Welcome

- I want to thank all engineers for their hard work during 2021!
  And wish everyone Happy Holidays!

- Recommend all officers visit the EPAC website monthly for information
  [https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/engineer/](https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/engineer/)

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**Commissioned Corps Headquarters 2021 Annual Training**

All officers are required to complete the training before

**JANUARY 1, 2022**

Click here to access training courses

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**News Updates**

- 2021 Final EPAC General Meeting on 12/9 from 1500-1630 ET.
- Career Development PE Book Share Program. A great free resource!
- 2021 EPAC Subcommittee Officer Participation Needs List.

**Commissioned Corps Headquarters Annual Training**

- The following courses are available in the Commissioned Corps Learning Management System
  - Annual Resiliency Course
  - Annual Harassment Awareness Course
  - Annual Cultural Awareness Course
  - Annual Ethics Course
EPAC Chair Remarks

- EPAC Voting Members held a “hot wash” call in NOV
  - Discussed next steps to increase participation and welcome your ideas
  - Currently about 25% Engineers make our general meetings
    - Information Subcommittee created banners to highlight items
    - The ListServe will have an announcement with an .ics calendar invite
      - If anyone knows how to put on all engineer’s calendars – please reach out to LCDR Martin Martin, Timothy.Martin@hhs.gov
  - Other ideas were to start a “Good News” section in the newsletter:
    - Congratulations to LCDRs Will Chang, Mike Gifford, and Mike Simpson on earning PEs
    - Congratulations to CAPT Kris Neset and CDR Deb Cox for earning their BCEE
    - Congratulations to CDR Frank Chua on his new position in Seattle with IHS DES
    - Congratulations to LCDRs Kelly Kachurak on the birth of Colby James Kachurak in October, and to LCDR Michael Gifford on the birth of Bennett Michael Gifford last week.
      - We would like to celebrate achievements but need to know about them!
EPAC Newsletter

Full of great information
✓ CPO Message
✓ EPAC Chair Update
✓ EPAC Subcommittee Updates
✓ Great articles on work engineers are doing
✓ Award recipients

New Engineer Officers

The EPAC would like to acknowledge the following engineers who have recently become Commissioned Officers. The EPAC welcomes each of you and hopes you will enjoy a long and prosperous career in the PHS.

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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>OPDIV</th>
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<td>David Elder</td>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Chamblee</td>
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<td>LT</td>
<td>Jonathan Harris</td>
<td>IHS</td>
<td>Parker</td>
<td>AZ</td>
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Fair Winds and Following Seas

The EPAC would also like to recognize the engineer officers who have recently retired from Commissioned Corps service. The EPAC sincerely appreciates your leadership and dedication to the mission of PHS engineers.

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Everett Bigthum</td>
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Meeting Overview

- Rules
- Awards
- Career Development
- Events
- Information
- Public Health & Engineering Practice
- Readiness
- Recruitment & Retention
- Commissioned Corps Women’s Issues Advisory Board
- Commissioned Officer’s Association
- Junior Officers Advisory Group
- Society of American Military Engineers
- 2021 Accomplishments Summary
- CPO Remarks
- Adjourn

LCDR Melissa de Vera, EPAC Executive Secretary
Updated LOA and COA template to include new logos and to comply with new brand guidelines.

Bylaws and SOP have been updated and posted in EPAC Webpage.

- 3 of the 6 proposals were approved by VM and the bylaws and SOP were updated.
- Rules subcommittee is currently reviewing the 3 remaining proposals and plans to incorporate the comments provided by VMs and resubmit the updated proposal for Vote in 2022.

On behalf of Rules Chair and Vice Chair, I would like to thank the volunteers of the Rules Subcommittee for all your time and effort to support Rules Subcommittee. We had a great year!

I would also like to thank our CPO RADM Dieser and EPAC Chair CDR Cox for their leadership and guidance. We had a very productive year.
Awards Subcommittee

- **Fall Awards Cycle** - Engineer of the Year (EOY), Engineer Responder of the Year (EROY), RADM Jerrold M. Michael Engineer Award (Michael).
  - 13 nominations across all three award categories
  - 4.33 Avg. # of Nominations per Award Category
  - Nominations are under review by Awards Subcommittee Members (Scores due by Dec. 15th)
  - Award Recommendations (Due to EPAC Chair/CPO by Dec. 17th)

- **Spring Awards Cycle** – Villforth, Lynch, Burgess, ELIT (OPEN/PEER Reviewed), SAME Awards.
  - Nomination Forms are available on EPAC/Awards Webpage [https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/awards.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/awards.aspx)
  - Official call for nominations will occur after January 1, 2022
  - Nominations are due on February 7, 2022

- **Awards Subcommittee Leadership Change**
  - Effective January 1, 2022 CDR Matt Mergenthaler will be the Chair of the Awards Subcommittee with LCDR Travis Sorum serving as Vice-Chair.
Career Development Subcommittee

- Senior Officer Panel #4 occurred on November 18\textsuperscript{th} on Developing a Professional Network
- Last chance to fill out promotion survey for those up between 2018-2021: https://forms.gle/tqMyHz3rC6HjKXSv6
- Updated CV template available here: https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/cd_cv_dev_docs.aspx
- Certifications/Credentials for Biomedical Engineers: Professional Licensure and Alternatives Whitepaper being posted to EPAC website this week
- Advanced Degrees article will be featured in Spring 2022 Newsletter
## Career Development Subcommittee

### Table

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Officers at this Rank that are Mentees</th>
<th>% Mentee</th>
<th>Officers at this Rank that are mentors</th>
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<td>1</td>
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Events Subcommittee

- **AMSUS 2022: 07-10FEB22 (in-person), 22-25FEB22 (virtual) / National Harbor, MD**
  - Registration open for CEUs: [https://www.amsus.org/events/annual-meeting-2/](https://www.amsus.org/events/annual-meeting-2/)
  - Theme: “Healthcare Transformation Starts with Medical Education and Training.”
  - Leads – LCDRS Wiyor, LT To, Simpson, Tolland

- **E-Week 2022: 25 FEB22 (in-person/Hybrid) / Time: TBD / FDA Venue (DC/MD/VA area)**
  - Lead – CDR Adeuya; Co-Lead – LT Drew Katherine; Lead on Deck – VACANT; Advisor: LT Colin Tack
  - Currently Planning for Feb 25th based to availability of space and awaiting CPO direction
  - Change in Command:
    - Lead: LCDR Abbas Bandukwala, Support: CDR Andrew Yang

- **SAME JETC 2022: 10-12 MAY22 (in-person) / Aurora, CO**
  - Liaison/Lead – LCDR Kevin Remley
  - Call for Abstracts were in Mid-November
  - Awaiting confirmation on Selection of Abstracts

- **Engineer Category Day 2022: 25MAY22 (in-person) / 0800-1730 MST / Glendale, AZ**
  - Lead: LT Tamang / Co-Lead: LCDR Eapen / Lead on Deck: LT Ziols
  - Abstracts Received and Submitted
  - Speaker Information due 2nd Week of January

LCDR Michael Gifford, Chair

CDR Greg Ault, Vice Chair
Information Subcommittee

EPAC Website & Subcommittee News

- Team has been busy over the past couple months fielding requests from the various subcommittees, EPAC members and EPAC Chair on updates to the website. Also have been working on finalizing Fall Newsletter and completing various end of the operational year administrative items.

- Congrats to LCDR Garrett Chun on another year as Chair in 2022 and LCDR Gary Riley as the incoming Vice Chair. LCDR Travis Sorum is moving to the Awards Subcommittee as Vice Chair.

- Need programmers, photographers, graphic artists, editors or anyone with an interest in being part of a great subcommittee. We can’t do it without great volunteer officers!

- If interested in joining our subcommittee please dial into our meetings held during the second Monday of every odd month, 1400-1430 EST. Contact LCDR Chun (garrett.chun@nps.gov) if interested for conference call line information. Call in information will also be posted on the Information Subcommittee page on the EPAC website.
Newsletter

- Final editing has been completed by our senior editing team and the Newsletter put together by our long-time managing editor, CDR Jason Petersen. OASH recently completed the review and vetting process. EPAC newsletter to be distributed out prior to the Christmas Holiday.

- Now on the lookout for great stories for our spring newsletter. Never too early to get them in. Due date for articles is **February 28, 2022**. Please submit articles to CDR Jason Petersen (jason.petersen@ihs.gov) for consideration.
Information Subcommittee

EPAC Sharepoint

- Information Subcommittee has setup an EPAC Sharepoint site on APAN.org which is currently being used by Career Development, Events and Information Subcommittees. This platform is opened to all Subcommittees and is designed as a centralized file storage and archival location for EPAC related materials.

- By request we have also included a "chat room" and "discussion board" to the platform. Please contact garrett_chun@nps.gov if interested.
Example new projects for 2022:
- Changing engineering practice to increase resilience to climate change
  - Can come from your work at your duty station
  - Increase the scope of your work to have national impact
- Potential for 3D Printing to fill supply gaps in the field
  - Identify parts people need → print at available facility
  - Test in the field

Next meeting on December 16th, at 2pm (3rd Thursday)
- LT Wimer (CDC) - gia3@cdc.gov
- CDR Coburn (FDA) – James.Coburn@fda.hhs.gov

Subscribe to Engineering Resources Library on Huddle.com
- Must contact CDR Andrew Yang (Andrew.yang3@nih.gov) for access
Readiness Subcommittee

➢ 2021 Accomplishments
  o Published 2020 Deployed Engineer Booklet (LCDR George Ngatha)
    • Thank you to everyone who submitted narratives
  o Developed basic Disaster Response Engineer role training recommendation for CPO and CCHQ (LCDR Steven Tidwell)
  o Completed Readiness Needs Survey and identified action item (LCDR Michael Tollon)

➢ Ongoing project
  o Soliciting 2021 Engineer Deployment Narratives
    • Now through February 2022

➢ Opportunities for new members in 2022
  o General formatting and editing of the Booklet
  o Engineers that have deployed in Disaster Engineer Role
  o All engineers open to supporting projects and encouraging readiness

➢ Monthly hour-long meetings every third Thursday at 11:30AM ET
Recruitment & Retention Subcommittee

➢ 2021 Accomplishments:
  ▪ Successful planning and implementation of the Engineer Listening Sessions
  ▪ Full approval of the Engineer Recruitment Presentation
  ▪ Updating the ABET accredited colleges and universities career fair database
  ▪ Compiled and published the vacancy announcements

➢ 2022 Volunteer Needs:
  ▪ Policy workgroup- Lead and Volunteers Needed
  ▪ Communications and Networking- Volunteers Needed
  ▪ Recruitment Training and Tracking- Volunteers Needed

➢ Newly Commissioned Engineer Officers
  ▪ August OBC 129- LT David Ederer, CDC, Chamblee, GA
  ▪ November OBC 132- LTJG Jonathan Harris, IHS, Parker, AZ
Commissioned Corps Women’s Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) Update

- **No Updates – No Meeting in December**

- Special thanks to LCDR Vicky Hsu for covering during my maternity leave.

- Meetings held on the 1st Wednesday of every month. **Next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2022.**

- If you have any questions or issues you wish to raise to CCWIAB, please send an email to **kimberly.piermatteo@fda.hhs.gov**.

CDR Kimberly Piermatteo, CCWIAB Liaison
Commissioned Officer’s Association Update

- Sent brief message to board for next frontline on pending dues increases in mid 2022
- MOAA meeting 12/8/2021
- Next meeting 1/9/2022 with Ready Reserve
- Board Meeting 2/2/2022
- Please share any questions or concerns to present at meetings.
Junior Officers Advisory Group Update

- JOAG is now in OY22
- JOAG General Meeting will be held tomorrow at 1300 ET
- Still looking for some volunteers, check out the most recent listserv announcement
- OY 20/21 accomplishment report will be coming out soon
- Join the listserv: https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=JOAG&A=1

LCDR Michael Wandersee, JOAG Liaison
Society of American Military Engineers
Update

- SAME Membership – $55/yr or $40/yr (aged 39 and younger)
  - www.same.org

- Webinar: Use of the IHS Mapping Portal during the Navajo Nation Water Access Mission
  - 16 Dec, 12:00 PM EST
  - Hosted by the Health Engineering Task Force
  - Presented by LCDR Patrick Fox and LCDR Derrick Buck, moderated by LCDR Sandy Miller
  - Free for members, $25 for non-members
  - www.same.org/health-engineering

- Career Transition Workshop (11 Jan – 22 Feb)
  - On-Line Training Tuesdays (11 Jan – 1 Feb)
  - On-Site Workshop in Linthicum, MD (15 Feb – 17 Feb)
  - Virtual Interviews (22 Feb)
  - www.same.org/transition

- Joint Engineering and Training Conference (9 May – 13 May)
  - Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, CO
  - Call for presentations open, abstracts due 24 Jan
  - www.samejetc.org

LCDR Kevin Remley, SAME Liaison
2021 EPAC Accomplishments

- **Awards**: Updated nomination forms and criteria for 11 category awards. Presented awards training at Category Day.

- **CDS**: Hosted 4 Senior Officer Panel attended by over 350 engineers, provided guidance on the recently updated standardized CV and benchmarks, drafted a white paper on Certifications/Credentials for Biomedical Engineers, and worked to modernize our category mentoring program.

- **Events**: Hosted E-Week Awards Ceremony celebrating awardees and spotlighting the 100-year partnership between the NPS and the USPHS: Power of Parks for Health, 117 engineers registered for Category Day and 4.25 PDHs were awarded, hosted CPO town halls, and facilitated a fun virtual engineer social trivia event.

- **Info**: Redesigned and published the Spring and Fall 2021 Category Newsletters, restructured over 80 webpages including adding return buttons, correcting broken links, and archiving outdated material to increase functionality and overall navigability, highlighted engineer’s work in 9 social media posts, distributed monthly engineer announcements, and established a SharePoint site on APAN.org as a centralized file storage and archival location for EPAC related materials.

- **PHEP**: Established Engineering Resources Library on Huddle.com. including engineer core competencies lists and is developing a database with reference standards and manuals that will be accessible to engineers in the field through portable electronics such as during a deployment. In addition, PHEP is continuing to print 3D items, including face shields and masks.

- **Readiness**: Published the 2020 Engineer Deployment Booklet, provided training on Health Facility Assessments and Inspections for over 225 engineers, developed basic Disaster Response Engineer role training recommendations, and completed a Readiness Needs Survey.

- **R&R**: Led 4 Listening Sessions, attended by 172 engineers, to help engineers navigate recent changes and provide some data graphs including number of engineers by agency & rank and promotion rate trends, updated the Engineer Recruitment Presentation, updated the ABET accredited colleges and universities career fair database, and compiled and published the engineer vacancy announcements.

- **Rules**: Led Voting Member Selection Process, created subcommittee workplan template, and updated the bylaws.
Closing Remarks

Thank you to the outgoing EPAC Voting Members:
- CAPT Eric Hanssen and CDRs Omobogie Amadasu and Sam Russell

Welcome Incoming Voting Members
- CDRs Roxanne Adeuya, Chris Fehrman, and David Gwisdalla
- LCDRs Juliane Junes-Harvey, Gary Riley and LT Drew Katherine

I challenge every engineer to get involved with some EPAC initiative in 2022
- Check our website for a list of needs in addition to the ones mentioned today
- Participate in mentoring regardless of your rank there is always more to learn

Best Wishes to the 2022 Executive Leadership Team
- LCDRs Praveen KC, Michael Gifford, and Tim Martin

Happy Holidays
Chief Professional Officer Remarks

- Enjoy time with your families this holiday season
  - Take a pause from the challenges we have all faced
  - Come back ready to involved in a new initiative
  - We need your ideas and passion

- Thank you all for your great work in support of our category

- I look forward to 2022 and the announcement of our next CPO