



NEWSLETTER



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

SUMMER 2016

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Changing of the Guard

By CAPT Alan Parham

Saying Goodbyes (and MacGyver is back!)

I have logged some serious miles on the car the last few weeks attending retirement celebrations for CAPT Richard Turner, CAPT Jaret Ames, and CAPT Marshall Gray. I will have to say, while I was glad to help celebrate some very accomplished careers, the selfish side of me was a little sad that these “constants” that have been in the Corps since I did my COSTEP 26 years ago, were suddenly hanging up the uniform. It just seems strange, but as they always say, the only thing that is constant in this world is change. One change that I am looking forward to is that MacGyver is back!

Some of you may be too young to remember the old T.V. show “MacGyver” that aired all the way back in the late 1980s (yes I’m that old and yes I used to sport a mullet like MacGyver). It was one of my favorite shows and CBS is rebooting it on September 23rd. For those that don’t know, the original show followed secret agent Angus MacGyver who was a troubleshooter for a fictional U.S. Government Agency. “Resourceful and possessed of an encyclopedic knowledge of the physical sciences, MacGyver solves complex problems by making things out of ordinary objects, along with his ever-present Swiss army knife.”

So what in the world does MacGyver have to do with you, the EHO Category, and retirements? If I had to describe the character MacGyver, I would use words like scientist, ingenious, intelligent, committed, resourceful, problem solver, and “jack of all trades”. As I sit and listen to the accomplishments of recent retirees, talk to EHOs across the country, see pictures and hear about the work that is being done, those same exact words could easily describe USPHS EHOs.

I am continually humbled to see examples of your resourcefulness, ingenuity, commitment, and leadership even when some of the missions are outside of your formal training as an Environmental Health Scientist and you have very little resources or support. Just like MacGyver, few people understand your work or the challenges you face, but you carry on in order to complete the mission because it is the right thing to do. We have a lot to be proud of!

(Continues on next page)

Changing of the Guard (continued)

Finally, as I listened to all the things being said about the professional accomplishments of CAPT Turner, CAPT Ames, and CAPT Gray during their retirement celebrations, there was definitely a common theme that had very little to do with environmental health, and that was the clear evidence that during their career they took time to invest in personal relationships with those around them in order to encourage and help others succeed both professionally and personally.

No, I do not like the thought of saying goodbye to these senior officers and many others who have already retired or will be retiring soon, but it is that investment in the people around us that will ensure that we continue to play a critical role in USPHS Commissioned Corps and the mission to Protect, Promote, and Advance the Health of our Nation. I almost titled this article “Changing of the Guard”, but I realize that the “Guard” is always changing. It is up to all of us to make sure that we work together to continually improve as EHOs and as a Category. We continue to add outstanding new officers to our Category and I am confident that our future is strong. Thank you for all you do!

Fair Winds and Following Seas to all recent retirees,

CAPT Alan Parham



Photographed above, CAPT Alan Parham (right) presenting a shadow box to CAPT Richard Turner (left)



Photographed above, CAPT Alan Parham (right) presenting a plaque from Applied Public Health Team 2 recognizing the contributions of CAPT Marshall Gray (left)

**Please visit page 23
for Retirement Announcements**

Meet your EHOPAC Leadership



**CDR Carolyn Oyster, USCG
EHOPAC Chair**



**CAPT Alan Parham, ATSDR
Chief Professional Officer**



**CDR Jill Shugart, CDC
EHOPAC Vice-Chair**



**CDR Jamie Mutter, CDC
EHOPAC Secretary/Treasurer**



**CAPT David Cramer, IHS
EHOPAC Ex Officio**

See EHOPAC Voting Members on the Next Page

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

EHOPAC Voting Members



**CDR Katie Hubbard, IHS
Awards**



**LCDR Chyla Hunter, FDA
History**



**LCDR Matthew Deptola, NIH
History**



**CDR Monica Leonard, CDC
Marketing & Recruitment**



**LCDR William Fournier, DOI
Mentoring & Orientation**



**CDR Darren Buchanan, IHS
Information Technology**



**CDR Stephen Piontkowski, IHS
Career Development**



**CDR Derek Newcomer, NIH
Policy & Standards**



**CDR Elena Vaouli, ATSDR
Communications**



**CDR Timothy Albright, FDA
Marketing & Recruitment**



**LCDR Carla Tuite, FDA
Training**



**LT Daniel Malashock, DHS
Communications Liaison**



**CAPT John McKernan, EPA
Career Development**



**CDR Chris Van Twuyver, FDA
Readiness**



**LCDR Travis Bowser, IHS
Training**

Chief Professional Officer Message

CAPT Alan Parham, ATSDR

EHOs in Action Photobook

It pays to advertise!

The last two *EHOs in Action* Photobooks (<https://ehosinaction.shutterfly.com>) were a big hit with Commissioned Corps Leadership. We are working on another year-end report (in pictures) for our Category that I can present to VADM Murthy, RADM Trent-Adams, and RADM Hunter in December. Similar to what we created in the past, we are working on a professionally bound photobook highlighting the work of EHOs over the past year (since October 1, 2015).

I know many of you have deployed for Flint, Zika, Louisiana floods, and other responses. Obviously, we also want to include pictures/stories of other significant or unique work that EHOs have done this year that may or may not be deployment related.

If you have participated in any physical fitness events, PHS or agency deployments, volunteer work, recruitment events, or have pictures of you in your day job – please consider submitting the associated pictures. COSTEP pictures would also be great to include. We also need pictures of interesting scenery or events that may not include an officer in the picture but represents the unique work, environmental health issue, or an accomplishment. We can always grab their attention with a picture and make them want to read the caption. Think creatively!

The goal of this report/photobook is to raise awareness to Corps leadership on the great work that you all (EHOs) do both in your day jobs as well as during response efforts or volunteer work that they would otherwise not be aware of.

Please send any pictures you may have of you or groups of officers and a short (a few sentences/bullets) description of the work/accomplishments that we can use as a caption for the picture(s). Pictures need to be high resolution in order to be used in the photobook.

Please submit your pictures by October 16th to CDR Eva McLanahan (yjp8@cdc.gov).

We plan to do this again next year, so please remember to document with pictures! Let me know if you have questions. Thank you!

Note: If you are interested in purchasing one of the photobooks, you can do it at the website provided above, but make sure you buy it when Shutterfly has a 50% off deal. The full price for the 2015 Photobook could be as much as \$150! Shutterfly has a different discount or sale every other day so don't pay full price!



**CAPT Alan Parham, ATSDR
Chief Professional Officer**

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

PAC Chair's Report

CDR Carolyn Oyster, USCG

Greetings! We hope you enjoy reading our Summer Newsletter publication. As you will notice in our Subcommittee reports, the PAC has been working on many projects to help our category and the USPHS. One project we all have been involved in is standing up a new EHOPAC website (<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho>). Please take a moment to visit the site if you have not. You will find everything from our new EHO coin logo available for download to a 2016 EHO Recruitment Presentation.

I also want to remind everyone about the new system for uploading documents into our eOPF. This process, while giving us more control, does come with a caveat: officers now have the final say in WHERE uploaded documents go. Getting materials to the correct destinations within our eOPFs is now our personal responsibility.

Vice Chair's Report

CDR Jill Shugart, CDC

Recently, I was fortunate to embark on a four state road trip that encompassed two National Parks. This adventure was planned to both celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) and to burn some use or lose leave. I can't think of a greater way to use leave! I have been to several National Parks in the past and these recent two in the eastern region did not disappoint. During my journey I thought of the Environmental Health Officers assigned to the Department of the Interior (DOI) - there are currently 12. In fact, there are a total of 54 Commissioned Corps Officers that work for the DOI and include the categories of ENG, HSO, MED, NURSE, SCI, and VET in addition to EHOs. The DOI oversees the NPS and other bureaus and offices such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management, etc. I think we are incredibly lucky to be able to serve in these unique and beautiful environments. I challenge you to take a look at your own work environment and I hope you find the beauty and uniqueness in it. Congratulations on 100 years to the National Park Service and Bravo Zulu to our CC Officers who serve in these historic duty stations!

Speaking of DOI, this is just one of the agencies that will have a voting member vacancy on the EHOPAC for the coming year. We are in the process of filling six seats on the EHOPAC for the following agencies: DOI, FDA, CDC, EPA, At-Large, and an Open Agency Seat. Thank you to those of you who turned in applications! The new voting members will be selected in October and successful applicants will begin their terms in January of 2017. If you were not able to apply for voting membership or serve on the EHOPAC, consider sharpening your leadership skills in other ways. Additional ideas include volunteering on workgroups or subcommittees within your agency or professional organizations you may belong to, supervising a JRCOSTEP, writing a journal article, or becoming a mentor to name a few. All of these activities behoove us as officers and ensure we are aligned with the core values of the Commissioned Corps: **Leadership, Service, Integrity, and Excellence.**

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

PAC Subcommittee Highlights

Awards and Recognition

- **Call for Nominations!** – The call for nominations for the 2017 Environmental Health Officer Responder of the Year (ROY) award will go out on Monday, October 24th. The purpose of this award is to recognize individual EHO excellence in achieving the USPHS mission of improving the Nation’s health through the practice of environmental health during emergency preparedness, disaster response, and contributions to national or international public health threats in the previous fiscal year (FY16). Activities need to be carried out during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. Nominations will be due to the subcommittee chair no later than COB, Friday, November 18th. Please consider nominating a worthy officer for this prestigious award.

Career Development

- **Updated Career Development Documents** – We are pleased to share three new and revised documents!
 - **CV Template**
(https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/documents/CV_Template_2017_EHOPAC.docx)
 - **CV Cover Sheet Template**
(https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/documents/CV_Cover_Sheet_Template_2016.docx)
 - **CV Cover Sheet Template Supplemental Guidance, 2016**
(https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/documents/CV_Cover_Sheet_Template-Supplemental-Guidance-2016.pdf)

Our category has not used a CV cover sheet since 2009 and it was brought to our attention that one is needed. The purpose of the cover sheet is to provide abbreviated CV information for the specific purpose of highlighting promotion benchmarks to the promotion board. This is the only template you should follow. The accompanying Supplemental Guidance for that template provides instructions to crafting your cover sheet and describes details such as formatting, content, and other valuable information like faxing the CV cover sheet and CV as one file to your eOPF. If you are promotion eligible in PY17 please ensure you submit a CV cover sheet using the template along with all other required documents to your eOPF.

The EHO CV Template did not undergo significant revision, however, there are two small changes on this 2017 version:

- Replaced **PHS Number: 12345** with **PHS #12345/Empl ID 1234567** to align with our cover sheet and CC HQ instructions for submitting documents to the eOPF
- Updated the date in the header from **November 2015** to **December 2016**

Communication

- **EHOPAC Communications Survey** - Next week you will all receive an invitation to participate in an EHO category-wide survey. The survey is intended to inform EHOPAC leadership on communication and information needs across the EHO category. We hope that by improving our understanding of these needs we will be able to strengthen our various efforts and products. We thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to participate and help us to improve our efforts.

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Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

PAC Subcommittee Highlights (continued)

Training

- **Category Day Planning Team** – Congratulations to LT Beth Wittry! She is the newest member of the Category Day Planning team, and begins her three year term to help us continue providing this top notch event.
- **EHO Training & Events Calendar** – We are currently evaluating our content on the new EHOPAC website, and looking for ways to make it more EHO friendly. We are excited to share that we are creating a calendar to advertise EHO training and events.

Policies and Standards

- **Standardizing Our Practices** – To promote standardization, the Policies and Standards sub-committee reviewed work plans and standard operating procedures submitted by the EHOPAC sub-committees. Selecting the best examples from the 2016 submissions, the intent is to design templates for use during 2017. Since the last EHOPAC meeting templates to document work plans and standard operating procedures have been drafted and are undergoing internal review.
- **Evaluating EHO Appointment Standards** – One key function of the Policy and Standards sub-committee is enabling a forum for discussing and recommending necessary revisions the category’s professional standards relating to ABET, CEPH and EHAC. This has become extremely challenging for EHOs working to assess applicant environmental health knowledge, if the applicant graduated from a CEPH-accredited university. To address these concerns, the sub-committee is authoring a position paper with recommendations to revise the EHO appointment standards.

Marketing and Recruitment

- **Applicant Updates** – As of August 2016, 66 environmental health officers have been boarded by DCCPR under their new hiring process which began in 2014. Of the 66 boarded EHOs, 38 have secured positions and 6 are in need of jobs. The remaining 22 applicants who weren’t commissioned by the USPHS were for various reasons which include: (7) were medically disqualified; (1) secured a non USPHS job; (4) withdrew their application; and (10) had their applications expire. Applicants have one year from their boarded date to secure a federal position.

Applicant Updates as of August 2016	66 EHO Applicants Successfully Boarded	37 Have Secured Federal Positions	6 Are in Need of Securing a Billet
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- **EHO General Duty Application Window** – Was open June 1st-June 30th 2016. We received Personal Statements and CVs from 57 candidates by DCCPR’s deadline. Next steps include in depth review of the candidates by DCCPR and then interviewing the candidates by Senior EHOs. Interviews will determine who will proceed to being officially boarded. Once Boarded they will have one year to secure a position.
- **JRCOSTEP Updates** – During the summer of 2016, 20 JRCOSTEPS were placed at three federal agencies: 18 with the Indian Health Service, 1 with the Food and Drug Administration, and 1 with the National Park Service.
- **Save the Date!** – EHOPAC Recruitment Webinar will be held October 20, 2016, 1130am to 1pmEST. Information will follow on the EHOPAC Listserv.

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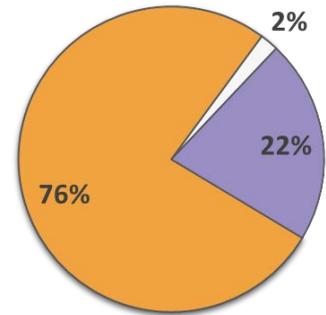
Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

PAC Subcommittee Highlights (continued)

Readiness

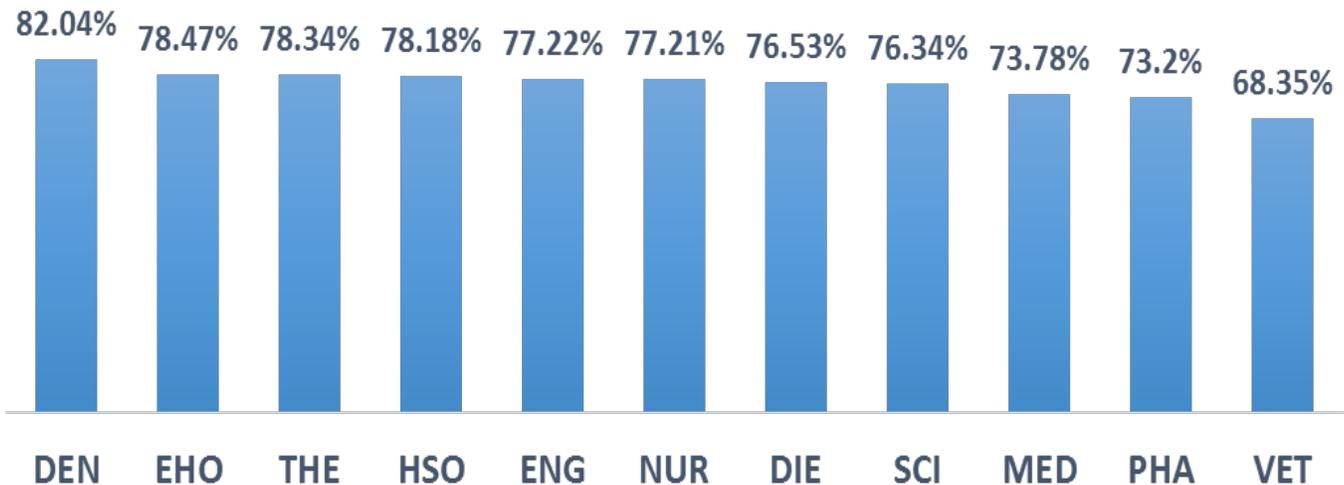
- **EHO Projected Readiness** – As of 9/1/2016, out of 339 total EHO Officers, 78% are projected to be basic ready, 2% are exempt, and 22% not qualified for the 10/1/2016 readiness check.
- **Projected Readiness Across Categories** – As of 9/1/2016, the EHO Category ranks 2nd among the 11 categories for projected readiness for the 10/1/2016 readiness check.

EHO Category (N=339)



Basic Ready Exempt Not Qualified

All Categories (N=11)



Purchase a New EHO Category Coin!

The EHOPAC is selling the NEW category coins for \$10. There will be an additional \$4 shipping cost if needed.

The coin features the EHO logo (as shown on the right) on one side and the Seal of the U.S. Commissioned Corps on the other.

To purchase new coins, contact CDR Jamie Mutter (zwj4@cdc.gov). They will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.



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PAC Subcommittee Highlights (continued)

Liaison Reports

Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)

Submitted by CAPT Lauralynn Taylor McKernan, CCWIAB Liaison

Notable News:

- The Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) continues to receive inquiries from officers regarding DoD's announcement extending maternity leave. CCWIAB sent a letter to headquarters to request consideration for a change for PHS. The Commissioned Corps Policy Office is aware and is evaluating the feasibility of changes.
- CCWIAB has drafted a "Marriage Guide" to assist officers with steps and paperwork after this life change. The draft document has undergone CCWIAB review and is currently with the Office of the Surgeon General for comment. The draft document will be distributed for comment to the PACs soon.
- CCWIAB continues to refine the Resource Guide for Expectant Parents for officers. A new section which covers procedures for officers who are stationed overseas is currently being drafted. The Resource guide can be found: <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/ccwiab/ccwiabresources.aspx>.

Environmental Health Accreditation Council (EHAC)

Submitted by CAPT Don Williams, EHAC Liaison

Notable News:

- The Environmental Health Accreditation Council met over the weekend prior to the start of National Environmental Health Association meeting in San Antonio. All of the undergraduate programs that were up for accreditation or reaccreditation received that distinction

Those included Mississippi Valley State University, Baylor University, Benedict University, Colorado State University, Dickinson State University and Ohio University. All received the full six year accreditation status.

Then only graduate program that was under consideration was Mississippi Valley State which received a conditional accreditation due to concerns about one course offering. They have two years to address those concerns and if successful full accreditation will be granted.

Seeking reaccreditation next year are University of Massachusetts at Lowell, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire and Western Carolina University. Programs that are currently preparing to seek initial accreditation are SUNY-Syracuse, University of Northern Iowa and Kent State.

All schools seeking EHAC accreditation submit an exhaustive self-study that covers all facts of the program such as faculty, laboratory and research facilities and university support. The self-study is validated by a two person site visit team (consisting of one Academic and one Practitioner member). Their report is then given to the Council prior to the meeting, the schools send a representative who answer questions and then after Council discussion the vote is taken and the representative is notified of the results. Accreditation assures a continuing supply of highly qualified EHOs to fill our ranks.

Tips for a Successful Aide-de-Camp

By LT Brian Czarnecki, with contributions from CDR Derek Sakris and LT Laura Annetta

Hello junior officers! Have you ever considered an opportunity to serve as an aide-de-camp?

If you are looking for a great opportunity and a new perspective, serving as an aide-de-camp is a highly recommended and rewarding experience.

An aide-de-camp is a uniformed officer acting as a confidential assistant to a Flag Officer (a.k.a. the “Principal”). The aide-de-camp is considered a title of honor and provides a unique opportunity to observe Corps leadership. USPHS aide-de-camps are authorized to don an aiguillette, which is a braided blue and gold cord, worn on the left shoulder of a uniform. Aide-de-camp experiences vary widely from simple to complex tasks to serve the mission, in both plain and unique theaters.



Photographed above, LT Laura Annetta (right) providing support in her role as aide-de-camp to the Surgeon General (left).

Successful aide-de-camps practice proper protocol everyday so that when they are called to serve Corps leadership, following protocol is a natural and effortless way of operating. Such preparation should allow one to anticipate and avoid the awkward moments of trying to open a door for the Principal when your hands are occupied with officer paraphernalia (e.g. covers, briefcases, pens, note pads, itineraries, and your Principal’s morning coffee).

To help you succeed in carrying out the responsibilities of your next aide-de-camp opportunity, please consider the following tips:

Be Prepared

- Print and review your Principal’s biography prior to your first meeting. This will allow you to engage him/her in an informed conversation.
- Review the Principal’s itinerary prior to event day. If the itinerary is prepared by the Principal’s staff, ensure you have the go-ahead to reach out to on-site POCs before you do so.
- Know the names and contact information for your other aide-de-camps that will both precede and follow you. Check-in with the previous day’s aide to gain any insight on the Principal and relay information you learn to the following day’s aide to ensure seamless transitions.
- If the aide or Principal gets separated from the group due to a restroom break or similar event, be prepared by knowing the meeting location, time, and the means to get there.

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Tips for a Successful Aide-de-Camp (continued)

Stick to the Basics

- Be well rested so that you are able anticipate the next task with lasting stamina.
- Your uniform of the day will match the Principal's. Prepare uniforms ahead of time and be well groomed.
- Counsel in private and praise in public. Check the Principal's uniform in private and prior to meetings. Keep all comments in public, if any, positive and to a minimum.
- Be respectful and always assume everyone is watching you. Stay calm, cool, and crisp!
- The aide is to be seen and not heard. In official meetings, do not engage in conversation unless invited to speak. Excuse yourself from the photos unless requested by the Principal.
- Unless spoken at a public meeting, assume all information you hear is confidential.

Anticipate and Stay Alert

- Anticipate your Principal's needs and facilitate movement of the Principal from "Point A" to "Point B". Drive/walk the day's routes prior to the event day. If that's not possible, review the routes on a map prior to the event. Be flexible as the schedule and routes may change.
- Stay accessible to the Principal and any coordinating staff for itinerary changes. Arrive early for the first meeting with your Principal. Be prepared to hurry up and wait.

Know When to Ask for Help

- Even the best prepared officers may encounter a situation where they need assistance. Do not hesitate to tap into your network of colleagues and have a "Safety Sam" on speed dial. This officer should be notified in advance that you may be calling on them for some behind the scene research/intel (e.g. protocol, address, etc.) to keep the operation moving along.

Stock Up on Essentials

- Carry etiquette and protocol references such as the Public Health Service Officer's Guide: Leadership, Protocol and Service Standards and review aide-de-camp materials (e.g. Army Officer/Enlisted Aide Handbook).
- Essential items include a black brief case/messenger bag, contact names/numbers, aspirin, water and snacks considering special needs, breath mints, notepad and writing utensils, pin-back's, a sewing kit, a fully charged phone and charger with space available for important pictures if appropriate, and any other items you foresee as preparation. If you are able, find out the snacks your Principal prefers and have those available.

Finally, Always Remember

- Put the mission first.
- You will make mistakes. Learn from them, move on, and don't make the same mistake twice.
- BE PREPARED, COMMUNICATE, BE FLEXIBLE....and have fun! Semper Gumby!

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Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Tips for a Successful Aide-de-Camp (continued)

Additional Resources:

Army Officer/Enlisted Aide Handbook

http://www.quartermaster.army.mil/jccoe/Special_Programs_Directorate/Enlisted_Aide_web_documents/Senior%20Leader%20Aide%20Handbook%202009.pdf

Commissioned Officer's Handbook

<https://dcp.psc.gov/eCCIS/documents/PAM62.pdf>

CC46.3.1 UNIFORM REGULATIONS

http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCPM46_3_1.pdf

CC413.01 SPECIAL UNIFORM SITUATIONS

https://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CC413_01.pdf

CC421.01 UNIFORMS FOR MALE OFFICERS

http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CC421_01.pdf

CC421.03 UNIFORMS FOR FEMALE OFFICERS

http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CC421_02.pdf

CC 431.01 INSIGNIA AND DEVICES

http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CC431_01.pdf

CC512.01 WEAR OF AWARDS AND BADGES

<http://ccmis.usphs.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/CC512.01.pdf>



Photographed above, LT Laura Annetta (right) providing support in her role as aide-de-camp to the Surgeon General (left) at the White House.

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

EHOs in Action

Eleven Environmental Health Officers deployed with 92 other officers on USPHS Rapid Deployment Force 3 (RDF-3) to staff a medical special needs shelter at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The 250-bed medical shelter was set up in the Carl Maddox Track and Field House on Sunday, August 14 by the Louisiana Department of Health (LADOH) and many LSU student volunteers. Nurses and doctors from LADOH and LSU, as well as volunteer healthcare providers, initially cared for flood-affected patients, despite the fact that the flooding had impacted many of their own lives.

RDF-3 was activated on August 14, an advance team arrived in Baton Rouge on August 15, and the remainder of the team arrived August 16-17 to begin staffing the shelter alongside federal Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) from Alabama and New Mexico. These teams gave round-the-clock healthcare, logistical, and administrative support for the patients and the shelter. The Louisiana State Police, the LSU Police Department, and the Army and Air National Guard provided facility security and patient transport. The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services managed the facility and furnished essential services such as food and sanitation, patient registration, and discharge planning.

Nearly 300 patients and caregivers who were displaced by the flood were served in the LSU Track and Field House. Patients had medical needs including oxygen dependency, dialysis needs, mobility issues, hospice care, and complex chronic diseases. RDF-3's participation in the mission lasted two weeks. Environmental Health Officers on RDF-3 performed a variety of functions in support of direct patient care on this mission, including Command, Safety, Logistics, paramedic in support of the Nurse Officer Group, and Preventive Medicine.



Photographed above, Ten RDF-3 Environmental Health Officers deployed to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in response to the recent major flooding there. Top row: LCDR George Sims (Preventive Medicine), CDR C. Shawn Lafferty (Safety), LCDR Chyla Hunter (Preventive Medicine), LCDR Mark Chen (Safety), LT Joel Merriman (Safety); Bottom Row: LCDR Daveta Bailey (Preventive Medicine), LCDR Aaron Niman (Preventive Medicine), LT Steven Galvez (Preventive Medicine). Not pictured: CDR Eva McLanahan (Command), LCDR Timothy Taylor (Nurse Officer Group as a paramedic), and LCDR Brek Steele (Logistics).

Soliciting for EHOs in Action!

Want to be featured in the next EHOPAC Newsletter?

Help us to get to know you better and appreciate your hard work! We are soliciting for EHOs to share their experiences and memorable moments in the field or recent deployments, as well as other opportunities they have had to apply their environmental health skills. If you are interested in being featured in the next EHOPAC Newsletter please contact us for more information.

**Contact LT Daniel Malashock at
Daniel.Malashock@hq.dhs.gov for more information!**



Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Category Day, 2016

Thank you for joining us at Category Day 2016!

We hope you enjoyed this year's category day. Many thanks to our 2016 Category Day planners – CDR Eva McLanahan, LCDR Jessica Pharo, LT Ronan King, and LT James Gooch. Please stay tuned for additional information about the 2017 Category Day which will be held on June 7 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Questions or suggestions for 2017? Please contact LT King at Ronan.King@fda.hhs.gov.

Photographed below, Environmental Health Officers and USPHS Leadership attending the EHO Category Day held at the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Awards Corner

Many of our Environmental Health Officers receive recognition from professional organizations, agencies, and other entities for their outstanding work in the field of environmental health. The following officers received awards in the previous year and represented our category with pride and distinction.

CAPT Wendy Fanaselle

Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD

CAPT Wendy Fanaselle received the American Academy of Sanitarians ***Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award*** for 2016. CAPT Fanaselle was awarded this award in recognition of significant accomplishments, professional commitment, and dedication to the practice of public health throughout a 33-year career. CAPT Fanaselle's talent for communicating complex scientific issues clearly and concisely, along with her infectious enthusiasm for public health has helped her bridge communities, build partnerships, and significantly improve the public health of the nation.



CAPT Wendy Fanaselle

CAPT Joe Maloney

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

CAPT Joe Maloney received the ***CDC Project Officer of the Quarter Award*** for 3rd quarter, FY 2016. As the Project Officer for the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board's Partnership to Improve Community Health (PICH), CAPT Maloney worked tirelessly to develop strong relationships with the tribe and was described as an invaluable liaison and great collaborator with the Office of Grant Services (OGS).



CAPT Joe Maloney

CDR Travis E. Chapman

Food and Drug Administration, Maitland, FL

CDR Travis E. Chapman received the ***Leveraging Collaboration Award*** as a member of the Multi-Agency Smoked Fish Industry Workshop, for planning and executing a successful multi-agency workshop focused on improving compliance in the high-risk cold and hot smoked fish industry in Florida. CDR Chapman also received the ***Leveraging Collaboration Award*** as a member of the Adulterated Rice Investigation Team, for superior achievement of the FDA mission to protect public health through dedication, teamwork, and collaboration across branches, centers, and regulatory agencies. In addition, CDR Chapman received the ***Group Recognition Award*** as a member of the Florida District Unapproved Drug Seizure Team for outstanding collaborative efforts that resulted in a precedent-setting seizure of thirteen unapproved human prescription drugs valued at over \$16,000,000.

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Awards Corner (Continued)

CAPT Michael Noska

Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD

CAPT Michael Noska received the *John C. Taschner Leadership Award* from the Military Section of the Health Physics Society. CAPT Noska received the award for achievements resulting from a long Uniformed Service career that enhances radiation safety; recognition of outstanding and extraordinary dedication and contributions to health physics while in the Uniformed Services, and; other significant activities that relate to Uniformed Services Health Physics, including service to the Health Physics Society and leadership of organizations dedicated to radiation safety, environmental health, and emergency preparedness.



CAPT Michael Noska with JRCOSTEP ENS Jacqueline Shaver at the Southern Exposure '15 Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Response Exercise, Columbia, SC

CAPT (Ret.) Jeffrey Smith

Indian Health Service/Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Anchorage, AK

CAPT (Ret.) Jeffrey Smith received the American Academy of Sanitarians *Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award* for 2015. CAPT Smith was awarded this award in recognition of significant accomplishments, professional commitment, and dedication to the practice of public health throughout a 27-year career. CAPT Smith is a results-oriented practitioner of public health, whose impact has had a lasting effect on the health of the Native peoples of Alaska.



CAPT (Ret.) Jeffrey Smith

CAPT Don Williams, CDR Martin Smith, LCDR Travis Bowser, and LT Chris Caler
Indian Health Service, Tucson, AZ

A number of EHOs serving the Tucson Area Indian Health Service were chosen for *Tucson Area Director Awards*. CAPT Williams, CDR Smith, LCDR Bowser, and LT Caler were recognized along with their tribal counterparts for their work as Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs). The CPSTs provide instruction on proper installation and use of car seats to over 250 caregivers each year to ensure that all passengers are always restrained in vehicles. These same officers and their Tohono O'odham Nation colleagues were also awarded *Special Act/Services recognition* as members of the Securing Tohono O'odham Project (STOP) coalition dedicated to reducing motor vehicle crash injuries.

(Continues on next page)

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Awards Corner (Continued)

CDR Travis E. Chapman

Food and Drug Administration, Maitland, FL

CDR Travis E. Chapman received the **Leveraging Collaboration Award** as a member of the Multi-Agency Smoked Fish Industry Workshop, for planning and executing a successful multi-agency workshop focused on improving compliance in the high-risk cold and hot smoked fish industry in Florida. CDR Chapman also received the **Leveraging Collaboration Award** as a member of the Adulterated Rice Investigation Team, for superior achievement of the FDA mission to protect public health through dedication, teamwork, and collaboration across branches, centers, and regulatory agencies. In addition, CDR Chapman received the **Group Recognition Award** as a member of the Florida District Unapproved Drug Seizure Team for outstanding collaborative efforts that resulted in a precedent-setting seizure of thirteen unapproved human prescription drugs valued at over \$16,000,000.

CDR Richard E. Skaggs, Jr

Indian Health Service, Shiprock, NM

CDR Richard E. Skaggs Jr. was part of the **Navajo Area Indian Health Service Area Director's Award for Outstanding Group Performance** presented to the Shiprock Service Unit and District Supervisor Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) Staff. This award was presented for exceptional response to human cases of bubonic plague in the Shiprock Service Unit. The team's actions exemplified ideals the IHS aspires to when investigating, responding to, and mitigating public health emergencies in communities. Also included in the award was JRCOSTEP ENS William Maier, Jr.

LCDR Kazuhiro Okumura

Food and Drug Administration, College Park, MD

LCDR Kazuhiro Okumura received the **2016 RADM Moritsugu Junior Officer of the Year Award** from the Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC). This award is presented to a junior officer who has made contributions to the advancement of the Nation's health, demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, and has displayed dedication and involvement in health-related professional or community organizations or activities.

LCDR James Speckhart

Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD

LCDR James Speckhart received a **National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Presidential Citation**. LCDR Speckhart is currently serving as a NEHA regional board member since October 2012 representing the mid-Atlantic States. He was awarded the citation for fostering increased involvement, membership, and career development by current students and young professionals in the environmental health field.

(Continues on next page)

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Awards Corner (Continued)

LT Isaac Ampadu

Indian Health Service, Parker, AZ

LT Isaac Ampadu received the *Phoenix Area Indian Health Service Environmental Health Officer of the Year Award* for 2015. LT Ampadu has embodied the character, professionalism, and work ethic of a model environmental health professional. He has demonstrated growth in all aspects of his program, including leading the District's advanced food safety training program, serving as an arbovirus surveillance field expert, and being the go-to person in times of disease and emergency crises.

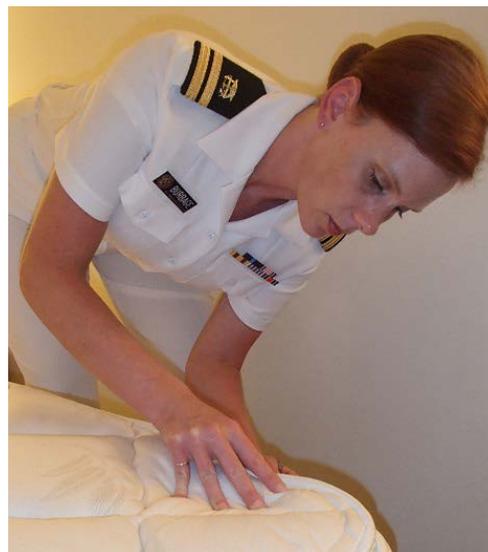


Photographed above, LT Isaac Ampadu performs West Nile Virus surveillance with a CDC team member.

LT Katie Bante

Indian Health Service/Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks, AK

LT Katie Bante received a *National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Certificate of Merit* for 2016 from the Alaska Environmental Health Association (AEHA) affiliate. LT Bante has been a very involved member of AEHA and has served as the chair of multiple committees, including the AEHA Publications Committee, and spearheaded the transition from the AEHA newsletter into the modernized AEHA blog. LT Bante is also an active member of NEHA and presented on the rise of bed bugs in Alaska at the 2016 NEHA conference in San Antonio. LT Bante's professionalism, observations, and clarity throughout her career were highlighted in her nomination for this award.



Photographed above, LT Katie Bante demonstrates how to inspect for bed bugs

LCDR Jessica Otto

Food and Drug Administration, College Park, MD

LCDR Otto was awarded an **FDA Agency Honor Award** (FDA Group Recognition) for recognition of her contributions to the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Menu Labeling Enforcement Workgroup.

(Continues on next page)

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Awards Corner (Continued)

Finally, congratulations again to our 2016 EHO Category Award Winners, CAPT Richard Turner, CDR Vincent Garcia, LT Katie Bante, CDR Lisa Delaney, and CAPT Calvin Edwards. CAPT Richard Turner and CAPT Calvin Edwards were both presented their awards at the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Photographed Above. EHO Category Award Winners with PHS Leadership. From left to right, CAPT Richard Turner, RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams, RADM Joan Hunter, and CAPT Calvin Edwards

We would like to congratulate all of these officers for their outstanding work in the field of environmental health!

If you (or a fellow EHO) have a received an award (outside of EHOPAC awards and Commissioned Corps awards) in the previous quarter that you would like to see featured in the next EHOPAC newsletter, please send the following information to the newsletter editor, LT Daniel Malashock, at Daniel.Malashock@hq.dhs.gov.

- Name, rank, agency, duty station
- Name of award, organization giving the award, date received, brief description of award
- Brief description of reason for receiving the award
- Picture of you receiving the award, doing "award-worthy" work, or picture in uniform

Contributed by CDR Katie Hubbard
EHOPAC Awards and Recognition Subcommittee Chair

Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee

Retirement Announcements

Officers,

Congratulations on your retirement. Your contributions to the U.S. Public Health Service and the Environmental Health Officer Category have been invaluable. We wish you the very best in your new life chapter, as well as abundant success and happiness in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Your fellow EHOs

RETIRING OFFICERS

APRIL & JUNE. 2016

Dino Mattorano, CDR – OS
Molly Curry, CDR – IHS

JULY. 2016

George Hanley, CAPT – CDC
Ronald Varsaci, CAPT – FDA
Robert Knowles, CAPT – CDC

AUGUST, 2016

Jaime Regal, LCDR – CDC
Thomas Fazzini, CDR – IHS
Harrichand Rhambarose, CAPT – USCG

SEPTEMBER, 2016

Jaret Ames, CAPT – CDC
Marshall Gray, CAPT – EPA
Richard Turner, CAPT – IHS

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE!
WE SALUTE YOU!**



EHOPAC

Open Meetings

Join our Open Meetings! Listen for PAC and Commission Corps updates and hear leadership discuss pertinent EHOPAC issues. All are encouraged to submit questions to be addressed by PAC leadership as well as any other information they wish to share with fellow EHOs (see below)

Upcoming Open Meetings

December 13, 2016 • 13:00 – 15:00 EST

March 07, 2017 • 13:00 – 15:00 EST

Please join us via teleconference & webinar

Teleconference:

Phone: 1-800-832-0736

Passcode: 6084616

Adobe Connect Webinar:

<http://ihs.adobeconnect.com/ehopac2016/>

Have a question for EHOPAC Leadership?

If you have an item you would like EHOPAC leadership to address or general information to share with your fellow EHOs, please feel free to submit your questions, feedback or any other relevant information here:

[Submit a Response](#)

Full URL for submitting anonymous feedback to EHOPAC

Leadership: https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/d/1zpMFEPm3EliKVVUgX9KRp4ab4jTQVHzeVOv9DMhqs/viewform?edit_requested=true

Shortened URL:

goo.gl/Igy9TD

Have an idea for our next EHO Newsletter?

Articles



Discussion Topics



**Examples of EHOs
in Action**



Retirement Wishes



Other Informational Material

Submissions must be Relevant to the EHO Officers, Professional in Nature, Demonstrate EHO Work in the Field, or Seek to Improve Knowledge of a Relevant Topic or Opportunity

**For questions or to send in ideas, please contact
LT Daniel Malashock at Daniel.Malashock@hq.dhs.gov**

Disclaimer

All ideas will be reviewed and carefully considered, however this solicitation should not be considered as an agreement or guarantee that your material will be selected for publishing in the newsletter.

About this Edition

QUESTIONS OR PREVIOUS EDITIONS

For questions on this document, please contact LT Daniel Malashock at Daniel.Malashock@hq.dhs.gov. For previous editions, please visit our website at <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/newsletters.aspx>.

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