and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). CDR Anna Khan serves as NEHA’s First Vice-President and CDR James Speckhart is the Region 8 Vice-President (DE, MD, PA, VA, DC, WV, and all NEHA members of the U.S. armed forces residing outside of the U.S.). Furthermore, CAPT Bradley King serves as Secretary on the AIHA Board of Directors and was recently elected as AIHA’s Vice President for the 2023–2024 term. Following his year as Vice President, CAPT King will progress through year-long terms as President-elect, President, and Past President of AIHA.

Please **join me in recognizing** those EHOs who encumber an **executive office in the associations that represent our profession.**

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

## Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) Updates

### **Public Health Reports, Official Journal of the Office of US Surgeon General:**

For your information and awareness, the Office of the Surgeon General invites you to view [the new issue of Public Health Reports](#) (PHR), the official journal of the Office of the US Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service.

## Important EHOPAC Subcommittee Updates

### **Training and Events:**

EHOPAC Highlights from the 2023  
USPHS Commissioned Corps Scientific and Training Symposium



Figure 1 Picture EHO PAC Category Day Group Photo

**Kudos** to the Symposium Planning Workgroup: LCDR Jona Johnson, LT Kelly Genskow, and LCDR Erin Kincaid

The 2023 USPHS Commissioned Corps Scientific and Training Symposium was held on May 8-11, 2023, at the Cox Business Convention Center in Tulsa, OK. EHO-specific highlights included:

- EHO Mentoring Session - Eight junior EHOs took advantage of this opportunity for one-on-one mentoring. Thank you to the seven senior EHOs who participated as mentors and to those who coordinated the event!
- EHO Category Day - Thirty-nine EHOs attended this year’s Category Day, with seventeen presenters. Topics included category and EHOPAC updates, career development, technical skills presentations, and a special session on interesting duty stations. Thank you to all the speakers and attendees!
- EHO Social - Thirty-five EHOs and five family members attended the EHO Social held at The Brook Downtown. A great time was had by all attendees. Thank you to those that attended the event and to those who coordinated it!

**Awards and Recognition:**



Figure 2 Picture of LCDR Galvez, his parents, and supervisor

**LCDR Steven Galvez**, Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC), FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs, San Francisco District Office (SAN-DO) received **“The San Francisco Federal Executive Board’s (SFFEB) Excellence in Leadership”** Award.

This award highlights federal employees who display **leadership**, regardless of position, **demonstrating the character and ability to influence and motivate others** in accomplishing a major program and/or change that resulted in substantial contributions to improving service to the public. LCDR Galvez coordinates emergency responses and outbreak responses

utilizing federal and state resources in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. He also ensures operational continuity for the FDA SANDO during disasters. LCDR Galvez's dedication goes beyond his ERC responsibilities including deploying with Administration for Children and Families in their mission regarding unaccompanied minors. He consistently exhibited remarkable leadership skills, possessing profound understanding of field operations, effective communication abilities, and the capacity to inspire and influence others.



Figure 3 Picture of LT McNamara

**LT Kathryn McNamara, IHS Albuquerque Service Unit was honored in Drexel University's '40 Under 40' List.**

The "40 Under 40" program recognizes outstanding young alumni who are making a mark in their professions and community. Nominations were sought from alumni, faculty and staff, employers and the public through email, publications, and social media. The profile highlighted LT McNamara's **service** in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and focused on the **breadth of work performed by EHOs** deployed as Safety Officers and infection control experts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Information Technology:**

##### **APAN**

Are you an EHOPAC Voting Member or Subcommittee Volunteer who uses APAN?

If so, please sign into your APAN account at minimum once a month (every 30 days) to maintain access. If you do not login once a month, APAN will automatically disable your account and it may take several days for your access to be restored.

##### **Max.gov**

Do you use MAX.gov? Max.gov will sunset on December 31, 2023. Users will need to make plans and transition to a new platform that will meet their technology needs. After Dec 31, 2023, Max.gov shared services will no longer be available. For more information, visit Max.gov.

#### **Mentoring and Career Development:**

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

<b>Mentoring Moments and Tips</b>
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## [What Great Mentorship Looks Like in a Hybrid Workplace](#)

EHOs – How do we mentor in a remote, distributed workforce? This article from Harvard Business Review describes how remote mentoring can promote equity and build relationships free from the biases we face in person, and provides strategies for developing strong, virtual mentor relationships.

*Please note, due to varying Agency firewall restrictions links might not be accessible from all Government devices.*

If you participated in the April EHOPAC Mentoring Roundtable and did not get a chance to complete our feedback survey, please complete here by June 30: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHOAprilRoundtable>

### **Communications:**

As we approach the summer months, we look forward to seeing more photo submissions of EHOs in the field doing great work. CAPT Jiggins recently shared our *2022 EHOs in Action Photobook* with Surgeon General RADM Murthy at the USPHS Commissioned Corps Training and Science Symposium. Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos, we look forward to seeing more! Please enjoy the [2022 EHOs in Action Photobook](#) to spark inspiration (*please allow the video to buffer if photos or elements are missing*).

Submit photos and stories of distinctive/significant work conducted in 2023. Photos can be from your duty station, deployments (USPHS 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 awareness among Commissioned Corps leadership of the outstanding work EHOs do. ***Be creative, be proud, and have fun!***

### **Submit:**

- High resolution photos to [CDR Christopher Smith](#), [LT Shelby Haddeland](#), and [LT Christina Waters](#) with “2023 EHOs In Action Photobook Submission” in the subject line.
- Photo Caption:
  - Officer’s Rank, First Name, Last Name
  - Location (City, State)
  - A succinct description (1-2 sentences) describing action in photo.
- A photo release form for images with non-PHS personnel. Forms can be requested from [CDR Christopher Smith](#) or [LT Christina Waters](#). ***Photos will be accepted through the end of October 2023.***

Officer Leader Profile



*Figure 4 Picture of CDR Aaron Niman*

## **CDR Aaron Niman, MPH, REHS/RS, CPH Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC**

### **Leadership Perspective**

I currently serve as an Environmental Health Scientist with EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and a national advisor on the evaluation of epidemiologic research and development of dietary exposure methods. Overall, I have more than 15 years of experience in public health, risk assessment, and program management. My passion is using data science and evidence-based review methods to strengthen the scientific foundation of environmental health and promote transparency in public policy.

I have also been appointed by EPA to lead an international delegation to the United Nations Food Standards Programme which promotes harmonization of international food safety standards on pesticides.

While much of my USPHS career has focused on environmental health, have broad public health interests, having served in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research as a Program Manager for the Sentinel Initiative. I adopted a coaching leadership style that builds off my lifelong participation in athletics. This approach focuses on strengthening teams by promoting professional growth while providing guidance on goals, tactical objectives, and challenges. My use of coaching leadership also recognizes that public health professionals are increasingly called upon to work on dynamic, multidisciplinary teams and have diverse strengths, weaknesses, and motivations. As such, it is critical to build an organizational culture that values continuous learning and empowers EHOs to take risks and re-invent themselves as our public health mission evolves.

### **Career Highlights/Accomplishments**

- Served on two deployments during Operation Allies Welcome mission to support our Afghan allies seeking resettlement in the U.S.
- U.S. Delegation to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). My work on the CCPR culminated in an annual international committee meeting in China where I was given the opportunity to engage with the global community to protect consumer health, promote global trade, and strengthen food security.
- Instrumental in National Launch of FDA's Sentinel Initiative, 5/2008.
- Advisor to World Health Organization on its Risk Assessment of Indoor Residual Spraying of DDT to Control Malaria.
  - I performed an independent data analysis that was included in World Health Organization's final report, "Environmental Health Criteria 241 – DDT in Indoor Residual Spraying: Human Health Aspects."

## Education/Training

- Master Certificate, Project Management, George Washington University
- Master of Public Health, Environmental & Occupational Health, Emory University
- Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science, University of Michigan

## Professional Associations

- National Environmental Health Association
- National Board of Public Health Examiners

*“There's always ways of motivating yourself to higher levels. Write about it, dream about it. But after that, turn it into action. Don't just dream.”*

*-Dan Gable*

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, please send names forward to [LCDR April Hill](#) and [LCDR Valeria Moore](#). Profiles featuring LTs and LCDRs are welcomed.

## Upcoming Events

### Regional Deployment Role Training:

The USPHS Commissioned Corps Regional Deployment Training aims to provide relevant, mission-focused resources and trainings critical for maintenance of readiness and adequate preparation for future public health emergencies and/or threats. Public Health Service officers may apply during their on-call month.

Link to Training: [Commissioned Corps Management Information System \(CCMIS\)](#)

Schedule:	August 28 – September 1, 2023
Audience:	Active duty in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 and select PHERST and Ready Reserve
Ranks Eligible:	All ranks
Location:	Rockville, MD
Registration opens:	June 1, 2023
Registration Deadline:	July 15, 2023

## Organization of the Month

### CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) [Environmental Public Health Tracking Program](#) is a nationwide network of integrated health and environmental data that can be used to drive public health interventions and actions to improve health. Over the past 20 years this system has collected, integrated, and analyzed non-infectious disease and environmental data from nationwide partners.

The Tracking Network has data and information on the environment, exposures, health effects and population characteristics. CDC's site allows you to view dynamic maps, charts, and graphs on many different health topics. Also check out State and Local Tracking Programs for even more topics, such as harmful algal blooms, radon, and food safety information.

The CDC currently funds 26 state and local tracking programs. These grantees work tirelessly saving lives and protecting communities from health threats. Learn more about success stories at [think link](#).

**\*\*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 EHOs. 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 [LT Stephanie Bridges](#), [LT Stephen McLane](#), and [LT Phillip Mathis](#)

## For More EHOPAC Information:

Visit the [EHOPAC Website](#)

Check out our FACEBOOK pages:

[EHO Closed Facebook Group](#)

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[EHOPAC Open Facebook page](#)

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Thank you for all you do,

**EHOPAC Communications Subcommittee – Publications Team**

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