



# ENGINEER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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13 JULY 2023

GENERAL+ VOTING MEETING



# EPAC Chair Remarks

## ➤ Need to know

- EPAC Innovation Form (EIF) – We welcome fresh ideas and perspectives to move us forward!
  - <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/rules-subcommittee.aspx>
- Career Development Resources – left side tabs have a lot of good info, check them out!
  - [https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/career\\_development.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/career_development.aspx)
- Upcoming Events
  - August 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1500-1630 ET – CPO Town Hall: Promotions and Policies
  - October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1500-1630 ET – First Cross-PAC Senior Officer Panel (Applied Public Health Category Group)
  - September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 1700-1800 ET – R&R Subcommittee: Fall Esprit De Corps Event

## ➤ Kudos Corner

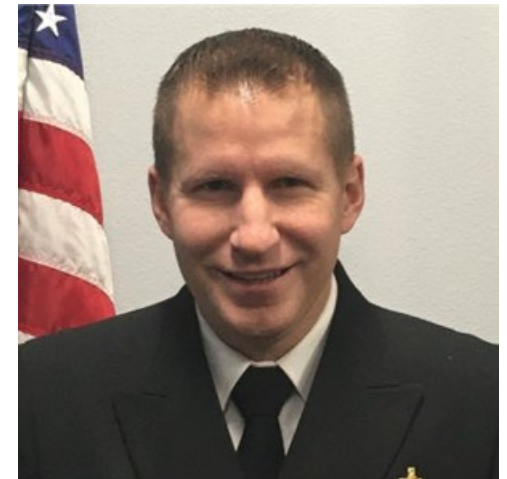
- Mid-Year: great check ins with EPAC Subcommittee leaders and successful event (LCDR Lee)

## ➤ Keeping the pulse

- Use your leave: leadership still working out the 60 to 120 day leave balance issue
- CPO and EPAC engaging with CCHQ/RDB to make deployment processes and info better



**EPAC Chair**  
CDR Michael Gifford



**EPAC Chair-elect**  
CDR Matthew Mergenthaler

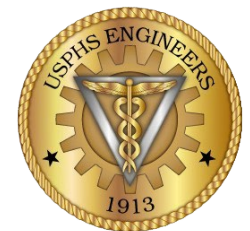


# Chief Professional Officer Remarks

- Modernization Policies Update
  - CCHQ still revising permanent promotion CCI
  - CCD 153.01, Former Spouse Obligations Retired
  - CCD 154.01, Monthly Pay & Allotments
  - CCI 393.01, Medical Review Board
  - CCI 612.04, Family Separation Allowance
  - CCI 653.01, Social Security (FICA) Taxes
  - CCI 653.02, Withholding of State Income Taxes
- CCHQ Connect Sessions: recordings at [Officer Secure Area](#), OASH Leadership Presentations
  - CCI 384.03 – Mandatory, Voluntary, and Involuntary Retirement, 4/12/23
  - Career Pathways, 4/18/23: see also CCMIS, Training, Career Pathways
- New Mixed Bag Liaison Program Coordinator POC for PAC/CAG/deployment Honor Award Submission Process
- New DD Form 2656 for CC Retirement
- CPO Town Hall, 8/10/23



**Chief Engineer**  
RDML Emil Wang





# Agenda

- **Opening Remarks** from EPAC Chair & CPO (5 minutes each)
- **Subcommittee Updates** (30 minutes; 3 minutes each)
  - Rules; Awards; Career Development; Events; Information; Mentoring; Public Health Engineering Practice; Readiness; Recruitment and Retention
- **Liaison Updates** (5 minutes)
- **Readiness Subcommittee** – Deployment Support Team (10 minutes)
- **USPHS Athletics** – Overview of activities (10 minutes)
- **\*Open Floor: Discussion, New Business, or Questions** (10 minutes)
- **Closing Remarks** (5 minutes)
- **End of EPAC meeting**

\*Open Floor are based on time permitting



**EPAC 2023 Executive Secretary**  
LCDR William Chang



# Rules Subcommittee

- Reviewing one EIFs
  - Review process to recognize contributions of volunteers beyond LOA(CDR Bandukwala)
- Other ongoing Tasks
  - Implement and refine EIF process – transparency and insure no good ideas are overlooked (LCDR Milner)
  - Review of Voting Member Selection Process – transparency, continuity, consistency (CAPT Kesteloot)
- Update
  - Voting Member Selection Process underway, will be completed in July and August. This year there were 13 applications for 8 open vacancies. Thank you to all that applied, we have some great applicants.
  - Updated Bylaws are posted on the EPAC website, changes expand Chair-Elect/Chair applicant pool to prior voting members with an SAA on record within the past 6 years (Thank you LCDR de Vera!)
  - Next Meeting will be August 16, 2023 at 10 AM EST
- 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



**Chair**  
CDR Matthew Mergenthaler



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Melissa de Vera



## Awards Subcommittee

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- In May, briefing with Awards SC Team on soliciting volunteers outside of the spring and fall awards cycle.
- April-August Plan: Work on Subcommittee projects (SOP, Awards Guidance, Subcommittee Operations Guide, etc.)
- Please start thinking about possible nominees for the Fall Awards Cycle (Hollis, Green, Cummings, EROY, EOY, Michaels). Nominations due November 1. Call for nominations open up August 1. Never too early. We plan on all points bulletin in August for Fall Awards.



**Chair**  
LCDR Travis Sorum

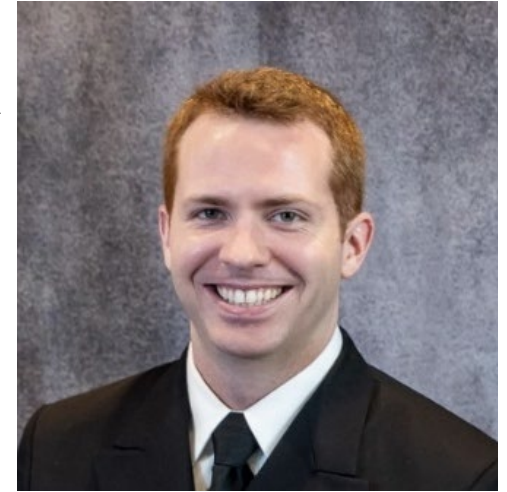


**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Drew Katherine



# Career Development Subcommittee

- **SAVE THE DATE – Senior Officer Panel #8**
  - October 19<sup>th</sup>: Applied Public Health inter-category presentation on the topic of “Collaboration & Partnership”
  - EPAC is leading the planning efforts and has requested each category participate:
    - EPAC: CAPT Varsha Savalia (lead) & CAPT Eric Hanssen (alternate)
    - SciPAC: CAPT Mark Miller (leader) & CAPT Robin Toblin (alternate)
    - EHOPAC: CAPT Jill Shugart
    - Others: pending responses
- Engineering Officer Career Development Model now posted on CDS website [https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/cd\\_cv\\_dev\\_docs.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/cd_cv_dev_docs.aspx)
- Building Repositories for “Professional Credentials” & “Leadership Trainings”
- PY2023 Data Analytics Team is re-tooled & submitted to EPAC Leadership for review prior to initiating a category-wide data request



**Chair**  
CDR Michael Simpson



**Vice Chair**  
CDR Chris Fehrman



# Events Subcommittee

## ➤ Events and Initiatives

- **2023 CPO Townhall:** 10 August
    - Leads CDR Tamara Rosbury and CAPT Kurt Kesteloot
  - **AMSUS 2024:** 12-15 FEB – National Harbor, MD
    - Lead – LCDR Hanniebey Wiyor / Co-Lead – LCDR Nam To
  - **E-Week 2024:** ASPR Washington, DC
    - Lead LCDR Schuyler Price/ Co-Leads/Advisors – ASPR Engineer Officers/ Lead on Deck – **Vacant – EPA**
  - **SAME JETC 2024:** 14-16 MAY – Orlando, FL
    - Lead – LT Bijay Tamang / Co-Lead – CAPT Varsha Savalia / Advisor - LCDR Kevin Remley / Lead on Deck - LT Hom Sharma
  - **Category Day 2024:** 24-27 JUN – Jacksonville, FL
    - Lead – LT Maggie Ziols/ Co –Lead - LCDR Yvesna Blaise / Lead on Deck – LT Sophia Lopez
  - One Page Event Summaries – Completed
- **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

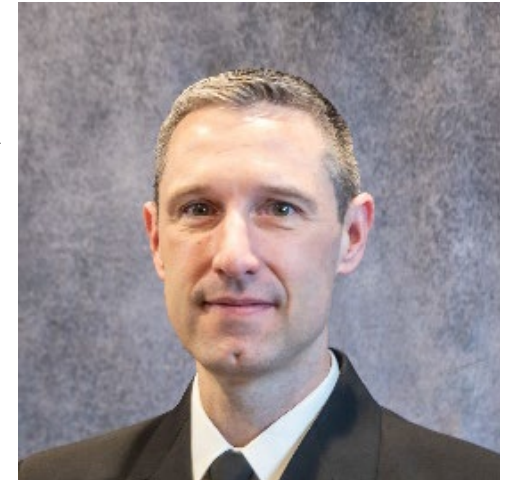




## Information Subcommittee

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- Our EPAC Historian, LT Andrew Colvin will be creating inaugural article in next newsletter. Plugged in with LT Francis Pham and our social media team for upcoming posts
- Submit articles for the next fall newsletter by August 31
- Drafting an official APAN user guide that will be on EPAC webpage
- Engineer listserv monthly announcements needs new manager. CDR Lyle Setwyn will leave post Sept 1. Send letter of intent and resume to CDR Riley ([gary\\_riley@nps.gov](mailto:gary_riley@nps.gov)) or LCDR Chang ([William.chang1@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:William.chang1@fda.hhs.gov))



**Chair**  
LCDR Gary Riley



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR William Chang



# Mentoring Subcommittee

- Mentoring SC Leadership meeting with EPAC Executive Team – July 19, 2023
  - Mentoring Database and Infrastructure demonstration.
- 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'.
- 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**  
CDR Juliane Junes-Harvey



# Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

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## ‘Let’s Start the Conversation’

### We want to hear from you if...

- You face limitations with consensus-based codes and standards relating to energy/water efficiency
  - NFPA, Electrical codes, etc.
- Have engineering challenges related to resiliency from hazards such as wildfires, hurricanes, floods, extreme heat, and drought
- Have emerging ideas for engineering related practices and don’t know what your next steps are

**Come join PHEP so we can help support you!**



**Chair**  
LCDR Bryan Wimer



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Timothy Martin



# Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

## Climate Change work group

- White paper published soon on effects of wildfires on drinking water in Park Science – look for the final link soon
- Current topics of interest for the group
  1. Sustainable Engineering / Renewables / Preventative Engineering related to climate change
  2. PFAS – How to test, treat and dispose of PFAS
  3. Firefighter impact from smoke and debris on turnout on gear

If interested email LCDR Dara Zimmerman: [dara\\_zimmerman@nps.gov](mailto:dara_zimmerman@nps.gov)

**PHEP General Meeting information:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 2pm Eastern

- LT Wimer (CDC) - [gia3@cdc.gov](mailto:gia3@cdc.gov)
- LCDR Timothy Martin (OS/ASPR/BARDA) [Timothy.Martin@hhs.gov](mailto:Timothy.Martin@hhs.gov)



**Chair**  
LCDR Bryan Wimer



**Vice Chair**  
LCDR Timothy Martin



# Readiness Subcommittee

## ➤ Readiness News!

- RSC meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1130-1230 ET: ([MS Teams link](#)) or call in (audio only) at +1 513-769-4574,,335304847# *Come Join us!*
- Looking for a way to get involved? A number of projects could use your support; **reach out to us.**

## ➤ CY2023 Key Initiatives/Project Updates:

- Readiness Support Workgroup (Led by [CDR Steven Tidwell](#)):
  - Deployment Support Team, DST – Formal Announcement to EPAC - July 2023
  - Engineer’s Capability Statement – Updating 2018 Fact Sheet to better market our unique skillsets
  - Disaster Response Engineer, DRE – Continuing to support the initiative with several DRE related projects in 2023 (i.e., RDB deployment skillsets database w/PHEP and a “certification” process)
- Deployment Booklet Workgroup (Led by [CDR George Ngatha](#)):
  - FY2022 Deployed Engineers in Action booklet is under a QA review prior to final publication
- Readiness Training Workgroup (Led by CDR Steven Tidwell):
  - DRE Basic training at COA Symposium (May 2023) – Conducting a survey to gauge officer interest
  - Safety Officer Resources Guide – Safety related resources compendium
- Information Management (Led by [LCDR Steven Fields](#)):
  - Submitted to EPAC request for support of CCHQ deployment focuses survey – July 2023
  - Evaluating movement of RSC documents to APAN for improved EPAC access



**Chair**  
CDR David Gwisdalla



**Vice Chair**  
CAPT Tara Goen Bizjak



# Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

COSTEP Strike Team (Lead LT Ashley Martinez)

Supporting COSTEP Applications through July 31 (or when 250 complete applications are received)

Via Handshake and email

Approx. 400 inquiries Few small information sessions via MS Teams, Zoom

Communications Workgroup (Leads CDR Bingley / CDR Armitage)

Researching possible recruitment incentives (awards) to recognize officers who go above and beyond in recruiting efforts.

Esprit de Corps fall networking event - tentatively planned for **September 28**

Topic and speakers are TBD

Look for further details on this unique opportunity to network with officers across CONUS and beyond from your own laptop

Monthly Meetings at **2 pm (ET) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month**



**Chair**  
CDR Stacey Yonce



**Vice Chair**  
CAPT Mark Hench



# Liaison Updates

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**CDR Piermatteo**

## **CCWIAB**

No Updates



**CAPT Kesteloot**

## **COA**

- Consider applying for COA awards. Information here. <https://www.coausphs.org/COA/COA/COA%20Awards.aspx> -



**LCDR Remley**

## **SAME**

- Awardees recognized during the Joint Engineer Training Conference Society Ball
  - 2023 Hollis Medal – CDR Francis Chua (IHS)
  - 2023 Cumming Plaque – CDR Praveen KC (EPA)
  - 2023 SAME STEM Champion – LCDR Kevin Remley (IHS)
- Small Business Conference, Nov 1-3 in San Antonio, TX



**LCDR Wandersee**

## **JOAG**

- JOAG has a new Facebook page “USPHS Junior Officer Advisory Group – JOAG”
- Are/have you volunteered with JOAG. You can submit for a PHS Award, see the most recent listserv for details



# **DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT TEAM**

EPAC Readiness Subcommittee

**CDR Praveen K.C., USPHS**

**LCDR Bijay Tamang, USPHS**





# Introduction

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## ➤ Background:

The U.S. Public Health Service Engineers have been instrumental in supporting the Corps' mission to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation, through work with their respective Agencies and by serving on deployments.



# Introduction

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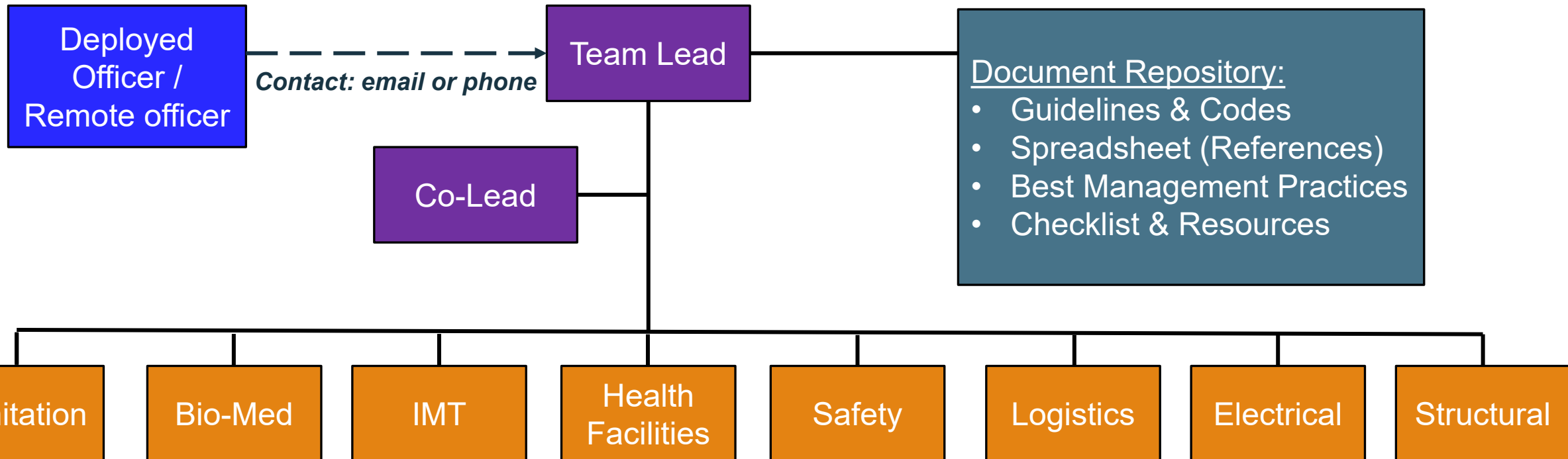
Agency work often allows for an abundance of resources and time, which may not always be the case while on deployment. Deployments can demand skill sets, resources, and experiences that may not be readily available to the engineer.

For example, a Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) engineer with water and sewer construction experience in a hot climate called to serve in colder regions might be unfamiliar with the principles of cold region engineering. The lack of knowledge and experience can be a barrier to effective mission completion.

**Additionally, the DST technical support is also offered to engineers serving in remote locations who are in need of additional resources to support their agency duties.**



# Deployment Support Team (DST) Structure





# DST Team General Selection Criteria

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1. Team Lead and members:
  1. Three-year term (with a two-term limit)
  2. Two officers per discipline/role (minimum)
2. Member selection criteria:
  1. Professional Engineer (P.E.) or equivalent licensure/certification in their field.
  2. Minimum of five years of experience performing at the professional level (or equivalent).



# USPHS Engineers Assigned to DST

## EPAC Deployment Support Team (DST)

Lead - CDR Praveen K.C.

Co-Lead - LCDR Bijay Tamang

Sanitation	Bio-Med	IMT	Health Facilities	Safety	Logistics	Electrical	Structural
CDR Corey Sawatzky	CDR Abbas Bandukwala	CDR Marcus Yambot	CDR Scott Fillerup	CDR Lyle Setwyn	CDR Joseph Jones	CDR Lyle Setwyn	CDR Shad Schoppert
LCDR Matthew Haith	LT David Wilkinson	CDR David Gwisdalla	LT Jason Sebring	CAPT Kurt Kesteloot	LCDR Schuyler E Price	LCDR Armin Oormazdi	CDR Steven Tidwell
				CDR David Gwisdalla (Facilities Safety)		CDR Harry Turtschanow (Back up)	

# USPHS EPAC Deployment Support Team (DST)



Team Lead  
CDR Praveen K.C.



Team Co-Lead  
LCDR Bijay Tamang

Sanitation	Bio Med	IMT	Health Facilities	Safety	Logistics	Electrical	Structural
 CDR Corey Sawatzky	 CDR Abbas Bandukwala	 CDR David Gwisdalla	 CDR Scott Fillerup	 CAPT Kurt Kesteloot	 CDR Joseph Jones	 CDR Lyle Setwyn	 CDR Shad Schoppert
 LCDR Matthew Haith	 LT David Wilkinson	 CDR Marcus Yambot	 LT Jason Sebring	 CDR Lyle Setwyn	 LCDR Schuyler Price	 LCDR Armin Oormazdi	 CDR Steven Tidwell



## DST Leadership Team

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**Team Lead:**

CDR Praveen K.C.

Office : 202-845-3450

Personal : 720-771-9504

Email : [kc.praven@epa.gov](mailto:kc.praven@epa.gov)

[praveen513@hotmail.com](mailto:praveen513@hotmail.com)



**Team Co-Lead:**

LCDR Bijay Tamang

Office: 509-455-8514

Personal: 907-227-1838

Email : [bijay.tamang@ihs.gov](mailto:bijay.tamang@ihs.gov)



# Sanitation Team

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CDR Corey Sawatzky



LCDR Matthew Haith





# Bio-Med Team

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CDR Abbas Bandukwala



LT David Wilkinson



# Incident Management Team

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CDR David Gwisdalla



CDR Marcus Yambot



# Health Facilities Team

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CDR Scott Fillerup



LT Jason Sebring



# Safety Team



CAPT Kurt Kesteloot



CDR Lyle Setwyn



# Logistics Team

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CDR Joseph Jones



LCDR Schuyler Price



# Electrical Team



CDR Lyle Setwyn



CDR Harry Turtchanow  
( Back up)



LCDR Armin Oormazdi



# Structural Team

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CDR Shad Schoppert



CDR Steven Tidwell



# DST Program Implementation

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- **When will the DST go live and/or when can you expect to be able to get support from the DST?**
  - *The Team is live and available to provide support!*
- **Where can I get more information?**
  - *USPHS EPAC Readiness Subcommittee webpage.*
- **How do I get support?**
  - *Reach out to the DST Team Lead and Co-Lead and they will connect you to the applicable team to meet your needs.*
- **Looking ahead:**
  - *If you are interested in supporting the DST, then we'll be advertising for new members as positions become vacant, with a number of officers who are up for renewal for a second term, or replacement as of January 2026.*





# Acknowledgments

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- CAPT David Harvey (Advisor)
- CAPT Tara Gooen
- CAPT Kurt Kesteloot
- CDR David Gwisdalla
- CDR Harry Turtschanow
- CDR Steven Tidwell
- CDR Joseph Jones
- CDR Lyle Setwyn
- CDR Abbas Bandukwala
- LCDR Schuyler Price



# USPHS Athletics

CDR Clara Stevens  
LCDR Shantel Barnes



*STEP UP YOUR FITNESS LEVELS!*

*Recognition for Excellence in Physical fitness  
program (REP!)*

USPHS has a Recognition for Excellence in Physical fitness program, known as the REP! program. The REP! program is aligned under the Surgeon General's Team (SGT) that includes Public Health Service Athletics and embodies the Surgeon General's Team Core values of health promotion, outreach, visibility, and leadership. The SGT is a health outreach program created by the Office of the Surgeon General to strengthen the relationships of Corps officers with their own communities located all across the U.S. and abroad.

The REP! program shares in the mission to protect, promote, and advance the health of the American people through fitness, starting with our own officers, and recognizing them for going above and beyond on the Annual Physical Fitness Test.

We encourage you to make it one of your fitness goals this year to up your APFT game by increasing your APFT level or achieving an Outstanding or Maximum level.

The REP! program's purpose is to motivate and recognize PHS officers with a certificate for achieving high or increasing levels of physical fitness, meeting the following APFT accomplishments:

1. LEVEL INCREASE (Minimum requirement: Increase from Satisfactory to Good)
2. OUTSTANDING/MAXIMUM LEVEL
3. 3 YEAR-OUTSTANDING/MAXIMUM LEVELS

Officer should submit completed request for REP! to [REPprogram@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:REPprogram@fda.hhs.gov) as follows:

- Put "Attn: [Type of REP! Application, i.e., Level increase, Maximum or Outstanding, or 3 years Maximum or Outstanding]" in the subject of email
- Rank, First Last Name
- Category
- Agency/OPDIV
- Attachments to include in email: completed APFT Form PHS-7044 and Screenshot of the Physical Fitness Summary page from the Readiness Self-Service web application in the Officer Secure Area of the CCMIS website (see Commissioned Corps Management Information System).

Questions? Email us at [REPprogram@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:REPprogram@fda.hhs.gov)



*How many REP!'s can you do?*

REP! Point of Contacts and Workgroup Team
CDRs Digna Kaira & Vaindra Kishore, Co-Leads
CAPT Juliette Taylor, Advisor
CAPT Kimmey Grewal
CAPT Carolyn Volpe
CDR Laurelle Cascio
CDR Sara Camilli
CDR Sadaf Nabavian
CDR Dien Nguyen

**YOU GOT THIS!**

## 2024 USPHS EXERCISE CHALLENGE

**Exercise 150 minutes a week for 8 out of 10 weeks**

Participate in extra credit opportunities involving physical fitness, nutrition and wellness activities!

**Start Time**  
Annually every January through March

**Sign up with our Listserv to join**

SCAN the QR code, click **SUBSCRIBE** on the right-hand side in the **OPTIONS** box. Enter your name and email. Don't forget to **CONFIRM** your account after signing up.

**01 JAN 24 - 10 MAR 24**

**CREATING HEALTHY HABITS**

SCAN ME

## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ATHLETICS

### WHO WE ARE

Created in 2014 by the Office of the United States Surgeon General, the mission of United States Public Health Service Athletics is to protect, promote, and advance the health of the American people through fitness.

### CORE VALUES

**LEADERSHIP**  
Get fit and stay fit

**OUTREACH**  
Get others excited about getting fit and staying fit

**VISIBILITY**  
Show your PHS colors in every event and every time you exercise

### WHAT WE DO

Health Promotion through fitness

**ACTIVITIES**

- Running
- Walking
- Hiking
- Biking
- And more!

### OUR IMPACT

**500+ EVENTS**

**44 STATES**

**5 COUNTRIES**

**16,000+ PARTICIPANTS**

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Participate in an event
- Become an Event Leader
- Support an event

**Earn a certificate!**  
With 2 or more qualifying events per Athletic year (June 1 - May 31)

### MORE INFORMATION

[publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com](mailto:publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com)

Public Health Service Athletics

@publichealthserviceathletics

@USPHSAthletics

[Website & Calendar](#)

**#SGFIT**      **#GetFitStayFit**      **#PHSATHLETICS**



## 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 our next **EPAC General Meeting, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 1500-1630 EDT**
- 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.**