



# ENGINEER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPAC)

## Meeting Minutes

Sept 14, 2023

- 1) **EPAC Chair Remarks (EPAC Chair-Elect, CDR Mergenthaler)**  
Per agenda
- 2) **CPO remarks (RDML Wang)**  
Per agenda
- 3) **Agenda and Silent Roll Call (Executive Secretary, LCDR William Chang)**
  - a) Opening remarks by EPAC Chair
  - b) Subcommittee updates
  - c) Liaison updates
  - d) EPAC Chair Candidate – CDR Christopher Fehrman
  - e) Open Floor
  - f) Closing remarks
  - g) Attendance taken by meeting sign in or email

| Leadership                                | Name                     | Alternate                 | Attendance<br>(Yes, No, Excused,<br>Alternate) |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Chief Engineer</b>                     | RADM Emil Wang           | Ex-officio                | Yes  |
| <b>EPAC Chair</b>                         | CDR Michael Gifford      | CDR Jeremy "Bret" Nickels | Yes  |
| <b>EPAC Chair Elect;<br/>Rules Chair</b>  | CDR Matthew Mergenthaler | LCDR Julia Majkrzak       | Yes  |
| <b>Executive Secretary</b>                | LCDR William Chang       | Ex-officio                | Yes  |
| <b>Rules</b>                              |                          |                           |  |
|   | LCDR Melissa de Vera     | LCDR Derrick Buck         | Yes  |
| <b>Awards</b>                             |                          |                           |  |
|   | LCDR Travis Sorum        | LT Michelle Roy           | Yes  |
|   | LCDR Drew Katherine      | LCDR Jogy George          | Yes  |
| <b>Career Development</b>                 |                          |                           |  |
|   | CDR Michael Simpson      | LCDR Jacob Dyer           | Yes  |
|   | CDR Chris Fehrman        | LCDR Bijay Tamang         | Yes  |
| <b>Events</b>                             |                          |                           |  |
|   | CDR Roxanne Adeuya       | LCDR Vicky Hsu            | Yes  |
|   | LCDR Jason Eapen         | LCDR Yvesna Blaise        | Yes  |
| <b>Information</b>                        |                          |                           |  |
|   | CDR Gary Riley           | LCDR Matthew Haith        | Yes  |
|   | LCDR William Chang       | LT Morgan Lee             | Yes  |
| <b>Public Health Engineering Practice</b> |                          |                           |  |
|   | LCDR Bryan Wimer         | LCDR Michael Shahan       | Yes  |
|   | LCDR Timothy Martin      | LCDR David Sullivan       | Alternate                                      |
| <b>Readiness</b>                          |                          |                           |  |
|   | CAPT Tara Gooen-Bizjak   | LCDR Michael Tollon       | Yes  |
|   | CDR David Gwisdalla      | CDR Steven Tidwell        | Yes  |
| <b>Recruitment and Retention</b>          |                          |                           |  |
|   | CDR Stacey Yonce         | LCDR Colin Tack           | Yes  |
|   | CDR Mark Hench           | CDR Jeff Allen            | Yes  |
| <b>Mentoring</b>                          |                          |                           |  |
|   | CDR Nikhil Thakur        | LCDR Jacob Dyer           | Alternate                                      |
|   | CDR Juliane Junes-Harvey | LCDR Monica Murie         | Alternate                                      |
| <b>Special Projects</b>                   | CAPT Greg Ault           | LCDR Tyrrell Lang         | Excused  |
| <b>Liaisons</b>                           |                          |                           |  |
| CCWIAB                                    | CDR Kimberly Piermatteo  |                           |  |
| COA                                       | CAPT Kurt Kesteloot      |                           |  |
| JOAG                                      | LCDR Michael Wandersee   |                           |  |
| SAME                                      | LCDR Kevin Remley        |                           |  |

- 4) **Rules Subcommittee Discussion (EPAC Chair Elect / Rules Chair, CDR Mergenthaler)**  
As Per agenda
- 5) **Awards Subcommittee Discussion (Vice Chair, LCDR Katherine)**  
As Per agenda
- 6) **Career Development Subcommittee Discussion (Vice Chair, CDR Fehrman)**  
As Per agenda
- 7) **Events Subcommittee Discussion (Vice Chair, CDR Adeuya)**  
As Per agenda
- 8) **Information Subcommittee Discussion (Vice Chair, CDR Riley)**  
As Per agenda
- 9) **Mentoring Subcommittee (Chair, LCDR Dyer)**  
As Per agenda
- 10) **Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee Discussion (Chair, LCDR Bryan Wimer)**  
As per agenda
- 11) **Readiness Subcommittee Discussion (Chair, CDR David Gwisdalla)**  
As per agenda
- 12) CDR Christopher Fehrman addressed EPAC and his vision for EPAC. CDR Fehrman spoke about his background and some ideas like starting a potential podcast project with EPAC.
- 13) **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board Update (CDR Gifford)**  
As per agenda
- 14) **Commissioned Officers Association Update (CDR Gifford)**  
As per agenda
- 15) **Society of American Military Engineers Update (CDR Gifford)**  
As per agenda
- 16) **Junior Officers Advisory Group Update (CDR Gifford)**  
As per agenda
- 17) **Questions**  
Uncertainty about timing of promotions and how new permanent ranking timing will affect some officers. To be discussed with CPO and upcoming CCHQ connect series.
- 18) **Closing Remarks (EPAC Chair Elect, CDR Gifford)**  
As per agenda
- 19) **VMs only portion**  
As per agenda.

Discussed new Volunteer of the Year award. Some short comings identified are people who volunteer for many different committees may not get recognition for that effort.

## Appendix A. Upcoming Meetings

|                       |              |  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Thursday, October 19  | 1500-1630 ET | Senior Officer Panel   |
| Thursday, November 9  | 1500-1630 ET | EPAC General Meeting   |
| Thursday, December 14 | 1500-1700 ET | EPAC General + Voting Member Meeting<br>(2023 wrap up & hotwash) |

## Appendix B. Copy of PowerPoint slides.

Double-click to preview slides.



SEPT 14 Meeting  
2023.pdf