

Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

October 2020 Update

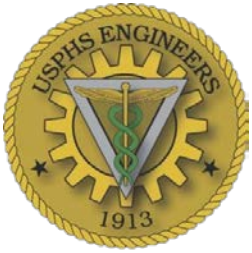


Chief Professional Officer Remarks

- ▶ Comments will be provided during meeting



RADM Edward Dieser,
Chief Engineer



EPAC Chair Remarks

- ▶ Congratulations to CDR Samantha Spindel on the birth of her son, Luke, on September 11th; to LCDR Michael Simpson on the birth of his son, Logan, on September 12th; and to LCDR Omobogie Amadasu on the birth of his daughter, Magaline, on July 15th.
- ▶ Congratulations to LT Maggie Ziols on her recent promotion.
- ▶ On Thursday October 22th from 2-3pm Eastern, the CPO will host a Senior Officer Panel. Please plan to join the webinar, if possible.



CDR Samantha Spindel,
EPAC Chair



CDR Deb Cox,
EPAC Vice Chair



Awards Subcommittee

- ▶ Awards Review Board (October Cycle-PHS Engineer of the Year (EOY), Engineer Responder of the Year (EROY), RADM Jerrold M. Michael Award)
 - ▶ Nomination are due by November 15th. All nominations are to be submitted via email to the current EPAC Awards Subcommittee Chair, CDR John Kathol (john.kathol@ihs.gov).
 - ▶ Please review the Chief Engineer Announcement from Oct. 4th for the NEW nomination forms for 2020. Please review nomination forms thoroughly and please take time to nominate deserving engineers!!
 - ▶ In addition, check the EPAC/AWARDS & RECOGNITION Webpage for access to the new forms and any updates (<https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/awards.aspx>)
- ▶ Strategic Initiatives Team (Lead: LCDR Travis Sorum)
 - ▶ Updates to the EOY, EROY and Michael Award's are completed and are currently posted for use.
 - ▶ Huge thank you to the Team Lead (LCDR Travis Sorum), Awards Subcommittee Vice Chair (CDR Matt Mergenthaler), EPAC Chairs (CDR Spindel and CDR Cox), RADM Dieser and all those that have contributed comments and feedback over the years that led to this point.
 - ▶ Summary of major revisions highlighted on next two slides.
 - ▶ Team has begun the review of the spring awards cycle nomination forms. Updated forms are targeted for the Spring 2021 cycle.
- ▶ SOP Initiative (Lead: LCDR Abbas Bandukwala)
 - ▶ SOP still in review stage as Subcommittee completed revisions to Fall Cycle Nomination Forms.



CDR John Kathol,
Chair



CDR Matthew
Mergenthaler, Vice Chair



Awards Subcommittee

- ▶ PHS Engineer of the Year (EOY), Engineer Responder of the Year (EROY), RADM Jerrold M. Michael Award)-Nomination Forms: Revision Summary
 - ▶ Why: A need was identified over the past several years from various EPAC Chair's, Award Subcommittee Members and the Chief Engineer to improve the forms and the process and to provide clarity to the eligibility requirements, required documents, timelines, and overall consistency for the implementation and review of all Awards.
 - ▶ Process: The Awards Subcommittee completed an extensive review of the current process and forms, conducted research on past practices and feedback from previous cycles of reviews. Based on that information, the team developed updated forms that encapsulates the necessary level of change to the nomination forms to an optimal level while providing a reasonable balance that effectively captures the spirit and purpose of the award.
 - ▶ Timeline: The COVID pandemic negatively impacting the timeline and completion of these forms. Due to the urgency and necessity to implement improvements to the forms for the October 2020 cycle, it was advised by EPAC leadership and the CPO to rollout forms with the understanding that they may not be perfect and that modifications stemming from changes by OSG and others may result in further modifications in subsequent years.
 - ▶ Documentation: Summary memo (6-pages) documents all changes and why.



CDR John Kathol,
Chair



CDR Matthew
Mergenthaler, Vice Chair



Awards Subcommittee

- ▶ PHS Engineer of the Year (EOY), Engineer Responder of the Year (EROY), RADM Jerrold M. Michael Award)- Nomination Forms: Summary of Major Revisions
 - ▶ Format of Forms updated for all three awards (standardized, consistent, fillable PDF's and Narrative form templates)-Improve submissions and review process.
 - ▶ New standalone version of the PHS Engineer of the Year Nomination Process (Previously followed NSPE-FEYA application)-Better align the award to the mission of the PHS while demonstrating impact on public health through engineering.
 - ▶ Implemented specific timelines for documenting achievements for specific awards and criteria. EOY- last 36 months, EROY-combination career and last 36 months, Michael-career achievements. - Previously undefined resulting in inconsistent nominations and reviews while better aligning with the spirit and intent of the award.
 - ▶ Incorporated a "standby" period and one-time selection for individual awardees-Enhances the opportunity and encourages all PHS Officers and Civil Servant Engineers to apply.
 - ▶ Implemented an endorsement section that is reasonable and consistent across all awards-Enhances integrity of the nomination and narrative and provides a level of validation for the nomination packet.



CDR John Kathol,
Chair



CDR Matthew
Mergenthaler, Vice Chair



Career Development Subcommittee

- ▶ Senior Officer Advisory Panel—Web event set for 22 October 2020
- ▶ Engineer Career Track Initiative
 - ▶ Expanded from original “Biomedical Initiative” to category-wide Career Track guidance
 - ▶ Met with CPO on 9/14—provided vision on career track and certification guidance needed
 - ▶ LCDR Peter expanding category-wide survey to collect engineer roles and certifications
- ▶ Honor the late CAPT (ret) Gladys Rodriguez
 - ▶ Finalized—will post soon. Request made on 9/23 to include with Engineer Announcements
- ▶ Mentoring Program
 - ▶ Currently at 52 Mentor-Mentee pairs, with one request for a Mentor pending
- ▶ Continuing Education Summary Template Update
 - ▶ Combines CE and professional development into a single annual document
 - ▶ Proposed Template will be sent out to EPAC for review soon
- ▶ Database of Online Engineering Master’s Programs
 - ▶ Survey ready for category-wide release—to go out with Engineer Announcements soon



LCDR Omobogie Amadasu, Chair



CAPT Eric Hanssen, Vice Chair



Events Subcommittee

- ▶ Chief Engineer's Quarterly Meeting (Virtual - October 8, 2020; 2-3 EST)
 - ▶ Quarterly Town Hall right before the EPAC General Meeting.
 - ▶ Lead: LT Drew Katherine.
- ▶ AMSUS (Gaylord Nation Resort and Convention Center, MD, Dec. 6-10, 2020)
 - ▶ AMSUS has switched to 100% online. Registration opened October 1st.
 - ▶ Sessions will be available (on-demand) until December 2020 for CEUs.
 - ▶ Lead: LCDR Michael Simpson, Co-Leads: LCDR Michael Tollon, LCDR Hanniebey Wiyor.
- ▶ E-Week (National Park Service HQ, DC, February 18, 2021)
 - ▶ Currently in the process of confirming the room.
 - ▶ Tentative date is February 18, 2021.
 - ▶ Lead: LT David Sullivan.
- ▶ COF Symposium (Renaissance Hotel Glendale, AZ, June 21-24, 2021)
 - ▶ No updates on abstract submissions.
 - ▶ Possible Pre-Conference Training opportunity (Post-Disaster Response).
 - ▶ Lead: LCDR Matthew Palo, Co-Lead: LCDR Michael Gifford.
- ▶ SAME - JETC (Oregon Convention Center, OR, May 18-21, 2021)
 - ▶ Still in development.
 - ▶ Lead: CDR Benjamin Marnell.



LCDR Derrick Buck,
Chair



LCDR Michael Gifford,
Vice Chair

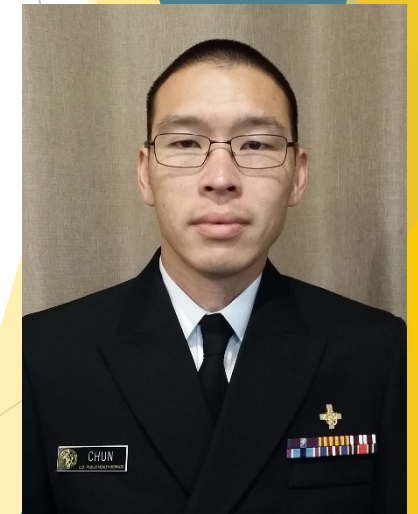


Information Subcommittee

- ▶ Content Management
 - ▶ Up to date on website requests
 - ▶ Submit update requests to EPAC-POSTINGS@LIST.NIH.GOV .
 - ▶ Nothing new on the [Anonymous Feedback](#) section on website
- ▶ EPAC Newsletter
 - ▶ We have received 5 articles for inclusion to date for the Fall 2020 EPAC Newsletter
 - ▶ Final Fall 2020 Newsletter completed around the end of October
- ▶ Combined Category Newsletter
 - ▶ On hold



CAPT Josh Simms,
Chair



LCDR Garrett Chun,
Vice Chair



Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

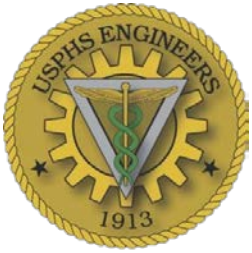
- ▶ Regular Meetings are monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 2pm
 - ▶ Always open for new and interested participants
- ▶ Restarting / Continuing several projects that were paused during the height of COVID deployments
- ▶ Article Publications, Deployment stories, etc.
 - ▶ PHEP is always available to review articles. We can match your article with a reviewer.
 - ▶ If interested, please reach out to CDR James Coburn - James.Coburn@fda.hhs.gov



CDR Leo Gumapas,
Chair



CDR James Coburn,
Vice Chair



Readiness Subcommittee

- ▶ Deployment Readiness Support: Improve Engineer Readiness
 - ▶ Readiness Survey updated and ready for distribution.
- ▶ Readiness Training and Education: Training Curriculum
 - ▶ 2021 COA Pre-Conference training collaboration w/ Events
 - ▶ Working with CDR Cunningham, COF POC, on pre-conference logistics.
 - ▶ Healthcare Facilities Training Initiative - LCDR Praveen KC
 - ▶ Underdevelopment.
- ▶ Information Management/Engineer Booklet: Engineer Deployment Narrative
 - ▶ 2019 Deployed Engineers Booklet under 508 compliance review.
 - ▶ COVID 19 Engineer Narrative Booklet anticipated complete by 10/19.



CDR Frank Chua,
Chair



CDR Sean Bush,
Vice Chair



Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

- ▶ SOP has been finalized and will upload in R&R webpage by end of next week.
- ▶ Survey response for R&R presentation are trickling in. All responses are due by 10-12-2020.
- ▶ Year end bi-monthly meeting set for first week of December.
- ▶ Plan to distribute Letter of Appreciation by end of November.



LCDR Praveen KC,
Chair



LCDR Fred Kelly,
Vice Chair



Rules Subcommittee

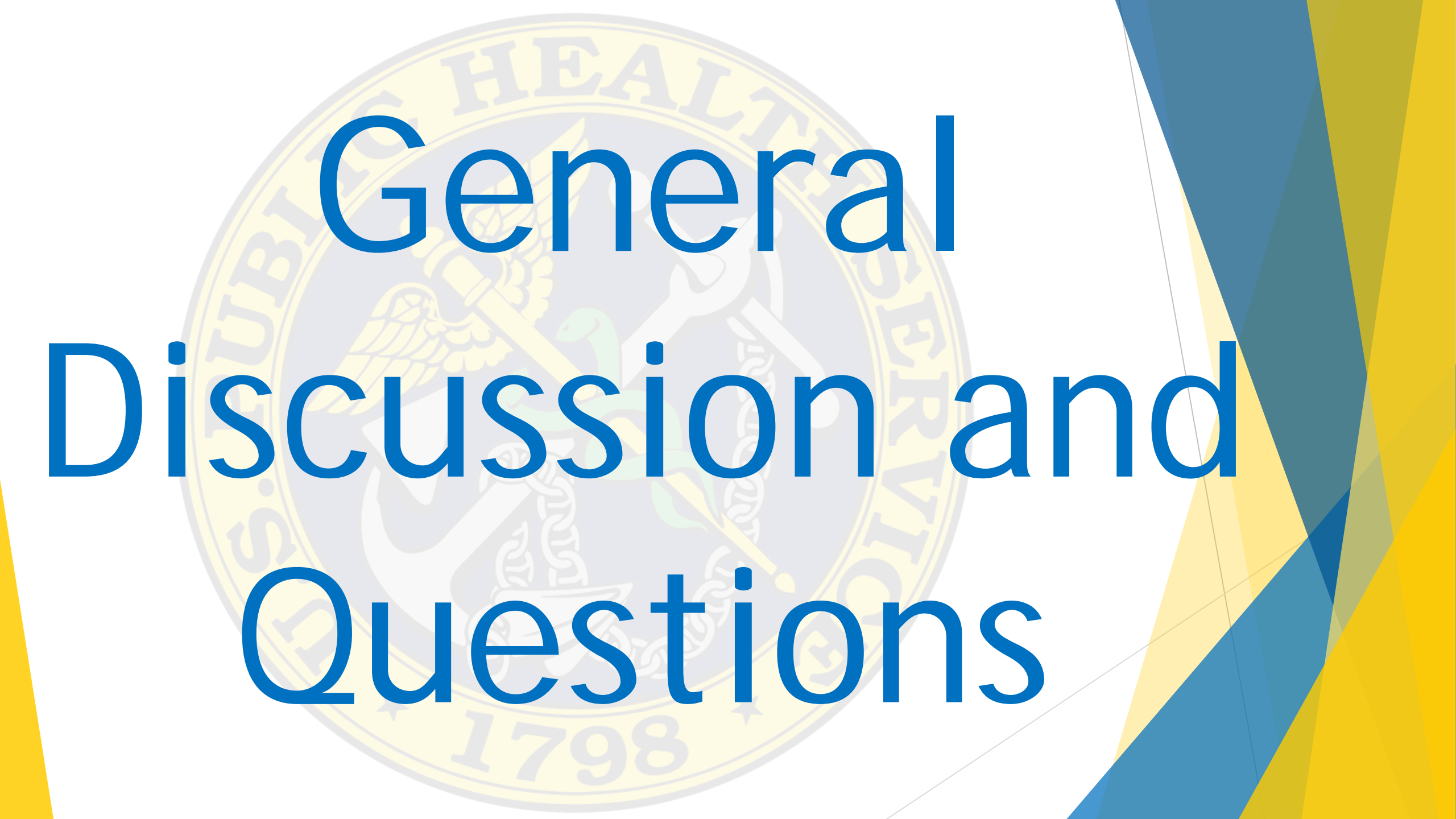
- ▶ Welcome New EPAC Voting Members
 - ▶ Your agency liaisons have confirmed their support.
 - ▶ Next step is to receive your formal appointment from the OSG.
 - ▶ Your alternate forms are due to be submitted to the 2021 EPAC Executive Secretary, LCDR Melissa deVera, at Melissa.DeVera@ihs.gov by Dec 4th.
 - ▶ Updated form on the website
 - ▶ If no supervisory changes, do not need to resubmit.
 - ▶ Alternates should not be other voting members.
 - ▶ Each voting member should have their own alternate.
- ▶ Great job to PHEP and R&R posting their SOPs!
 - ▶ All Subcommittee SOPs are due and should be posted by year end.



CDR Deb Cox,
Chair



LCDR Matt Palo,
Vice Chair

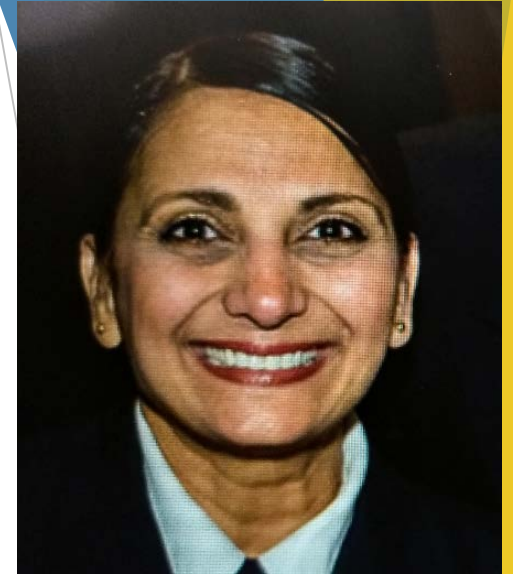


General Discussion and Questions



Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board Update

- ▶ Nothing substantive to report this month, no meeting since last EPAC meeting
- ▶ **ACTION ITEM:** Engineer Liaison for CCWIAB from Jan 2021 to Dec 2023.
 - ▶ Engineer will be a voting member of CCWAIB. Will need to attend both monthly CCWIAB calls and EPAC calls as well as be active member of the CCWIAB. Please contact CAPT Varsha B. Savalia at Varsha.Savalia@FDA.hhs.gov with your interest.



CAPT Varsha Savalia,
CCWIAB Liaison



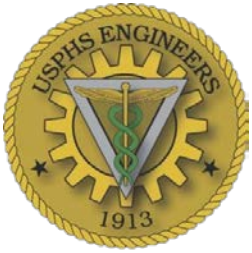
Commissioned Officer's Association Update

- ▶ Please renew your membership if it has lapsed
- ▶ COA Membership dues
 - ▶ \$170 annual dues (O4 and above, retired or active)
 - ▶ \$105 annual dues (O3 and below, retired or active)
 - ▶ \$55 annual dues (civilian)



CDR Brad Cunningham,
COA Liaison





Junior Officers Advisory Group Update

- ▶ JOAG OY20-21 started on 10/1/2020
- ▶ OY20-21 JOAG Chair is LCDR Beth Wittry
- ▶ Your new EPAC/JOAG Liaison for OY20-21 is LCDR Michael Wandersee
- ▶ Please join us for a Koop Seminar Series presentation on Thursday, October 15th, 2020 at 1430-1530 EST
 - ▶ Numerous presenters about deployment to COVID-19 response Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
 - ▶ Conference Call Dial-in: 1-201-795-0506
WebEx ID: 199 122 5173
 - ▶ WebEx Password: JOAGKoop1



LCDR Michael Wandersee,
JOAG Liaison





Society of American Military Engineers Update

- ▶ Small Business Conference will be virtual but not the same as JETC
 - ▶ Market Research Event
 - ▶ No Chiefs Panel this year
 - ▶ 8 Professional development tracks - 2 health care oriented
 - ▶ 04-06 November 2020
 - ▶ <https://www.samesbc.org/about.cfm>
- ▶ SAME's 2021-2022 Leader Development Program
 - ▶ Remarks by LT Remley (currently in program)
 - ▶ Application process is now open, applications due 07 December 2020
 - ▶ For mid-career professionals with five years of professional experience that have been members of SAME for at least one year
 - ▶ SAME Foundation covers the fee to participate, including travel to the JETC in 2021 (Portland, OR) and 2022 (Aurora, CO)
 - ▶ <https://www.same.org/ldp>



CDR Steve Sauer,
SAME Liaison





Closing Remarks and Adjourn

- ▶ Voting Members were sent an email on September 21st regarding their EPAC Subcommittee assignments for 2021.
 - ▶ Workplans are to be submitted by email to me at cox.Deborah@epa.gov, copying LCDR KC at kc.Praveen@epa.gov by Dec 4th.
 - ▶ Please send a meeting invitation to CDR Cox, LCDR KC, and LCDR deVera to discuss your 2021 Subcommittee Workplans.
 - ▶ Meeting requests should be for one hour, starting on the hour, Monday Dec 7th from 1200-1700 EST or Wednesday Dec 9th 1400-1700 EST.
- ▶ Please continue to submit COVID-19 narratives and articles for the newsletter!
- ▶ Please continue to maintain your readiness
 - ▶ CCHQ Town Hall mentioned PHUs, BLS, and APFT will continue to be extended until March 31, 2021 - must have in system prior to the April 1, 2021 readiness check.
- ▶ Great job representing our category when deployed!



RADM Edward Dieser,
Chief Engineer



CDR Deb Cox,
EPAC Vice Chair