



# ENGINEER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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12 JANUARY 2023

GENERAL+ VOTING MEETING



# EPAC Chair Remarks

- Start anew – 2023 is here!
  - Acknowledgements and Opening Comments
  
- Keeping the pulse
  - 2023 EPAC Calendar is live
  - CCHQ
    - Uniforms
    - Carryover Leave to 120 days
    - Deployment Preparation Plan due **31Mar23**
    - Training – Emails and CCLMS
  - Combined PAC Chairs Group
  
- Gifford's Gouge



**EPAC Chair**  
CDR Michael Gifford



**EPAC Chair-elect**  
CDR Matthew Mergenthaler



# Chief Professional Officer Remarks

- Modernization Policies Update
    - CCHQ still developing CCIs/POMs (questions & feedback re: promotion, force distribution and management, and separations/retirement)
    - Revision of CCI 412.01, Uniforms and Appearance, 8/2/22
  - PHS Deployment Safety Academy for Field Experience (D-SAFE) Consortium Training
    - Asynchronous Course: CCLMS, UNMC CANVAS LMS
    - In-Person: applications for training sessions in CCLMS, [UNMC PHS D-SAFE: Session 7 \(1/7/23-2/8/23\), Session 8 \(2/2/23-2/23/23\), Session 9 \(2/28/23-3/1/23\), Session 10 \(3/14/23-3/15/23\), Session 11 \(3/28/23-3/29/23\)](#)
  - Unused Carryover Annual Leave: now 120 days\*
  - Coast Guard Work Uniform (to replace ODU), mandatory all officers 10/1/26 (10/1/25 for officers in Coast Guard)
- \* Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023



**Chief Engineer**  
RDML Emil Wang





# Agenda

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- **Opening Remarks** from EPAC Chair & CPO (5 minutes each)
- **\*Subcommittee Updates** (27 minutes; 3 minutes each)
  - Rules; Awards; Career Development; Events; Information; Mentoring; Public Health Engineering Practice; Readiness; Recruitment and Retention
- **\*Liaison Updates** (5 minutes)
- **\*Open Floor:** Discussion, New Business, or Questions (10 minutes)
- **Closing Remarks** (5 minutes)
  - End of General portion of EPAC meeting



**EPAC 2023 Executive Secretary**  
LCDR William Chang

\*Updates and Open Floor are based on time permitting



# Rules Subcommittee

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- Past Highlight
  - Aligning Charter and Bylaws – aligning with Commissioned Corps Modernization goals
- In 2023
  - Implement and refine EIF process – transparency and ensure no good ideas are overlooked
  - Review of Voting Member Selection Process – transparency, continuity, consistency
- Meetings: 10 AM EST on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month (Feb 15, Apr 19, Jun 21, Aug 16, Oct 18, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> (early due to holidays))
  - Meeting call in info TBD
- Volunteers: IHS, FDA, NPS and ASPR
- Work is emergent throughout year and calls for Volunteers will be ongoing. Reach out to CDR Mergenthaler [matthew.mergenthaler@ihs.gov](mailto:matthew.mergenthaler@ihs.gov) or LCDR de Vera [melissa.devera@ihs.gov](mailto:melissa.devera@ihs.gov) if interested



**Rules Chair**  
CDR Matthew Mergenthaler



**Rules Vice Chair**  
LCDR Melissa de Vera

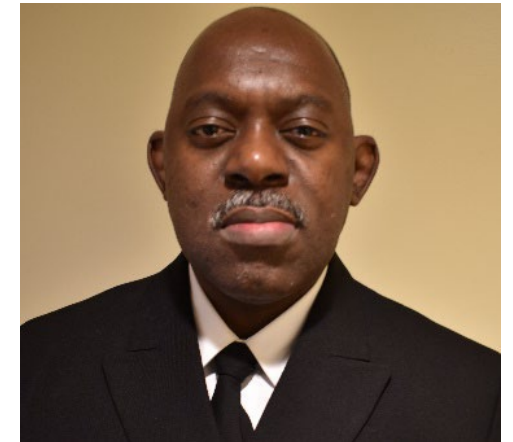


## Awards Subcommittee

- EPAC Fall Awardees currently being vetted through CCHQ. Hope is to notify awardees prior to the end of January. Big thanks to all that sent in great nominations!
- Officers eligible for Special Assignment Awards (SAA): Reviewed by Subcommittee and reported to Leadership in December. Requires OSG review and sign off. Likely give this 3-6 months before sign off and posting to eOPF. Congrats to the outgoing members!
- Spring Awards Cycle now open! Due **FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:59 P.M. EST.** Please send nominations to [travis.sorum@ihs.gov](mailto:travis.sorum@ihs.gov) and [Drew.Katherine@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Drew.Katherine@fda.hhs.gov).
  - Ian K. Burgess Outstanding Young PHS Engineer Award (Eligible to Commissioned Officers)
  - Roger H. Lynch Outstanding Young PHS Engineer Award (Eligible to Civil Service Employees within a HHS Dept.)
  - RADM John C. Villforth Leadership Award
  - RADM Robert C. Williams Engineering Literary Award (Peer Reviewed)
  - RADM Robert C. Williams Engineering Literary Award (Open Category)



**Chair**  
LCDR Travis Sorum



**Vice Chair**  
LT Drew Katherine



## Awards Subcommittee

- Needs: Outreach Coordinator, Senior Editor (Awards Guide).
- Meetings: 2 main meetings (Kickoff Meeting in late January prior to the Spring Awards Cycle and meeting with reviewers in late October prior to the Fall Awards Cycle). Meetings as required with Special Projects teams.
- Up to 40 members (35 award cycle reviewers, 1 Chair, 1 Vice-Chair, 3 Special Project Team Members).
- Work of Subcommittee on behalf of Engineers: 1) Completion of an Awards Writers Guide to assist nominators in composing competitive award nominations.
- Plans for the Upcoming Year: 1) Instituting in an Outreach Coordinator to more broadly advertise the Spring and Fall Awards cycles. 2) Put in place an operational playbook to pass off to the next leadership team to continue to build on the improvements to the Subcommittee over the last several years.



**Chair**  
LCDR Travis Sorum

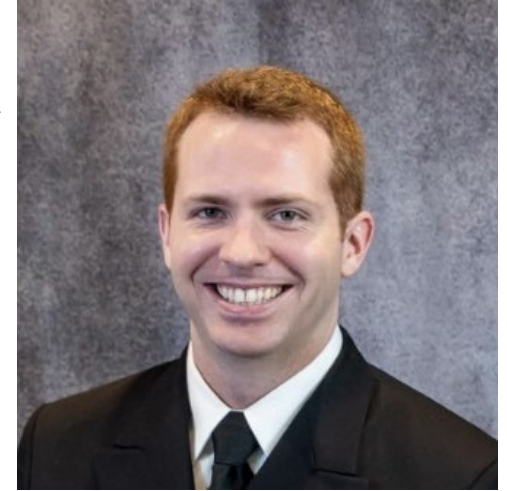


**Vice Chair**  
LT Drew Katherine



# Career Development Subcommittee

- Most Recent Deliverable: Promotion CV template that meets CCHQ requirements (impacts all officers)
- Top two 2023 Deliverables:
  1. Identify and share relevant engineer credential, licensures, and advanced degrees that enhance Engineer officer's knowledge, expertise, and value to the USPHS.
  2. Develop recommendations for Engineer career progression paths within Career Pathways and tracks (i.e., technical/SME/senior advisor vs. management/supervisor path).
- Meets fourth Monday from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm ET (next is **January 23<sup>rd</sup>**)
- Subcommittee makeup: 36 Members across 7 Agencies
- Current Needs:
  - Moderator/Coordinator for Senior Officer Panel(s)
  - Support to any of the projects (Credentials, Career Paths, OBC Representative, Leadership Repository, Subcommittee Liaisons)



**Chair**  
LCDR Michael Simpson



**Vice Chair**  
CDR Chris Fehrman





# Events Subcommittee

## ➤ 2023 Events and Initiatives

- AMSUS 2023: 13-16 FEB – National Harbor, MD
    - Lead – LCDR Hanniebey Wiyor / Co-Lead – LCDR Nam To
    - Registration open: <https://www.amsus.org/2022-annual-meeting-registration-and-hotel/>
  - E-Week 2023: 23 FEB – IHS HQ, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD
    - Lead CDR Omobogie Amadasu / Co-Lead CDR Mark Hench / Advisor LT Drew Katherine / **Lead on Deck 2024 – VACANT**
    - E-Week Attendance will require RSVP for security reasons.
    - Social @ Top Golf prior to event – Announcement to come (22FEB 6-8PM)
  - SAME JETC 2023: 2-4 MAY - San Antonio, TX
    - Lead – LT Bijay Tamang / Co-Lead – CAPT Varsha Savalia / **Lead on Deck 2024 – VACANT**
  - Category Day 2023: 8-11 MAY – Tulsa, OK
    - Lead – LCDR Jaison Eapen/ Co -Lead LT Maggie Ziolsii/ Lead on Deck – LT Yvesna Blaise
  - One Page Event Summaries – Format Approved
- Leadership Volunteering Opportunities – Contact: CDR Adeuya and LCDR Eapen via email at [roxanne.adeuya@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:roxanne.adeuya@fda.hhs.gov) and [Jaison.Eapen@hhs.gov](mailto:Jaison.Eapen@hhs.gov)



**Chair**  
CDR Roxanne Adeuya



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Jason Eapen



# Information Subcommittee

- EPAC Newsletter
  - Fall 2022 [Newsletter](#) has been released
  - Spring 2023 article submission deadline is **February 28, 2023**
- EPAC Website
  - Updates and changes made to reflect EPAC 2023 Operational year
  - Improved web analytics coming soon
  - Email [epac-postings@list.nih.gov](mailto:epac-postings@list.nih.gov) for change requests/update
- Information Subcommittee Meetings 2023
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of January and then every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday
    - [Meeting information](#)



**Chair**  
LCDR Gary Riley



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR William Chang



# Mentoring Subcommittee

- Continuing Program Participants:
  - Reminders:
    - Mandatory response to the 2022 End of The Year Questionnaire indicating whether you plan on continuing your existing mentor/mentee partnership.
- New Program Participants:
  - Open Recruitment – If you're interested in the program, go the EPAC Mentoring website and fill out the intake questionnaire. If you have a mentor/mentee in mind, fill out the contract. Submit to 'epac.mentoring@gmail.com'.
- Upcoming Mentoring Events:
  - COA Leadership Series: The Incredible Power of Praise, Linda Bruno, MBA; February 1, 2023 12:00 pm. Look for the email sent through the EPAC Mentoring Sub-committee 'epac.mentoring@gmail.com', dated 1/9/2023 at 0800 EST.
- Mentoring SC Interest? Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of every month at 1600 Eastern Standard Time. Email CDR Thakur ([Nikhil.Thakur@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Nikhil.Thakur@fda.hhs.gov)) and LCDR Junes-Harvey ([juliane.junes-harvey@ihs.gov](mailto:juliane.junes-harvey@ihs.gov)) directly.



**Chair**  
CDR Nikhil Thakur



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Juliane Junes-Harvey



# Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

- PHEP Workshop – date officially set - **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**
  - 4-5 Presentations highlighting PHEP work over the last year
  - PDH Certificates will be issued
  - Topics will include:
    - Effects of wildfires on drinking water
    - Extending life of thermosiphon cooled foundations
    - HVAC design and control measures for dental departments
    - Practical GIS use and experiences
    - NIOSH PPE Research and N95 based respirator approvals
  
- **PHEP General Meeting information:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 2pm Eastern
  - LT Wimer – ([Bwimer@cdc.gov](mailto:Bwimer@cdc.gov))
  - LCDR Martin ([timothy.martin@hhs.gov](mailto:timothy.martin@hhs.gov))

Send us an e-mail to get added to the meeting invites



**Chair**  
LT Bryan Wimer



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Timothy Martin



# Readiness Subcommittee

- **RSC Impacts** – Where we’ve been and where we are going
- **CY2023 Key Project Updates:**
  - **Deployment Support Team, DST** – Initial DST was formed! The DST is working on the development of an SOP for program implementation. Meeting in early January to set team expectations.
  - **Disaster Response Engineer (DRE)** deployment roles to align with the needs of ESFs #3, #6, #8 – Hotwash for 9 engineers deployed in DRE role serving ACF (ESF#6) in October demonstrated a need for DREs and also for training and program development; working to schedule a meeting with ACF. Number of DRE related projects in 2023.
- **RSC meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month from 1130-1230 ET:** ([MS Teams link](#)) or call in (audio only) at +1 513-769-4574,,335304847#
  - **Are YOU looking for a way to get involved/make an impact?** Lead or help us support a CY2023 project or initiative!
    - DRE Certification Process
    - Safety Officer Resources Guide
    - Develop 2022 Engineer Booklet
    - Support Deployment Panel
    - Engineer Deployment Advocacy
    - Deployment Skillset Database
- **Other News:**
  - **Check CCHQ readiness updates** (9JAN23 email) on new BLS requirements and deployment preparedness plans (DPP) are **due NLT 31MAR23** for **all** officers.
  - **RSC Readiness Deployment Panel** (23MAR23 1500-1700 ET) mark your calendars now!



**Chair**  
CDR David Gwisdalla

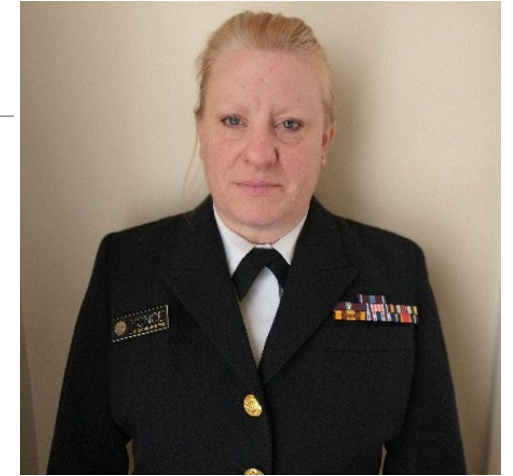


**Vice Chair**  
CAPT Tara Goen Bizjak



# Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

- How Has R&R Helped Engineers in the Past?
  - Assist in identifying new career progressing opportunities and human resource needs for engineers via Vacancy List
- Initiatives for 2023:
  - Category modeling: to analyze data to better understand recruitment and retention needs and develop strategies
  - COSTEP Strike Team: to provide engineer officers with information to support recruitment of COSTEP applicants
  - Category networking events in spring and fall for engineer officers (1MAR23)
- Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month (2:00 – 3:00 pm ET)
- We are looking for volunteers to assist with high profile, fun projects (ex. networking events)
- Contacts: [yonce.stacey@epa.gov](mailto:yonce.stacey@epa.gov) and [mark.hench@ihs.gov](mailto:mark.hench@ihs.gov)



**Chair**  
CDR Stacey Yonce



**Vice Chair**  
CDR Mark Hench



# Liaison Updates



CDR Piermatteo

## CCWIAB

- 1st CCWIAB Listening Session – Tentatively Scheduled for Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from Noon – 1 PM ET. Details to follow.
- Reminder of Current [CCWIAB Resources](#):
  - [Resource Guide for USPHS Officers Getting Married or Getting Divorced, and for Dependents Surviving the Death of a USPHS Officer \(Version 3.0, May 2019\)](#)
  - [Resource-Guide-for-Expectant-Parents-Version-2.0.pdf](#)
  - *(Coming Soon) Updated Resource Guide for Officers Diagnosed with Breast Cancer*
- If you have any questions or issues you wish to raise to CCWIAB, please send an email to [kimberly.piermatteo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kimberly.piermatteo@fda.hhs.gov).



CDR Kesteloot

## COA

- Please consider nominating officers for COA awards. Nominations are due 1/20/2023: [COA Awards \(coausphs.org\)](http://coausphs.org)
- USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium May 2023 (Early Bird 3/22/23): [Registration - PHS \(phscof.org\)](http://phscof.org)



LCDR Remley

## SAME

- 2023 Career Transition Workshop (Virtual and In-Person), 17 January through 16 February
  - Resume reviews, access to recruiters across the industry, interview opportunities, etc.
  - Free for SAME members, \$25 for non-members
  - <https://www.same.org/event/career-transition-workshop/>
- Join SAME! Only \$55/year for an individual, \$40/year if 39 and younger
  - <https://my.same.org/join-membership>



LCDR Wandersee

## JOAG

- JOAG will have volunteer opportunities coming out soon with AMSUS, some include aide-de-camp
- APFT event will be held at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center the Saturday before AMSUS



## Open Floor

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- **The floor is open** for discussion, new business, or questions
  - Please unmute yourself to speak
  - When speaking, please identify yourself (rank and name) and duty station





## Closing Remarks

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- **Thank you** all for joining us today
- Mark your calendars for PHEP Workshop, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1500-1700 EST
- E-Week Award Ceremony, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1400-1600 EST
- Special Event – R&R Subcommittee Network Event, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1700-1800 EST
- Our next **EPAC General Meeting, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1500-1630 EST**
- Find the latest EPAC information and calendar updates on our website <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/engineer/>



**EPAC Chair**  
CDR Michael Gifford

**This concludes the General portion of our EPAC meeting.**