



United States Public Health Service

MACHINATORES VITAE

Engineer Community Newsletter

From the Chief Engineer Officer



Edward M. Dieser, P.E.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service
Assistant Surgeon General

Spring 2020

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Engineers,

I hope this message finds you and family well and resilient.

As the COVID-19 response continues, I expect many of us will know people impacted by the virus – and nearly all of us already know colleagues and officers who are deployed. While our engineer deployment numbers remain relatively low compared to other categories, we MUST remain ready. RADM Trent-Adams notified all of us that we are ALL now on alert for deployment – not only those in their on-call month. This alert increases our responsibility to care for ourselves and our immediate household members to sustain our availability to support the response. I expect (my own personal projection) that as hospital expansions are established our Service rates of deployment are likely to go up. Be ready!

Each CPO provides a theme or vision as part of CPO Board introduction to new officers, flag officers, and other officials. Mine is based on our ENGINEER motto: "Machinatores Vitae: Paratus, Volens, Peritus."

It begins with "ENGINEERING FOR LIFE." Engineers are life-long problem solvers that make better health and life possible. As PHS Engineers – we remain READY to respond at any time, WILLING to

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face uncertainty and risk, and ABLE to deliver health solution based on our expertise.

ENGINEERING FOR LIFE: READY, WILLING, ABLE

I encourage you all to remain up to date on the response through reliable sources. My preference, as you might expect, is CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. Remain vigilant, ballasted/steady, and positive. Care for your family, including preparing them for your potential deployment. And continue to lean into your daily public health mission.

Below are a number of short reminders for you, family, and friends.

Thank you and your families – for your sustained dedicated Service to our Nation and Health!

RADM Edward Dieser, P.E.

Steps you can take to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Health care professionals can [take steps to protect themselves](#) at work and at home.
- Older people and people with serious chronic medical conditions are at [higher risk for complications](#).
- Follow the policies and procedures of your agency/organization related to illness, cleaning and disinfecting, and work meetings and travel. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).
- Inform your supervisor if you have a sick family member at home with COVID-19. Learn what to do [if someone in your house is sick](#).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Learn more about [coughing and sneezing](#) etiquette on the CDC website.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, use [products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2](#), the cause of COVID-19, and are appropriate for the surface.
- Avoid using colleagues' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding [large gatherings](#) and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.
- Please go to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ for the latest information about how to protect yourself or what to do if you think you are sick.



If you have any questions or comments related to the Engineering Category or EPAC activities, feel free to contact any of the following EPAC members.

EPAC	Point of Contact	Agency	e-mail
Chair	CDR Samantha Spindel	FDA	Samantha.Spindel@fda.hhs.gov
Vice Chair	CDR Deborah Cox	EPA	Cox.Deborah@epa.gov
Subcommittees			
Awards (Chair)	CDR John Kathol	IHS	John.Kathol@ihs.gov
Awards (Vice Chair)	CDR Matthew Mergenthaler	IHS	Matthew.Mergenthaler@ihs.gov
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Information (Chair)	CAPT Josh Simms	FDA	Joshua.Simms@fda.hhs.gov
Information (Vice Chair)	LCDR Garrett Chun	NPS	Garrett_Chun@nps.gov
Public Health Engineering Practice (Chair)	CDR Leo Gumapas	NIH	Leoangelo.gumapas@nih.gov
Public Health Engineering Practice (Vice Chair)	CDR James Coburn	FDA	James.Coburn@fda.hhs.gov
Readiness (Chair)	CDR Frank Chua	IHS	Francis.Chua@ihs.gov
Readiness (Vice Chair)	CDR Sean Bush	IHS	Sean.Bush@ihs.gov
Recruitment and Retention (Chair)	LCDR Praveen KC	EPA	KC.Praveen@epa.gov
Recruitment and Retention (Vice Chair)	LCDR Fred Kelly	NIH	Fred.Kelly@nih.gov
Rules (Chair)	CDR Deborah Cox	EPA	Cox.Deborah@epa.gov
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Ex Officio's			
Executive Secretary	LCDR Michael Simpson	FDA	Michael.Simpson@fda.hhs.gov
CCWIAB Liaison	CAPT Varsha Savalia	FDA	Varsha.Savalia@fda.hhs.gov
COA Liaison	CDR Nikhil Thakur	FDA	Nikil.Thakur@fda.hhs.gov
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SAME Liaison	CDR Steve Sauer	IHS	Steve.Sauer@ihs.gov
EPAC Website			https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/engineer/

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2020 EPAC Chair Update

CDR Samantha Spindel, Ph.D., M.Eng.



Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as your EPAC Chair for 2020! I look forward to serving in this position and carrying out the goals of EPAC to the best of my ability. This year, I encourage all of our subcommittees to keep in mind three objectives as they carry out their initiatives:

Engage Officers

- Vision: All USPHS Engineers understand the latest information pertaining to our category and have awareness about EPAC projects and initiatives
- Examples: Utilize the Commissioned Corps Engineer list serve to communicate EPAC's latest developments, offer more opportunities for officers to share their thoughts and to ask questions, such as during town hall meetings with our CPO

Develop Leaders

- Vision: Utilize EPAC as a training ground to develop leadership skills
- Examples: Pair an officer experienced in a subcommittee to serve as a co-lead with a novice officer, mentor and support officers to take on new opportunities so they gain experience

Partner with OSG-chartered groups

- Vision: EPAC works with other groups (e.g., PAC Chairs Group, JOAG) to achieve common aims
- Examples: Share and apply best practices for recognizing officers and maintaining readiness status to deploy when needed

To address the first objective, we held the first town hall meeting with our CPO on March 19th. Many thanks to LT Sullivan for moderating this session! Please provide any feedback about this town hall meeting to me directly at Samantha.spindel@fda.hhs.gov so we can ensure future meetings meet the category's needs. Keep an eye out for announcements that are forthcoming on the list serv regarding the second town hall meeting, scheduled for June.

In order to implement the second objective of developing leaders, and to ensure all of our subcommittee leadership has a voice, this is the first year in which all leadership positions on the EPAC, i.e., all chair and vice chair positions, are filled by voting members. Not only does this give credence to the voting member selection process, it can also help with succession planning. As chairs of subcommittees complete their three-year terms, vice chairs could move into the chair positions seamlessly.

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Regarding the third objective, we have already brought several concerns to the attention of the PAC Chairs Group related to policy, recruitment, and readiness. We remain optimistic that if cross-category issues are brought to the attention of CCHQ as one voice, resolution may be timelier.

The EPAC has a lot in store for 2020, including development of a strategic plan. To give you a brief snapshot of what else is planned for the year, highlighted below is one item from each of our eight subcommittees:

Awards – Evaluate the Engineer of the Year/National Society of Professional Engineers Award nomination process to ensure the most deserving candidates are recognized

Career Development – Develop resources, such as to support passing the FE/PE exams and to aid in selection of an advanced degree program, certification/registration, or other training

Events – Plan for Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Joint Engineer Training Conference and Expo (JETC) *Centennial Celebration*

Information – Develop, publish, and distribute Engineer Newsletters

Public Health and Engineering Practice – Support the Surgeon General's Priorities, such as by leveraging 3-D printing to produce cost-effective naloxone training kits

Readiness – Highlight short stories, reflections, and photos from engineer deployments

Recruitment and Retention – Collect information and develop an annual report of recruiting activities with summary metrics (e.g. number of events attended, number of candidates contacted, etc.)

Rules – Revise the member selection process by allowing current members, not just former PAC Chairs, the opportunity to weigh in on individual applications.

I look forward to working with our new leadership, continuing to find ways to encourage participation of engineers within EPAC, and fulfilling our duties to serve our category. I will do my best to carry out this vision and I greatly appreciate all the efforts by our leadership and volunteers to make this a reality. Together, let's set the tone for the next decade of engineers in public health!

In the Service of Health,

CDR Samantha Spindel

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Engineers On Deployment For COVID-19

LT William Chang



CAPT Varsha Savalia, LCDR Craig Grunenfelder, LCDR Michael Gu, LCDR James "Eddie" Hall, and LT William Chang were some of the PHS officers deployed to Lackland Air Force Base in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. We also happen to be engineers. We were part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) support team known as the Incident Management Team (IMT) that worked with another team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This had been my first full de-

ployment since joining the Tier 1 National Incident Support Team (NIST). I wanted to share my experience and thoughts about how engineers made a difference on a deployment.

The IMT was responsible for the repatriation of two groups: 90 American citizens evacuated from Wuhan, China, followed by 134 American citizens from the Princess Diamond cruise ship that had been quarantined in Japan. The team helped organize transportation back to the USA and established a quarantine zone at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. In combination with the U.S. Marshals Service, the CDC, the State of Texas, and the City of San Antonio, the team worked to monitor, treat, and ensure the comfort and security of the people that passed through.

We each had different roles. CAPT Savalia led a Service Access Team (SAT) that took direct care of the needs of quarantined cohorts. They connected individuals with services in the community, including religious services, special healthcare needs, and even the transportation off base after quarantine ended. LCDR Grunenfelder was the Section Chief for the Plans Group. The Plans Group was responsible for creating the Incident Action Plan (IAP). The IAP was the core document that summarized the operation, responsibilities, and organization of the entire deployment team. The Plans Group set the tempo and the meetings

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and was responsible for coordination with all the stakeholders. LCDR Gu was the Section Chief for the Administration and Finance (ANF) Group. I was in this group working with him. Our responsibilities included creating and maintaining the active roster for all deployed teams. Teams included command staff, intermittent disaster teams brought in from around the country, and the personnel of the IMT. Contact information, deployment dates, timekeeping, expense reporting and post-deployment travel information were tracked by our group. LCDR Gu used his engineering management experience to develop a Gantt chart in Excel that easily displayed the teams and their deployment times, allowing each Section Chief to easily visualize and anticipate the need for replacement personnel. LCDR Hall was one of the officers brought in to relieve LCDR Gu and myself, carrying on the work that we had done.

While engineers are not clinicians, we effectively engaged with a variety of stakeholders, including the quarantined cohort, command staff, CDC, and other intermittent HHS staff brought together to make a difference. I know we are all proud of our leadership roles and the technical skills that engineers bring to the table in support of public health missions. I hope we can encourage others to join a deployment team.

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FDA Hosts the 2020 PHS Engineers Awards Ceremony

LT Timothy Martin

Each year, the Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) formally recognizes the outstanding engineering accomplishments of Public Health Service (PHS) engineers assigned throughout the Federal government. On February 13, 2020, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) engineer officers hosted the 2020 PHS Engineers Awards Ceremony in Silver Spring, MD.



PHS Engineers and colleagues, captivated by the opening remarks

Opening remarks were provided by ADM Brett Giroir, Assistant Secretary for Health, RADM Denise Hinton on behalf of Dr. Stephen Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and RADM Erica Schwartz, Deputy Surgeon General. A few highlights from the talking points included: i) personal experiences in the Corps and reinforcing the importance of engineers and non-clinical officers to the full implementation of public health; ii) activities of PHS engineers on deployment missions and currently supporting the COVID-19 response; iii) examples

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of the direct impact on the American people by the 83 PHS Engineer Commissioned Corps officers stationed at FDA; and iv) PHS Engineers addressing the Surgeon General's priorities such as Community Health and Economic Prosperity.

The category awards were presented by RADM Dieser, Chief Engineer. The first award presented was the PHS Engineer Responder of the Year, which recognizes a PHS Engineer Officer who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in disaster response and emergency preparedness. This year's recipient was CDR Kris Neset for his dedication and service through multiple deployments and leadership on his Applied Public Health Deployment Team.

The next award presented was the RADM Jerrold M. Michael Award, which recognizes a PHS Engineer Officer who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to the education, training and/or mentoring of present and future PHS engineers. This year's recipient was LT Vicky Hsu, who is stationed at FDA as a lead clinical pharmacology reviewer and is responsible for ensuring optimal dosing of new oncology and hematology drugs.

The final award presented was the PHS Engineer of the Year, which recognizes impact in advancing public health and overall outstanding engineering achievement in engineering design, research, development, or management. This year's recipient was CAPT Stephen Martin, stationed at NIH, who demonstrated outstanding career accomplishments in infection control ventilation design.



ADM Giroir receives a coin from RADM Dieser



FDA lab tour, which highlighted the excellent work PHS Engineers do at FDA

Preceding the ceremony was a lab tour of FDA's Emergency Operations Center, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, and Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. The tour highlighted ongoing operations of the COVID-19 response, 3D manufacturing and devices, and 3D printing and continuous manufacturing of drugs. After the ceremony, the celebration continued with light refreshments and cake.

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While too many to name everyone who helped, thank you to the number of individuals who made this event a success: RADM Dieser for traveling and making the ceremony personal to each awardee; planning team lead/co-leads LT Martin, LCDR Simpson, LT Sullivan; MC CDR Spindel; LCDR Simpson and LT Hsu for leading the lab tours. EPAC Chair/co-Chair LCDRs Buck and Gifford; EPAC for funding the reception; and Surgeon General's Honor Guard and PHS Music Ensemble for opening the ceremony with a presentation of the National Anthem and PHS March; ushers LCDRs Bandukwala and Fields, and LTs Price and Hall; CDR Yang, CDR Cunningham, LCDR Praveen, LT To, and FDA Facilities. Media resources commemorating the event are available at the following links:



EPAC Eweek planning team (L to R): LT David Sullivan, LCDR Michael Simpson, LT Timothy Martin, LCDR Michael Gifford, and LCDR Derrick Buck (not shown).

- <https://usphscc-coa.smugmug.com/Engineer-Category/Engineers-Week-Award-Ceremony/2020/>
- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hPk5P7ATYcT2qjAQcCv5N2kqwh_C3PUF?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5e4c0707
- <https://fda1.webex.com/fda1/ldr.php?RCID=e25870404c6a4501b348c84ed2e043f8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk59mPg2kgY>
- <https://collaboration.fda.gov/psg4d61i3nma/>
- https://twitter.com/HHS_ASH/status/1228067524165722131

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A Perspective on Service

CAPT Nelson Mix, PE, CHMM, F. SAME

Service is one of our four Commissioned Corps values defined as *"Demonstrates a commitment to public health through compassionate actions and stewardship of time, resources, and talents."* A dictionary definition of service is *"the action of helping or doing work for someone."* The word 'action' is common to both definitions, and 'compassionate' is inherently outward facing towards 'someone' else and not us. Hence, we have selfless service and not self-service.

We've all seen a lot of self-service and selfless service. In fact, we may be frequently and openly blamed for self-service, and rarely and secretly be credited for selfless service. Or, maybe it's the other way around? Regardless, we should be *"happy to be here, and proud to serve."*

My alma matter's motto is *"Enter to learn; go forth to serve."* My daughter's high school motto is coincidentally *"Enter to learn; leave to serve."* One of my favorite quotes is from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, *"Everyone can be great, because anyone can serve."* We also are frequently told *"Thanks for your service."* (My response is always *"Thanks for recognizing my Service."*)

A friend, who was a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, told me that a Rear Admiral simply told him *"Some people are wired to serve."* Selfless service may come easier for some than for others. If selfless service doesn't come easy, it can be learned with confidence, time, and effort. Effort is a fundamental part of the 'work' and 'action' definitions above. Effort is also used for performing service and earning trust. Annual ethics training for government employees reminds us that *"Public service is a public trust."*



CAPT Mix has engineering degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of New Mexico. He has served with the IHS and EPA and has been a PHS Commissioned Corps officer for 28 years.

As a LCDR (O-4), I once had the privilege to explain our Service to all of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officers who were LTC (O-5) and above. The LTG (O-9) USACE Commander summed it up perfectly: *"The Public Health Service. Your name is 'Public Service,' with 'Health' right in the middle. It doesn't get any better than that."*

I thank you for your service and I challenge you to proudly continue serving.

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SAME and U.S. Public Health Service Engineers Timeline



- 1798 Marine Hospital Service established; forerunner of the PHS
1889 Commissioned Corps of PHS is established
1912 PHS investigations of typhoid fever and river basin pollution occur
1912 The PHS Act renames the Marine Hospital Service the PHS
1913 The first PHS Engineer, Harry Letton, is retained to solve sanitation issues
1914 The first drinking water standards are published, and malaria campaigns are launched
1917 PHS is militarized for WWI
1918 The PHS Act is amended to allow a reserve corps
1918 PHS officer travels to Yellowstone to conduct a drinking water survey for the National Park Service
1920 **SAME created, first SAME Posts founded; membership surpasses 3,500 in first year**
1920 Dr. Hugh S. Cumming is the 5th Surgeon General (who the **SAME Cumming Award** is named after)
1925 Drinking Water Standard revised (and again in 1941, 1946, and 1962)
1930 The Parker Act allows PHS engineers to be regular corps
1939 PHS transferred from Department of Treasury to the new Federal Security Agency
1941 PHS engineers serve in the Office of Civilian Defense to help control malaria for WWII
1943 First PHS Chief Engineer is John K. Hoskins, his work influenced the passage of the FWPCA
1948 The Federal Water Pollution Control Act is passed
1948 Second PHS Chief Engineer is Mark D. Hollis (who the **SAME Hollis Medal** is named after)
1950s PHS began a national effort to eliminate open burning in dumps
1952 PHS is militarized for the Korean conflict
1953 PHS transferred to the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW)
1955 The Indian Health Service is created
1959 The Indian Water Supply and Sanitation Facilities Act is passed
1968 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration becomes a part of PHS
1970 Fifth PHS Chief Engineer is Richard S. Green (who the **SAME Green Medal** is named after)
1970 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is created
1975 **Title of 'Fellow' established**
1979 The Department of Health and Human Services is created from the HEW
1996 **First Golden Eagle Award Dinner (GED)**
1999 **PHS is an official Service in SAME**
2001 RADM Robert C. Williams, 10th Chief Engineer of PHS, is the first PHS of-

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- ficer to be a Fellow of SAME
- 2001 CDR James Simpson, FDA, is the first PHS officer to serve as a national committee chair (Readiness)
- 2004 PHS engineers respond to the 2004 Tsunami; along with DOD on the USS Mercy
- 2004 CDR David Ausdemore, CDC, is the first PHS officer to serve a post president (Atlanta)
- 2007 to 2009 RADM Robert C. Williams is Chair of the Academy of Fellows
- 2009 PHS engineers join DOD in the Pacific Partnership humanitarian assistance mission
- 2012 RADM Sven Rodenbeck, 12th Chief Engineer of PHS is designated as Fellow
- 2013 CAPT Nelson Mix, EPA, is the third PHS officer designated as Fellow
- 2013 [PHS Engineer Centennial](#)
- 2014 PHS engineers in west Africa fight Ebola, with DOD
- 2016 **SAME Foundation established**
- 2018 RADM J.F. Gardner, 13th Chief Engineer of PHS is designated as Fellow
- 2018 PHS Musical Ensemble performs at the GED for the 8th straight year (see the [Amazing Grace](#) video)
- 2020 **SAME Centennial; Membership reaches 30,000; JETC Celebration in Washington, DC May 26-29**

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Outstanding Contributions to the Engineering Profession

On Thursday January 16, 2020, CAPT Ramsey Hawasly, PE received the Outstanding Contributions to the Engineering Profession award. The plaque was presented by the 2019 President of the Washington DC Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), at the National Press Club, in Washington, DC. Over 120 people attended from the government and private sector. Engineers in government and the private sector are eligible for nomination of this award.

CAPT Hawasly was cited for his contributions to the Indian Health Service in advocating and leading the development of an agency wide GIS platform. He is also recognized for his superior leadership while implementing nationally the use of GIS within the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program, which has helped to improve data accuracy for over 400,000 American Indian and Alaska Native homes. Over time, GIS

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Pictured (L to R) RADM Calkins, CAPT Hawasly, RADM Dieser, and Mr. Al "AOK" O'Konski



under CAPT Hawasly's continued leadership will improve IHS's ability to assist tribes in planning, designing, and providing technical assistance to maintain access to safe drinking water and reliable waste disposal facilities that enhance individual and community health.

Each post of SAME nominates the winners of their awards for consideration for the national SAME awards. CAPT Hawasly's nomination was forwarded to SAME HQ, for consideration for the Goethals Medal, which will be presented at the 2020 "Virtual JETC" (<https://www.samejetc.org/>) in Washington, DC from May 27-29.

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Federal Engineer Year Awards and the PHS

On Friday February 14, 2020, four U.S. Public Health Service engineers were recognized and received plaques at the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA) ceremony. The awards were presented by the 2020 President of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. NSPE values ethics and accountability; within that value, public health, safety, and welfare are above all other considerations. A century ago, anyone could work as an engineer without proof of competency. In order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the first engineering licensure law was enacted in 1907 in Wyoming (see "[The Professional Engineering Century](#)").



Pictured (L to R) RADM Dieser, CAPT Eckert, CAPT Martin, CAPT Mix, CAPT Newman, CDR Gumapas, LCDR Chun, and LCDR Spaeth

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Engineers in government are eligible for the FEYA awards. Twenty-two departments and agencies were recognized with Agency award winners, top ten finalists were recognized, and then the Federal Engineer of the Year was named (spoiler alert – it was Timothy Sullivan, Ph.D., PE of the US Air Force). Over 100 people from the government and private sector were in attendance.

It's believed the number of PHS officers present outnumbered the other services – a first! Of note, and in attendance were: RADM Edward Dieser, PE (Engineer Chief Professional Officer), CAPT John Eckert, Ph.D. (Scientist Chief Professional Officer), and CAPT Sara Newman Ph.D. (Scientist Officer and the National Park Service's Director of Public Health). More importantly, the attendees included over 10 members of the award winners' families, who spanned three generations and traveled from as far away as Saipan and Minnesota to support their loved ones.

Two engineer officers were Agency winners, and two other officers were top ten finalists for their agencies. Brief writeups are as follows:

CDR Leo Gumapas, PE: Managed \$8.3M in projects at the NIH Bethesda Campus Utility Plant. He also led the design of a \$1.9M continuous emission monitoring system.

LCDR Travis Spaeth, PE: Heavily contributed to the landmark achievement of 24-hour water service to the entire island of Saipan, home to more than 50,000 residents. He also led engineering work on the island of Rota. After the islands of Saipan and Tinian were devastated in late October 2018 by Super Typhoon Yutu, one of the most powerful storms to ever hit U.S. soil, he spearheaded the effort to restore drinking water services to all residents after the water systems had been completely knocked out.

LCDR Garrett Chun, PE (top ten finalist): Completed \$18.6M wastewater and sewerage projects in Yosemite National Park.

CAPT Stephen Martin, Jr. PhD, PE (top ten finalist): Recognized for more than 20 years of expertise in ventilation, engineering controls, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, airborne infectious disease transmission and indoor air quality. CAPT Martin is stationed at CDC/NIOSH in Morgantown, WV.

Each agency determines its winner for agency recognition, and a panel of five FEYA Judges determine the top ten finalists and the FEYA. CAPT John Cardarelli II, PhD, PE, CHP, CIH (USPHS Ret.) was one of the 2020 judges and is also one of the four PHS officers ever, who have won the overall FEYA (in 2006). Congratulations to the Agency winners and top ten finalists for 2020!

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New Engineer Officers

The EPAC would like to acknowledge the following engineers who have recently become Commissioned Officers. The EPAC welcomes each of you and hopes you will enjoy a long and prosperous career in the PHS.

Rank	Name	OPDIV	City	State
LTJG	Christian Medina	IHS	Bemidji	MN
LT	Eniolorunda Rotimi	OS	Rockville	MD
LTJG	Jason Sebring	IHS	Anchorage	AK
LTJG	Ashley Martinez	IHS	Rhineland	WI
LT	Bijay Tamang	IHS	Spokane	WA
LTJG	Maggie Ziols	IHS	Sparks	NV
LT	Kayla Devault	IHS	Billings	MT

Fair Winds and Following Seas

The EPAC would also like to recognize the engineer officers who have recently retired from Commissioned Corps service. The EPAC sincerely appreciates your leadership and dedication to the mission of PHS engineers.

Rank	Name	OPDIV
CAPT	Kelly Leseman	IHS
CAPT	Nicholas Vizzone	EPA
CAPT	Eric Matson	IHS
CAPT	Karl Powers	IHS
CAPT	James Ludington	IHS
CAPT	Carol Rogers	IHS
CAPT	Dennis Wagner	EPA
CAPT	Eric Shih	HRSA
CAPT	Michael Rea	IHS
CAPT	Charles Cote	OS
CAPT	Mark Nasi	IHS
CAPT	Kenneth Mead	CDC



Dear Readers,

Machinators Vitae (Engineering for Life) is a publication of the EPAC, but we need help in bringing you the information and stories that you want to read. Please consider submitting an article for an upcoming issue or let us know when you or a colleague have reached a milestone, been recognized for an accomplishment, or have an experience to share. If you are an accomplished writer, send something along that is already polished. If you don't feel like a Hemingway or Dickinson, just send enough detail so the writing team can take hold of it and build the story for you.

The writing staff can only see a bit of the big world that is public health engineering. There are numerous accomplishments even within our readership that remain unknown except in the relatively small circles around you. If you have not presented at a national meeting, the likelihood is that no one outside of your agency, or possibly even Office, ever heard about the project that you nearly exhausted yourself completing. Here is your chance to shine!

All ideas are welcomed. Remember that we do not have to solely focus on work going on within the PHS. Let us know if you hear of new technologies or applications, or just find an interesting story from the outside world. The rule of thumb is that if you as an engineer are interested in it, then others will be too!

Send your thoughts, suggestions, or a brief synopsis of a proposed article to the newsletter coordinator, CDR Jason Petersen at Jason.Petersen@ihs.gov.

Thank you,

The Newsletter Team
EPAC Information Subcommittee

Machinators Vitae is published twice annually and posted on the USPHS Engineer Professional Advisory Committee website. The deadline for submitting articles for the **Fall 2020** edition is **August 31, 2020**.