

2021 ENGINEER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPAC)

EPAC Calendar, Initiatives, and Member Directory

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

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2021 EPAC Calendar

Date	Event
Thursday, January 14	Senior Officer Panel #1: Career Planning and Decision-Making: Various Track Towards Success 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, February 11	EPAC General Meeting 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, February 18	<i>E-Week ceremony and CPO Town Hall -Virtual</i>
Thursday, March 11	Senior Officer Panel #2: Officer and Leadership Development 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, April 8	EPAC General Meeting 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, May 13	CPO Town Hall 1500-1630 EST
Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21	<i>Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC) – Virtual</i>
Thursday, June 10	EPAC General Meeting 1500-1630 EST
Monday, June 21 through Thursday, June 24 (Postponed)	<i>COA USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium Category Day & CPO Town Hall TBD - Virtual</i>
Thursday, July 8	Senior Officer Panel #3: Promotion Administration 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, August 12	EPAC General Meeting 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, September 9	CPO Town Hall 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, October 14	EPAC General Meeting 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, November 18	Senior Officer Panel #4: Developing Your Professional Network 1500-1630 EST
Thursday, December 9	EPAC General Meeting 1500-1630 EST

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

2021 EPAC Initiatives

EPAC Chair and Chair-Elect

Chair: CDR Deborah Cox, Cox.Deborah@epa.gov ; EPAC@usphsengineers.org

Chair-Elect: LCDR Praveen KC, kc.praveen@epa.gov

- Engage and Empower Officers: Offer increased opportunities for engineers to get involved, share their thoughts, ask questions, be informed, and make changes to improve our processes and transparency
- Develop Leaders: Mentor and support officers to take on new opportunities and gain experience
- Partner with OSG-chartered groups to share and apply best practices and leverage knowledge
- Provide training to increase preparedness to deploy when needed
- Assist EPAC Subcommittees to prepare engineer officers to meet the requirements of the Commissioned Corps Modernization Initiative, especially the focus areas of professional development of the Regular Corps, Deployment, and Recruitment for Service in Underserved and Vulnerable Populations

Rules Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR Praveen KC, kc.praveen@epa.gov

Vice Chair: CDR Frank Chua, Francis.Chua@ihs.gov

- Work with EPAC subcommittees to establish and finalized SOPs
- Manage selection process of Voting Members for 2022-2024 cycle
- Manage selection process of the 2022 EPAC Chair-Elect
- Review EPAC Bylaws and determine if updates are needed
- Special Project: Work with Readiness Subcommittee to create new Deployment Support Team to provide professional support and assistance to deployed officers
- Work with Subcommittee Chairs as directed by the EPAC Chair

Awards Subcommittee

Chair: CDR John Kathol, John.Kathol@ihs.gov

Vice Chair: CDR Matthew Mergenthaler, matthew.mergenthaler@ihs.gov

- Awards Review Board: coordinate communication, review award nominations, and recommend awardees
- Awards Subcommittee Strategic Initiatives: Examine changes to award nominations, update rubrics, and create review team criteria
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Create SOP outlining operations and coordination with all stakeholders
- Awards Communication Coordinator: Update website, communicate with stakeholders to encourage award nominations and tracking, develop tools to assist in increasing quality and number of nominations
- Provide reports, metrics, and trend analysis to EPAC Chair and CPO as needed/requested

Career Development Subcommittee

Chair: CAPT Eric Hanssen, eric.hanssen@nih.gov

Vice Chair: LCDR Michael Simpson, Michael.Simpson@fda.hhs.gov

Mentoring Lead: LCDR Omobogie Amadasu, Omobogie.Amadasu@ihs.gov

- Mission Statement: *"The mission of the Career Development Subcommittee is to provide the most relevant, informed, and accessible information to the members of the Engineer Category, regarding career planning, promotion readiness, professional growth, and leadership development throughout their career."*
- Manage mentoring program and events
- Revise EPAC CDS webpages
- Develop white paper explaining various credentials/certifications outside of and in addition to PE

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- Develop white paper explaining benchmarks for degrees, various degrees to better PHS officers as well as engineer category, and where PHS officers have been successful obtaining as well as potential funding options to assist officers in securing funding for degrees
- Identify recommended reference books to aid in studying for various certification exams
- Assemble a list of agency-specific trainings
- Represent engineer category at Officer Basic Course
- Compile biographies for the Council of Captains and provide logistical support for quarterly panel
- Licensure book share/recommendations – explore alternatives for creating a book share for the category
- Update CE/PD template documents
- Perform data analytics of recent promotion board feedback regarding comments provided on score sheets and what officers had/performed to receive positive feedback
- Perform gap analysis of current activities being performed within other categories PACs to determine need for potential future projects
- Assist PHEP in development of USPHS Engineer Core Competencies
- Assist R&R with creating repository of non-HHS MOUs
- Document career track examples of USPHS Engineers for various engineer specialties (e.g. biomedical, civil, mechanical, electrical, etc.)

Events Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR Michael Gifford, michael.gifford@nps.gov

Vice Chair: CDR Greg Ault, greg.ault@ihs.gov

- February 18: E-Week Engineer Awards Ceremony - Virtual
- May 17-21: SAME JETC Conference - Virtual
- June 21-24: USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium - Virtual
- AMSUS Annual Meeting delayed to February 2022
- Host Quarterly CPO Town Halls
- Update website, create 1-page fact sheets for each event, establish templates for material, continue transition of records to the APAN site, and re-invigorate membership

Information Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR Garrett Chun, garrett_chun@nps.gov

Vice Chair: LCDR Travis Sorum, travis.sorum@ihs.gov

- Maintain the EPAC Website (<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/engineer/>) to ensure content is accurate, current, and relevant to a public audience. Reorganize website for ease of use
- Develop the EPAC Website to create new web pages, graphic designs, and photo imagery
- Develop, publish, and distribute the EPAC Newsletter
- Manage APAN platform content to allow for storage and archiving of EPAC materials
- Beta testing of the new HHS Platform
- Respond to requests sent to: “Contact Us” website form, Anonymous Feedback website form, and epac-postings@list.nih.gov
- Establish accounts for EPAC members on platform for official repository to house subcommittee materials

Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

Chair: CDR James Coburn, James.Coburn@fda.hhs.gov

Vice Chair: LT Bryan Wimer, gja3@cdc.gov

- Identify one or more projects that align with the [Surgeon General’s Priorities](https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/index.html) (<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/index.html>) to show how USPHS Engineers’ involvement can have a direct impact on the future health and safety of the nation

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- Increase access to reference materials for a variety of engineering office sizes, enable engineering references to be accessible through portable electronics
- Define core competencies among various roles within agencies where USPHS Commissioned Corps Engineers work
- Draft articles for publication in *The Military Engineer (TME)*
 - Highlight successful installations at the National Park Service about implementation options for small scale, package wastewater treatment plants that are applicable in different environments
 - Discuss efforts to leverage 3-D printing to produce cost-effective naloxone training kits
- Draft articles for publication in the EPAC newsletter
 - Expand upon initial article in TME about minimizing global warming impacts through effective pipe material selection for water/waste water construction products
 - Collect information on how lead and other drinking water contaminants impact communities and how they are being addressed

Readiness Subcommittee

Chair: CDR Sean Bush, Sean.Bush@ihs.gov

Vice Chair: CDR Tara Goosen-Bizjak, Tara.Gooen@fda.hhs.gov

- Develop information sheets for engineer deployment roles on Tier I, II, and III teams
- Increase category readiness by identifying root cause of missing readiness requirements and provide recommendations to address issue
- Develop the engineer training curriculum (technical and non-technical)
 - Disaster Assessment
 - Health Facilities Training
 - Facilities Assessment
 - Engineer Booklet – “Regular” Disaster/Emergency Response deployments and irregular COVID19-related deployments
- Organize and manage EPAC webpages, e.g., capture stories and photos from engineer deployments
- Stand up the Deployment Connection/Support initiative to support engineers while on deployment
- Author articles for submission to the EPAC Newsletter addressing current and relevant Readiness topics
- Provide reports, metrics, and trend analysis to EPAC Chair and CPO as needed/requested

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR Fred Kelly, fred.kelly@nih.gov

Vice Chair: CDR Stacey Yonce, yonce.stacey@epa.gov

- EPAC Connectors: Compile reports tracking Candidates’ progress and experiences through the Commissioned Corp appointment process
 - Revamp tracking process to align with new Call-to-Duty
- Respond to pre-application inquiries
- Recruitment materials – review, update, and disseminate
- Identify and communicate agency recruiting contacts. Work with other agencies to help tailor recruiting activities to different agencies
 - Find new ways to recruit students through job coordinators and ABET-accredited Universities
 - Establish list contacts at ABET-accredited universities to disseminate Open Window flyers
- Continue to maintain and update Engineer Vacancy List
- Provide reports, metrics, and trend analysis to EPAC Chair and CPO as needed/requested

CPO Strategic Planning for Engineering

Project Lead: CDR Sam Russell, russell.sam@epa.gov

- Develop category-specific strategic plan

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

2021 EPAC Members (Quick Reference Guide)

Chief Engineer					
Term	Name	Rank	Agency	EPAC Role	Location
2018-2021	Dieser, Edward	RADM	ATSDR	Ex-Officio	Atlanta, GA
EPAC Voting Members					
Term	Name	Rank	Agency	EPAC Role	Location
2019-2021	Cox, Deborah	CDR	EPA	EPAC Chair	Arlington, VA
2019-2022	Praveen, KC	LCDR	EPA	EPAC Chair-Elect & Rules Chair	Washington, DC
2019-2021	Amadasu, Omobogie	LCDR	IHS	Career Development, Mentoring Lead	Rockville, MD
2019-2021	Bush, Sean	CDR	IHS	Readiness, Chair	Escondido, CA
2019-2021	Hanssen, Eric	CAPT	NIH	Career Development, Chair	Hamilton, MT
2019-2021	Russell, Sam	CDR	EPA	CPO Strategic Planning for Engineering, Project Lead	Washington, DC
2020-2022	Chua, Frank	CDR	IHS	Rules, Vice Chair	Sacramento, CA
2020-2022	Chun, Garrett	LCDR	NPS	Information, Chair	El Portal, CA
2020-2022	Coburn, James	CDR	FDA	Public Health Engineering Practice, Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2020-2022	Gifford, Michael	LCDR	NPS	Events, Chair	Washington, DC
2020-2022	Kathol, John	CDR	IHS	Awards, Chair	Tempe, AZ
2020-2022	Kelly, Fred	LCDR	NIH	Recruitment and Retention, Chair	Bethesda, MD
2020-2022	Mergenthaler, Matthew	CDR	IHS	Awards, Vice Chair	Seattle, WA
2021-2023	Ault, Greg	CDR	IHS	Events, Vice Chair	Billings, MT
2021-2023	Goonen, Bizjak, Tara	CDR	FDA	Readiness, Vice Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2021-2023	Simpson, Michael	LCDR	FDA	Career Development, Vice Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2021-2023	Sorum, Travis	LCDR	IHS	Information, Vice Chair	Sacramento, CA
2021-2023	Wimer, Bryan	LT	CDC	Public Health Engineering Practice, Vice Chair	Morgantown, WV
2021-2023	Yonce, Stacey	CDR	EPA	Recruitment and Retention, Vice Chair	Washington, DC
2021-2023	de Vera, Melissa	LCDR	IHS	Executive Secretary	Bemidji, MN
Ex-Officio Volunteers					
2021	Cunningham, Bradley	CDR	FDA	COA Liaison	Silver Spring, MD
2021	Piermatteo, Kimberly	CDR	FDA	CCWIAB Liaison	Silver Spring, MD
2020-2022	Wandersee, Michael	LCDR	USFWS	JOAG Liaison	Lakewood, CO
2021	Remley, Kevin	LT	IHS	SAME Liaison	Fort Hall, ID

*Clicking on the Voting Member name will open their email address

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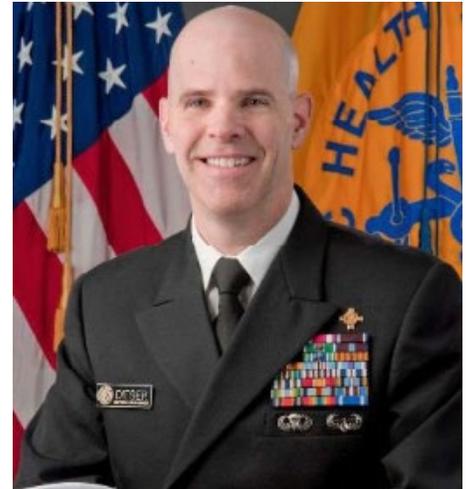
Chief Professional Officer (CPO)

RADM Edward Dieser, Chief Engineer

RADM Edward M. Dieser, P.E., became the 14th Chief Engineer Officer of the United States Public Health Service on January 1, 2018. As the Chief Engineer, RADM Dieser advises the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on policy, resourcing, staffing, and leading professional affairs for engineers and architects working in the HHS and serving in its Commissioned Corps. He is also responsible for advising the Office of the Surgeon General on the recruitment, retention, training, readiness, deployment, and career management of the Corps.

RADM Dieser began his Commissioned Corps career in 2005 as a Lieutenant Commander with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Office. His next assignment with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) included service as CDC's Environmental Manager, Environmental Protection and Radiation Safety Team Lead, and Environmental Management System Developer. His most recent role was the Deputy Associate Director for Emergency Management, National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

RADM Dieser is a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering and of the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. He is a life member of the Society of American Military Engineers, the Interagency Institute of Federal Healthcare Executives, and is a Professional Engineer licensed in the state of North Carolina. RADM Dieser draws inspiration and support from his wife of 20 years, Avril, and their two teenage children, Edward and Adèle.



Directory of Voting Members/Subcommittee Leadership

CDR Deborah Cox, EPAC Chair

Term: 2019-2021

Alternate: LCDR Gary Riley

CDR Cox, P.E., is an environmental engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency stationed in Arlington, Virginia. CDR Cox is responsible for developing national strategy, programs, technical policies, regulations and guidelines for the cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste sites; increasing the application of innovative treatment technology to contaminated soils, sediments and groundwater; and promoting innovative processes and technologies for cleanup to protect human health and the environment.

CDR Cox is a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Virginia and with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. She commissioned in the USPHS in 2013 after having served 20 years in the US Navy Civil Engineer Corps, 10 on active duty and 10 in the Navy Reserve. CDR Cox graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering. She earned a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School. CDR Cox is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and has earned the Field Medical Readiness Badge. She is a member of Rapid Deployment Force – 4, assigned to the Logistics Section.

CDR Cox currently serves as the Chair of the EPAC. She served as the EPAC Chair-Elect and Rules Subcommittee Chair in 2020, Career Development Subcommittee Vice-Chair in 2019, Awards Subcommittee Team Lead in 2017-2019, and a Connector on the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee from 2014-2018.



2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Rules Subcommittee

LCDR Praveen KC, EPAC Chair-Elect & Rules Chair

Term: 2019-2021

Alternate: CDR William Fraser

LCDR Praveen K.C., P.E., is a Mechanical Engineer assigned to the US EPA since January 2017. In his current position, LCDR K.C. manages the US EPA National Energy Independence and Security Act program, keeping 31 EPA labs and facilities nationwide in compliance with federal requirements. He also serves as Lead Mechanical Engineer for lab renovation projects as well as the in-house subject matter advisor for laboratory ventilation design and fume hood testing certification projects. LCDR K.C. commissioned into the USPHS in 2013, and his first assignment was with Indian Health Service in Anchorage, Alaska (2013-2017). He was detailed to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, also known as ANTHC, where he provided design and engineering consulting services for sanitation and health facilities throughout Alaska. He played a key role in development of ANTHC's Rural Energy Program through design of alternative energy and energy efficiency projects. He routinely worked in extreme arctic environments.



LCDR K.C. is a Professional Engineer, a Certified Energy Manager, and LEED Green Associate. He holds two Bachelors of Science and one Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Since 2016, LCDR K.C. served as a Voting Member of Engineering Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC). He served as Chair (2019-2020) and Vice-Chair (2018) of EPAC's Recruitment & Retention Subcommittee and as EPAC Vacancy Listing team lead. In his personal time, he volunteers as Director of Nepali Samaj Alaska Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

LCDR K.C. was born and raised in Nepal. LCDR K.C. joined the U.S. Public Health Service to honor and give back all the good things this beautiful country has provided to his family in good times as well as in times of hardship. In his spare time, LCDR K.C. likes to spend time with his family as well as fishing and hiking.

CDR Frank Chua, Vice Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: CDR Shane Deckert

CDR Frank Chua, P.E., is a Health Facilities Engineer assigned to the Division of Health Facilities Engineering, Indian Health Service (IHS), Sacramento, CA. He is responsible for providing professional design, project management, and construction management services to the tribal and federal health programs in California. Prior to his current duty station, CDR Chua served as a Project Manager with the Division of Facilities Management, IHS, Tucson, AZ. There, he provided professional design, project management, and construction management services for projects in support of federal direct service healthcare facilities in the IHS Tucson Area.



CDR Chua is a Professional Engineer registered in the states of California and Louisiana, a Board Certified Environmental Engineer, and a Certified Professional in Engineering Management. Prior to commissioning in 2012, CDR Chua spent 11 years in the private sector with an environmental engineering consulting firm focused in the design of advanced wastewater reclamation facilities maximizing water reuse. He also served in the United States Marine Corps as an anti-tank guided missileman.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Awards Subcommittee

CDR John Kathol, Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: CDR Michael Termont



CDR Kathol, P.E., graduated from South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering in 2001 and a master's degree in Engineering in 2003. He retains his professional engineering license in the State of Washington. CDR Kathol began his career with the Indian Health Service in 2000 as a COSTEP in Mobridge, SD for the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service. In 2003, he came on board full-time as a Jr. Field Engineer in Sioux City, IA. After Iowa, he transferred to Manlius, NY in 2007 to serve as Sr. Field Engineer before moving to the position of Deputy District Engineer in Casa Grande, AZ, for the Tucson Area Indian Health Service in 2013. In 2017, CDR Kathol accepted his current position as District Engineer in Tempe, AZ, for the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service where he manages the Sanitation Facilities Construction program of the Western Arizona District. As District Engineer, he manages 2 field offices, 9 engineering and technical staff, and approximately 70 projects worth \$22 million to serve 13 tribes.

His experience includes 18 years of design and construction management of sanitation facilities for Native American communities in the Aberdeen, Nashville, Tucson, and Phoenix Areas for Indian Health Service. CDR Kathol has been involved in the planning, design, and construction management of individual water and wastewater systems, sewage collection systems, lift stations and force mains, wastewater treatment lagoons, solid waste transfer stations, water treatment plants, pump houses, and water distribution systems.

He has been active in USPHS activities his entire career. He has been an active member of the Associate Recruiter Program and JOAG as well as the EPAC Subcommittees for Events, Rules, and Awards. He has served as an EPAC Voting Member since 2017. CDR Kathol is married to his wife Mary, and they have four children-Emma, Brayden, Mason and Amelia.

CDR Matthew Mergenthaler, Vice Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: LCDR Julia Majkrzak



CDR Matt Mergenthaler, P.E., is an Engineer Consultant in the Project Management Branch, Division of Engineering Services Seattle, Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters. He is responsible for providing project management oversight for Health Care Facilities and Staff Quarters Projects across Indian Health Service. He served as a COSTEP with IHS in 2006 and 2007. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering and from Norwich University with a Masters of Civil Engineering. He is a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Washington. Prior to joining the USPHS, CDR Mergenthaler worked as a Transportation Engineer for the Washington Department of Transportation. In 2009, CDR Mergenthaler commissioned at the Indian Health Service and, for the first 8 years of his career, he served as an Environmental Engineer/Engineer Consultant in the Clovis Field Office. He also served for 4 years as an Engineer Consultant responsible for project management oversight for Sanitation Facilities Projects in the Sacramento District Office.

CDR Mergenthaler served as Co-lead of the Recruitment & Retention Committee and Junior Officer Advisory Group from 2012-13 and 2015-17. He was the SOP team lead for the EPAC Awards Subcommittee from 2018-2019. CDR Mergenthaler joined Applied Public Health Team 5 in 2013. He has deployed to Texas for the Unaccompanied Children Mission and to Puerto Rico for the Hurricane Maria Recovery efforts. He loves spending time with his family and playing basketball.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Career Development Subcommittee

CAPT Eric Hanssen, Chair

Term: 2019-2021

Alternate: CDR Leo Gumapas

CAPT Eric Hanssen is the Facilities Management Branch Chief for Rocky Mountain Laboratories, a campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Hamilton, Montana. In this role, he leads a 33-person team of professionals and is responsible for campus-wide facility operations, safety and compliance, as well as \$115 Million in active and planned construction at one of our nation's premier Biosafety Level 4 pathogen research centers. Prior to joining NIH, CAPT Hanssen served with the Indian Health Service in Alaska as Rural Energy Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), where he oversaw development, design and construction of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for more than 100 remote Alaskan villages. While at ANTHC, he held positions as Senior Health Facilities Engineer and as Sanitation Facilities Project Manager. Prior to joining the Commissioned Corps in 2007, CAPT Hanssen served 7 years as a Civil Engineer Officer for the U.S. Air Force in Alaska, Washington D.C., Florida, and on two combat tours in Iraq. CAPT Hanssen graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering and received a Master of Public Management from the University of Maryland. He served the EPAC in a variety of roles throughout his PHS career as a volunteer for the Career Development, Awards, Events, and Mentoring Subcommittees and led initiatives on Rules and Career Development Subcommittees as an EPAC Member in 2019. He enjoys all things outdoors, especially hiking and skiing with his wife, Liz, and their three sons.



LCDR Michael Simpson, Vice Chair

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: LT Adam Cooke

LCDR Michael Simpson started his USPHS career as a JRCOSTEP performing facilities engineering with the Indian Health Service (IHS) beginning in 2010 with the Tucson Area office and then in 2011 at the California Area office. LCDR Simpson commissioned in February 2013 with the Food and Drug Administration, becoming a second generation USPHS Officer. LCDR Simpson's first position was as a general investigator or Consumer Safety Officer and then he specialized as a Medical Device Investigator. Between 2013 and 2018, LCDR Simpson accomplished over 75 routine and for-cause inspections of FDA regulated establishments and products, including medical devices, biologics, pharmaceuticals and foods that are located domestically and foreign. His most recent role is a Regulatory Officer within Office of Product Evaluation and Quality (OPEQ), Division of Health Technology 3C (Drug Delivery and General Hospital Devices) where he reviews premarket applications for infusion pumps, pen injectors, and general hospital devices as well as examines and evaluates medical device compliance with quality system regulations related to design, labeling, corrective and preventive actions, and use issues. In addition to LCDR Simpson's work with the FDA, he has also performed three deployments with USPHS for missions such as the Monrovia Medical Unit in Liberia during the Ebola epidemic, logistical support during the Papal visit, and Hurricane Maria relief in Puerto Rico. LCDR Simpson has provided constant mentoring to over 70 newly commissioned USPHS Engineers at the Officer Basic Course since 2013 and has assisted with streamlining workflows within the category.



LCDR Simpson is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a Master of Engineering in Project Management and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. His professional career memberships include the Society of American Military Engineers, Commissioned Officers Association, and American Society for Quality. LCDR Simpson holds over 10 certifications including EIT, PMP, RAC, and ASQ CBA. LCDR Simpson and his wife, Laura, enjoy traveling.

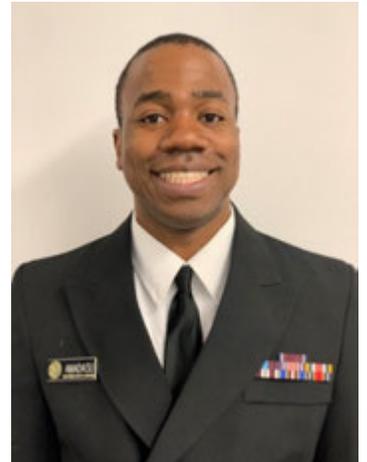
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LCDR Omobogie Amadasu, Career Development Mentoring Lead

Term: 2019-2021

Alternate: LCDR Joshua Sims

LCDR Amadasu, P.E., graduated from Clarkson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida. LCDR Amadasu commissioned as an Engineer in August 2008 at the Indian Health Service in Kayenta, AZ. Including his time as a JRCOSTEP, he served in 5 different IHS Areas and spent time as Design/Project Engineer and a Utility consultant. In 2018, he started his position as a General Engineer located at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, MD. He is responsible for the planning and construction of new health care facilities and managing funding programs that give Tribes access to funding to improve their health care facilities.



2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Events Subcommittee

LCDR Michael Gifford, Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: CDR Jeremy “Bret” Nickels

LCDR Michael D. Gifford II began his Commissioned Corps career in 2014 as a Lieutenant with the Food and Drug Administration in Tampa, FL. As a Florida District Consumer Safety Officer, he conducted inspections, investigations, and recalls for a variety of commodities. His next assignment took him to Norfolk, VA, where he worked at the United States Coast Guard Health, Safety, and Work-Life Service Center. As the Assistant Branch Chief of Environmental and Occupational Health, he was responsible for leading fleet-wide safety and environmental health initiatives to protect Coast Guard personnel, families, and the public. In 2019, LCDR Gifford transferred to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. He now manages multiple national level programs regarding emergency reconstruction of infrastructure, bridge safety, and system quality control.



Throughout his career, LCDR Gifford has deployed in support of natural disasters, dignitary events, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Most recently, he served in multiple roles on the NPS National Incident Management Team supporting the COVID-19 response. His work provided agency wide safety and health guidance.

LCDR Gifford is a native of Sharpsville, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. In 2011, he earned his Master of Science degree in Environmental and Civil Engineering from Southern Methodist University. He is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, Commissioned Officers Association, and American Society of Safety Professionals among others. His professional credentials include EIT, CSP, REHS, and PMP. LCDR Gifford enjoys playing and listening to all kinds of music, playing and watching all kinds of sports, and going on adventures with his wife, Laura and son, Dean.

CDR Greg Ault, Vice Chair

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: CDR Burke Helmer

CDR Gregory Ault, P.E., is a Mechanical Engineer working as a Facilities Management Consultant for the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, Billings Area Indian Health Service (IHS), located in Billings, Montana. He provides professional design, project management, and construction management services, along with healthcare facilities operational and accreditation support for both tribal and federal health care programs. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Montana State University, and a Master of Engineering in Engineering Management from Colorado State University. He is a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Montana.



CDR Ault commissioned in 2005 and served in the Billings Area for IHS in multiple roles including Utility Consultant for the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program, Acting Director of Facilities Management, and most recently as Acting Chief Executive Officer for the Wind River Service Unit. CDR Ault held various leadership roles and assignments, national and local, such as the Environmental Steering Committee, Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board as Technical Representative, and Billings Area Commissioned Corps Award Board Chair. CDR Ault’s other involvements include Billings Area Awards program as Chair and Coordinator, Associate Recruiter Program, Awards and Rules Subcommittees, and Big Sky COA. He has deployed to Puerto Rico and other interagency response missions. CDR Ault and his wife Amber have three girls and can be found chasing youth sports, boating, hiking, and camping.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Information Subcommittee

LCDR Garrett Chun, Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: LT Adam Ramos

LCDR Garrett Chun, P.E., is currently the Branch Chief of Design & Construction in the Strategic Planning and Project Management for Yosemite National Park supervising a team of multi-disciplinary professionals on a portfolio of utility, road, and building improvement projects. Commissioned in April 2016, he has previously held assignments in the National Park Service as both a Project Manager and Civil Engineer. Prior to receiving his commission, he started his career as a private-sector water resources engineer before migrating to the National Park Service as a civilian engineer. LCDR Chun is a member of the Tier I RIST 9 team and has deployed to Hurricane Maria and the recent 2019 California Wildfires. He has also served on the EPAC Information Subcommittee since 2017 in a variety of roles.



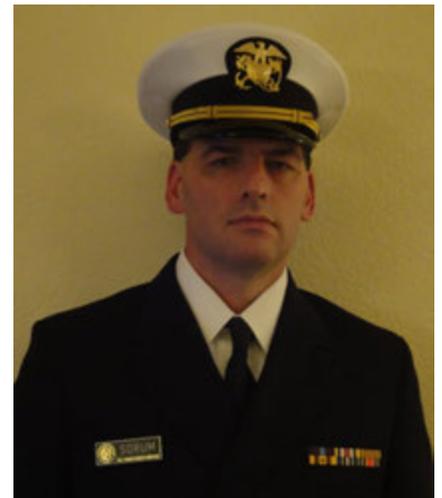
LCDR Chun holds a Master of Science from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Engineering Management and a Bachelor of Science from the University of the Pacific in Civil Engineering. He is a Professional Engineer (Civil) registered in California and certified as a Project Management Professional, LEED Accredited Professional, and Certified Facility Manager. Much of his spare time is spent with his wife, Kat, and keeping up with two active young boys.

LCDR Travis Sorum, Vice Chair

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: LT Michelle Roy

LCDR Travis J. Sorum began his Commissioned Corps career in 2003 as an Ensign, completing a JRCOSTEP tour with Indian Health Service (IHS) Spokane District Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEH&E) in Spokane, WA. He completed an additional 3 JRCOSTEP tours with IHS OEH&E in Spokane (2004), Gallup, NM (2005) and Polacca, AZ (2006). LCDR Sorum came aboard full time in 2009 and commissioned as a Lieutenant and Junior Field Engineer with the IHS OEH&E in Arcata, CA. His next duty station took him to Ukiah, CA, where he served as Field Engineer and later a Senior Field Engineer/Office Manager with another IHS OEH&E unit. In November 2020, LCDR Sorum transferred to the IHS OEH&E Sacramento District Office and currently serves as the Senior Field Engineer/Deputy District Engineer. All of his IHS OEH&E positions have involved working with Tribes on planning, design, construction management and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) consulting of/on water and wastewater utilities.



LCDR Sorum is a native of Grand Forks, ND. He graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. In 2007, he earned his Master of Engineering degree in Civil Engineering also from the University of North Dakota. He has been active in the EPAC Awards Subcommittee since 2017 and the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) Legislative Affairs Committee since 2019, currently serving as Secretary. LCDR Sorum enjoys spending time with his wife Jena and two daughters Mira and Mena. He also enjoys skiing, art collecting, and making it back to North Dakota in the fall for a good hunt.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

CDR James Coburn, Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: LCDR Hanniebey Wiyor

CDR James Coburn is the Senior Advisor for Emerging Technologies in the U.S. FDA Chief Scientist's Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats. He currently provides leadership and expert advice on advanced manufacturing technologies to Agency leadership, FDA's 3D Printing core research facility, and external stakeholders and interagency partners. In addition to his advisory role, CDR Coburn co-chairs the Agency's Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Working Group and facilitates interagency coordination and community engagement on program activities across a range of advanced manufacturing technologies. He has previously worked with the Center for Devices Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, medical countermeasures program, and as review staff.



CDR Coburn served as the PHS liaison to the Society of American Military Engineers and as a member of the Awards and Rules EPAC subcommittees. He is a member of the RDF-3 Tier 1 deployment team and has deployed to several hurricane, disaster, and interagency response missions.

LT Bryan Wimer, Vice Chair

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: LCDR Michael Shahan

LT Wimer commissioned in 2017 and is currently serving as a Safety Engineer in the Division of Safety Research (DSR) at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). He also worked as an associate service fellow in the Health Effect Lab Division at NIOSH for 3 years prior to joining DSR. LT Wimer has completed multiple research projects relating to safety within the Construction Industry, including work with Aerial Lifts, Mast Climbing Work Platforms, Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Construction Hard Hats, Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome, and Collaborative Robots. He has authorships on over 30 publications and has been awarded two US Patents. LT Wimer received his Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering from West Virginia University in 2007.



LT Wimer has served on RDF-1, as the President of the West Virginia Commissioned Officers Association, the co-lead for PACE Region 3, on the DSR Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and will be serving as the Vice Chair for the Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee.

He lives in Morgantown, West Virginia with his wife and three sons and in his spare time likes to spend time in the woods hunting and camping. He also loves WVU sports, everything related to cars, amusement parks, and the ancient sport of Irish Road Bowling.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Readiness Subcommittee

CDR Sean Bush, Chair

Term: 2019-2021

Alternate: CDR Mark Hench



CDR Sean Bush, P.E., is the IHS District Engineer at the Escondido District Office in California. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University and a Master of Engineering Management from University of Idaho. CDR Sean Bush commissioned with the USPHS as a COSTEP in May of 2000 assigned to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the following summer came aboard with a call to active duty again assigned to the IHS. He has worked for the IHS in multiple offices in California including Arcata, Redding, Escondido, Clovis, and again in Escondido. He served with the National Park Service as the Park Engineer and Park Safety Manager for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. CDR Bush has received the Ian K. Burgess award, the Robert C. Williams Engineering Literary award, and several uniformed services award.

In addition to serving with the USPHS, CDR Bush served for 6 years with the US Navy as a nuclear-trained machinist mate. Upon a return to college, he served with California Army National Guard as a combat engineer and later as an equipment operator with the US Naval Reserve Construction Battalion (Sea Bees). When not in the office, CDR Bush can be found surfing or on adventures with his wife of 14 years, Marnie. Both Sean and Marnie enjoy river rafting, camping, and traveling. CDR Bush also supports the development of future engineers by serving as a mentor with student chapters of Engineers without Borders (EWB). He has traveled twice to Nicaragua and once to Peru with EWB.

CDR Tara Goen-Bizjak, Vice Chair

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: LCDR Michael Tollon



CDR Bizjak is a chemical engineer with the Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, MD. CDR Bizjak is the Director of the Manufacturing Guidance and Policy Staff in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Compliance, Office of Manufacturing Quality. In this role, she manages a policy staff of technical experts, regulatory counsels, and writer/editors that lead the development of policy related to pharmaceutical manufacturing quality. She has been with the FDA for 18 years, starting as a field investigator and focusing on drug manufacturing and current good manufacturing practice inspections. She has been a subject matter contact for technical topics, including quality metrics and quality culture, advanced technology and continuous manufacturing, and pharmaceutical quality systems.

CDR Bizjak commissioned in the USPHS in 2009. She is a current Certified Quality Engineer and Certified Quality Improvement Associate with the American Society of Quality. CDR Bizjak graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Rutgers University with a master's degree in Biomedical Sciences. She has deployed for 18 different incidents/events and is the first USPHS officer to be credentialed as an Operations Section Chief in the Incident Management Team by HHS/ASPR.

CDR Bizjak is a new voting member of the EPAC. She has been a member of the Readiness Subcommittee since 2017. CDR Bizjak was also the engineer category representative on the Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board from 2014-2017. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family (spouse and two elementary-age daughters), hiking, jogging, and traveling.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

LCDR Fred Kelly, Chair

Term: 2020-2022

Alternate: LCDR Kenneth Chen

LCDR Fred Kelly, P.E., is a Project Officer assigned to the National Institutes of Health, Division of Design and Construction, in Bethesda, MD. He is responsible for leading project teams that design and construct multi-million-dollar renovation and construction projects in support of 27 research institutes. Prior to his current duty station, LCDR Kelly served as a Consumer Safety Officer with the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Regulatory Affairs, in Saint Louis, MO, from 2013-2016. As a Consumer Safety Officer, he planned and conducted regulatory inspections and in-depth investigations of various industry establishments such as food, animal feed, and medical devices to ensure compliance with FDA regulations. Prior to commissioning with the USPHS in 2013, he was an active duty officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps and is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. LCDR Kelly is a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Georgia and holds a certification as a Certified Energy Manager (CEM).

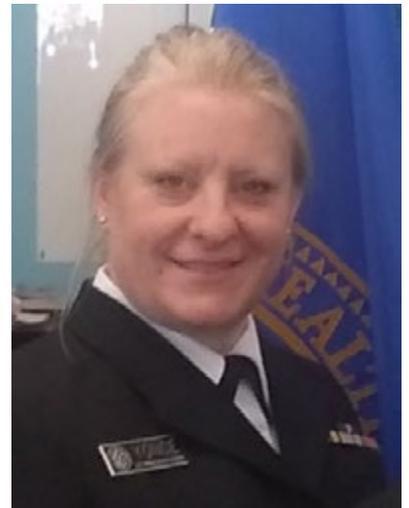


CDR Stacey Yonce, Vice Chair

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: CDR Wendy Cheung

CDR Stacey Yonce, P.E., is a Chemical Engineer in the Coal Combustion Residuals management program at U.S. EPA in Washington, DC. She provides technical leadership on policy issues related to cleaning up land and groundwater contaminated by disposal of ash from coal-fired power plants, and she is leading the development of a new federal permitting program for coal ash disposal. CDR Yonce has served in previous roles at U.S. EPA as a project manager in the Superfund program and in Clean Air Act permitting, in Washington, DC and in Chicago, IL. Prior to receiving her commission, she was an environmental engineer in the private sector and worked in the Air Toxics Program at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.



CDR Yonce is a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Ohio. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the Ohio State University and a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of Findlay. She has served on APHT-1 since 2007 and has served as a member of the Readiness Subcommittee and the Career Development Subcommittee. CDR Yonce enjoys traveling and doing home improvement projects with her husband.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

CPO Strategic Planning for Engineering

CDR Sam Russell, Project Lead

Term: 2019-2021

Alternate: CDR David Gwisdalla

CDR Russell, P.E., is currently the National Tribal Drinking Water Coordinator at EPA headquarters where he coordinates implementation of the National Primacy Drinking Water Regulations on tribal lands, tribal drinking water infrastructure programs, the Tribal Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, tribal operator certification, and capacity development. CDR Russell is also a rule manager for Phase II/V drinking water regulations. CDR Russell commissioned in 2003 while serving in the Indian Health Service (IHS), Sanitation facilities Construction program in Kayenta, Arizona. He served with the IHS until 2011 when he was an Assistant District Engineer. CDR Russell went on to serve as a National Transportation Program Manager for the National Park Service before coming to the Environment Protection Agency in 2015.



CDR Russell served as EPAC Chair in 2019, Chair of the Recruitment and Retention and Rules subcommittees in 2018, and Vice Chair of Recruitment and Retention subcommittee in 2017. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clarkson University, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico, and a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is certified in public health and a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Arizona.

EPAC Executive Secretary

LCDR Melissa de Vera

Term: 2021-2023

Alternate: LCDR Juliane Junes-Harvey

LCDR Melissa de Vera, P.E., is a senior field engineer and performing collateral duties as acting District Engineer for the Indian Health Service, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, Minnesota District Office in Bemidji, MN. She is an enrolled member of the Rocky Boy's Band of Chippewa Cree and tailored her undergraduate education towards her goal of working as an environmental engineer for the Indian Health Service. She started her USPHS career as a JRCOSTEP in 2011 for the Reno District Office where she worked on surveying and drafting for a watermain project for the Big Pine Tribe of the Owens Valley during the summer of 2011. She also traveled to Kenya, Africa, to help two communities hand drill drinking water wells that same summer. LCDR de Vera commissioned into the USPHS in 2013 at her first duty station in Bemidji, MN, as a junior field engineer. LCDR de Vera has been an active EPAC volunteer since 2015 on multiple subcommittees – Recruitment & Retention (R&R), Career Development, Public Health Engineering Practice, and Rules. Notably, she was the R&R Connector Program Coordinator from 2015 through 2020 prior to becoming an EPAC Voting Member.



LCDR de Vera deployed as a member of Team 2 for the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Water Access Mission during the assessment and design phase. Her team designed 51 transitional watering points to benefit homes without access to piped water in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through increasing access to potable water for handwashing and cleaning. LCDR de Vera graduated from Penn State with a Master of Engineering Management in 2019, and she graduated *cum laude* from the University of Nevada-Reno with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering in 2012. She is a Professional Engineer registered in her home State of Nevada.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

Directory of Liaisons and Other Ex-Officio Volunteers

CDR Brad Cunningham, Commissioned Officers Association (COA) Liaison

Term: 2021

Alternate:

CDR Brad Cunningham is an engineer at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH). He oversees pre- and post-market review activities, serving as a senior advisor for high-profile review matters and as a subject matter expert for digital health (software as a medical device, artificial intelligence, machine learning). For his first six years at CDRH, he was an engineering reviewer and team leader for intraocular lenses and corneal and glaucoma implants. In 2009, he was selected as the branch chief of the Diagnostic and Surgical Devices Branch, where he supervised the premarket review and approval of ophthalmic surgical devices, refractive lasers, retinal implants, and optical and laser imaging devices. He held this role until 2019 when he was selected as the new Associate Director for the Office of Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT & Dental Devices. Throughout his 18 years at FDA, he held collateral duty positions, such as the engineering technical expert ANSI standards committees and interim director for the Division of Patient Safety Partnerships. In recent years, he has taken an active leadership role in the development of new policies and regulations around digital health technologies, including devices that incorporate adaptive algorithms and artificial intelligence functionality.



CDR Cunningham received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in bioengineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, and continues to serve as adjunct faculty for engineering design courses. As an active officer, he has served as a leader in the Engineering Professional Advisory Committee, as engineering representative for the DC-COA, engineering mentor, and leader of the "Surgeon General's Own" Brass Quintet. He is the Training Coordinator for PHS-1 Rapid Deployment Force team and has served during many deployments over the years.

CDR Kimberly Piermatteo, Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) Liaison

Term: 2021

Alternate: LT Vicky Hsu

CDR Kimberly Piermatteo has been assigned as a biomedical engineer with the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) since 2006. She is stationed in Silver Spring, MD, and is currently responsible for educating manufacturers, consumers, and other stakeholders, including academia and other government organizations, on scientific, regulatory, and policy issues related to medical devices and radiation-emitting products. CDR Piermatteo received her Bachelor of Science in Honors Engineering Science and minors in Bioengineering and Mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park in 2005. She also received her Master of Health Administration (MHA) at the University of Maryland, College Park in 2013.



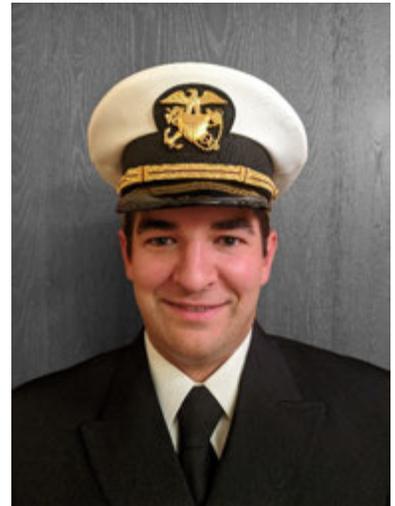
CDR Piermatteo is currently serving as the EPAC liaison to the Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) and active member of the EPAC Rules Subcommittee. She previously served as the 2016 EPAC Chair, two terms as an EPAC voting member (2010 – 2015), chaired the Recruitment and Retention, Readiness, and Rules Subcommittees and served as the 2009 EPAC Executive Secretary. CDR Piermatteo and her husband, Marc, enjoy farming and spending time with their daughter, Analeigh.

2021 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

LCDR Michael Wandersee, Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Liaison

Term: October 2020 - September 2022

LCDR Michael Wandersee, P.E., is a Project Engineer/Manager with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Lakewood, CO. LCDR Wandersee's project portfolio includes water systems, sanitary systems, accessibility projects, transportation projects, and other projects. LCDR Wandersee is part of three special projects for USFWS. He represents USFWS in the Transportation Advisory Group for federal land management agencies to bring public health design standards to transportation projects. LCDR Wandersee represents the region in the Regional Leadership Council. This group drives policy and establishes priority. He is the Regional Energy Manager and manages energy and water meters and helps USFWS become energy resilient and independent.



LCDR Wandersee was commissioned in June 2016. Prior to his current assignment, LCDR Wandersee was a civil servant and officer with IHS, Rosebud, SD, from September 2012 to June 2018 as an Environmental Engineer/Project Engineer. Since June 2018, he has been with USFWS.

LCDR Wandersee deployed to the IHS Great Plains Support for six months in 2016 as part of the logistics team and the UAC Mission in October 2018. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biosystems Engineering from Michigan State University and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of New Haven. LCDR Wandersee also currently serves JOAG as a Voting Member, Executive Committee Secretary.

LT Kevin Remley, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Liaison

Term: 2021

LT Kevin Remley, P.E., commissioned in 2017 and is currently serving as a Senior Environmental Engineer with the Indian Health Service where he improves the sanitation facilities of underserved and vulnerable populations on the Fort Hall Reservation. LT Remley received his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from Utah State University in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Master in Public Health through the New York Medical College.



LT Remley currently serves as the Administrative Officer for the Prevention through Active Community Engagement Oregon Region 10 Surgeon General's Education Team, SAME Liaison for EPAC, and is a member of the SAME Leadership Development Program Class of 2021. LT Remley deployed for IHS as part of the Navajo Water Access Mission in June 2020 for Team 3 to oversee the construction of transitional watering points to benefit homes without access to piped water in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through increasing access to potable water for handwashing and cleaning.

LT Remley lives in Chubbuck, Idaho with his wife and four children and, in his spare time, he enjoys exercising, baking, and playing board games with friends and family. He is a life member of the Society of American Military Engineers.