Leadership Updates
By the EHOPAC Executive Committee

Greetings from EHOPAC leadership!

We hope your year is off to a great start! It is our pleasure to serve as your Executive Committee this year! The 2017 theme for the EHOPAC this year is “Building a Successful EHO”. This year we would like to focus on three key areas, 1) Career Development, 2) Mentoring and Orientation, and 3) Training and Events. The EHOPAC continues to work on several important issues including, promotions, communications, implementing a new information technology structure, and strengthening the structure and operations of the PAC.

The Commissioned Corps continues to shine as we have been exempted from the recent hiring freeze in the federal government. It is our hope we will continue to see an increase in job opportunities for Corps officers into the future. Additionally, the next Open Application Window for the Environmental Health Officer category will be from 15 MAY – 15 JUN 2017. The Marketing and Recruitment and Policy and Standards Subcommittees are hard at work to ensure we receive the best applicants during this process. Additional details will be provided as soon as they are available.

Finally, we wanted to let you know about an important topic we have been researching on your behalf, how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had an effect on the Permanent Grade (P Grade) eligibility and promotion status of some officers. Most of us have been conditioned not to think too much about our P Grade because our pay and advancement in the Corps is mostly related to our Temporary Grade (T Grade); however, several questions have come up lately regarding officers who lost varying years of eligibility toward their next P Grade promotion when the ACA was passed in March of 2010. Beginning in 2016, the CPOs and PAC Chairs have worked with DCCPR to get a better understanding of what happened, so that the information could be shared with officers. CDR Carolyn Oyster has done an excellent job leading the charge on this complicated issue for the EHO category. As a result of her efforts, DCCPR provided a presentation at the 2017 February monthly PAC Chairs meeting, and we have included key information here.

(Continues on next page)
Leadership Updates (continued)

On 23 MAR 2010 (when the ACA was passed), if you were an officer on active duty that day, and you were not already assimilated into the Regular Corps, you were simply deemed Regular Corps. To understand the differences between these processes, it is important to understand that officers assimilated into the Regular Corps prior to ACA were processed according to 42 USC 209 (b) which gave officers “constructive credit” (credit they had been earning since their last P Grade promotion). Based on the ACA (Law), Officers who were deemed Regular Corps on 23 MAR 2010 through the ACA had to be processed according to 42 USC 204 (b) which did not give these officers “constructive credit” (credit they had been earning since their last P Grade promotion). Our understanding is that this was based on interpretation of the ACA Law at the Department (HHS) level and not by OSG or DCCPR. Regardless, this resulted in some officers losing up to 10 years of constructive credit toward their next P Grade promotion. The ACA did not impact P Grades for officers that were already assimilated or those officers who came into PHS after 23 MAR 2010.

Due to recent questions on this issue, DCCPR has asked the PACs to share this information with officers within their Category. To learn more about your P Grade or if you have questions:

1. Check your eOPF and PIR to understand your current P Grade rank if you were deemed Regular Corps in 2010 because of ACA. Since your P Grade rank will always be your TRUE rank in PHS, we recommend you closely monitor and track your P Grade rank.

2. To review all related resources on this topic, visit the EHOPAC website at https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/ehopacnews.aspx#ACAPGrade.

3. If you have any questions about how ACA impacted you or any of the above material, please submit them to the EHOPAC anonymous Q&A website at: https://goo.gl/Igy9TD

We look forward to serving you this year! Please let us know if you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

V/r,

CAPT Alan Parham, CPO, EHOPAC Advisor
CDR Jill Shugart, EHOPAC Chair,
CDR Chris Van Twuyver, Vice-Chair
CDR Carrie Oyster, Ex-Officio
LCDR Jessica Otto, Secretary/Treasurer
LT Danny Malashock, EC Liaison
Your 2017 EHOPAC Leadership

CDR Jill Shugart, CDC
EHOPAC Chair

CDR Chris Van Twuyver, FDA
EHOPAC, Vice Chair

CAPT Alan Parham, ATSDR
Chief Professional Officer

LCDR Jessica Otto, FDA
EHOPAC Secretary/Treasurer

LT Daniel Malashock, EPA
EHOPAC Executive Committee Liaison

CDR Carolyn Oyster, USCG
EHOPAC Ex Officio

See EHOPAC Voting Members on the Next Page
2017 EHOPAC Voting Members

CDR Monica Leonard, CDC
Mentoring & Orientation

CDR Michael Quinn, DOI
Mentoring & Orientation

CDR Darren Buchanan, IHS
Information Technology

CDR Stephen Piontkowski, IHS
Career Development

CDR Jamie Mutter, CDC
Awards

CDR Elena Vaouli, ATSDR
Marketing & Recruitment

CDR Timothy Albright, FDA
Marketing & Recruitment

LCDR Carla Tuite, FDA
Career Development

LCDR Matthew Deptola, NIH
History

CDR Katie Hubbard, IHS
Policy & Standards

LCDR Daniel Adams, EPA
Readiness

LCDR Travis Bowser, IHS
Training & Events
Thank you to our new EHOPAC Subcommittee Volunteers!

Our Subcommittees play an essential role in developing, coordinating, and implementing activities and resources that address issues of concern relating to Environmental Health Officers and HHS/USPHS matters. Volunteering on a Subcommittee is a great way to earn recognition among your peers and develop leadership opportunities.

Awards & Recognition

- **EHOPAC Award Nominations** – The Nomination window for the 2017 EHO Awards closed on Monday, February 6, 2017. The EHOPAC sponsors the Eason, Moran, Todd and Crow Mentor Awards to honor outstanding Public Health Service environmental health professionals. The purpose of these awards is to recognize the exceptional contributions Environmental Health Officers make to further the Public Health Service mission to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation.

- **EHO Responder of the Year** – Congratulations to CDR Joseph Laco for winning the 2017 EHOPAC Responder of the Year award. Please check out his interview on page 10 of this Newsletter!

Marketing & Recruitment

- **Calling All Hiring Officials** – Are you interested in being the first to know when newly boarded EHOs are available for hire? The Applicant Assistance and Placement (AAP) workgroup is here to help. Our goal is to assist you in searching for a qualified candidate by placing newly boarded EHOs in their first position. You’ll receive monthly updates on newly boarded EHOs available for hire along with information on their specific qualifications and experience. If you are interested in receiving these updates or know a hiring official in your Agency who would benefit from this information, please contact AAP’s Co-Chair LT Sarah Meehan (sarah.meehan@fda.hhs.gov).

- **2017 JRCOSTEP Updates** – The 2017 JRCOSTEP solicitation window was September 1 – November 4, 2016. As of February 14, 2017, there are 25 viable EHO JRCOSTEP applicants. JRCOSTEPs have been tentatively assigned to the FDA, CDC and IHS.

- **General Duty Updates** – From the July 2016 EHO Open Period, 54 viable applicants were identified. As of February 14, 2017, 22 EHO applicants were boarded. Of these 22 newly boarded applicants, 5 have been hired and 18 are currently seeking agency assignments. If you are a hiring official and would like more information about these 18 officers seeking assignments, please contact AAP’s CO-Chair LT Bradley Benasutti at Bradley.benasutti@fda.hhs.gov.

| Applicant Updates as of March 2017 | 22 EHO Applicants Successfully Boarded | 05 Have Secured Federal Positions | 18 Are in Need of Securing a Billet |

(Continues on next page)
PAC Subcommittee Highlights (Continued)

Training & Events

- **Category Day Agenda** – Finalized! Be on the lookout for the official distribution in the near future, but please take a look at the agenda on page 10 of this Newsletter!
  - The Keynote Speaker at Category Day will be Dr. David Dyjack from NEHA
  - The EHO Category Social is planned for June 6th, 2017 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. CST at the Chattanooga Brewing CO, watch for the flyer soon.

Readiness

- **Field Medical Readiness Badge** – A policy change has occurred to the Field Medical Readiness Badge standards. Previously, to meet FMRB standards, an officer would need to attain APFT Level 2. The Awards Program issued 11 January 2017, states the following, “Physical Readiness Requirement. Must achieve a minimum overall “Excellent” rating on the Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT).”

Please note the minimum standard is now “Excellent” because the Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT) Standards changed to a different scale on 1 January 2016. Level 2 is no longer an option. Therefore, in order for an officer to meet the FMRB APFT standard, an average score of 75 points would need to be attained on the APFT.

For further details and clarification, please refer to the Readiness and Deployment Operations Group’s APFT website at: [https://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/RedDOG/REDDOG_APFT_m.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/RedDOG/REDDOG_APFT_m.aspx). More specifically, please refer to POM 15-004 and APFT Procedures at: [https://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/ccis/documents/pom15_004.pdf](https://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/ccis/documents/pom15_004.pdf). To recap, officers must now meet an overall APFT level of “Excellent” in order to qualify for the FMRB.
PAC Subcommittee Highlights (continued)

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. Anyone interested in purchasing coins should use the fillable and mailable PDF form available via the link below:


If you have questions you can contact LCDR Jessica Otto at usphsehopac@gmail.com or 240-402-1876.

Liaison Reports

Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)

Submitted by CDR Monica Leonard, CCWIAB/EHOPAC Liaison

Notable News:

The new CCWIAB EHOPAC Liaison for the 2017-18 operational year is CDR Monica Leonard. Welcome aboard, CDR Leonard!

We would like to extend are immense gratitude and thanks to CAPT Lauralynn McKernan for her service on the CCWIAB and contributions to the EHOPAC as a liaison.

In January 2017, CCWIAB released, a “Resource Guide for USPHS Officers Getting Married or Getting Divorced, and for Dependents Surviving the Death of a USPHS Officer”. To receive a copy, please email CDR Leonard at zgf7@cdc.gov.
The EHOPAC invites you to join your fellow EHOs on June 7, 2017 at the USPHS Symposium, EHO Category Day! Please take a look at the EHO Category Day agenda below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 to 8:00</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</td>
<td>EHOPAC</td>
<td>Category Day Planners</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 to 9:15</td>
<td>CPO and EHOPAC Chair Update</td>
<td>EHOPAC</td>
<td>CAPT Alan Parham and CDR Jill Shugart</td>
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<td>9:15 to 9:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 to 10:45</td>
<td>Keynote: Influence of Values and Beliefs in Evidence-Based Health Professions</td>
<td>NEHA</td>
<td>David T. Dyjack, Dr. PH, CIH</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 to 11:15</td>
<td>Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in Minnesota’s Somali Community</td>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>LCDR Michelle Dittrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 to 11:45</td>
<td>What does CDC have to do with Chemical Weapons</td>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>LCDR Danielle Mills and LT Shaun McMullen</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 to 12:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 to 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch (extends until 2:00 PM)</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 to 2:00</td>
<td>Panel: Flint, MI Water Crisis Emergency Response</td>
<td>PHS, CDC, ATSDR</td>
<td>CDR Monica Leonard, CDR Joe Laco, LCDR Candis Hunter, and LT James Gooch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 to 2:30</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 to 3:00</td>
<td>Community Concerns and Public Health Activities near Unconventional Natural Gas Development in the Marcellus Shale Formation of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>ATSDR</td>
<td>LT Christine Lloyd</td>
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<td>3:00 to 3:15</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
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<td>3:15 to 3:45</td>
<td>Environmental compliance, sustainability, and accessibility in the NPS Southeast Region</td>
<td>NPS</td>
<td>CDR Brian Cook</td>
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<td>3:45 to 4:15</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15 to 4:45</td>
<td>Networking Event</td>
<td>EHOPAC</td>
<td>Category Day Planners</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45 to 5:15</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
<td>No session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 to 5:30</td>
<td>Wrap Up</td>
<td>EHOPAC</td>
<td>Category Day Planners</td>
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New Military Blended Retirement System

The new military Blended Retirement System (BRS) process is steadily moving forward towards the January 1, 2018 implementation date. The importance of this BRS decision cannot be overstated. The choice to opt in to BRS or remain in the current retirement system is among the most important financial decisions eligible Service members and their spouses may make. For more information, please take a look at the fact sheet and webinar opportunity below:

FOR MORE INFORMATION


JOURNEYMAN SPEAKER SERIES – WEBINAR MARCH 10, 2017

Please join the Journeyman Speaker Series (JSS) presentation on Friday, March 10th, 2017 at 1300-1400 EST.

CDR Mark McKinnon will be presenting on “The Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System.” Please email the JOAG JSS Co-Chairs, LCDR Sam Cropp (Samuel.Cropp@ihs.gov) and LT Jeisy Scott (Fvx0@cdc.gov) to obtain a copy of the presentation slides, or to send any advance questions for the speakers.

Conference Call Dial-in: 1-302-202-1106
Conference Code: 825385

Changes to Tricare for EHOs

Adapted from MOAA Article “What Coming TRICARE Changes Will Affect You?” by Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret)

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was successful in working with Congress to avoid the vast majority of TRICARE fee hikes for current beneficiaries, including proposals to:

- impose an annual TRICARE For Life enrollment fee of up to 2 percent of retired pay;
- raise annual fees by 50 to 100 percent for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard over several years; and
- double pharmacy copayments over the next 10 years.

Nevertheless, Congress opted to (mostly) grandfather currently serving and retired military beneficiaries against these hikes. While MOAA’s efforts avoided the major proposals, some lesser but still significant changes are coming over the next few years that will affect roughly 1.5 million retired military and survivor beneficiaries who get their health care under TRICARE Standard.

In December 2016, MOAA wrote an article outlining the changes that will soon affect you. Please visit the link below to take a look at the detailed description of these changes:
Introducing, the 2017 Responder of the Year!

Congratulations to CDR Joseph Laco for winning the 2017 EHOPAC Responder of the Year award for three separate deployment responses from Oct 2015 to Sept 2016. CDR Laco demonstrated outstanding leadership while deployed to Columbia, SC in response to Ease Coast flooding after Hurricane Joaquin; Flint, MI in response to the water crisis and public health emergency; and assisted in the Zika outbreak response. CDR Laco is highly deserving of this award and was gracious to answer a few questions based on his deployment experiences throughout his career.

CDR Joseph Laco (pictured left), assisting the Texas A&M Federal Medical Station, in support of the 2008 Hurricane Ike response.

An Interview with CDR Joseph Laco

What has been your most challenging deployment and why?

2015 Ebola MMU Team 3 in Liberia. Working and living conditions were tough. We had ways to deal with that. The deployment was long. Was difficult being away from my family for over months. I missed events at the kids’ school. I wasn’t there for my wife when she needed help. I missed them terribly. I know they worried a lot about me. So it was stressful on all 4 of us. Losing patients at the MMU after watching them fight for their lives for weeks was extremely difficult and emotional for all of us. I was on the Morgue Team. Very difficult work for lots of different reasons.

CDR Joseph Laco donning personal protective equipment, Ebola Mobile Medical Unit in Liberia

(Continues on next page)
Please tell us about a valuable lesson you learned during one of your deployments.

My first deployment was to TX for Hurricane Ike. I was Tier 3 and augmented RDF1 at the FMS in College Station. I was all ready to save the world with anything and everything EH. When I got there, I was quickly told they had that covered, and needed me on the Logistics Team. As the Procurement Manager. What the heck was that? Lesson: Be Flexible. That saying about EHOs about wearing many hats. It’s true. When asked to do something you weren’t planning to do. Learn quick. And then do it, the best you can.

Pictured right, Hurricane Ike Command Center

What is the one comfort item you couldn’t live without during your deployments?

Communication back home. Cell phone. Email. Letters. Texts. Every message to/from home was special. Especially from my kids. Next would be a camera (on a phone). I try to take as many pics as possible to help remember and share the story.

How does your family cope when you are away on deployments?

We don’t have any family local in Atlanta. We are very lucky. My wife and kids have a big network of friends. Through the neighborhood, schools, church, work, community. Kelly (my bride) keep things as normal as possible at home and keeps the kids busy. And I try to talk with my family as often as I can. Not always possible on a deployment. Especially if there are power and cell-tower issues. And... If I am going to be gone more than one week. I arrange to have flowers delivered to my wife with a personal note. I sent her 2 deliveries when I was in Africa.

What has been your most interesting form of transportation on your deployments?

Boat. For Deepwater Horizon I was dispatched to support the Coast Guard and inspected housing units, “Floatels”, out in the Gulf of Mexico. Some were docked next to shore. Others were way out. Sometimes we had to hitch a ride on a small fishing charter that had three 300hp engines on the back. And we would tear through the marsh and the Gulf at 60 mph.

(Continues on next page)
An Interview with CDR Joseph Laco (continued)

What has been your most rewarding deployment and why?

I would have to say the 2016 Flint water response. That one was probably the most personal. I wasn’t just on the “front-lines”. I was in people’s living rooms. I sat with them at their kitchen table. And I gave them something they very much appreciated. My time. I listened. The people of Flint that I met with were very grateful that I took the time to listen to their story. Making a difference in people’s lives is why we all chose this profession. Deployments have allowed some of the most direct interactions with people and some of the most meaningful professional experiences of my career.

Pictured above, photos taken by CDR Laco in Flint, Michigan. Starting from the left, examples of lead water pipes, including corroded, new, and coated with orthophosphate; a billboard de-bunking myths about lead in water; and a photo of a Flint water plant, water tower.

What is the most complex role you were asked to serve in during your deployments and why was it so complex?

Inspecting Floatels for Deepwater Horizon. The housing units were very independent and operated every aspect of responder life. There was a lot to consider in not a lot of time. It wasn’t just the galley and food safety. Had to look at handwashing, responder medical and health concerns, galley sinks, grey water, food storage, food sources, food temps, food thawing practices, deep fat fryers, potable water, black water, solid waste, haz waste, ice machines, pest control, just to name a few. It was an EH-in-a-box experience.

What deployment are you most proud of and why?

2015 Ebola MMU Team 3 in Liberia. Our presence there was immeasurable. The risks were high. But our commitment to the mission and to the people of Liberia was great. Not everyone that came to our MMU made it home. But when we did get to send a patient home to their family... Wow. Will be pretty tough to beat that feeling at anything I ever do again in my career. I got to play a small role in helping someone win the fight of their life.

(Continues on next page)
What is the most unique food you have tried during your deployments?

Flying Termites in Liberia. Sautéed in a dry pan, with a little salt. Tasted like buttered and salted popcorn.

What is biggest environmental health challenge you have faced while deployed? How did you overcome the challenge?

Safety. On every mission. Some risks were more serious than others. But I have a good ability to focus and compartmentalize stress. I can pay attention to task at hand. And I trust my PPE. I have to. Whether a Tyvek suite in Liberia. Or a respirator on top of a skyscraper in NYC (cooling towers for Legionella). Understanding the risks and how to reduce or mitigate, helps me do my job and allows me to concentrate.

Congratulations,
CDR Laco and
Thank You for your Service!
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.

Malashock.Daniel@epa.gov for more information!
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.

CDR Jennifer Freed, ATSDR, Atlanta, GA
LT James Gooch, ATSDR, Atlanta, GA
LCDR Candis Hunter, NCEH, Atlanta, GA
LCDR Cory Kokko, ATSDR, Kansas City, MO
LT Christine Lloyd, ATSDR, Philadelphia, PA
CDR Eva McLanahan, ATSDR, Atlanta, GA
CAPT Gary Perlman, ATSDR, Boston, MA
LCDR Dana Robison, ATSDR, Washington, DC
CDR Elena Vaouli, ATSDR, New York, NY

EHOs were part of ATSDR team that was recently awarded the NCEH/ATSDR Honor Award for Excellence in Frontline Public Health Service. The group was cited for innovative frontline service to reduce community exposures to lead in soils through the implementation of soilSHOPs. Since 2011, the soilSHOP Team provided innovative and unique front line public health service to underserved communities across the country with health concerns about exposures to lead in soil. These efforts culminated in 2016 with ATSDR (1) supporting 16 events in 12 U.S. cities, (2) providing the public with readily available tools and web-based resources for planning soilSHOP activities, and (3) establishing soilSHOP as a DCHI Prevention Initiative. The combined work of the ATSDR soilSHOP team contributed significantly towards raising community awareness about and reducing exposures to lead in soil for communities nationwide.

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Pictured above, CDR Eva McLanahan and LCDR Candis Hunter. Image from ATSDR youtube video on “How to collect a soil sample”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM7-19o5FD8

LTJG Shelby Foerg
Bemidji Area Indian Health Service, Bemidji, MN.

LTJG Shelby Foerg Bemidji Area Indian Health Service, Bemidji, MN. LTJG Foerg received two ‘Green’ Environmentally Friendly Awards at this year’s Area Director’s Awards ceremony. LTJG Foerg received an individual award for her dedication, leadership and contributions to the Bemidji Green team for the second year in a row and her group (the Bemidji Green Team) also won a group award. LTJG Foerg is the founder and leader of the Bemidji Green Team, a group formed to reduce the environmental impact of the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service while prioritizing initiatives that increase efficiency, promote employee health and are cost effective.

Pictured above, LTJG Foerg receives the Green Environmentally Friendly Award from Bemidji Area Director and OEH&E Director
Awards Corner

LCDR Jessica Pharo
CDC Vessel Sanitation Program, Fort Lauderdale, FL

LCDR Pharo was recently awarded the Billy G. Tennant award from the Florida Environmental Health Association (FEHA). This award recognizes accomplishments, which have occurred over a long period of time (more than one year), of environmental health professionals. She received this award for her 6+ years of environmental health work associated with the cruise line industry.

Pictured on right, LCDR Pharo poses on the bridge of a vessel

LT James Gooch
ATSDR, Industrial Hygienist, Region 4 Atlanta, GA

LT Gooch received four awards in the last year: a 2016 ATSDR team Honor Award for collaborative efforts on ATSDR’s soilSHOP Team with creating innovative tools to screen potential residential soil lead exposures, a 2016 ATSDR team Honor Award for Excellence in Emergency Response from support of CDC’s 2016 CDC Flint Water Emergency Response, a 2015 NCEH/ATSDR Director Award for innovations to budget formulation/projections (from my prior duty station at CDC/NCEH), and a Department of Health and Human Services Good Neighbor Award as part of the collaborative project team that curated the CDC Museum’s 2015 exhibit entitled Gyre: The Plastic World (from my prior duty station at CDC/NCEH).

Received an award for outstanding work in the field of environmental health?

If you (or a fellow EHO) have 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 EHOPAC Awards Subcommittee Chair, CDR Jamie Mutter at zwy4@cdc.gov.

- Your name, rank, current agency, position, and duty station
- Name of award, organization giving the award, date received, brief description of award
- Brief description of reason for receiving the award (3-4 sentences max)
- Picture of you receiving the award, doing “award-worthy” work, or picture in uniform
Frequently Asked Questions

Periodically, EHOs will submit questions or feedback to the EHOPAC Executive Committee leadership via the EHOPAC Anonymous Feedback System (https://goo.gl/Igy9TD). Questions are addressed during quarterly EHOPAC meetings by EHOPAC leadership. In addition to sharing responses to questions via teleconference, they are shared in quarterly meeting minutes and the Newsletter.

Awards

Can PAC leadership promote improvements (e.g., transparency, efficiency, & timely review) to the awards system?

PAC will be able to funnel issues through the PAC Chairs group so CPO’s can be aware of specific issues. CAPT Parham coordinates the CPO board review which is all the category specific awards, non-agency awards and has been valuable to see how the system is working. CDR Ball has done a good job with communication and her goal is to make things more transparent. It is a big issue with the CPOs and they will continue to keep working on those issues.

Has there been any additional information on the Ebola award shared with leadership and when it may be available?

For those who have put in a Foreign Duty Service Award, is there any update on when that might be awarded?

RedDOG is going through a transition, however, the CPO’s are getting weekly updates from RedDOG and they have recently started to work on these awards. CAPT Parham said that they are expected to be in the system in time for promotions. Hopefully in the next couple of months.

CV Cover Sheet

Now that the CV cover sheet is back, I would like to see the official CV coversheet align better with the benchmarks for promotion and the DCCP deployments to be included.

CAPT Parham stated that the CV coversheet is really designed for the promotion board and we did try and align it with the benchmarks if we could. The goal was not to waste the space on the coversheet with items that could be found in your PIR. The coversheet also models the CV as it is the coversheet for the CV. The inclusion of deployments was discussed, but for a couple of reasons we decided not to include. You could add a deployment under Officership if you wanted to highlight the deployment.

Will the coversheet eventually be merged with the CV so we can upload it as one document?

Save each document separately as a pdf. Then in the pdf program, you can merge the two documents into one and save as new document and then scan into eOPF without a problem.

EHO Knowledge Building

What are some opportunities available to officers in the Corps who are in multidisciplinary positions and would like to maintain their knowledge in their field? For example, shadowing other environmental health officers. Are there any available positions in the PAC or other EHO related organizations that they might be able to take part in?

CAPT Parham thinks this would be worth discussing further if there are officers willing to let officers shadow them and the agency agrees as well.

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Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

**EHO Licensure**

There seems to be some ambiguity regarding required licensure for EHO’s as well as the process for submitting supporting documents for certification and registration. Since the EHO category does not require licensure, what utility does this licensure outlet serve and is it specifically for officers who come in with a license? Is there a policy that governs how EHOs should be submitting supporting documents to CCHQ for registration and certification?

For most EHO’s, our registration or certification is not a requirement of being in the category or the Commissioned Corps. Right now, CCHQ, wants all registrations and certifications. CCHQ is only showing one certification in your PIR. CAPT Parham is hoping in the future that there will be another set of documents. Long term fix is that the officer will be able to update registrations and certifications into the eDoc system and the officers will determine where it goes. Currently, CDR Tracy Farrill wants all licenses to go through the licensure line so she can track them and keep a record of it. Officers will need to fax all certifications and registrations to the licensure line. CAPT Parham suggested putting a note on the fax that this is your primary certification and should be placed in your PIR. If it is the secondary certification, please say it should be put in your eOPF.

**Billet Search Function**

Since CCMIS came back on line, the billet search function was removed which now only liaisons have access to. Is it possible for the EHOPAC to provide the category with some of this data, specifically a summary of the EHO billets by agency and location?

Yes, the PAC can accommodate this request. CAPT Parham will also check with CCHQ to see if this is permanent or temporary.

**Length of Service on Subcommittees**

What is the length of time one can serve on a subcommittee? Once you rotate off, how long before you can rejoin a new subcommittee or rejoin the subcommittee you rotated off of?

CDR Oyster stated that the officer can serve on a subcommittee for 3 years and then they rotate off. The year they rotate off, they can apply for a new subcommittee. At the beginning of each year, there will be a call for volunteers of all the subcommittees that have openings, you will submit a CV and a statement of interest and you will apply for a position on that subcommittee. You are only able to serve on one subcommittee at a time for a three-year period. You can rotate off and go to another subcommittee or reapply to be accepted back into the original subcommittee. We would also encourage you to try several different subcommittees.
Welcome Aboard, EHOs!

We are pleased to welcome 6 new Environmental Health Officers who have come on board since December, 2016. Welcome aboard, EHOs!

LT Amanda Schaupp, FDA (Alameda, CA)
LT Kozler Matthew, FDA (Denver, CO)
LT Lewis Antwi, FDA (Indianapolis, IN)
LTJG Hargis Zachary, IHS (Parker, AZ)
LTJG Joshua Liles, IHS (Albuquerque, NM)
LTJG Patrick Brown, IHS (Elko, NV)

The EHOPAC would like to extend its gratitude to several officers who have taken part in welcoming aboard our new officers at their Officer Basic Course graduations. Thank you to CDR Mike Quinn (NPS), LCDR Monique Lester (FDA), and LT Ronan King (FDA)!
Hail & Farewell

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.

Fair winds and follow seas,
Your fellow EHOs

RETIRING OFFICERS

January, 2017
CAPT Kathy Slawson, CDC
CAPT Richard Sullivan, CDC

February, 2017
CDR Celeste Davis, IHS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!
WE SALUTE YOU!
Join our Open Meetings! Listen for PAC and Commissioned 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

March 14, 2017 • 13:00 – 15:00 EST
June 13, 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/1zpMFEPm3EliKVUpqXS9KRp4ab4iTQV
HzeVOv9DMhq/viewform?edit_requested=true

Shortened URL:
https://goo.gl/lgv9TD
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 Malashock.Daniel@epa.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 Malashock.Daniel@epa.gov. For previous editions, please visit our website at https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/eho/newsletters.aspx.

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