

From the Chief Engineer Officer

As the only uniformed service in the world dedicated to public health, U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps (CC) officers face significant demands, ranging from our service to the Nation, commitment to our assigned Agency, and readiness to deploy to public health and national security emergencies. This creates challenges for officers to remain resilient and fit to be ready at all times to perform our duties as public health responders and optimize our performance through official deployments or daily assignments.

A current priority of the U.S. Surgeon General, VADM Vivek Murthy, is the [Framework for Workplace Mental Health & Well-Being](#), establishing that workplaces play a significant role in our lives, affecting our physical and mental well-being, in good ways and bad.

(Continued on page 2)



Emil P. Wang, J.D.
Rear Admiral, USPHS
Assistant Surgeon General

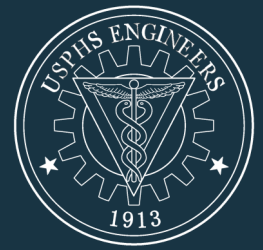
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 3 [Message from the EPAC Chair: The 2023 EPAC operational year is in full swing!](#)
- 5 [EPAC Subcommittee Updates](#)
- 8 [Indian Health Service Hosts the Chief Engineer Engineers Awards Ceremony](#)
- 11 [Welcome LT Dawid Kierys and Family!](#)
- 13 [Building Esprit De Corps with Medical Device Investigators](#)
- 14 [New Engineer Officers & Recent Retirements](#)



MACHINATORRES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



The framework provides Five Essentials to support workplaces as engines of well-being:

Protection From Harm: creating conditions for physical and psychological safety as a critical basis for ensuring workplace mental health and well-being. Commissioned Corps Headquarters' (CCHQ's) [Corps Care](#) program provides support to officers throughout their deployment experiences and careers by establishing and implementing a uniform and comprehensive strategy to meet the behavioral health, medical, and spiritual needs of all officers.

Connection & Community: fostering positive social interactions and relationships in the workplace that support worker well-being. Our service as USPHS CC officers is stressful but this adversity does instill a bond and social support for each other, from our shared commitment as a CC to communities such as our Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC). I have relied on the relations built with my colleagues and battle buddies throughout my career to support my professional development, identify new opportunities, and persevere through difficult times.

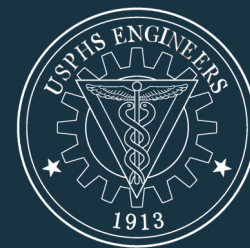
Work-Life Harmony: the ability to integrate work and non-work demands. It is essential that we find balance with our professional and personal roles and responsibilities. Officers must care for themselves before we are capable to care for others. I find that daily exercise – doing calisthenics, practicing yoga, and running – helps me to maintain physical fitness, focus on my personal well-being, and provides an opportunity to seek solace and think through my daily challenges. I encourage all officers to find activities and hobbies to relieve the pressure that are created from work and non-work conflicts.

A resource is the Program Support Center (PSC), Federal Occupational Health's (FOH's) [Employee Assistance Program](#), which provides work/life balance services to federal employees through assessment, short-term counseling, referral, management consultation, and coaching services.

Mattering at Work: knowing that we matter to those around us and that our work matters. USPHS CC officers have a unique opportunity to connect the well-being of individuals with their communities by working in communities across the Nation and globally, providing public health services to the vulnerable and underserved, and leading and facilitating public health collaboration and partnerships. USPHS officers have established a unified and proud identity based on a long history, legacy, and service to our Nation and humanity. Our character is defined by our leadership capabilities to innovate and support national and global health initiatives relating to individual, community, and population health.

Opportunity for Growth: the USPHS enables officers to accomplish goals based on our skills and growth. In fact, it is our duty as embodied in our conditions of

(Continued on page 3)



service to maintain our professional competency and demonstrate career growth and advancement. While these obligations may appear to be a burden, it does instill motivation to seek continued professional and personal improvement. CC officers exemplify leadership and responsibility, often exceeding our peers, showing our value as an efficient and cost-effective asset.

While the framework doesn't replace the aid and sacrifice of our families and the care of medical and mental health professionals, it does recognize and underscore that our workplaces play a significant role in our lives – it can contribute to mental health conditions but is a resource to support mental health and well-being. The USPHS places substantial demands on its CC officers but also provides extraordinary opportunities for professional and personal growth as well as the ability to make significant contributions to protect, promote, and advance public health domestically and globally. I encourage all engineer officers to participate in our community as a profession and through EPAC to build esprit de corps and assist each other through prosperous and challenging times.

It is an honor to serve with you.

[Return to Top](#)

Message from the EPAC Chair: The 2023 EPAC operational year is in full swing!

CDR Michael D. Gifford II

Fellow engineers! I hope these words find you, your families, and friends well. We are running our way through 2023. I want to acknowledge a particular group of EPAC leaders to start. To our outgoing voting members, thank you for all you have done to move us forward. Good luck on your next adventures! Congratulations to our new voting members. Competition is fierce to sit where you are now sitting. Cherish this time and get to know your fellow EPAC members. There is much to be done and you are the right engineers for the job.

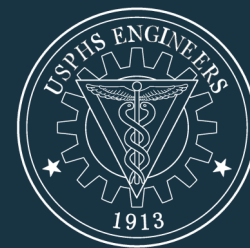
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MACHINATORRES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



We have already seen some success stories thus far:

- The Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee put on their first-ever workshop to highlight their service to others and provide the engineering community professional development hours.
- The Events Subcommittee honored our engineer award winners at the Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters. The IHS Event Leads provided an avenue for engineers to socialize on two occasions. Yes, we had fun and yes, Officer Harry P. Letton joined us briefly after the ceremony. **Those of you that were there, know the reference. For those of you wondering who that is, ask me sometime or google it. We should all know the name.*
- We heard from our Chief Professional Officer, RDML Emil Wang, on the importance of recruiting in his first Town Hall of the year.

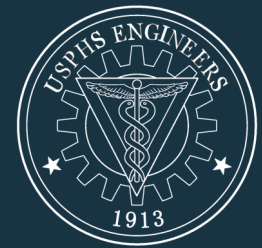
These are just a few highlights since the start of the year. There are plenty of other work products in progress or being completed that your EPAC Subcommittees are leading. Look at the subcommittee updates in this newsletter. For those of you in subcommittees, keep up the great work! We need it. For those of you that do not know what the engineering community is doing to keep the ship sailing straight, I challenge you to find a subcommittee that looks interesting and engage. We are engineers, and we like solutions. [Come be a part of the solution!](#)

Enough about where we have been thus far, let's look at what is next. The EPAC has several more events planned for this year. Make sure you stay plugged into [our calendar](#) and read any announcements that come from the listserv. We try to be pointed, pertinent, and productive when we send out communications.

Next, I would like to take a few lines to add to your knowledge base. Leadership: It is one of our core values. When we put on the uniform, we all become leaders whether we are ready or not. People look to us to guide, inspire, and provide. Leadership presents itself in various environments, various times, and various positions throughout our career. Evolving situations in any given day call us to lead in different ways. There are numerous leadership models out there; however, I do want to point you in the direction of one of my favorites if the topic of leadership interests you. It is called **situational leadership**. There are four leadership styles that can be applied to different situations: Delegating, Supporting, Coaching, and Directing. You may find these styles useful and easy to implement. I have used each of them at various points in my 15 years as a uniformed service member. In fact, I used the supporting style earlier today. Dig in and check it out!

Lastly, it has been a rough couple of years. I can name hardships I have endured personally and professionally. If I were to ask any of you, I have no doubt we could talk for a while. The world moves fast, and we have endless items on our to do list.

(Continued on page 5)



Spending time with fellow engineers at the E-Week socials got me excited and made me feel good. Make time to visit or call your friends in uniform. Check up on one another. Your mental and physical well-being are paramount. If you are in an isolated assignment or no other officers are within reach, give me a call or email and we will set some time aside to chat. This too shall pass. Before you know it, you will be moving on or hanging up the uniform. The EPAC affords us an opportunity to engage with like-minded people outside of the normal work environment. You really can't get that anywhere else. Get involved and make some new friends. You may learn a thing or two or be able to help in a way you never knew possible. Until next time, be safe and be well everyone!



USPHS Engineers attend 2023 E-Week Event at Top Golf

[Return to Top](#)

EPAC Subcommittee Updates

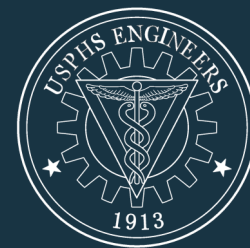
Mentoring – The Mentoring Subcommittee (MS) is continuing to utilize the database developed in 2022 in the support of mentor and mentee activities. Open recruitment of new mentor and mentees are currently being sought through the [MS website](#). Officers interested in being assigned a Mentor, or becoming a Mentor themselves, should complete the “Mentor/Mentee Pairing Questionnaire” on the MS Website. If you have self-identified a match with an Engineer Officer Mentor or Mentee, the self-identified pair should complete the “Mentor/Mentee Agreement,” also located on the MS Website. If new mentors and mentees have a specific mentor that they would like to pair with, then e-mail epac.mentoring@gmail.com. Other initiatives that the MS is actively working on is participating in the COF Symposium through the EPAC Events Subcommittee, establishing MS written internal processes, updating the EPAC MS website information, planning outreach activities to PHS Engineers, and establishing liaisons across other EPAC Subcommittees. Volunteers are a critical component to the MS and the call for volunteers is open. Any questions about the MS can be sent to CDR Nikhil Thakur (nikhil.thakur@fda.hhs.gov)

(Continued on page 6)



MACHINATORRES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



and LCDR Juliane Junes-Harvey (juliane.junes-harvey@ihs.gov) directly.

Awards – The Awards Subcommittee has been diligently working the last couple of months on the back-to-back Spring and Fall Awards cycles. The 2023 Fall Awardees (Chief Engineer and SAME) have been notified. The Chief Engineer Awardees were formally recognized by USPHS Senior Leadership and RDML Wang during E-Week in February 2023 at Indian Health Service Headquarters in Rockville, MD. The SAME Awardees will be recognized during the Joint Engineer Training Conference and Expo (JETC) in May 2023 in San Antonio, TX. Currently, we are working on scoring and ranking nominations under the Spring Cycle (Chief Engineer Awards). We received great nominations for all five Spring Cycle awards in early February. The 2023 Spring Awardees will be formally recognized during the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in May 2023 in Tulsa, OK. Other initiatives we are actively working on focus on increasing the visibility of the important work that PHS Engineers are involved in everyday, including: guidance for improving award write ups; improving outreach efforts for advertising awards cycles; and identifying outside organizations that recognize the work of engineers.

Career Development – The Career Development Subcommittee (CDS) is developing a list of various applicable engineer credentials and licensures to assist with mentorship and informing the Applied Public Health Promotion Board. Results for the PY2022 Promotion Data Analytics will be released to the category by the end of Spring. Historically, the PY2018-2022 report has shown that following and exceeding promotion benchmarks results in the greatest likelihood of promotion. CDS has two Senior Officer Panels scheduled for this year to be presented by the CPO's Council: (1) Change Management and Officer Resiliency on May 25, and (2) Collaboration and Partnership on October 19. CDS continues to work on informational documents for various Agency Career Paths of PHS Engineers, updating the EPAC Welcome Package, as well as creating the Engineering Officer Career Development Model to establish parity with other categories. Finally, CDS has been meeting incoming PHS Engineers at OBC Open House's. Please reach out to the CDS Chair, LCDR Michael Simpson (michael.simpson@fda.hhs.gov), or Vice Chair, CDR Christopher Fehrman (christopher.fehrman@ihs.gov), if you'd like to join the team!

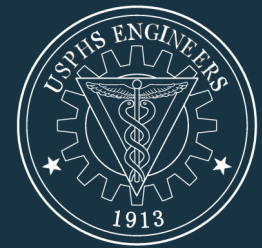
Readiness – The Readiness Subcommittee continues to support the Disaster Response Engineer (DRE) initiative. It is developing a certification process for engineers looking to add the DRE qualification(s) to CCHQ's Readiness and Deployment Branch's (RDB's) self-service section. This designation would identify an officer as trained/prepared to serve in DRE roles during a response. We also submitted for CCHQ's consideration a DRE White Paper on our initiative that emphasizes the need for RDB to include engineering-specific deployment roles in the RDB self-service database. Noting an increase in engineer officers filling safety-

(Continued on page 7)



MACHINATORES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



related roles on deployments, the subcommittee is also working on a compendium of safety officer related training resources. Finally, we are finalizing our FY2022 Engineer Deployment Narratives Booklet and planning a Readiness Deployment Panel.

Recruitment and Retention – The Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Subcommittee supported the CPO Town Hall hosted on March 9, 2023, by RDML Wang. At least 130 engineer officers joined the Town Hall, during which the R&R Subcommittee (CDR Stacey Yonce and LT Colin Tack) presented data about historical trends and future projections of category force strength and rank numbers. RDML Wang provided recruitment and appointment policy reminders and shared insights about where the USPHS and the Engineer Category may be headed in terms of recruitment and retention. The R&R Subcommittee is also standing up a COSTEP Recruitment Strike Team to support recruitment of Engineer COSTEP applicants this year to serve in Summer 2024. Finally, a Category Networking Event was hosted by the R&R Subcommittee on March 30, 2023, at 1700 Eastern time. This social networking provided an opportunity to build Esprit de Corps, with a brief presentation on international assignments by CAPT Gretchen Cowman and CAPT Robert Ogan, and breakout sessions where small groups of officers could meet and get to know each other.

Rules – The Rules Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing two EPAC innovation forms (EIFs). The review process will recognize contributions of volunteers beyond a Letter of Appreciation. Other ongoing tasks include: (1) implementing and refining the EIF process to include transparency and ensure good ideas are not overlooked; and (2) reviewing the voting member selection process to include transparency, continuity, and consistency. The subcommittee meets the second Wednesday of every other month; the next meeting is June 14, 2023. Work is emergent throughout the year and calls for volunteers is ongoing. Reach out to CDR Mergenthaler (matthew.mergenthaler@ihs.gov) or LCDR de Vera (melissa.devera@ihs.gov) if interested.

Information – The EPAC website has been updated and changes have been made to reflect the 2023 EPAC operational year. Improved web analytics are coming soon. Email epac-postings@list.nih.gov for any change requests or website updates. The article submission deadline for the Fall 2023 Newsletter is August 31, 2023 – feel free to reach out to CDR Jason Petersen (jason.petersen@ihs.gov) if you have any ideas. The subcommittee meets the second Monday of every other month at 1400 EST; the next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2023.

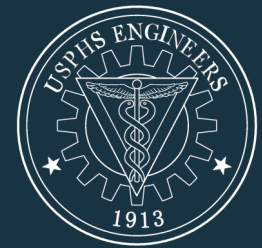
Events – The Events Subcommittee participated in AMSUS and hosted E-Week 2023 in February. E-Week 2023 included pre- and post-award ceremony networking events and RDML Wang's recognition of the 2023 CPO Awardees. The first CPO Town Hall for 2023 was held on March 9th, where the CPO fielded a variety of questions from the PHS engineer community. The Events Subcommittee's up-

(Continued on page 8)



MACHINATORES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



coming events are the SAME JETC on May 2-4; Engineering Category Day May 9th during the USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium; and a Town Hall on August 10th.

Public Health Engineering Practice – The Public Health Engineering Practice (PHEP) subcommittee held its first annual workshop on February 2nd. During the workshop, four presentations with question and answer sessions were given that highlighted recent PHEP subcommittee work. The workshop had 49 attendees who will be issued Professional Development certificates for 2 hours. Thanks to the presenters, all attendees, and to EPAC leadership for giving us the chance to highlight our subcommittee.

The PHEP subcommittee is also partnering with the Career Development Subcommittee to develop a listing of public health trainings to benefit engineers that will be completed by the end of the year. If you know of any public health training that your agency offers, please reach out to let us know.

Contact information for all subcommittee leadership can be found here: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/engineer/members.aspx>

[Return to Top](#)

Indian Health Service Hosts the Chief Engineer Engineers Awards Ceremony

LCDR Jaison Eapen

The Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) hosted the annual United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHS) Engineer Awards Ceremony to formally recognize and celebrate engineers from across the federal gov-



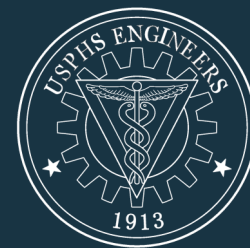
From L to R: RADM Denise Hinton, RDML Emil Wang, CDR Mark Hench, CDR Michael Gifford, CDR Omobogie Amadasu, CDR Jeffrey Allen, CDR Praveen K.C., LCDR Jaison Eapen, LT Schuyler Price, and LT Eniolorunda Rotimi

(Continued on page 9)



MACHINATORRES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



ernment in service to our country. The event was hosted by the U.S. Indian Health Service (IHS) in Rockville, MD and led by CDR Omobogie Amadasu, CDR Mark Hench, and CDR Jeffrey Allen. The event was a hybrid event with over 40 in-person attendees and over 60 virtual participants. Distinguished guests included RADM Denise Hinton, Deputy Surgeon General; RDML Emil Wang, Chief Engineer Officer; Mr. Benjamin Smith, Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service; and CAPT (Ret.) Steven Raynor, Indian Health Service Director of Facilities Planning and Construction.

Mr. Benjamin Smith highlighted the important and impactful work of engineers in the IHS. Mr. Smith emphasized that almost 50% of PHS Engineer Officers are currently stationed at the IHS with many of them serving in high-level leadership positions. RADM Hinton expressed the uniqueness of the public health impact of PHS Engineer Officers and highlighted the interactions she had with engineers at



From L to R: RDML Emil Wang, CAPT Ramsey Hawasly (Ret.), CAPT David Harvey, CDR Deborah Cox, CDR Praveen K.C., and CDR Michael Gifford

this year's Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) conference. CAPT (Ret.) Steven Raynor gave an impassioned speech about the history of PHS Engineer Officers at the IHS. He illustrated the importance of the sheer number of people that are impacted by the diverse work of engineer officers.

The 2023 Award ceremony was officiated by the EPAC Chair, CDR Michael Gifford. RDML Wang provided remarks for the ceremony and each award recipient provided some comments after being acknowledged for receiving the award. The three 2023 awards presented included the PHS Engineer Responder of the Year; the RADM Jerrold M. Michael Engineer Award; and the PHS Engineer of the Year.

2023 PHS Engineer Responder of the Year: CDR Thomas Armitage

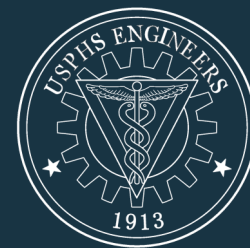
CDR Thomas Armitage is a Civil/Environmental Engineer at the IHS with over 30 years of engineering experience. CDR Armitage's vast amount of experience includes designing, planning, inspecting, and providing operational assistance to nu-

(Continued on page 10)



MACHINATORRES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023

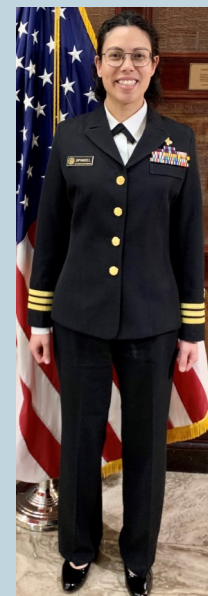


merous water and wastewater facilities. His experience also includes design-build-operate projects for domestic and industrial systems ranging from 1,000 gallons per day to >20 million gallons per day facilities. He has completed mission work installing small disinfection systems in the Andes Mountains of Perú resulting in up to a 60% reduction in water borne disease. CDR Armitage participates in various training opportunities as a trainer for both drinking water and wastewater systems for understanding regulations and compliance, safety, operations and maintenance, and asset management system assistance. CDR Armitage has served on leadership positions on deployments and has deployed in support of Unaccompanied Minors to Washington, DC and Pennsylvania (as OIC & Deputy IC) and supported the Navajo Safe Drinking Water Access project based in Gallup, NM. CDR Armitage received his a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Dayton (1992) and a Master's Degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado (1996). He holds a professional engineering license in Colorado.



2023 RADM Jerrold M. Michael Engineer Award: CDR Samantha Spindel

CDR Samantha Spindel commissioned as an Engineer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in 2009. She served at the Food and Drug Administration in Maryland and has experience working at the Center for Devices and Radiological Health in three Offices: Compliance and Enforcement; Science and Engineering Laboratories; and Communication and Education. In 2016, she became a supervisor at the Center for Tobacco Products where she oversaw a branch of engineers to review tobacco products and develop regulations, such as, for electronic-cigarettes. As of 2021, CDR Spindel serves as the Deputy Director of the Division of Information Management at the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR). CDR Spindel graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science in Biological & Environmental Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering. She also received her Ph.D. in Bio-engineering from the University of Maryland and holds a graduate certificate in Global Health and Global Health Engagement from The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.



2023 PHS Engineer of the Year: CDR David Gwisdalla

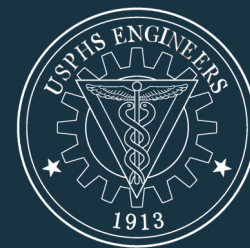
CDR David Gwisdalla is the Director of the EPA Office of Research and Development's (ORD's) Engineering Technical Support Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. CDR

(Continued on page 11)



MACHINATORRES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



Gwisdalla has over 26 years of experience in environmental compliance, public works operations and maintenance, and facility design and construction. He has been detailed to the EPA for the past 11 years. Prior to that, he spent nine years on active duty as a USAF Civil Engineering Officer. With the EPA, he has also worked for EPA's Region 8 as a Clean Water Act inspector, and the National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) in Denver, Colorado, as an Investigator and the Field Branch Chief. Most recently, he served as an industrial hygienist for ORD's Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Branch in Cincinnati, Ohio before moving into his current position in November 2020. CDR Gwisdalla is a registered professional engineer (in both Colorado and Michigan) and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from Michigan State University.



[Return to Top](#)

Welcome LT Dawid R. Kierys and Family!

CDR Michael D. Gifford II and LT Dawid R. Kierys

On February 3rd, I had the distinct pleasure of attending the graduation ceremony of OBC143/RR16. It was a group of highly motivated USPHS Officers ready to get to work in the service of health. There was one officer I paid particular attention to during the event: the only engineer, LT Dawid R. Kierys. The last honor awarded at the ceremony was that of Distinguished Graduate. Of which, our very own LT Kierys won! After the ceremony, I spoke to him and his wife and learned more about their journey to the USPHS. I believe we are lucky to have him join our ranks and his future looks bright. Welcome aboard and well-done, LT Kierys! A short biography of LT Kierys:

LT Dawid Ryszard Kierys is a newly commissioned USPHS officer. LT Kierys starts his service as an Environmental Engineer with the Indian Health Service in the Tucson Area Office. After serving three years as a civilian, he converted in place. He likens the transition to marriage; the partner remains the same, but the dedication, expectations, and stakes are higher. His duties include the financial oversight, design, and construction administration of water and sanitation facilities throughout Southern Arizona in conjunction with the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

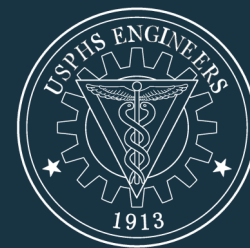
He began his commitment to service in Panamá as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector. During his three years there, he worked to support communities and his fellow volunteers by providing education, training, and technical assistance through various projects. Some of his projects

(Continued on page 12)



MACHINATORES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



included: the design of gravity-fed aqueducts serving hundreds of households; the implementation of novel and appropriate sanitation facilities in flood-prone regions; and the promotion of handwashing among at-risk populations. He continued to work with underserved communities as an engineer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, IL. There he received his first deployment experience with the Emergency Response Corps assisting with a household hazardous waste containment program in the Virgin Islands as a response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2018. He was the recipient of the IHS Director's Award in 2020.

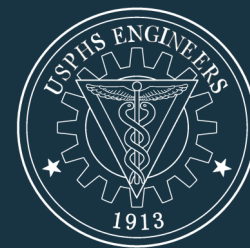
Donning the USPHS uniform to serve communities in need of necessary water and sanitation access is the exact reason why he became an engineer as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois–Chicago. He continued on this path as a graduate student in the Peace Corps Master's International program at Michigan Technological University, where students integrated their thesis research with Peace Corps service. He is a licensed professional engineer and current member of the Commissioned Officers Association, Engineers Without Borders, and Society of American Military Engineers. LT Kierys is a proud husband to his wife, Zoe, and father to his 1-year-old daughter, Zofia. They enjoy camping, hiking, biking, and running in the Sky Islands of Southern Arizona and throughout the country when not napping.



From L to R: CDR Michael Gifford
and LT Dawid Kierys

Despite being the only engineer in his OBC class, he bonded with his colleagues over shared similarities, such as, how the mission of the USPHS resonates emotionally with their personal missions to improve public health domestically and internationally, and to extend themselves out as the “tip of the spear” in times of disaster and emergency response. None of which would be possible without having the base of support from USPHS agencies, fellow officers, and their families. Joining the ranks of the many incredible engineering officers he’s had the pleasure to have met and worked with is an extremely fortunate continuation of what he enthusiastically hopes will be his life’s work.

[Return to Top](#)



Building Esprit De Corps with Medical Device Investigators

LCDR William Chang

U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) officers have many groups and organizations that they can be affiliated with. These could be based on their category, agency, geographic location, or rank. These affiliations could also be based on common interests, such as, athletics or cultural heritage. These groups help us with everything from career development and networking to community engagement. But there was one group that I wanted to bring together for a networking event: other officers with the same job description as myself. I work at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA). This is the division of the FDA that works in the field performing inspections at firms, ports, and mail facilities. ORA inspects and investigates all concerns with FDA-regulated products, including food, drugs, medical devices, biologics, and clinical trials. Specifically, I wanted to gather all the medical device investigators from ORA's Office of Medical Device and Radiological Health Operations for a casual, virtual networking event on January 6, 2023.



Some officers who took part in the meetings are (from L to R): CAPT Stephen Smith, CDR Thomas Peter, LCDR Mary Millner, LCDR William Chang, LT Colin Tack, and LT David Wilkinson

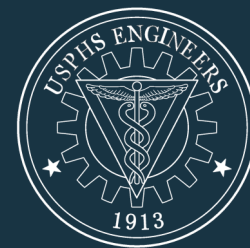
Medical device investigators have roles that span various levels from Junior, Full, Specialist, and National Expert titles. The titles are commensurate with knowledge and experience of the investigator and have corresponding General Schedule (GS) levels from GS-7 to GS-14. There are 13 PHS officers currently with the medical device investigator title, ranging from O-3 to O-6 ranks. Another interesting fact is that out of these 13 officers, eight are engineers. If other officers who once had this role are also included, then the number would expand to dozens of PHS officers. While this was just a casual meet up, the discussions at the first meeting included introductions, career paths, awards, and training. LT Colin Tack, one of the participants, said of the meeting, "It was a great idea to get together to talk about our common issues." CAPT Stephen Smith, an HSO category officer, who was also the highest ranking officer in attendance, imparted some wisdom to the group from his almost 40 years in uniformed service, reminding us that: "it's a marathon not a sprint." He also spoke of all the collateral duties that he has taken on to help his career, such as, leading the training cadre of medical device specialists.

We are all aware that the future of the PHS is in a transition to modernize. What that exactly means and how that will affect each officer will vary greatly. When officers come together to help each other out, we empower ourselves to become prepared for whatever we will face. That is the power of "Esprit De Corps." [Return to Top](#)



MACHINATORES VITAE

ENGINEER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2023



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
LT	Hom Sharma	CDC	Pittsburgh	PA
LT	Dawid Kierys	IHS	Tucson	AZ
LTJG	Taylor Strand	IHS	Minot	ND
LTJG	Jesse Samluk	Reserve	Wilmington	DE

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.

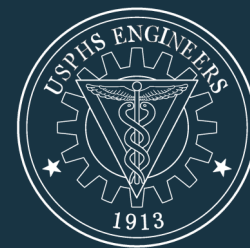
Rank	Name	OPDIV
CAPT	Tracy Gilchrist	Interior
CAPT	Michael Young	IHS
CAPT	Carl Cecere	DOD TMA
CAPT	Scott Snell	IHS
CAPT	Michael Stover	EPA
CAPT	Gordon Delchamps	IHS
CAPT	Jeffrey Reynolds	CDC
CDR	Kenneth Grant	IHS
CDR	Krista Pihlaja	IHS
CDR	Vivian Porter	CDC
LCDR	Mathew Hause	CDC
LCDR	James Hall	FDA

[Return to Top](#)



MACHINATORRES VITAE

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Dear Readers,

Machinatorres 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

Machinatorres Vitae is published twice annually and posted on the USPHS Engineer Professional Advisory Committee website. The deadline for submitting articles for the **Fall 2023** edition is **August 31, 2023**.

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not reflect official views of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or USPHS leadership.