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# Maximizing the Deployment Experience

EPAC Senior Officer Panel



Moderator: LT Yvesna Blaise

Panelists: CAPT Duane Hammond  
CAPT Jennifer Mosser  
CAPT Angela Mtungwa

Sponsored by the  
Chief Engineer,  
Council of Captains, and  
EPAC Career Development



COMMISSIONED CORPS  
OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

November 17, 2022

3PM ET

# EPAC Chair Remarks

- ▶ Welcome to second Senior Officer Panel – 2022
- ▶ Deployment – Opportunity for Networking and Mentoring
- ▶ Deployment experience/lessons learned are valuable in both personal life and at work
- ▶ EPAC Readiness Subcommittee is currently working on several deployment readiness initiatives. Highly recommend getting involved.
- ▶ CCHQ trainings on Deployment readiness



# CPO Remarks

- ▶ Senior Officer Panel
  - Career Development: Balancing a PHS Career
  - Suggestion for future panels: CDR David Dar
- ▶ 2023 USPHS Initiatives:
  - Deployment Process
  - Category-Specific Training



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# Agenda

- ▶ Housekeeping and disclaimers
- ▶ Purpose of the panel
- ▶ Panelist Introduction
- ▶ Fireside Chat
- ▶ Key Take-Aways
- ▶ Q&A



# Housekeeping

- ▶ Session is recorded for posting on the EPAC website
- ▶ Attendees are muted by default
- ▶ Questions may be taken at the end of the overall session, as time permits
- ▶ Questions to be generally applicable to the category or officers across a particular agency
- ▶ Can follow up with officers with questions that we are not able to get to in this session
- ▶ For questions, please unmute at the end of the presentation or utilize the chat window
- ▶ PDH credit will be awarded for this session. Please email [mary.millner@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:mary.millner@fda.hhs.gov)



# Disclaimers

- ▶ The views expressed in this session are based on the panelists' experiences and may not be representative of official policies of the Category or the Corps at large.
- ▶ Officers should utilize official resources on the EPAC and CCMIS websites.
- ▶ Officers are encouraged to seek guidance on career planning and promotion preparation from mentors and/or other senior officers, as case-by-case input may be advised.



# Purpose of Today's Session

- ▶ Hear from senior engineers representing various engineering disciplines, backgrounds and agencies.
- ▶ Today's panelists will provide unique insights and information on the topic of maximizing the deployment experience.
- ▶ The session will provide *considerations* for you to contemplate, not *hard answers* on what's right for you and your specific situation.
- ▶ *You are responsible for your career* and must tailor your plan and decisions to meet your personal and professional goals.
- ▶ Discussing your situation with peers, your supervisor, or a mentor is a great way to learn from others' experience and gain valuable guidance.
- ▶ Today's panelists, other members of the Council of Captains, and other senior engineers are great potential resources for support with maintaining balance.



# Poll Question #1

What is your rank?

- A. LTJG
- B. LT
- C. LCDR
- D. CDR
- E. CAPT
- F. RDML/RADM





# CAPT Duane Hammond

- ▶ 20.5 Years in the Commissioned Corps, including credit for 2 years civil service time prior to call to active duty
- ▶ Entire career has been spent at the same agency at CDC/NIOSH in Cincinnati, OH
- ▶ Management Positions Held prior to current position: Spent 4+ years in management details at the division, branch and team level prior to current position
- ▶ Current Position: Team lead in the NIOSH Division of Field Studies and Engineer/Engineering and Physical Hazards Branch/Engineering Design and Evaluation Team
- ▶ P.E. (Professional Engineer)
- ▶ B.S in Mechanical Engineering, M.S. in Industrial Engineering



# CAPT Jennifer Mosser

- ▶ 24 Years in the Commissioned Corps, three agencies (CDC/NIOSH, CCHQ, EPA)
- ▶ Current Position: Science Advisor and Quality Assurance Manager in EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
- ▶ Former Team Commander, Applied Public Health Team #3
- ▶ Chair of Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (2005), Chair of EPAC Career Development Subcommittee, Chair of EPAC Rules Subcommittee, Chair of EPAC Leadership Development Seminar ad-hoc Subcommittee
- ▶ B.S and M.S. in Chemical Engineering, Professional Engineer, Certified Health Physicist



# CAPT Angela Mtungwa

- ▶ 26.5 Years in the Commissioned Corps, including 2 JrCOSTEP tours and SrCOSTEP w/FDA-CDRH
- ▶ Four agencies (FDA, BOP Central Office, CCHQ, IHS)
- ▶ Management positions held prior to current position: CCHQ: Chief, Officer Support; Director, Assignments and Career Management Branch; Acting Deputy Director; IHS: Division Director for Commissioned Personnel Support
- ▶ Current Position: Team Leader of the Guidance Team in the FDA/CDER/Office of New Drugs/OND Policy
- ▶ B.S in Chemical Engineering, M.S. in Physiology



## Poll Question #2

What roles have you frequently deployed in? (select all that apply)

- A. Logistics
- B. Safety/Engineer
- C. Admin/Finance
- D. Operations
- E. Planning
- F. Data/Intel
- G. Officer in Charge (OIC)/Deputy OIC
- H. Other (type in chat)



## Poll Question #3

Where have your deployments been based? (select all that apply)

- A. Travel (domestically)
- B. Travel (internationally)
- C. Local (in person)
- D. Virtual
- E. Hybrid
- F. Have not yet deployed





How has the environment of where and how you deployed impacted your experience?





How have deployments helped you be more successful at building team collaboration?



## Poll Question #4

Have your deployments been primarily CCHQ or Agency led?

- A. Mostly CCHQ
- B. Mostly Agency
- C. Equally CCHQ and Agency
- D. Have not yet deployed







Have your deployments been primarily CCHQ or Agency led?





Have you ever deployed with CCHQ and used your Agency network to assist with the deployment?



## Poll Question #5

Have you deployed to a role that you did not have confidence in?

- A. Frequently
- B. Once or twice
- C. Never
- D. Have not yet deployed





Have you deployed to a role that you did not have confidence in?



## Poll Question #6

What is your impression of deployments? (Select all that apply)

- A. Occurring too frequently
- B. Not occurring frequently enough
- C. Duration is too long
- D. Duration is too short
- E. Overall positive
- F. Overall negative
- G. Neutral





Have you ever had a less-than-positive impression of a deployment?  
If so, how did you navigate it in the moment or what did you learn in retrospect?





How have you found that deployments can open doors to new opportunities?



# Key Take-Aways

- ▶ Stay focused on our mission to advance the health and safety of the nation
- ▶ Treat every deployment opportunity with an open mind
- ▶ Understand your role, ask questions, use your resources
- ▶ Recognize the importance of two-way communication
- ▶ Be realistic about how much you can take on
- ▶ Build your resiliency
- ▶ Practice self-care
- ▶ Preparation, hard work, and humility are good substitutes for confidence





# Key Take-Aways

- ▶ Deployments are a great way to:
  - ▶ Develop leadership skills and experience
  - ▶ Learn new skills that will translate to normal duty
  - ▶ Build relationships with people you may otherwise never meet
  - ▶ Expand your network and open doors to new opportunities
  - ▶ Grow personally and professionally
  - ▶ Inspire or rekindle a connection to the mission of the Corps
- ▶ It is a privilege and honor to deploy!



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# Maximizing the Deployment Experience

## QUESTIONS?



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# Thank You,

EPAC Career  
Development Subcommittee  
&  
Senior Officer Panel Planning Team



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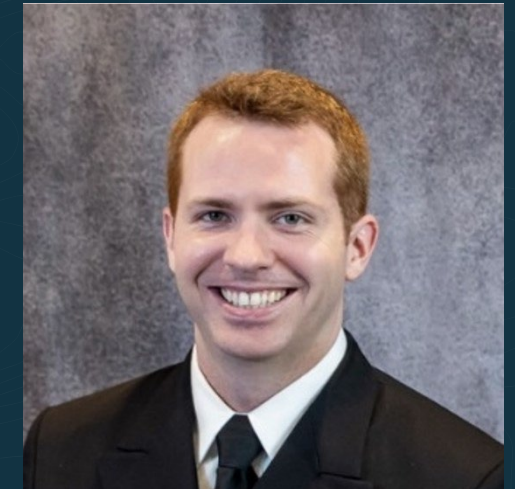
LT Yvesna Blaise  
Moderator



LCDR Mary Millner  
Coordinator



CDR David Dar  
Team Lead



LCDR Michael Simpson  
CDS Chair

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

# **EPAC General Meeting**

**Date: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Time: 1500 to 1630 EST**

**Location: TEAMS**

