



**Environmental Health Officer  
Professional Advisory Committee**



# The EHO Assessment

**February 2022 News and Updates**

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

## **EHOPAC Leadership Message**

Welcome to another edition of the all-digital format for EHO News and Updates!

*Disclaimer: This newsletter/article is for informational purposes only and does not reflect official views of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or USPHS Commissioned Corps leadership.*

EHOs,

Happy New Year to all, 2022 is starting much as 2021 finished. Operation Allies Welcome deployments continue and HHS Secretary Becerra renewed the COVID-related public health emergency for another 90 days. So for the near term we can expect the deployment ops tempo to remain high. Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) continues to work to make deployments more predictable and more equitably shared across the USPHS Commissioned Corps, but the priority remains for the service to meet the needs of the nation. Thank you to all of those who have answered the call repeatedly, and I'd particularly like to honor the dozen EHOs who were deployed during the holiday season, which allowed the rest of us to spend holidays with our families.

I'm amazed every day by the accomplishments of EHOs everywhere from laboratories to National Parks. I'm humbled by how much good work I can see from my new vantage point. However, the shadow of this gift is that it's harder to hear what's important in individual officers' lives. It's easy to lose touch with what's happening among American Indian tribes and Alaska Native communities, or what worries a Lieutenant preparing for her first competitive promotion. If there is something I need to know to better represent EHOs, or you have a category-specific problem outside your Liaison's domain of competency, feel free to drop me an email at [USPHS-ChiefEHO@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:USPHS-ChiefEHO@fda.hhs.gov).

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

## Important EHOPAC Subcommittee Updates

### Awards and Recognition:

The Awards and Recognition Committee would like to congratulate LCDR Daniel Malashock, the 2021 Responder of the Year Award winner!



LCDR Malashock exercised exceptional environmental health and safety expertise in support of diverse missions encompassing COVID-19 Response, Operation Allied Welcome/Afghanistan Repatriation, and 2021 Hurricane Response. Over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, LCDR Malashock deployed five times on behalf of the USPHS Commissioned Corps in varying field, technical, and leadership roles. He served as Chief Safety Officer for the CCHQ Command Cell ensuring the safety and welfare of over 300 field-deployed officers across more than 30 CCHQ missions. LCDR Malashock deployed to Washington State as a Lead Safety Officer to oversee the safe administration of COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable and at-risk communities, to Minnesota evaluating infection prevention and control (IPC) needs and implementation of interventions, and to provide safety and IPC technical assistance to hospitals impacted by Hurricane Delta. His contributions bolstered force health protection for CCHQ-deployed personnel, partners, and members of the public reducing their risk while working in high-risk environments.

LCDR Malashock's contributions exemplify a top officer who demonstrates outstanding leadership and professional competence. For these reasons LCDR Daniel Malashock is awarded the 2021 Responder of the Year Award.

### Mentoring and Orientation:

The Mentoring and Orientation Subcommittee would like to welcome the January 2022 OBC 133 EHO graduate, LT Justin Rusch, who is stationed with IHS in Fairbanks, AK.

*Table 1. Mentoring Moments and Tips for March*

### Mentoring Moments and Tips

## Tips on Mentor and Mentee's Communication Style

Check out this [article](#) for tips on different types of communication styles in mentoring relationships

## Officer Leader Profile

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 to be profiled, please send names forward to CDR Danielle Mills ([hku1@cdc.gov](mailto:hku1@cdc.gov)) and LCDR Dana Williams ([ihh6@cdc.gov](mailto:ihh6@cdc.gov)).

**CAPT Aimee Treffiletti**  
**Chief, Vessel Sanitation Program**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

***Leadership Perspective***

For the past several years, I have served as the chief of CDC’s Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP). The VSP mission is to prevent the introduction of acute gastroenteritis (AGE) into the U.S. from cruise ships sailing from foreign to U.S. ports. To accomplish this mission, VSP provides both environmental health and epidemiologic support to ships sailing to U.S. ports when ship personnel note increased numbers of people with AGE.

Since April 2020, I have also served as the lead for CDC’s Maritime Unit as part of the COVID-19 response. The Maritime Unit works with the cruise industry and seaport partners to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on cruise ships and ensure that passenger operations are conducted in a way that protects crew members, passengers, port personnel, and communities.

In both roles, I work with my colleagues to develop policy and advise on public health measures. Additionally, the public health measures issued by both VSP and the Maritime Unit are often adopted by other international public health agencies, which means the work we do has a global impact.

Being recognized within my agency as a subject matter expert in maritime public health has been a highlight of my career, and I recognize that I did not get here on my own. So many people above and around me helped to shape me as a leader. A rising tide lifts all boats, and it is every leader’s obligation to nurture and grow future leaders so they can rise as well.

**Career Highlights/Accomplishments**

- Deploying for Hurricane Katrina
- Serving as JOAG Chair
- Deploying on the U.S.S. Peleliu
- Mentoring EHOs
- Being selected as the Vessel Sanitation Program Chief
- Being selected to lead CDC’s Maritime Unit for the COVID-19 response



**Figure 1. CAPT Treffiletti**

“My dad told me early on in my career that sometimes people just want someone to listen to them. It’s not about solving their problem—it’s about making them know they have been heard.”

## ***Education/Training***

- William Smith College, Bachelor of Science
- University of California, Berkeley, Master of Public Health

## ***Professional Associations***

- National Environmental Health Association
- Commissioned Officers Association

## **Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) Updates**

### **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance:**

Officers have an opportunity to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The program provides access to free electronic filing of both federal and state tax returns. In the coming days, you'll have access to the TaxSlayer online tax preparation service through a special TaxSlayer URL provided to officers behind the [Officer Secure Area](#) under the 'Commissioned Corps Modernization' tab within the 'Presentations and Resources' section. Only Public Health Service officers are authorized to use this link and only for their own personal income taxes (either as an individual or jointly with a spouse/partner). If you file jointly, the other person named on your taxes can also use this link.

### **Excess Leave:**

CCHQ took the following actions to ensure Public Health Service officers were given credit for their accrued excess leave:

- 1) Leave approved by the supervisor and not confirmed by the officer was deducted from the officer's leave balance.
- 2) Leave requested by the officer but not approved by the supervisor and pending in the system was automatically canceled.
- 3) FY 2021 excess leave has been combined with the FY 2020 excess leave balance.

Excess leave can only be used in increments of 1.0 days. If an officer's excess leave balance is in an increment of 0.5 days, then 0.5 days of leave will be taken from the officer's annual leave and added to excess leave to make it 1.0 days, and therefore useable.

Officers must use their excess leave by **September 30, 2023**.

To learn more about excess leave, please review the webinar on the leave program posted on the [Learning Management System](#) along with the [Officer Leave and Absence Request Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to your Agency Liaisons.

## Upcoming Events

### EHOPAC Virtual Training Now Available Online:

Did you miss this year's Virtual Training Series on September 14 & 21? You can still learn from your fellow EHOs by viewing the sessions on the Commissioned Corps Learning Management System (CCLMS).

- 1) Login: [Learning Management System](#) (Username = PHS #)
- 2) Click "Training"
- 3) Select "Specialty Training / Environmental Health" from the dropdown menu on the right side of the screen
- 4) Select the course you wish to view
- 5) After watching the video, be sure to take the Post-Test and complete the evaluation in order to earn your certificate of completion

\*Note: Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will not be available for these trainings.

## Organization of the Month

### PFAS-REACH Exchange

EPA recently announced [Nationwide Monitoring Effort to understand the extent of polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) in drinking water](#). With PFAS making the news we want to highlight an organization working on [PFAS research, education, and action for community health \(REACH\)](#). PFAS are widely used chemicals that persist in the environment for long periods of time. PFAS are used in a variety of products including non-stick cookware, wax coatings on paper goods like cups and take-out containers, water repellent clothing, firefighting foams, and more. According to PFAS-REACH, 98% of Americans have PFAS in their bodies. Science on health effects is still evolving but there is growing concern of the health effects of PFAS even at low levels. REACH has tools to help the public reduce their exposure, understand health risks and screening for PFAS, and interpret drinking water sampling. They are also actively studying the health effects of PFAS among children in two communities with contaminated drinking water (Hyannis, MA and Portsmouth, NH).

EPA has set a health advisory level for PFAS but has yet to recommend a maximum contaminant level (MCL).

## About EHOPAC News

**Do you have a news story to share?** Submit your *EHOPAC News* stories or questions for inclusion in a future edition to LCDR Matthew Kozler, [matthew\\_kozler@nps.gov](mailto:matthew_kozler@nps.gov), and LT Stephanie Bridges, [stephanie\\_bridges@nps.gov](mailto:stephanie_bridges@nps.gov)!

## For More EHOPAC Information:

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Thank you for all you do,

**EHOPAC Communications Subcommittee – Publications Team**

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