

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-866-732-2096 and Passcode: 76074466

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Present	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Present	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Present	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Absent	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- LCDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1405 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- LCDR Tirado convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR) and LT Yvonne Santiago (HOAC Chair)LCDR Timothy Cunningham (JOAG Representative), CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith (Advisor), .CDR Hamet Toure' (BCOG Chair).

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2014 December meetings are complete, but will need to be approved via email by 2014 MOLC leadership. No meeting minutes were approved.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

**1. Chair's Report – LCDR Warner**

- MOLC is an opportunity for CMAGs to work together for the mission representing different minority groups in Commissioned Corps to the Surgeon General as well as promoting health and wellness.
- Voting member introductions

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Laird**

- Nominations for the 5 ANCOAC Awards are now open.

**3. APAOC Report - CDR Shen & LCDR Zhou**

- First APAOC group meeting on 1/21/2015
- Attended BCOG NOLA Mission presentation and CDR Shen encourages community service as a MOLC group.
- APAOC proposed to have a Meet and Greet opportunity with the new SG, and would like to seek advice from MOLC on the best way to proceed
- APAOC is going to volunteer at the Chinese New Year Celebration event sponsored by the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center. It will take place at the Lakeforest Mall in Gaithersburg Maryland during the week of 2/21/15 and 2/28/15. APAOC volunteers will staff a health booth to promote health information and the USPHS.
- APAOC Award and Recognition Subcommittee has announced the call for nomination for 2015 APAOC Awards. Deadline for nomination is February 20, 2015. Award recipients will receive their awards at the 2015 MOLC Award Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia this year.

**4. BCOAG Report - CDR Goodrich-Doctor**

- BCOAG had its 1st meeting of the year on January 15, 2015 and is busy planning for its 25th Anniversary Celebration which is scheduled for October 2015.
- BCOAG will be represented at the OBC-78 Open-House (2/5/15) and Graduation (2/13/15).
- CMAG leadership received an invitation from the BCOAG Chair, CDR Hamet Toure' to increase collaboration by assisting with planning the 2015 BCOAG NOLA Mission. The first planning meeting was held today (January 27, 2015) at 1300 EST. For more information you may contact the Chair of your CMAG or the BCOAG POC LT Yandace Brown at [yandace.brown@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:yandace.brown@hq.dhs.gov).
- BCOAG is calling for nominations for the annual BCOAG awards. Three award will be provided. Nominations are due March 6, 2015. More information regarding the award criteria will be distributed.

**5. HOAC Report - LT Santiago**

- HOAC intends a "mission" during Binational Border Health Week 10/2015
- Continuing conversations re: CLAS standards with Dr. Gracia @ OMH

- HOAC would like to invite VADM Novello to the MOLC Awards Ceremony this year and present the new HOAC Award in her name, but need date and time of ceremony. Kofi/Shen to f/u. Goodrich-Doctor is heading Awards Ceremony committee and called for CMAG participation.

#### **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah & Goodrich- Doctor**

- The COA Board had its first meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. CDR Ansah attended the meeting as a representative for MOLC.
- Planning is in full swing for the COF Symposium.
- The Board Chair expressed an interest presenting the COA Strategic Plan to MOLC at one of our meetings (MOLC leadership would need to send an invitation).
- CDR Goodrich-Doctor asked if there was any interest in sending an invitation – there was no reply from MOLC membership
- Reminder - Registration is opened for the COF Symposium and hotel rooms are quickly filling up.

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Zhou**

- Starting this year, MOLC liaison will also serve as the liaison between MOLC and the Office of Minority Health (OMH). OMH is very interested in identifying gaps and opportunities to promote minority health with the local communities. Therefore, if anyone would like to reach out to OMH for help with their minority health project/initiative, please bring it to our attentions.
- We had a t-con with CAPT Samuel Wu from OMH earlier this month and he has graciously agreed to be the POC for OMH. CAPT Wu has sent us 2 announcements to share with MOLC and all CMAGs: White House Summit on AAPIs (May 12) and conference call with Dr. Biden on Wednesday, January 28
- We are considering opportunities for OMH and MOLC to work together during each ethnic group's heritage month celebration. Please let LCDR Zhou know the POC from each CMAG so Liaisons can help coordinate.

#### **7. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham**

- The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) would like to announce our Job Shadowing Program. It is open to junior/senior officers of all categories. Participants have the opportunity to spend a day with a senior officer working in a career field of interest. For applications, please contact [JOAGjobshadowing@gmail.com](mailto:JOAGjobshadowing@gmail.com)
- JOAG is requesting nominations for two awards to be presented at the annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from May 18-21, 2015. Nominations are due to the appropriate JOAG Award Lead no later than COB February 13, 2015.
- The JOAG Excellence Award recognizes a non-voting junior officer at the rank of O-4 or below in the USPHS Commissioned Corps, who is an active participant of JOAG, for demonstrating outstanding, dedicated effort, leadership ability, and commitment to JOAG through active committee participation. Self-nominations welcome. Nominations

or questions regarding the JOAG Excellence Award contact LT Kemi Asante at email: [kemi.asante@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kemi.asante@fda.hhs.gov) or phone: 301-796-7425.

- The JOAG Junior Officer of the Year Award recognizes an active duty junior officer at the rank of O-4 or below in the USPHS Commissioned Corps who has made a significant contribution to the overall mission of the USPHS. Self-nominations welcome. Nominations or questions regarding the Junior Officer of the Year Award contact LCDR Christopher Egelebo at email: [christopher.egelebo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:christopher.egelebo@fda.hhs.gov) or phone: 240-402-8625.
- The next JOAG General Member Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2015 from 1300-1500 EST. The dial-in-number is 626-677-3000, access code: 7319605#.

#### **8. DCCPR/OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Lau**

- The 19<sup>th</sup> US Surgeon General, VADM Vivek Murthy; was introduced. He hopes to be able to visit 100% of all Corps Officers
- An IT PAC Charter has been forwarded to DCCPR for review
- New CCMIS Website is up; provides accurate up to date information
- COERS Recently closed
  - 96% completed online
  - 1% completed on paper
  - 3% outstanding or working on getting it completed
- Next OBC is 01-13 FEB 2015 ; Open house is 15 FEB; Graduation 13 FEB

#### **PHS Ebola Response**

- Team 3 will be enroute to Monrovia, Liberia; they will also be doing a DMAT trial
- Guinea Mission – 8-10 officers will be there starting first week of February; CC officers have been asked to augment the CDC mission for their expertise; small teams will be there over the course of the next 6 months; must be French speaking
- We have established a footprint in terms of public infrastructure building and public health capacity; we are involved in the spending plan of the overall Ebola Budget
- Deployed Officers will be receiving special pay and hazardous duty pay; see guidance put forth
- Officers deployed domestically will also be recognized
- The PHS Ebola Response was a historic mission
- RADM Lushniak will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commanding Officer in Liberia and will be departing 22 JAN
- Team 4 tentatively will be the last team and the mission is anticipated to be completed on or about 01 MAY 2015;
- Support of the mission is transitioning over from DoD to PAE, a USAID contractor – currently in progress
- RADM Giberson will be returning to Liberia for the close out and hand over of the MMU; Exit strategy discussions currently taking place.

- Schools in Liberia are opening back up in February; several hospitals are opening back up also
- There are plans to recognize all officers who deployed from CDC and NIH also
- The Commissioned Corps ensures the Health Security of our country
- Callout to Leadership to make sure all involved in the Ebola Response are properly recognized
- FDA was the largest responder; BOP was second
- Reintegration Specialists- assisted officers who returned from deployment with reintegration back to home and work life; a very successful program. Led by the SAT Teams

○ **Old/Unfinished Business –**

○ **New Business –**

- MOLC Website Subcommittee proposed: purpose would be to update all information on website. One person representing each CMAG is requested to volunteer for the subcommittee. MOLC Liaison in charge of updating website per Bylaws. The proposal to develop this website will be brought to each CMAG for input and voted on at the next MOLC meeting
- MOLC Awards Ceremony: CDR Goodrich-Doctor heading Awards Subcommittee and looking for volunteers.
- Sale of PHS merchandise: RADM Mishoe stated she thought something was in the pipeline regarding guidance generated for CMAG's and PACs. CDR Collins was contacted by HOAC and RADM Mishoe last year on this topic. RADM Mishoe will f/u.
- 2015 Vision: LCDR Warner would like to increase CMAG joint operations this year.

○ **Adjournment - LCDR Warner**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1524 hours EST (by LCDR Warner).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1400-1600 EST.

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Date/Time: Tuesday, February 24th, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: (712) 775-7031 and Passcode: 264639495#

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Present	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Present	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Absent*	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Present	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Absent	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Absent	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- LCDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1402 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- LCDR Tirado convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR) Timothy Cunningham (JOAG Representative), Kevin Bates (alternate for LCDR Zhou), Charlene Maddox (alternate for CDR Ansah)

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 January meeting are complete and were approved.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

**1. Chair's Report – LCDR Warner**

- Report on SG Leadership meeting: Introductions with SG leadership and staff. SG focus on vaccinations and health disparities
- MOLC invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> annual PHS day. CDR Ansah to represent MOLC.

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - LCDR Warner**

- Reviewing ANCOAC Awards, awaiting more submissions
- Men's health initiative/health questionnaire being developed.
- Grant initiative for Native Americans/Alaskan natives
- Looking for guidance on the selling of CMAG merchandise.

**3. APAOC Report - LCDR Zhou**

- No APAOC general meeting for the month of February.
- APAOC organized a training and education session on February 19, 2015, with the topic on VA benefits.
- APAOC organized a community outreach during 2015 Lunar New Year Celebration at the Lake Forest Mall in Gaithersburg, MD, on Sunday 2/22. There will be other outreach events on Saturday, 2/28, and Sunday, 3/1.
- MOLC Awards Ceremony Luncheon Planning Subcommittee is still considering inviting the SG to speak at the event. MOLC liaison can help with drafting the invitation letter and completing the invitation request form once given more specific details. APAOC also proposes that each CMAG to invite senior officers from its own CMAG to be special guests to attend and or present the MOLC awards.

**4. BCOAG Report - CDR Goodrich-Doctor**

- BCOAG held our annual mini-retreat on Feb. 12, 2015. The mini-retreat provides the opportunity for standing committee, ad-hoc committee and liaisons to share their proposed goals and budget requests with the general membership. This mini-retreat was started to increase transparency and to provide the general membership with an opportunity to provide feedback and input into planning overall BCOAG activities.
- As a reminder, BCOAG is calling for nominations for our annual awards. CMAGs will receive information about the awards including the award criteria. All nomination are due by March 6, 2015 (extended to March 13, 2015).
- BCOAG is still seeking volunteers for the HOAC/BCOAG joint activity. BCOAG solicited volunteers from PsyPAG and SWPAG with the hope of receiving volunteers soon.

**5. HOAC Report – LCDR Tirado**

- RedDog newsletter written with HOAC input is now out.

**6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

- Invitation extended to COA Board chair to present COA Strategic Plan to MOLC during our April meeting. Unfortunately, due to a previous work engagement, she's not able to present that day. MOLC leadership will work to identify alternate dates for this presentation.
- **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Zhou** After further discussion with CAPT Samuel Wu from OMH, we've learned that we will not be able to coordinate with OMH for each ethnic group's heritage month celebration.
- We need to solicit feedback from all CMAGs re what kind of project/event that MOLC wants to do with OMH. If we want to have a t-con or a meeting with OMH, we need to have a specific agenda.
- LCDRs Eric Zhou and Trang Tran held a meeting with CDR Kun Shen, the past MOLC chair, to discuss the out-of date information on the website and the process on updating the website. The consensus is that we should focus our effort on updating information for this year, not the previous years. MOLC is seeking one representative from each CMAG to join the MOLC Website Subcommittee. The major responsibilities of the team members are to review the MOLC website, identify out-of-date information on its own CMAG, and provide updated information to MOLC liaison for posting. CDR Ryan Nguyen from APAOC and LCDR Karina Aguilar from HOAC have volunteered to join the MOLC Website Subcommittee. For AIANCOAC and BCOAG, please let LCDRs Eric Zhou ([zhou@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:zhou@niaid.nih.gov)) and Trang Tran ([trang.tran@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:trang.tran@fda.hhs.gov)) know the representative of your CMAG by COB March 1, 2015.

#### **8. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham**

- The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) would like to announce our Peer-to-Peer Networking Program. JOAG is seeking new and experienced officers to join this exciting program.
  - a. This is an opportunity to pair junior officers with less than 2 years of experience with other junior officers who have 2+ years of experience in the Commissioned Corps. We are currently seeking both new and experienced officers for this new program. This opportunity allows junior officers to feel comfortable speaking with peer level officers, promotes camaraderie, and facilitates information exchange.
  - b. Experienced officers will have the opportunity to assist new officers as they begin their new PHS careers. Experienced officers will provide new officers timely, factual advice and lessons learned from their first years in the PHS.
  - c. Please contact LT Jesus Reyna at [Jesus.Reyna@HHS.gov](mailto:Jesus.Reyna@HHS.gov) and LT Megan Hayden at [Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Hayden@cms.hhs.gov) for more information.
- The next JOAG Journeyman Speaker Series is scheduled for March 13, 2015 at 1300-1400 EDT. Phone number: 1-860-970-0300. Passcode: 6904646.



## **9. DCCPR/OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Lau**

### **DCCPR Report**

US Surgeon General VADM Vivek Murthy has visited 19 cities over the last several weeks and has had the opportunity to meet about 250 officers or so. The roadshow continues with Los Angeles, Seattle, and Salt Lake City during March. Also an IHS visit in Albuquerque

Key points brought up by officers to VADM Murthy:

1. How can we enable officers to get together more
2. Officers would like to be engaged in their communities; looking for good opportunities
3. How to help the world understand the USPHS.

Call to Action on Walking – around April/early May

Call to Action on E-cigarettes – within next 15 months

Currently there are 99 – 1662s pending; 160 applicants boarded and in need of jobs. Liaisons and leadership requested to assist

01 JAN 16 is the GO LIVE date for transfer of payroll and leave to the Direct Access system

IT Charter is currently a draft being worked on and will be submitted up for approval

CPO Board – In final stages of review and approval for 2016 Precepts and Benchmarks

### **Readiness Report**

#### **USPHS Ebola Mission:**

Returning teams will have 3 day session for decompression at the HIG (Holiday Inn Gaithersburg)

Some will be staying 21 days;

Team 3 is currently in Liberia ready to depart around 20 MAR

Team 4 will close out the mission; RADM Giberson will return to Liberia to close it out

Need clinical providers for MMU Team 4

MMU Team 1 – Post 60 days return from deployment

MMU Team 2 – Activity Monitoring Period after return home

MMU Team 3 – In Field/Liberia

MMU Team 4 – Being Rostered

CDC has 3 separate missions supporting them; smaller teams of SMEs will continue

NIH also has a mission

Guinea mission – 6 week mission

#### **Readiness Statistics:**

Top 3 Categories: 91.9% Dietitians; 92.5% Dentists; 93.9% Therapists

#### **Upcoming Deployments:**

- State of the Union Address

- IHS Pine Ridge Mission to Pine Ridge - MHT #5 covering. Tentatively will be a 30 day mission
- Visit by the Pope => Session with Congress; UN General Assembly – Probably 2-3 missions from this visit; RIST will cover; RDF and CAP Teams for session with Congress

APFT Discussion: All will be required to do APFT in July 2015; no more President's Challenge; Adding Plank and other additional options; goal is to not make it harder but to instead provide more option in meeting APFT requirements

- **Old/Unfinished Business –**

- **New Business –**

- Will be going back to CDR Shen's call in number with his approval **1-866-732-2096** and **Passcode: 76074466**, as the toll number is difficult for many.

- **Adjournment - LCDR Warner**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1459 hours EST (by LCDR Warner).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; March 24th, 1400-1600 EST.

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\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- LCDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1402 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Bonilla convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR) Timothy Cunningham (JOAG Representative), Kevin Bates (alternate for CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor), CDR Aviles-Mendoza (alternate LCDR Tirado).

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 February meeting are complete and were approved.

## ○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

### **1. Chair's Report – LCDR Warner**

- Donations will be needed from each CMAG to support Symposium
- MOLC invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> annual PHS day. CDR Ansah to represent MOLC.

### **2. AI/ANCOAC Report - LCDR Warner**

- Nominations for ANCOAC Awards completed and selections made.
- Request \$200 and 2 coins from each CMAG to support Symposium Awards.

### **3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran**

- APAOC had the executive general meeting on March 18, 2015.
- The Career Development subcommittee has re-opened the Mentorship Program.
- APAOC is currently revising the bylaws and SOPs for each subcommittee.
- The migration of APAOC website to a new PHS server has been completed. The website is now functional for any updates.
- The APAOC Education & Training subcommittee is organizing the upcoming training topic on retirement on April 15. Please be on the lookout for the announcement.
- APAOC Public Relations subcommittee has successfully organized the community outreach events during the Lunar New Year Celebration at the Lake Forest Mall on 2/22, 2/28, and 3/1. This subcommittee plans to do more outreach activities during the PHS Awareness Day at White Oak, the Commissioned Corps Awareness Day at CDC, and other special events.
- APAOC is planning to invite Rear Admirals (retired) Samuel Lin and Kenneth Moritsugu to MOLC Awards Ceremony to present the APAOC awards.
- APAOC needs some clarification on the request of \$200 donation for the MOLC Awards Ceremony.

### **4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah**

BCOAG and its committees continue to be an invaluable resource to its members by providing professional and career development and community services opportunities.

1. Planning for BCOAG's 25th Anniversary Celebration continues in full swing MOLC.
2. BCOAG Room Share Program for 2015 USPHS Training and Scientific Symposium. The 2015 USPHS Training and Scientific Symposium is right around the corner and BCOAG is soliciting volunteers that would like to participate in the BCOAG Room Share Program. Hotel rooms are sold out. If you have a hotel room or reside in the ATL area and would like to share a room with a junior officer please let us know. For officers staying in a hotel room, taking advantage of this opportunity would help offset your hotel costs.

Note: Officers on official government travel with their room paid by a travel order cannot benefit financially from sharing a room. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact CDR Glendolynn Johnson at [Glendolynn.johnson@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Glendolynn.johnson@fda.hhs.gov) and LCDR Karen Charles at [Karen.charles@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.charles@cms.hhs.gov)

3. BCOAG's Health Disparity Committee Presents: (i) Diversity among Blacks in the United States: Implications for Health Data Collections and Reporting (on April 14, 2015; 1-2 pm, at FDA Campus White Oak, Building 2, Room 2047 East Side).

[\*Non-FDA employees who wish to attend, please RSVP using the following link:  
[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0E4DA5AE2BA20-aprilminority](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0E4DA5AE2BA20-aprilminority)

For additional information, please contact Committee Chair, CDR Latonia Ford ([Latonia.Ford@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Latonia.Ford@fda.hhs.gov)) or Co-Chair, CDR Kimberly Rains ([Kimberly.Rains@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Rains@fda.hhs.gov))\*]

4. BCOAG Health Disparities Celebrates National Nutrition Month (March 2015) -- This month the Health Disparities Committee would like to provide Officers with the following consumer friendly health fact sheets that can be disseminated to patients and caregivers. Reference:

[www.nationalnutritionmonth.org](http://www.nationalnutritionmonth.org).

5. BCOAG is pleased to again offer its Awards Review Program (ARP) in 2015 under the leadership of the BCOAG Awards Committee and the BCOAG Career and Professional Development Committee. The purpose of the ARP is to provide valuable input to help strengthen draft award narratives for PHS awards.

6. Finally, the 2015 BCOAG NOLA Mission will be Monday, September 7 – Saturday, September 12, 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana. And a Planning Team is currently formulating.

7. BCOAG's OBC Outreach Team will be represented at the April 2015 OBC Open House & Graduation.

## **5. HOAC Report – CDR Bonilla & CDR Aviles-Mendoza**

1. VADM Antonia C. Novello accepted invitation to be the keynote speaker at the MOLC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Ceremony Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, at 0700.
2. Dr. Nadine Gracia (OMH) will also be presenting the National CLAS Standards during one of the breakout sessions on May 21st so please keep an eye for her on the Agenda.
3. HOAC would like to also plan a social gathering with any interested CMAGs during the Symposium.
4. 1<sup>st</sup> HOAC Newsletter will be out in April
5. Health Education Series: Spring and Fall sessions. Looking for topic suggestions and or suggestions for speakers based on the SG list of priorities or any other topics of interest.
6. Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Noon to 5pm. HOAC in partnership with Ventanillas de Salud and other local organizations in Atlanta will be hosting a Health Fair at Plaza Fiesta. They will be offering bp and glucose screenings and Northside Hospitals will be offering their clinicians for breast cancer screenings. Univision will be covering the event. LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS (Don't have to stay all day).
7. Ebola Deployment Survey: HOAC, working in conjunction with the other CMAGS would like to develop a survey that details the needs assessment (pre, during and post deployment). They will be hosting small group discussions and one-on-one interviews with deployed officers. HOAC is looking for CMAG input or involvement (see "HOAC Ebola Deployment Needs Assessment Proposal"). If interested in being part of the Ebola Survey Working group, contact Vlad Tirado at [VTirado@bop.gov](mailto:VTirado@bop.gov) or Evelyn Roderiguez at [Eyr6@cdc.gov](mailto:Eyr6@cdc.gov)
8. Aviles- Mendoza states: Similar mission to NOLA in commission with Border health in Month of October
9. LT Santiago deployed to Reddog now. Opportunity for MOLC.

**6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**  
**Report to the COA and COF Boards**  
**Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach and Other Activities 2 – 13 March 2015**

2 March – Following a vote by the COA Executive Committee, Jim informed the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health that COA was ending its arrangement whereby COA members could gain access to Public Health Reports through the COA website. Eliminating this arrangement will save COA \$20,000 per year.

- John spoke with organizers of the Cadet Nurse Corps Celebration, which will be held on May 2 at the Bethesda North Marriott and Conference Center

3 March – Judy and Jim attended a Pentagon meeting organized by the Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Navy. The purpose of the meeting, which included members of the Ad Hoc Coalition on DoD and Tobacco as well as outside academic and medical experts, was to explore ways in which the Navy Department could curb tobacco use among its uniformed members

- Jim drafted a “Dear Colleague” letter to assist the staffers for the new Congressional Public Health Caucus as they reach out to House members and invite them to join the caucus

- John drafted copy for the new COA website. This will be an ongoing project until the site is launched

4 March – Jim met with VADM (Ret.) Mike Cowan, Executive Director of AMSUS and with his deputy, John Class, to discuss the ways in which the COF functions. The meeting was arranged by AMSUS.

- John, and Jim met with Acting Assistant Secretary for Health Karen DeSalvo, VADM Vivek Murthy, and RADM Scott Giberson. On the agenda were a discussion of COA and how it works on behalf of the commissioned corps, attempts to secure funding for OSG, the Congressional Public Health Caucus, and the Public Health Leadership Award to be given to Sen. Richard Durbin.

6 March: - John released the call for applications for the 2015 Dependent Scholarship Program

6-8 March – Jim flew to Tulsa, OK, where he was the speaker at a dining-out of the Oklahoma branches of COA. He discussed the COA Strategic Plan, the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, and what COA has been doing for them lately. He also asked COA members at the dining-out to recruit their fellow PHS officers who are not members of COA.

9 March – John had a discussion with representatives of several corporations COA is soliciting to become financial sponsors of COA and the symposium

- John attended a weekly call with organizers of the Leadership pre-conference session on May 17. All speakers have been confirmed for the Leadership session. It is limited to 200 people, 100 junior and 100 senior officers.

10 March – Judy and Jim met with Kristen O’Neill, health legislative assistant to Rep. Gene Green (D-TX) to discuss the Congressional Public Health Caucus

- John released a request for Silent Auction items. The Silent Auction will occur during the Anchor and Caduceus Dinner on May 18.

11 March – Judy and other members of the Military Coalition’s Health Care Committee met for more than two hours with officials of the Defense Health Agency (DHA). In the wake of withering criticism of TRICARE – on grounds of access, poor customer service, and questionable quality of care in certain areas – DHA is rolling out new initiatives to increase transparency and improve service across the system. DHA has created a focus group to review and comment on these developments. Judy will represent COA in this group. In addition, COA and NMFA have asked DHA to provide a detailed progress report on efforts launched last summer to improve pediatric care.

- John sent to the staffers of the co-chairs of the Congressional Public Health Caucus (CPHC) a draft of what a CPHC website could look like. We are proposing to keep the website simple in the

beginning, with the option of adding links and videos later. We were informed that the papers setting up the CPHC were filed with the House Clerk today.

12 March – Judy, John, and Jim attended the ceremony in which CAPT Sara Newman presented the first ever COA Public Health Leadership Award to Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL). The Press Release COA sent out after the ceremony is attached. Also present for the award ceremony were RADM (ret.) Dick Bertin and former COA Board Chair CAPT Nita Sood.

- Judy, Jim, and John met with staffers for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies to discuss the possibility of putting language into the FY 16 appropriations bill directing that funds be provided to the Office of the Surgeon General. The letter they presented to the Appropriations Committee staffers is attached.

- John chaired a monthly meeting of the TMC Guard and Reserve Committee

13 March – Jim participated in the monthly call of the COA Local Branch Committee

Throughout this period Teresa, Malissa, and Donna worked assiduously to learn about and test the new data base that COA will be installing shortly. It should be much more user friendly than the current one and will make it easier for COA members to register for the annual symposium and to pay their dues.

PLEASE NOTE: Jim will be going into Johns Hopkins Hospital on 16 March for an operation to repair a post-surgical hernia that developed after he had his gallbladder removed in 2013. He is expected to be out for 3-6 weeks, though he expects to be working from home after the first two weeks or so.

## **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- LCDR Tran is working with CAPT Samuel Wu to set up a webinar for OMH to provide an introduction about the office. This webinar will be scheduled for some time in April.
- The current proposed event name is “Learning About Health Disparities: An Introduction to the Office of Minority Health”.
- Requested key messages: introduction to OMH and exploring opportunities for Commissioned Corps officers to engage in the promotion of health and well-being of minority population.
- This webinar is tentatively set for duration of 1 hour (including 30 minutes for introductions and Q&A).
- Some questions for MOLC voting members to consider:
  - o Who should be invited to the webinar? What is the expected audience size?
  - o Should MOLC chair be giving the introduction for the webinar?

## **8. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham**

The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) would like to announce a volunteer opportunity to sort and pack food donations to serve hungry and underserved individuals/families on Saturday, March 28, 2015. This volunteer event will take place from 0845 to 1200 EDT at the warehouse of the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) in Washington, D.C. Volunteers must be comfortable standing for up to three hours and lifting up to 35 pounds. This project is limited to 20 volunteers. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact LT Jennifer Clements at 480-600-0941 or [jennypieters@hotmail.com](mailto:jennypieters@hotmail.com).

In preparation for the upcoming 2015 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, JOAG is seeking junior officers (O-4 and below) to serve as an Aide-de-Camp to a flag officer or dignitary while attending the Symposium. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact LCDR Chandra Jolley at [CJolley@hrsa.gov](mailto:CJolley@hrsa.gov) and LT Taran Pierce at [bre3@cdc.gov](mailto:bre3@cdc.gov) by Thursday, April 30, 2015.

## 9. DCCPR/OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Lau

### DCCPR Report/Readiness and Deployment Operations Group (RedDOG)

- RADM Lushniak – 6 week deployment to Liberia was the highlight of his entire career. Only US Government Entity providing care; US Army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne stated they were there to support the USPHS
- The main strategic move in the fight against Ebola was the establishment of the MMU
- Chief of Staff CAPT Robert DeMartino will be transitioning to DCCPR

CAPT Helgeson:

- Transition to Regular Corps: 2013 EIS Class, 2014 Pharmacy Residency Class, Ready Reserve
- HSO CPO Re-announcement coming out shortly
- Promotion boards are ongoing
- Recruitment Branch Call Center – will be insourced now; preparing for a soft opening this weekend
- APFT Standards start 01 JULY; no more President's Challenge

CAPT Glabach/CAPT Shih:

- PSI is quite busy – Transforming payroll to Direct Access
- Leave will be requested and accessed thru Direct Access
- Pay will be twice a month/bi-weekly
- GO Live will be JAN 01, 2016 => Leave Management, Pay, and Personnel Action (no more paper orders)
- CAPT Glabach will be transitioning to HRSA

COA (USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium) is coming up. SG and DSG will be in attendance

RADM Lushniak will be participating in the RAGBRAI 19-26 JUL 2015– Ride across Iowa; all are encouraged to participate <http://ragbrai.com/>

### Readiness Report

#### Readiness/Deployments:

- Since SEPT 09, 2014 signed activation; winding down MMU mission.
- MMU Team 4 just deployed last night 17 MAR 2015 and has landed
- Team 4's main mission will be more capacity building
- Some team members have gone to Sierra Leone to serve as SMEs to CDC
- Liberia – past 21 days has been Ebola free; in early April it will be 42 days
- Exit Strategy => wheels up May 01 and return May 01



- We still have CDC in Guinea and Sierra Leone
- RADM Giberson will head out Mid-April to close out the mission
- Ebola support ongoing CONUS and OCONUS
- Reintegration activities currently ongoing for the returned MMU Teams
- MHT #5 – Pine Ridge Mental Health Deployment to IHS/Currently on 3<sup>rd</sup> Rotation; 6<sup>th</sup> week of activity
- CAP Teams have been deployed 6 times in 6 weeks
- Pope Francis will be visiting => USPHS will be supporting activities at UN General Assembly, Philadelphia, and Congress (NIST and RIST will support)
- Tropical Cyclone PAM – Vanuatu was devastated
- Tropical Storm Bobby – passed 25 miles off the coast of Guam
- Hurricane Season right around the corner
- Next Readiness Run is 01 APR 2015

### **CDC Ebola Response Volunteers**

Are you interested in supporting CDC's Ebola Response in either Employee Active Monitoring or Domestic Clinical Inquiries. An overview of both positions is below. These positions are based in the CDC Emergency Operations Center in Atlanta, GA. Officers not based in Atlanta are still encouraged to express their interest as funds are available to cover the costs associated with traveling officers into Atlanta. The CDC Ebola Response is looking for individuals that can commit up to and preferably over 30 days. Interested officers can email Maleeka Glover [mhg6@cdc.gov](mailto:mhg6@cdc.gov)

#### Clinician, Domestic Clinical Inquiries

- Respond to calls from health departments and clinicians about persons under investigation for Ebola in the United States
- Assess clinical status and epidemiological risk factors and coordinate any CDC response that may be warranted (e.g., Ebola testing, infection control precautions, clinical workup, movement and monitoring guidance, etc.)
- Document clinical summaries and notify CDC and HHS leadership when needed
- Work a mixture of day/evening/night shifts (4-6 shifts per week)

#### CDC Employee Active Monitoring

- Contact and interview CDC employees returning from Ebola assignments in Ebola-affected countries to initiate and enroll in 21-day active monitoring system
- Daily monitoring of IMS Employee Active Monitoring email inbox to record temperatures (am/pm) and reported symptoms
- Actively follow-up with employees who do not report daily to the email inbox
- If employee reports increase in temperature or listed symptom, report to CDC Employee Active Monitoring team lead for immediate follow-up

Daily monitoring and interview activities also occur on weekends and holidays, but only for a few hours

(can be done from home with approval from CDC Employee Active Monitoring team lead)

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Zhou**

The subcommittee includes:

Lead: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaison.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Co-Chair: LCDR James Warner.

The first monthly team meeting was held on March 19, 2015, below were the team's proposals for MOLC's approval.

1. "Home page": Provide links to 4 CMAGs' home page, rearrange/update the pictures with legends, and provide links to CMAG's pictures.
2. "About": Provide an updated Demographics report. Currently, it is 2011
3. "Chair": Provide MOLC chairs' message, pictures, and biographies. Update information under "Past Chairs", currently it was 2012.
4. "Operation": Will post current Bylaws, check whether the Charter (2012) needs update.
5. "Contact": change to "Current MOLC Voting Members", and update information of current MOLC Voting Members.
6. "Awards": Update information on past MOLC awards. There was only one award listed in 2006.
7. "Meetings and Events": Clarification needed on what meetings and events should be listed. MOLC/CMAG?
8. "Agenda and Minutes": Meeting minutes will be posted quarterly.
9. Clarification on the process of updating the website--can one subcommittee be authorized to be a webmaster to update the information, or the information need to be submitted to PHS HQ for posting.

### **2. MOLC Awards Ceremony – CDR Kofi**

- COF agreed to pay cost for continental breakfast and seating if MOLC provides \$800 (the remaining costs for 80 attendees). They are still trying to reach out to donors.
- A proposal was made by CDR Kofi and seconded by LCDR Warner for each CMAG to donate \$200 and 2 coins in support of the MOLC Awards Ceremony. This request was approved with 8 yays- no nays.
- A proposal was made by CDR Kofi and seconded by LCDR Warner for MOLC to approve and \$85 gift to the keynote speaker. The proposal was approved with 8 yays, no nays.
- A comment was made by CDR Kofi that there is protocol for the keynote speaker in that the SG should be given "first dibs" on being keynote speaker.

- **Old/Unfinished Business –**

- **New Business –**

- Will be going back to CDR Shen's call in number with his approval **1-866-732-2096** and **Passcode: 76074466**, as the toll number is difficult for many. **Activation code is 86856186**

- **Adjournment - LCDR Warner**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1454 hours EST (by LCDR Warner).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; April 28th, 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-866-732-2096 and Passcode: 76074466

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Absent	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Present	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Absent	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- CDR Laird, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1403 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Tirado convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR) Timothy Cunningham (JOAG Representative), CAPT Karen Sicard, DCCPR Policy Director (at RADM Mishoe's request).

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 March meeting are complete and were approved with corrections.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

**1. Chair's Report – CDR Warner**

- Donations will be needed from each CMAG to support Symposium. Monetary donations are needed ASAP
- MOLC invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> annual PHS day on 4/7/2015. CDR Shen attended and stated many officers were present and ADM Giberson gave a report on the Ebola and Monrovia missions. CDR Ansah also attended and manned MOLC booth and received interest from local University student re: PHS and has followed up with this student.
- Talk entitled, "Building the Bridge" regarding professional development and mentorship will be given on 5/6/2015. CDR Ansah to represent MOLC and give a short presentation on MOLC at this talk.

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Laird**

- Nominations for ANCOAC Awards completed and selections made.

**3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran**

- APAOC did not have the executive general meeting in April.
- APAOC has agreed to donate \$200 and 2 coins for the MOLC awards ceremony.
- APAOC has selected the recipients for the three APAOC awards. CDR Jerry Zee is the recipient of the APAOC CAPT Allan Lock Award. CAPT John Hariadi is the recipient of the APAOC RADM Samuel Lin Award. LCDR Qiao Bobo is the recipient of the APAOC RADM Kenneth Moritsugu Award.
- The APAOC Education & Training subcommittee organized the training topic on retirement on April 15.
- The updated Bylaws will be reviewed and submitted for approval to APAOC Chair on July 15, 2015.
- All subcommittee SOPs will be finalized by August 2015.
- All subcommittee strategic plans are still being completed. Once complete, a performance tracking dashboard will be created to better track midyear and end-of-year reporting.

**4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah & Goodrich-Doctor**

- A. During National Minority Health Month in April, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) joins with its partners in raising public awareness about health and health care disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minorities and efforts to advance health equity.

The theme for National Minority Health Month 2015 is "30 Years of Advancing Health Equity - The Heckler Report: A Force for Ending Health Disparities in America." This theme commemorates the U.S. Department of HHS efforts towards eliminating health disparities

among racial and ethnic minorities that were mobilized by the findings from the Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health (Heckler Report). This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health, released in 1985 under the leadership of former HHS Secretary Margaret Heckler.

**DETAILS:** The Communications and Public Relations Committee hosted the Rescheduled Black History Month Program at FDA on Thursday, April 16, 2015. Our distinguished speakers, Captain (Ret) Hilda Douglas, Captain Leslie Golson, and Captain George Lyght discussed the Life, Legacy, and Leadership of Black Commissioned Corps Officers.

**LINK:** Please follow this link to access the recorded program:

<https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/p2dfgttig13/>.

- B. In November 2007, a team of officers from the Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group (BCOAG) completed an outreach mission in New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) to help rebuild areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Isaac. New Orleans was one of the hardest hit regions along the Gulf Coast - especially in the Lower Ninth Ward, an area which suffered tremendous damage and where some of the city's poorest residents live. Since November 2007, BCOAG has made an annual commitment to continue outreach missions to serve the New Orleans community.

**WHERE:** New Orleans, Louisiana and may include activities in the surrounding areas within Louisiana.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 7, 2015 – Saturday, September 12, 2015

**WHY:** To serve and enrich the New Orleans community through community service activities and increase awareness of the USPHS with area colleges and universities through informational sessions.

**DETAILS:** Officers will be responsible for their own travel and lodging. The Planning Team will provide flight and lodging information, but all volunteers are responsible for any financial costs and for making their own travel arrangements. Proposed activities include community service, health education, and informational sessions at various area colleges, universities and may also include some social events for volunteers.

All USPHS officers are welcome to participate in the NOLA mission, including families and friends. If you are interested in the NOLA mission, please let us know of your interest in this mission opportunity! Officers may additionally volunteer to help with planning of the NOLA mission activities even if they are not able to attend.

If you are interested in the NOLA mission, please let us know of your general interest in this mission opportunity. We appreciate your time and hope that you will complete this brief questionnaire to assist the planning committee in preparing for the upcoming mission. This questionnaire contains 10 questions and will take approximately two to three minutes to

complete.

Please click the following link to access the questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MBQNJ88>

For more information about the BCOAG NOLA Mission or to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact: LCDR David Wright, [ybq2@cdc.gov](mailto:ybq2@cdc.gov) or LT Yandace Brown, [Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov)

## **5. HOAC Report – CDR Bonilla**

1. HOAC CDR Aviles-Mendoza suggests convening Awards Subcommittee planning to the fall preceding the Awards Ceremony instead of January the year of the Ceremony. This would allow more careful and unrushed planning.
2. HOAC has selected HOAC Awardees: Juan Carlos Finlay for Career Dedication to CAPT Claritsa Malave, for Significant Achievement to LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange and Dr. Nadine Gracia. The VADM Richard Carmona Award to CDR Martha S. Fermin. The VADM Antonia C. Novello Award to LCDR Michelle Sandoval.
3. HOAC has voted yay on \$200 donation and 2 coins. The \$200 was transferred through COF on April 24<sup>th</sup>2015 by the HOAC Treasurer.
4. 1<sup>st</sup> HOAC Newsletter is out (April 2015 version) and shared with MOLC.

## **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

13 April- Using the new COA database system, Donna provided to COA Board Chair Sara Newman, Board member Dick Bertin, and COA Membership Chair Blakeley Fitzpatrick information on COA renewals and non-renewals among officers who had been given complimentary memberships during FY 14. She will do the same for FY 15 once this fiscal year closes. The idea is to reach out to these non-renewing officers, determine why they did not renew their COA membership, and ask them to consider renewal.

14 April- Jim attended the MOAA Congressional Leadership awards reception in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Tuesday evening

- Judy participated in a two-hour conference call with Defense Health Agency officials. The call responded to requests from COA and other advocates for progress reports on four issues: diagnostic tests, especially non-invasive prenatal tests, which had been covered by TRICARE for years and then dropped without explanation; pediatric care that does not align with consensus guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics; delayed coverage of lactation support services for mothers of premature infants, and problems in the pharmacy compounding industry.

15 April – John and Jim attended the COA Board meeting at COA headquarters, and Teresa and Judy participated via telephone

16 April – Judy, John, and Jim participated in the monthly call of the COA Legislation & Benefits Committee

- John and Jim met with Mike Terry, new Foundation board member and son of former Surgeon General Luther Terry

17 April – Jim attended the PHS OBC graduation and presented each graduate with a copy of the COF-sponsored Leadership and Protocol book

22 April – John and Jim attended the public swearing-in of Surgeon General Vivek Murthy at Fort Myer, VA

23 April – COA staff hosted two members of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) communications team. They facilitate regular meetings between DHA officials and association CEOs, and also between DHA officials and members of The Military Coalition's Health Care Committee. The lunch meeting, arranged by Judy, offered an opportunity for a candid discussion of TRICARE issues that concern PHS.

- The Coalition for Health Funding, of which COA is a member, included the following (which we drafted) in its daily newsletter:

**Public Health Caucus Info...** We previously reported on the recent creation of a Congressional Public Health Caucus in the United States House of Representatives, the co-chairs of which are Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) and Rep. Gene Green (D-TX). The caucus was established in part to provide an opportunity for groups like those in our membership to have a venue through which to reach out and help educate Members and staff on public health issues. If you have a proposal for a Hill event of an educational nature involving public health, you might consider asking the Caucus to sponsor it. The appropriate staffers are Julia Angelotti for Rep. Wittman ([julia.angelotti@mail.house.gov](mailto:julia.angelotti@mail.house.gov)) and Kristen O'Neill for Rep. Green ([kristen.oneill@mail.house.gov](mailto:kristen.oneill@mail.house.gov)). Please give them enough time to consider your request and to secure a room for you if the Caucus approves of your idea.

24 April – Judy and Jim met with two of Sen. Richard Durbin's staff to brainstorm to reduce tobacco use among military servicemembers and to discuss the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee's upcoming hearing on tobacco and DoD on 6 May.

- John participated in calls with the COA Communications/PR Committee and the Local Branch Committee. He provided both groups with an update regarding the new COA website, which will launch on 7 May.

- Judy, John and Jim met with Parag Mehta, the Surgeon General's Chief of Staff, with Nazleen Bharmal, the Director of Science and Policy in the Surgeon General's office, on the



telephone. They discussed COA and COF and what these entities do and what they can do to advance the interests of the commissioned corps and the Surgeon General. They also discussed challenges that OSG will face as it attempts to persuade HHS that it should have a line-item in the HHS budget (which is what Mehta said was the goal).

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- Requesting OMH to provide a webinar on the introduction of OMH
- The OMH webinar has been scheduled for May 22, 2015, @ 1:00p-2:00p.
- The current proposed event name is “Learning about Health Disparities: An Introduction to the Office of Minority Health”. OMH needs to confirm the event name before we can disseminate the information to all CMAGs.

#### **8. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham**

1. The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) would like to announce the next book club session on April 30, 2015 from 1500 – 1600 EDT, discussing the book, U.S. Public Health Service Officer’s Guide: Leadership, Protocol, & Service Standards, Second Edition by CAPT James Knoblen (Ret.) and CAPT Alice Knoblen. The discussion will focus on chapter 2. The Adobe Connect is <https://collaboration.fda.gov/joagbooks/>. The call in number is 877-461-7315 and passcode is 44210205.
2. JOAG is seeking volunteers for the Joint Marketplace and the JOAG Uniform Inspection Booth at the 2015 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium. Please contact LCDR Montoya at [dmontoya@bop.gov](mailto:dmontoya@bop.gov) for the Joint Marketplace opportunity and contact LCDR Idowu at [rbi0@cdc.gov](mailto:rbi0@cdc.gov) for the Uniform Inspection Booth.
3. The next JOAG Journeyman Speaker Series is scheduled for May 8, 2015 at 1300-1400 EDT. Phone number: 1-860-970-0300. Passcode: 6904646.

#### **9. DCCPR/OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Lau**

##### **DCCPR Report/Readiness and Deployment Operations Group (RedDOG)** **RedDOG Update**

##### **Ebola Response**

- Per WHO, once 42 days without an Ebola case, you can say you are Ebola Free
- Had 1 recent case in Liberia which was an anomaly; Put clock back at 21 days; currently Monserrate County is only county not ebola free in Liberia
- 15 APR last date to admit patients to the
- Decommissioning ceremony 30 APR 2015; 01 May – Decommissioning time for MMU; Team will be wheels up 01 MAY and be returning home, landing at Dulles; Coming back 01 MAY; 72 hour decompression at HIG; tertiary screening on flight home
- MMU Team 4 – Taking a training and capacity building roll
- We are in direct support of CDC and NIH also concerning Sierra Leone and Guinea

- Service Access Teams – Are providing Reintegration Support- Currently SAT #2 providing support for MMU Team 3, Command, and returning officers from Guinea and Sierra Leone
- SAT 1&4 will support MMU Team 4
- Reintegration - New Paradigm to better support deployed officers returning home
- Going forward, future missions may be of the Strike Team Task Force type
- Lots of Lessons Learned and AAR process will allow us to capture lots of helpful information moving forward
- LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange will be deployed to West Africa until 01 MAY; LT Yvonne Santiago detailed to RedDOG to help until the mission over.
- ADM Giberson returning to Liberia and will be returning with ADVON Team to close out the mission; VADM Murthy will be visiting also.

**Awards and Recognitions** - Will recognize both direct and direct response.

**Ebola Campaign Medal with Expeditionary Attachment**

- Very limited
- Intent is to recognize specific direct actions directly supporting CC mission against Ebola
- For direct contributions to Ebola Response i.e. deployment to West Africa; quarantine station/investigations included

**NEPA – National Emergency Preparedness Award** - not related to Ebola; to recognize the commitment of officers to serve on teams, qualify for and serve on teams. For Tier 1 and tier 2 Response Teams

Currently working on SAA(Special Assignment Award) for cycle 2006-2009; For next cycle 2010 and beyond – tentatively will be NEPA – 2 years of service?

**Pine Ridge Deployment** – MHT #5=> Ogala Sioux Tribe – just completed deployment; suicide cluster; 3 - 2 week rotations

**Unaccompanied Children** – Potential for another mission this year.

Now is a good time to fill in GAPS in your teams. Some RDF teams exceeding 150 team members or so; great team strength; have depth on teams/maintain op tempo

**Corps Readiness; Last readiness run 01 APR 2015**

1. Therapists 97.5%
2. HSO 94.52%
3. Dietitians 93.94%

**Top agencies**

Department of Interior 100% 47 officers  
 USDA 100% 19 officers

FDA at 95% over 1000 officers

BOP and SAMHSA were other agencies mentioned scoring in the top percentiles.

**DCCPR Report**

VADM Murthy's Swearing-In and Change of Command Ceremony took place on 22 APR 2015 at Ft. Meyers ; VPOTUS Joe Biden did the Swearing -In

Keynotes from VADM Murthy:

***First, we will combat misinformation with clear communication. Whether e-cigarettes or the latest diet fad, marijuana or the measles, we will give the American people the best information so they can make good decisions for their own health.***

***Second, we will work to move from a culture of treatment to one of prevention. We lead the world in breakthroughs that create life-saving treatments.***

***Third, we will work to change entrenched behaviors that are weighing us down. There was a time – not too long ago – when it was completely normal to smoke on a plane, in a restaurant or at the office.***

**Contact Information for New OSG Staff:**

Mehta Parag, M.P.A.

Chief of Staff

Office of the Surgeon General

[Parag.Mehta@hhs.gov](mailto:Parag.Mehta@hhs.gov)

(202) 690-7511

Nazleen Bharmal, M.D., PhD., M.P.P.

Director of Science and Policy

Office of the Surgeon General

[Nazleen.Bharmal@hhs.gov](mailto:Nazleen.Bharmal@hhs.gov)

(202) 205-9491

OBC Class 39 – 35 students

USPHS Call center is now open

Application Window Open for the following Categories:

Discipline	Dates	Contact
Engineer GS only	March 15th-April 24th	1-800-279-1605 or contact LCDR Jennifer Stevenson at <a href="mailto:Jennifer.Stevenson@fda.hhs.gov">Jennifer.Stevenson@fda.hhs.gov</a>
Dental Hygienist	April 13th – May 1st	1-800-279-1605
Environmental	April 20th- May 8th	1-800-279-1605

Health	
Therapist	April 27th- May 15th      1-800-279-1605

It is anticipated that the nursing and pharmacy categories will be opened in June 2015.

Currently there are 139 applicants in need of 1662s.

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Zhou**

The subcommittee includes:

Lead: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaison.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Co-Chair: LCDR James Warner.

The second monthly team meeting was held on April 16, 2015, below is the summary of the meeting.

- Demographics Report:
  - a. LCDR Karina Aguilar (HOAC) will lead the effort for the Demographics Report. Tentative timeline for the first draft: August 1. If other members are interested to join, please let LCDR Aguilar know. We have received the data from CAPT Shih at OSG.

- Web Master:

LCDR Makeva Rhoden (BCOAG) and CDR Ryan Nguyen (APAOC) will be MOLC Web Masters for this term (2015). LCDR James Warner contacted PHS headquarters for granting access to the webmasters. Once that is done, the website team will be able to start to update information on the website.

### **2. MOLC Awards Ceremony – CDR Goodrich-Doctor**

-The Subcommittee last met on April 17<sup>th</sup> and will meet next on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

-Invitations were sent to VADM Novello and VADM Murthy – VADM Novello’s attendance is confirmed

-We are awaiting confirmation from the Honor Guard and the Ensemble.  
-We need to determine if any other invitations need to be sent for special guests such as Flag Officers and board members of COA/COF – will discuss at our upcoming meeting.

**-MOLC Booth** – A MOLC tradition much like the COF Symposium is the MOLC booth. This year the date/times of the booth will be Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Thursday, May 21, 2015 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

-New this year; the *MOLC booth will provide 1-2 hours of 1:1 Professional Development/Mentorship Sessions to Junior Officers (~10-15 mins/encounter)* while the booth is operational.

-Sign-up times are 2 hour time blocks. It is recommended we have at least one representative from each CMAG during one of these blocks & at least one senior officer (O-5/O-6s) is needed for each time block.

-Reminder each CMAG is responsible for their own merchandize & any proceeds thereof.-  
**POC:** Interested officers should contact CDR Kofi Ansah (at [Kofi.Ansah@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Kofi.Ansah@fda.hhs.gov)) & CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor (at [adrienne.goodrich-doctor@nih.gov](mailto:adrienne.goodrich-doctor@nih.gov)) by May 15, 2015.

○ **Old/Unfinished Business –**

**a) Guidance on selling CMAG merchandise (RADM Mishoe & CAPT Picard)**

- CAPT Picard states there is no policy or prohibition against the selling of PHS merchandise.

There are several ‘caveats’ although:

- The main ‘target’ audience of this selling is to PHS officers and not the public in general.
- A ‘reasonable’ profit can be made with the intent of using the procured funds for PHS activities and not personal profit.
- Funds must not be mixed with personal officer accounts.
- No soliciting is allowed (even on CMAG internet websites). This means you can show the merchandise on a CMAG website for instance and provide a contact person for ordering, but you cannot have ordering on the website. The reason for this is to avoid the appearance of impropriety (i.e. using taxpayer dollars to make profit).
- There is no branding guidance for PHS symbols/emblems. If you are to use them, they are to be used tastefully and respectfully.
- CAPT Picard will do further research on selling PHS merchandise on government property. (I.e. selling PHS merchandise on NIH property on ‘PHS Awareness Day’). CAPT Picard thinks this will be ok since the items are sold in the “atmosphere of Corps officers”, but will check on this and get back with us.

○ **New Business –**

- Will be going back to CDR Shen’s call in number with his approval **1-866-732-2096 and Passcode: 76074466, as the toll number is difficult for many. Activation code is 86856186**

○ **Adjournment - CDR Laird**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1459 hours EST (by CDR Laird).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; May 26th, 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 26th, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-866-732-2096 and Passcode: 76074466

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Absent *	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Absent	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Absent	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- CDR Laird, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1402 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Bonilla convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR) Timothy Cunningham (JOAG Representative), CDR Cara Nichols (proxy for CDR Laird).

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 April meeting were not yet completed and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

**1. Chair's Report – CDR Laird**

- Review of events at Symposium which went well.

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Laird/ CDR Nichols**

- Reviewed MOLC Agenda for Symposium and request for coins, donations, awards information, and booth volunteers.
- Reviewed and discussed a change in meeting times and schedule under the new leadership of AIANCOAC. Will continue with meetings on the 3rd Thursday of month at 1400 EST.
- Discussed missing appointment letters for AIANCOAC.

**3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran**

- APAOC did not have the executive general meeting in May. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2.
- Recipients of the APAOC RADM Samuel Lin Award and APAOC RADM Kenneth Moritsugu Award, CAPT John Hariadi and LCDR Qiao Bobo, were able to attend the MOLC Awards Ceremony.
- Five APAOC members including the Chair, LCDR Karen Chaves, attended the booth. Names were provided to APAOC chair for issuing appreciation letters.

**4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah**

- Planning is underway for the BCOAG NOLA Mission
  - WHERE: New Orleans, Louisiana and may include activities in the surrounding areas within Louisiana.
  - WHEN: Monday, September 7, 2015 – Saturday, September 12, 2015
  - WHY: To serve and enrich the New Orleans community through community service activities and increase awareness of the USPHS with area colleges and universities through informational sessions
  - For more information about the BCOAG NOLA Mission or to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact: LCDR David Wright, [ybq2@cdc.gov](mailto:ybq2@cdc.gov) or LT Yandace Brown, [Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov)
    - MOLC suggested that BCOAG share information about the Mission through JOAG – BCOAG will likely provide a presentation to JOAG; this was done last year and BCOAG also presented information regarding the Mission during the COF Symposium.



- BCOAG is planning for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – more details will be provided in a later report.

## 5. HOAC Report – CDR Bonilla

- HOAC meeting was held on 5/14/2015 mostly to discuss Symposium and Health Fair event on 5/17/2015 in Atlanta Area.

## 6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah

*Please note: Jim is: Col (ret.) James Currie (Executive Director of COA); John is: John McElligott (Deputy Director of COA); Judy is: (COA Staff for Legislative Affairs)*

- 28 April - Judy attended a breakfast briefing: “How Vaccines, Viruses, and Dollars Impact Emergency Preparedness in America’s Big Cities” sponsored by the Big Cities Coalition, a project of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).
- 29 April – Jim participated in the monthly call of VetPAC, providing the veterinarians with an update on COA and Washington activities
  - John attended the House Armed Services Committee Full Committee Markup of the FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act. John met with staff of Representative Tim Walz (D-MN-01) and staff of the Reserve Officers Association.
- 30 April – John and Jim participated in the site visit of the accreditation team evaluating the University of Maryland’s School of Public Health
  - John organized a call with staff of the MCRMC so that TMC Guard and Reserve Committee members could ask questions about the impact of MCRMC recommendations on reservists.
  - Judy attended the monthly meeting of The Military Coalition’s Health Care Committee, followed by a briefing from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. NACDS succeeded in getting a pharmacy pilot project into the House version of the NDAA. Basically, NACDS wants its stores to obtain access to federal discount pricing. But that would create headaches for TRICARE’s pharmacy directorate, with no clear benefit for beneficiaries.
- 2 May – Jim represented COA and COF at the Nurse Cadet Luncheon in Bethesda, MD
- 5 May - Judy attended an off-the-record briefing by two health care experts from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) staff. COA takeaway: To keep the TRICARE Choice option alive for our members, we should stay in touch with these folks. They were not permitted to conduct an outreach and marketing program to explain the Choice concept, with the result that few advocates understand it and Congress has so far declined to take it up. MCRMC staff expect to be around until the end of the year

- John spoke with RADM Kevin Meeks in Oklahoma City about a potential free clinic to be held before the 2016 USPHS Symposium in Oklahoma. The idea is for COF to partner with Remote Area Medical to host the event in Durant, OK. Nothing confirmed but we are heading in the right direction. OSG leaders have indicated early support for the idea.
- 6 May - In the morning, Judy attending a hearing of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense, of which Sen. Richard Durbin is the Ranking Member. At noon, she attended a lunch at the Children's Hospital Association, followed by a meeting of the TRICARE for Kids Coalition.
  - John organized and attended TMC meetings with staff of Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) to discuss the FY16 NDAA.
- 7 May - Jim, John, and Judy attended the monthly meeting of The Military Coalition.

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- Due to the schedule of COF Symposium and Memorial weekend, the MOLC webinar has been rescheduled from May 22, 2015 to June 9, 2015, @ 1:00p-2:00p EST.
- Dr. J Nadine Gracia, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health, will be presenting on "Moment of Opportunity: Reducing Health Disparities and Advancing Health Equity."
- The revised announcement has been sent out to each CMAG's representatives for dissemination.

#### **8. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham**

- The next JOAG General Member Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2015 at 1300-1500 EDT. Phone number: (626) 677-3000. Passcode: 791 - 9605.
- The Junior Officers Advisory Group (JOAG) Communications and Publications Committee distributed the JOAG Mid-Year Report for 2015 via the JOAG Digest. Inside this publication you will find all of the exciting accomplishments completed by our subcommittees so far this year.

#### **9. DCCPR/OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Lau**

##### **RedDoG Update**

Tropical Storm Dolphin - Currently we have an IRCT Team forward deployed in Guam ready for the tropical storm; RIST 9 involved; NO surge activities yet; A DMAT team is also pre-positioned to respond

##### **Deployments:**

- National Peace Officers Memorial Week; CAP Team providing logistical support; operations currently ongoing and will be active into tomorrow.

Upcoming Deployments:

- Pope's Visit – Philadelphia, New York, Washington DC
- Ongoing activity in the Unaccompanied Children situation – be prepared if anything occurs; it was 01 MAY last year when we started to see 1<sup>st</sup> deployments for the UC mission

Ebola Response (Global):

- We demobilized MMU Team 4 on 01 MAY
- Ceremony took place on 31 APR – Attended by SG Murthy, RADM Giberson, Liberian President Sirleaf, AMB Malac, CDC, USAID, UN, UNMIL, International medical corps,
- WHO declared Liberia Ebola Free 09 MAY
- We still officers in the field in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea supporting operations
- Clinical Trials with NIH and CDC taking place in Guinea and Sierra Leone
- AARs (After Action Reports) being completed – lots of lessons learned
- Related Awards – in process and moving forward

Additional Items:

- President's Challenge will be ending 30 JUNE; all remaining officers will have to switch over to APFT.
- There will be some transition of Team Commanders in the upcoming months.

DCCPR Update:

- Dr. Karen DeSalvo was formally nominated to be our permanent ASH (Assistant Secretary of Health); Dr. DeSalvo will be putting on the uniform and be a Commissioned Corps Officer as the ASH
- US Deputy Surgeon General RADM Boris Lushniak announced his retirement effective 01 OCT 2015
- RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams, currently USPHS Nurse Category CPO, has been nominated/recommended as the next US Deputy Surgeon General
- RADM Scott Giberson will transition from position as DCCPR Director to a new yet to be named position overseeing Commissioned Corps operations.

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Zhou**

The subcommittee includes:

Lead: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaison.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Co-Chair: LCDR James Warner.

-CDR Nguyen has updated much information already on the website. LCDR Zhou will make a copy of all CMAG awards to Webmasters for posting;

-LCDR Aguilar's team is still working on the demographics report.

-Executive secretaries, please provide CDR Nguyen and LCDR Rhoden the final meeting minutes on quarterly basis for posting on the MOLC website.

## **2. MOLC Awards Ceremony – CDR Goodrich-Doctor & CDR Ansah**

The Ceremony was held at the COF Symposium in Atlanta, GA on Thursday, May 21, 2015 from 0700-0830

- i. Over 100 officers attended
  - i. Invocation and Closing Remarks: CAPT Beverly Dandridge
  - ii. Welcome: Written remarks from RADM Helena Mishoe were presented by CDR Ansah
  - iii. Remarks: Surgeon General: VADM Vivek Murthy
  - iv. Remarks: RADM Boris Lushniak
  - v. Keynote Speaker: VADM (ret.) Antonia Novello (14<sup>th</sup> SG)
    - i. Action: MOLC will request a copy of VADM Novello's remarks and plans to share at least the 10 points that she mentioned during her presentation if she makes them available.
  - vi. Remarks: Col (ret.) Jim Currie (Executive Director, COA)
  - vii. RADMs Clara Cobb and Epi Elizondo were honored in recognition of their impending retirement
  - viii. Others in attendance: RADM Sylvia Trent-Adam, RADM Dawn Wylie, and RADM Pamela Schweitzer, etc.
- ii. MOLC provided gifts to VADM Novello and VADM Murthy. Special thanks to CDR Ansah for providing a set of CMAG coins on behalf of MOLC to RADM Lushniak.
  - i. RADM Helena Mishoe was also honored and provided a gift for her service and support of MOLC.
- iii. CDR Ansah and CDR Goodrich-Doctor led the efforts for this year's ceremony; however, the ceremony would not have been a success without the MOLC Awards Ceremony Subcommittee. We would like to thank the following officers for their contributions to planning this year's ceremony: CDR Malaysia Gresham, CDR David Laird, CDR David Lau, CDR Kun Shen, LCDR Karen Chaves, LCDR

Zewditu Demissie, LCDR Dawn Dineyazhe, LCDR Samantha Fontenelle, LCDR Tracy Powell, LCDR Michelle Sandoval, LCDR Trang Tran, LCDR James Warner, LCDR Eric Zhou, LT Oliver Ou and LT Yvonne Santiago.

- iv. Photos from the Ceremony: Special thanks to LCDR Wright for capturing the moments for us in photography and filming
    - i. Action: MOLC leadership will reach out to CMAGs to request pictures from officer who attended the ceremony.
  - v. Special Thanks for Ebola Responders: Officer dressed in traditional clothing representing several African countries and paid tribute of USPHS officer who responded to the Ebola outbreak.
    - i. Action: Provide the name of the officers who planned and participated in the tribute.
  - vi. The Awards Ceremony Subcommittee is planning to have an after-action meeting on May 29, 2015.
    - i. Action: Send suggestions that you would like the subcommittee to discuss during this meeting to CDRs Ansah and Goodrich-Doctor by COB, Thursday, May 28, 2015.
    - ii. Suggestion from officers during the meeting:
      - 1. Engage COF early to ensure we are clear what required for planning the awards ceremony and booth.
3. MOLC Booth for the COF Symposium
- i. Thanks to the leadership of CDR Kofi Ansah we were able to provide career development services through the MOLC Booth which enabled MOLC to have the booth for free.
    - i. All CMAGS were represented and able to sell merchandise  
MOLC agreed that the booth was successful and will plan to offer the same service next year as well.

○ **Old/Unfinished Business –**

**a) Guidance on selling CMAG merchandise (RADM Mishoe & CAPT Picard)**

- CAPT Picard will do further research on selling PHS merchandise on government property. (I.e. selling PHS merchandise on NIH property on 'PHS Awareness Day'). CAPT Picard thinks this will be ok since the items are sold in the "atmosphere of Corps officers", but will check on this and get back with us.

○ **New Business –**

- Will be going back to CDR Shen's call in number with his approval **1-866-732-2096 and Passcode: 76074466, as the toll number is difficult for many. Activation code is 86856186**

- COA Newsletter: LCDR Zhou proposes a MOLC article be published. CDR Lau has experience and can offer guidance.
- AMSUS Conference: in San Antonio, TX offering CEs. The SG is the invited speaker. Nominate fellow officers for AMSUS Award (CDR Lau)
- OCB Graduation: June 19<sup>th</sup> graduation- come and support! (CDR Kofi)
- **Four webinars are proposed:**
  - a. **New USPHS Leadership: Talk about PHS leadership for MOLC and CMAGs discussing officership, protocol and service standards. (CDR Warner)**
  - b. **Robert's Rule of Presentation: for MOLC officers offered by previous MOLC Co-Secretary CDR Charlene Maddox to be presented at one of the upcoming MOLC meetings.**
  - c. **COA Presentation: proposed by CDR Kofi**
  - d. **MOH Webinar hosted by Dr. Gracia on 6/9/2015.**

○ **Adjournment - CDR Laird**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1515 hours EST (by CDR Laird).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; June 23rd, 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-857-232-0476 - and Passcode: 815530

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Present	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Present	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

• **Call to Order**

- LCDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1402 hours EST.

• **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Tirado convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR)

• **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 April & May meetings were reviewed and approved with corrections.

• **Abbreviated Reports:**

### 1. Chair's Report – LCDR Warner

- Networking event at Kora Restaurant, Arlington VA, for July 20th, 1800, bring CAC and cash for donations for gear and coins. It is a social/networking event along with BCOAG, HOAC, APOAC, and AIANCOAC. Request RSVP by 13JUL15. See flyer that went out earlier.
- RADM Lushniak's retirement planning committee for those in the National Capital Area.
- Purchase coins 5-10 from each CMAG for any events and for immediate availability.
- Find the Model Charter for BCOG from the OSG.
- The Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC) would like to solicit any pictures related to your CMAG activities taken during this year COF Symposium with intent to post on its website. This includes the booth, social, Ceremony, or other events. If you are interested, please submit your pictures (with captions) to LCDR Trang Tran ([Trang.Tran@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Trang.Tran@fda.hhs.gov) <mailto:Trang.Tran@fda.hhs.gov> ) or LCDR Eric Zhou ([zhou@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:zhou@niaid.nih.gov) <mailto:zhou@niaid.nih.gov> ) for consideration.
- JROTC presented and closed colors at the 2014 MOLC ceremony is accepting contributions for the construction of an obstacle course for Millbrook High School JROTC. Discuss possible option to offer contribution. Motion denied.
- Discuss for July for one month summer break.
- Current MOLC Budget is 1,434.05 as of 02JUN15, subtract \$164.48 for MOLC gifts.
- Request through DCCPR for breakdown request for promotion results for cultural breakdown and geographical/agency promotion results.
- This is the first friendly reminder that each CMAG's voting package must be in to me and/or CDR Laird by September 15, 2015. SAA award package must be received by CDR Laird or myself by 10/15/15

### 2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Laird & CDR Warner

No updates from AIANCOAC.

Monthly meeting was rescheduled to this Thursday 25JUN15 and there are no new updates.

June report to reviewed on AUG2015 MOLC review.

### 3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran & LCDR Zhou

- **APAOC report (LCDR Trang Tran):**
  - APAOC had 2 general meetings during this month (6/2 & 6/19) to finish revising the APAOC Bylaws.
  - APAOC would like to know if this document needs to be reviewed by MOLC before it's finalized.
  - APAOC provided an education & training on USPHS uniform policy on 6/17.



#### 4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah & CDR Goodrich-Doctor

- BCOAG Membership Committee Call for Nomination (2016-2018)

**WHAT:** The Black Commissioned Officer Advisory Group (BCOAG) is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic officers to serve a 3-year term beginning January 2016. Several positions will be available as a result of current voting membership term expiration. Self-nominations are encouraged.

**WHEN:** Deadline for submission is Friday, 31st July 2015.

Please send completed applications to [bcoagmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bcoagmembership@gmail.com) and indicate "BCOAG Voting Membership Application" in the Subject line.

**POC:** If you would like additional information about the application process, please contact LCDR LaMar Henderson, the Membership Committee Chair at [LHenderson@HRSA.gov](mailto:LHenderson@HRSA.gov) or Co-Chair CDR Julia Bryan at [JBryan@hrsa.gov](mailto:JBryan@hrsa.gov).

- Call for Volunteers – African American Male Wellness Walk (DMV Area) Saturday, August 1, 2015

**WHAT:** The walk focuses on improving and promoting the health of African American men in the DMV area. During the walk, medical professionals and nurses will be on the National Mall providing free health screenings to all men who come out prior to them participating in a 5K Walk-a-thon around the historic monuments on the National Mall. BCOAG Officers are requested to provide route security for the 3 mile walk on the National Mall and/or go over screening results after a participant has received a blood pressure or cholesterol screening conducted by a non-PHS medical/ nursing professional.

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 1, 2015

**WHERE:** National Mall, Washington, DC

**UNIFORM:** USPHS T-Shirt

**POC:** If interested in participating in this event, please contact LT Jinean Riley ([Jinean.Riley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jinean.Riley@cms.hhs.gov) or 301-492-4393).

- 2015 BCOAG New Orleans (NOLA) Mission/ Survey

In November 2007, a team of officers from the Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group (BCOAG) completed an outreach mission in New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) to help rebuild areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Isaac. New Orleans was one of the hardest hit regions along the Gulf Coast - especially in the Lower Ninth Ward, an area which suffered tremendous damage and where some of the city's poorest residents live. Since

November 2007, BCOAG has made an annual commitment to continue outreach missions to serve the New Orleans community.

**WHERE:** New Orleans, Louisiana and may include activities in the surrounding areas within Louisiana.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 7, 2015 – Saturday, September 12, 2015

**DETAILS:** Officers will be responsible for their own travel and lodging. The Planning Team will provide flight and lodging information, but all volunteers are responsible for any financial costs and for making their own travel arrangements. Proposed activities include community service, health education, and informational sessions at various area colleges, universities and may also include some social events for volunteers.

All USPHS officers are welcome to participate in the NOLA mission, including families and friends. If you are interested in the NOLA mission, please let us know of your interest in this mission opportunity! Officers may additionally volunteer to help with planning of the NOLA mission activities even if they are not able to attend.

If you are interested in the NOLA mission, please let us know of your general interest in this mission opportunity. We appreciate your time and hope that you will complete this brief questionnaire to assist the planning committee in preparing for the upcoming mission. This questionnaire contains 10 questions and will take approximately two to three minutes to complete.

Please click the following link to access the questionnaire:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MBQNJ88>

**POCs:** For more information about the BCOAG NOLA Mission or to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact LCDR David Wright, [ybq2@cdc.gov](mailto:ybq2@cdc.gov) or LT Yandace Brown, [Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov).

##### **5. HOAC Report – LCDR Tirado**

- **Spanish instructional initiative: practice sessions in NCR –Hola! HHS, Silver Spring- Hola! FDA.**
- **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)-launched a Spanish website to provide maternal and infant care, obesity, (in)fertility and pregnancy.**
- **Request for promotion results according to geographic locations and ethnicity.**

##### **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

- The following updates comprise of a report to the COA & COF Boards encompassing Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach, and Other Activities:

25 May - Judy met with her member of Congress, Rep. John Delaney (D-6<sup>th</sup> CD, Maryland), to invite him to join the Congressional Public Health Caucus (he said he would).

- Judy represented COA at a meeting of the “TRICARE for Kids” Coalition.

28 May – Judy, John, and Jim met with Rich Hamburg, Deputy Director of the Trust for America’s Health, and discussed ways in which TFAH and COA/COF can work together to advance public health. Such efforts will include TFAH’s support for the Congressional Public Health Caucus and support for the confirmation of Dr. De Salvo to be Assistant Secretary for Health.

- Judy participated in a meeting of The Military Coalition’s Health Care Committee.

29 May – John and Jim attended an awards event at NIH in Bethesda, in which a COA member was given a “Director’s Special Recognition Award” for her work during the Ebola crisis.

2 Jun – Jim met with APHA President Dr. Georges Benjamin and staff to discuss the Congressional Public Health Caucus and the nomination of Dr. Karen De Salvo to be Assistant Secretary for Health. Jim also filled in Dr. Benjamin on events from the Atlanta symposium.

4 June – Judy, John, and Jim attended a meeting of The Military Coalition.

5 June - Judy participated in the second meeting of the COA Legislation & Benefit Committee’s work group on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

10 June – John and Jim attended a Capitol Hill reception sponsored by the Coalition for Health Funding, of which COA is a member. Reps. Rob Wittman and Gene Green, co-chairs of the Congressional Public Health Caucus, were the speakers at the reception.

11 June – John attended a meeting of the Guard and Reserve Committee of The Military Coalition during which they held discussions with staff of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Committee.

13 June – Jim attended the DC COA annual picnic at Bolling AFB, DC.

*Note: Jim is Col (ret.) James Currie (Executive Director of COA); John is John McElligott (Deputy Director of COA); and Judy is (COA Staff for Legislative Affairs).*

**7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**  
**- See subcommittee reports**

## 8. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham

-No updates.

## 9. DCCPR/OFRD Readiness Update – CDR Lau

### RedDoG Update

- New APFT is will be pushed back to 01 JAN 2016 – to allow time to synch with Direct Access
- President’s Challenge will no longer be accepted after the end of June 2015; officers still on President’s Challenge will need to switch over to APFT; current APFT process and forms will be valid until 01 JAN 2016;
- We currently have 555 officers (8% of Corps) who have never done an APFT for one reason or another (such as being at remote duty station with no one to sign off; or on medical waivers, etc; will assist officers taking the APFT with the transition to make it as easy as possible and to familiarize them with the APFT protocol).
- Working with OBC APFT Team to develop a video and 22 page document with pix also of the new APFT
- Ebola Campaign Medal – Has been approved at the ASH level; Will continue moving forward on this and also at the hardware development stage; all Active Duty USPHS during the time of Ebola Campaign will receive this medal.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Deployment – 02 JUL officers will fly in and will demobe to home duty stations on 05 JUL; Deployed officers notified last week; IRCT component covered by NCR RIST Team.

### DCCPR Update:

- US Deputy Surgeon General RADM Lushniak’s Retirement Ceremony is upcoming
- RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams is recommended by OSG to be the new US Deputy Surgeon General
- There are some staffing changes occurring in OSG

- CAPT Helgerson – Operational Notes:

#### 1. Staff changes in DCCPR:

- Bob Caroline is retiring after leading the compensation branch for a number of years; a retired CC also who transitioned into GS
- CDR Angela Mtungwa is transitioning to IHS (Indian Health Service) at the beginning of July to be the Director of DCPS (Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel Support).
- CDR Dean Trombley, LCDR Whitney Gatsby, and LCDR Adriana Meyer-Alonzo will be transitioning out of DCCPR also.
- Big transition over to Direct Access by JAN 2016
- **COLTS – Leave balance Verification – NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED BY 01 JUL 2015**

#### 2. Recruitment:

Over 200 CADs processed since 01 MAY, including EIS, USUHS, etc.

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62 JRCOSTEPS processed; 119 more to go

**\*\* HIGH PRIORITY RECRUITMENT EFFORT FOR IHS – there is OS visibility for this (see below and attachments):**

*1) The Indian Health Service has an immediate need for independently licensed clinical social workers and clinical psychologists to provide comprehensive clinical services to the Oglala Reservation in Pine Ridge. Commissioned Corps HQ (CCHQ) believes that the Corps is in a unique position to truly satisfy our mission and address this critical healthcare workforce situation. This request is coming directly from The Secretary. In close collaboration with IHS, CCHQ will look to identify current Corps officers to reassign to IHS to potentially fill these permanent positions. CCHQ is also pursuing other mechanisms in parallel; however CCHQ believes that the use of current officers may be the most effective and efficient method to meet this need. These positions are 05 to 06 billets and the description for each position is attached to this message. This is a great opportunity for officers to serve our American Indian / Alaska Native population and provide direct services in a time of need.*

*These positions are located at the Pine Ridge Service Unit which is located in a rural area in Southwestern South Dakota with abundant opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, fishing and a variety of outdoor activities. Pine Ridge is 85 miles from Rapid City, is an active city with a population of roughly 70,000 people. Rapid City, SD is also home to Ellsworth AFB, which has Commissary shopping and medical services.*

*Officers with a preliminary interest in learning more about these opportunities should immediately notify CAPT Carol Lincoln, Chief of Staff, Indian Health Service. Officers should then follow up with submission of their CV to CAPT Lincoln at [carol.lincoln@ihs.gov](mailto:carol.lincoln@ihs.gov) no later than July 2, 2015. CAPT Lincoln*

*2) The Indian Health Service has an immediate need for licensed Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners to provide comprehensive clinical services to the Oglala Reservation in Pine Ridge. The Corps is in a unique position to truly satisfy our mission and address this critical healthcare workforce situation. The Secretary's office has reached out to the Corps for possible assistance. In close collaboration with IHS, we will look to identify current Corps officers to reassign to IHS to potentially fill these permanent positions. We are pursuing other mechanisms in parallel; however use of current officers may be the most effective and efficient method to meet this need. These positions are 05 to 06 billets and the description for each position is attached to this message for distribution to your PAC. This is a great opportunity for officers to serve our American Indian / Alaska Native population and provide direct services in a time of need.*

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- CC Training Academy:
  1. OBC 80 – 30 students graduated 19 JUN
  2. OBC 81 – Begins 05 JUL – 35 students
  3. NO OBC in August
  4. New facility will be in operation by SEPT 2015
  5. New Pilot Course – **Intro to Supervising PHS Officers** – for GS supervisors; testing within OASH currently
  
- There will be a new USPHS Awards Poster out; will be on website very soon; first one in 20 years showing PHS Awards and Decorations.
- We are continuing to work with TSA in establishing an MOA to have all USPHS officers included in the TSA Pre-Check program; close to completion.
- Promotion results will be out the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Signed off by ASH and currently working on final details
  
- eOPF document indexing update:
  - currently still logging the backlog – at 08 MAR as of last week; special thanks to IHS for providing additional staffing support on eliminating the backlog
  - Please be patient and do not re-fax a second time
  
- CPO selections in progress – HSO and Therapist CPO expected to be selected by AUG; Vet CPO will be worked on next; USCG CMO also
- Currently in the middle of the Flag Promotion Process – All agency nominations received with goal of completion of process in August.
- IT Advisory Committee – Charter was signed by SG; CDR Dwayne Jarman will be first Chair
- CAPT Martin Sanders will take over as Chair of the CPO Board in July
  
- Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.  
**U.S. Public Health Service Band Concert at the WWII Memorial.**  
<http://www.wiimemorialfriends.org/news-and-events/news-events>
  
- RADM Lushniak will be riding across Iowa with 35 other officers in the RAGBRAI (The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) – "Touch the rear wheels in the Missouri River and Front Wheels in the Mississippi River." <http://ragbrai.com/>
  
- We have 252 Runners signed up for the Army 10-Miler; if still interested in running it, contact Shane Deckert [Shane.Deckert@ihs.gov](mailto:Shane.Deckert@ihs.gov) and Jennifer Freiman [Jennifer.Freiman@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Freiman@ice.dhs.gov)  
[as sometimes those signed up may have a last minute change of plans or cannot make it.](#)
  
- Additional Retirements:  
 -RADM Newton Kendig, CMO of Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) – 16 OCT 2016

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Tran**

The MOLC Website Subcommittee (LCDR Trang Tran)

The subcommittee includes:

Leads: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaisons.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Chair & Co-Chair: CDR David Laird, LCDR James Warner.

- The information on home page, chair, leadership, awards sections has been updated.
- MOLC secretary to provide final clean meeting minutes to the MOLC website webmaster for posting.
- All CMAGs to submit pictures from COA to LCDRs Trang Tran & Eric Zhou.
- June subcommittee meeting is rescheduled for 6/26/16.

### **2. MOLC Awards Ceremony – CDR Goodrich-Doctor & CDR Ansah**

The subcommittee had an After-Action meeting on May 29, 2015 – overall the subcommittee decided to distribute a survey to obtain feedback from ceremony participants.

#### Lesson Learned

- i. Contact COF early to assist with planning and making funding decisions for the Awards Ceremony
- ii. Request the MOLC Booth for COF by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> the year before the ceremony – so we would need to request the booth by Dec. 31, 2015 for the 2016 COF MOLC Booth.
- iii. To ensure we have enough coins for gifts – suggest that the MOLC purchase coins from each CMAG to have a stockpile
- iv. The keynote speaker address was longer than expected – need to ensure the speaker know the time provided and is prompted before and during the ceremony
- v. Having a walk through would be beneficial and requesting set up prior to the event is more efficient especially for ceremonies during breakfast.
- vi. Need to recruit officers for both set-up and break-down
- vii. Suggest developing a template for the awardee bios to help ensure that they are succinct and can be used to both quickly introduce the speaker and for the ceremony presentation
- viii. Time is too short for the award presentations – possible suggestion is to provide the awards prior to the keynote address although this may be atypical
- ix. Start planning earlier
- x. Booth – encourage participation from more CMAG leadership
- xi. Focus on starting on time

Action Items:

- xii. Thank you letter to COF
- xiii. Thank you letter to our ceremony sponsor
- xiv. Determine if there is official MOLC letterhead
- xv. Refund subcommittee members for gift purchases and other items required for the ceremony – officers must send their receipts to the MOLC chairs for reimbursement
- xvi. Develop a survey in conjunction with the survey for the Combined Social to receive feedback from ceremony attendees to assist with next year's planning
- xvii. Draft an article for publication in Frontline
- xviii. Draft a PHS award nomination for a UC for the MOLC Awards Ceremony Subcommittee – The time used to plan the ceremony cannot be used by a MOLC Voting Member towards their SAA.
- xix. Provide certificates of appreciation to MOLC Booth volunteers

**Old/Unfinished Business –**

**a. Guidance on selling CMAG merchandise (RADM Mishoe & CAPT Karen Sicard)**

- i. CAPT Karen Sicard will do further research on selling PHS merchandise on government property. (I.e. selling PHS merchandise on NIH property on 'PHS Awareness Day'). CAPT Picard thinks this will be ok since the items are sold in the "atmosphere of Corps officers", but will check on this and get back with us.

**b. MOLC Webinar (LCDR Trang Tran)**

- i. The webinar on "Moment of Opportunity: Reducing Health Disparities and Advancing Health Equity" presented by Dr. J Nadine Gracia, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health, was held on June 9, 2015.
- ii. Dr. Gracia thanked MOLC for the opportunity to present.
- iii. The presentation was very informative and well received by attendees. However, there were only 20 officers attended this webinar.
- iv. We need to have more support from all CMAGs for future webinars, especially from MOLC members.

**c. COA Article on MOLC Awards Ceremony (LCDR Trang Tran)**

- i. Special thanks to officers who have contributed to the article.
- ii. Frontline will not be able to include officers who are not current COA members in the article.
- iii. The article has been submitted to Frontline and to be published in the June/July issue.

**• New Business –**



- Will be going back to CDR Ansah's call in number with his approval Kofi's TCON details: 1-857-232-0476 vs. **Participant Code: 815530**
- Request 5 coins from each CMAG as present to Keynotes speakers
- Motion to skip July meeting- motion approved.

○ **Adjournment - CDR Laird**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours EST (by CDR Laird).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; August 25th, 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 25th, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-857-232-0476 - and Passcode: 815530

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Absent*	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Present	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Absent	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence- CDR Cara Nichols served as proxy.

**1) Call to Order**

- LCDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1403 hours EST.

**2) Council Roll Call**

- CDR Tirado convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR), Timothy Cunningham(JOAG).

**3) Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 June meetings were not reviewed nor approved but agreed to review in conjunctions with August minutes.

**4) Abbreviated Reports:**

**a) MOLC Chair Report- LCDR Warner**

- Welcome back every member from July's recess

- Discuss demographics report
- SSA is due Sept. 15 to submit to OSG in Oct 15
- Discuss COA Frontline article

**b) AI/ANCOAC report- LCDR Warner**

- AIANCOAC discussed our new coins now available for purchase in COA magazine.
- Reviewed our Appointment Letters and the policy for updating new letters.
- Reviewed deadlines for CMAG voting package to MOLC by 15SEP15 and SAA award received by 15OCT15.
- Facebook for AIANCOAC was generated and is asking for appropriate FB pictures of events and members.
- Attempting to schedule time with USPHS Promotion Coordinator for brown bag discussion on PHS promotions. Date pending.
- Developing Mentor rosters for AIANCOAC members.
- Fundraising is looking to make t-shirts.
- Admiral Meeks, OK Area, wishes to begin preparations for the COA meeting next year symposium in OK City. He is wanting space/time to plan an AI/AN event and would like to be involved with the planning committee.

**c) APAOC report**

**APAOC report (LCDR Trang Tran and LCDR Zhou):**

- APAOC had the executive and general meeting on July 15, 2015.
- APAOC has finished revising the APAOC Bylaws.
- APAOC provided an education & training on Commissioned Corps Awards on August 19, 2015
- APAOC is in the process of reviewing the voting member packages with a due date of August 31, 2015.
- APAOC submitted the nomination package for LCDR Kelly Leong and would like to request for expedited review so that LCDR can start her term on September 1, 2015.
- APAOC submitted an AM award nomination for CDR Ryan Nguyen already to the MOLC Chairs (please confirm upon receipt).

**d) BCOAG Report**

**BCOAG Report(CDR Ansah & CDR Goodrich-Doctor):**

- Invitation to attend BCOAG's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: October 9 – 11, 2015
  - o Training Conference – Friday, October 9, 2015, 8am - 4pm, Food and Drug Administration
  - o BCOAG 25th Anniversary Social – Friday, October 9, 2015, 6pm - 9pm, Fire Station Bar and Grill
  - o Community Service Event Options – Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9am -12pm Million Man March, Washington, DC and Capital Area Food Bank
  - o Sunday Worship Service – Sunday, October 11, 2015 11am – 1pm The Church of Christ and DC Zion Baptist Church
  - o **Main Event: BCOAG 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, Saturday, October 10, 2015, 7pm – 11pm, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Bolling Club Grand Ballroom, 50 Theison Street, Washington, DC – For tickets (until September 25<sup>th</sup>) and to RSVP to other 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events please go to <http://bcoag25thanniversary.eventbrite.com>**
  - o CDR Goodrich-Doctor will send the event flyer for CMAG distribution

- 2015 BCOAG New Orleans (NOLA) Mission

It is not too late to participate. If anyone is interested in participating, you may contact the POCs listed below or CDRs Goodrich-Doctor and Ansah.

**WHERE:** New Orleans, Louisiana and may include activities in the surrounding areas within Louisiana.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 7, 2015 – Saturday, September 12, 2015

**POCs:** For more information about the BCOAG NOLA Mission or to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact LCDR David Wright, [ybq2@cdc.gov](mailto:ybq2@cdc.gov) or LT Yandace Brown, [Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Yandace.Brown@hq.dhs.gov).

- BCOAG is in the process of finalizing the BCOAG Voting Member Package.
- BCOAG is in the process of collecting documentation for the BCOAG SAA Package.
- BCOAG held an APFT on August 22, 2015 at Andrews AFB in Washington, DC.
  
- Atlanta Areas APFT - Wednesday, September 2, 2015 starting at 1730
  - o The BCOAG Readiness Team is working with the Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association to host this event.
  - o **WHERE:** CDC Chamblee Campus, 4700 Buford Hwy, Atlanta, GA 30341
  - o UOD: PHS Blue Shirt
  - o **EVENT LEADER:** LCDR Irvin-Barnwell [jcx0@cdc.gov](mailto:jcx0@cdc.gov)
  - o **BCOAG POCs:** CDR Robert Windom and LCDR Timothy Cunningham

#### **e) HOAC Report**

##### **HOAC Report( CDR Bonilla & LCDR Tirado)**

- Request for other CMAGs to consider an improved version of Survey Monkey and share the cost.
- Hablemos! Spanish proficiency program started to pairing officers to improve Spanish skills.

#### **f) COA Liaison Report-CDR Ansah**

The following updates comprise of a report to the COA & COF Boards encompassing Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach, and Other Activities:

*Note: Jim is Col (ret.) James Currie (Executive Director of COA); John is John McElligott (Deputy Director of COA); and Judy is (COA Staff for Legislative Affairs).*

**6 July** – We learned that the PHS officers whom Heather Bair-Brake had recruited for the Hollywood, Health, and Society organization had successfully answered the questions posed by the television script writer. HH&S told Jim that they were quite pleased with the help we gave them and will be calling on COA in the future to help them answer script writers’ questions about public health.

**7 July** - At a luncheon meeting of the Nursing Community, Judy discussed the Congressional Public Health Caucus. She asked the 34 national nursing organizations represented there to support the bipartisan caucus by encouraging House members to join.

**8 July** – Judy attended a special briefing at the Department of Veterans Affairs about efforts to improve and upgrade DVA’s electronic medical records system, including DoD interoperability. The demonstration was arranged by The Military Coalition’s Veterans Committee. DVA’s efforts are ongoing, and an updated demo, incorporating suggestions from TMC reps, is planned.

- Jim contacted the editor of the PHS Retiree newsletter and asked him to correct the omission of the PHS from the entry box. The editor got back to Jim and said that the correction has been made.

**9 July** – Jim participated in a call concerning the 2016 symposium

**13 July** - The Military Coalition’s Awards Committee, on which Judy serves, met to decide the members of Congress who will receive the Coalition’s annual awards for outstanding service on behalf of uniformed services personnel and their families.

**15 July** - Judy participated in a teleconference with Defense Health Agency (DHA) officials and other members of TMC’s Health Care Committee. These monthly meetings serve as a useful way for beneficiary organizations to monitor DHA’s progress on solving problems or implementing new initiatives; in other words, to hold TRICARE’s feet to the fire.

**16 July** – Judy and Jim participated in the regular call of the COA Legislation & Benefits Committee, which is chaired by CAPT Michelle Colledge

- Jim drafted a message to COA members calling to their attention that today is the 217<sup>th</sup> birthday of the founding of the US Public Health Service (at least its antecedent from which we date the Service). Donna sent out the message.

**17 July** – Jim submitted to the editor of the Coast Guard, PHS, and NOAA retiree newsletter an item about the Surgeon General’s establishment of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOGDAG) in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

**18 July** – Jim served as Master of Ceremonies for the Fifth Annual Public Health Service Music Ensemble Concert on the National Mall at the World War II Memorial. Special guests included 30 WWII veterans. Sara Newman attended on behalf of the COA Board. Information on the concert and video clips from it can be accessed on the COA webpage at [www.coausphs.org](http://www.coausphs.org)

**21 July** – Jim participated in an APHA webinar on “The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation”

- Jim sent a letter to Acting Asst. Secretary for Health Dr. Karen De Salvo asking her to include \$5 million in her FY 17 budget submission for training of commissioned corps officers. This item is on the COA Legislative Priority list.

**22 July** - Judy participated in a meeting of the “TRICARE for Kids” Coalition, which prods TRICARE to improve pediatric care. The view is that TRICARE tends to lag behind civilian medicine, particularly in care for children with medically complex conditions. Meetings are held at the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- **Judy and Jim visited with staff for Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA). Sen. Cassidy is a physician who serves on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Judy and Jim talked with the staffers about the \$5 million in funding that the Office of the Surgeon General needs for training of PHS officers and about the confirmation of Dr. Karen De Salvo. Staff seemed receptive, but there were no commitments from them.**

23 July – COA Board Chair Craig Wilkins visited COA/COF headquarters and met with staff there. CAPT Wilkins is a 26-year member of COA and a past chair of the Board’s Legislation & Benefits Committee. Judy met him for breakfast to talk about emerging legislative issues and Jim participated in a COA Executive Committee call with Craig and other ExCom members.

**28 July** – At the editor’s request, Jim sent an account of the formation of the Congressional Public Health Caucus to the journal *Public Health Reports*. The piece is to be published in the next few months.

- Jim participated in a conference call with PHS officers who want to collect funds to send backpacks and school supplies to children in Liberia. I story about this charitable effort will appear in the September issue of *Frontline*.

- Judy participated in a meeting of the “TRICARE for Kids” Coalition, which prods TRICARE to improve pediatric care, especially care for children with medically complex conditions

**30 July** - Judy participated in the monthly meeting of TMC’s Health Care Committee. She made a presentation about the Navy’s 18-week maternity benefit, which became effective 2 July. COA wants TMC support for extending the benefit to all mothers-to-be, in all seven uniformed services.

- Jim met with staff for Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH) a new member of the Congressional Public Health Caucus. He discussed the PHS with the staffer and left literature explaining what the Public Health Service does. He then met with several PHS officers who were in town for meetings as Regional Health Administrators and with staff in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

- Judy attended briefings hosted by APHA. Presenters were CDC experts on environmental health, the toxic substances disease registry, and injury prevention and control.

**Note: The 2016 COF Scientific & Training Symposium will be held in Oklahoma City, OK: May 16-19, 2016.**

**g) MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**  
**See subcommittee reports**

**h) JOAG report-LCDR Cunningham**

- Final Meeting of LCDR Cunningham. Everyone express gratitude for his initiative and efforts.
- The final JOAG General Member Meeting for this operational year was held on August 14 at 1300.
- Please save the date and join us for an off-cycle Journeyman Speaker Series on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 1300-1400 with distinguished guests VADM Vivek Murthy and RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams! More information will be provided as we draw near, but we wanted to advertise the event now so that junior officers could place the event on their calendars.
- About the Journeyman Series: The Journeyman Speaker Series was developed by the JOAG Professional Development Committee to bring relevant information to Junior Officers about Corps-related issues. For more information regarding the Journeyman Speaker Series, visit the JOAG Website: [http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG/meetings\\_journeyman.aspx](http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG/meetings_journeyman.aspx). Phone number: 1-860-970-0300. Passcode: 6904646.

#### i) DCCPR/OFRD/AMSUS Readiness Update – CDR Lau

##### **RedDOG Report:**

- ASPR Cache Rehab mission/opportunity upcoming – In Frederick, MD
- Indiana HIV outbreak – CC Officers deploying
- Deployment Availability Rosters – Team Leaders need to provide rosters to RedDOG ; 85-95% Availability Rate
- Team Commander Transitions – Teams to provide transition plan to CAPT Beck
- JPATS and NDMS Training => CAPT Waterman checking and responding with availability; seeing if there is any funding
- Papal Mission => For most part looking at Tier 3 as we want to reserve on call teams as much as possible so that if an event happens which calls for activation of a team, they are available.
- Pope in Philadelphia => Went from a 50 bed FMS to 10 PHS officers deploying.
- NEPA Award =>Somewhere in the chain
- CDR David Magnotta – DCCPR – taking over as the Acting Awards Coordinator
- Ebola Related Awards => no additional updates

##### **DCCPR Report:**

- Call to Action on Walking => Info coming out to everyone JOAG, SG PAC, CPOs, PAC Chairs, MOLC, etc.
- RADM Trent-Adams – New US Deputy Surgeon General - Starts new position in OCT 01 – Congratulations RADM Trent-Adams!!
- RADM Lushniak – Current US Deputy Surgeon General retiring after 27 years in service; 03 SEP Retirement Ceremony Date; Officially retires 01 OCT 2015; Congratulations RADM Lushniak and Fair Winds and Following Seas!!
- 2 week extension for Nursing CPO nomination package submissions
- Army Nursing Corps => USPHS ; numerous Army nurse and clinical officers affected; having to leave Army but want to remain in uniform but have 5-7 years remaining until they get their 20; looking at getting them into USPHS into the hard to fill positions => IHS, BOP; ICE => initial discussions occurring with more into to come
- Need volunteers for Strategic Plan => Contact RADM Trent-Adams if interested in assisting
- Presentation on new APFT
- Congrats to CAPT Erica Schwartz!! => New USCG CMO starting 01 NOV ; Replacing RADM Dollymore who is retiring 01 NOV
- US Postal Service Training Facility – New Training Venue for USPHS in Potomac, MD; OBC #82 will be first class there 06-18 SEP 2015
- COTA – Officer Midlevel Course in NOV – For O-3/O-4 between 3-10 years of PHS Service;
- Personnel Announcements for DCCPR – LCDR Dorinda Ball new Awards Coordinator for USPHS
- COER Coordinator – LCDR Shandra ??? From HRSA
- CDR Felicia Bailey – Chief of Assignment Section
- DCCPR continuing to work on HSO and Therapist CPO selection; Extension of nominations for Nursing CPO for 2 weeks

- 293 Total Applications Open; 113 are boarded and in need of assignment; looking for 1662s; 115 being processed for 1662s currently; 85 pending Appt Board; New Process - Actively using PACs in vetting process – result of direct feedback over past year
- Pharmacists Application Window in August – over 344 used call center
- Flag Promotion Process – AUG hopefully; early SEPT probably; currently at ASH level

#### **CAPT Shih – DSI**

Direct Access – Validation Testing going on ; working on Data Exchange Pay Data with USCG – payrolls, etc

#### **CAPT Sicard – Policy**

New PHS Officer Probation Policy - 3 years

Delegation and Termination Policy

Redress and Complains Policy

Special Pay Policy – Tables under review now

Awards Policy – Foreign Duty Policy

#### **CAPT Martin Sanders – CPO Board**

CPO Counseling for non-promotes; RADM Randall Gardner is Chair-elect for CPO Board

**SG PAC – CAPT Dandridge** – backlog of awards; OSG Award Board is now transitioned to DCCPR

**Chair of PAC Chairs** – PACs are paying for booths at Symposium Next Year

16 OCT 2015 – RADM Newton Kendig's Retirement Ceremony; Congratulations and Fair Winds and Following Seas RADM Kendig!!

JOAG 01 OCT 2015 => New Operational Year begins

17 SEP Thursday => RADM Clara Cobb Retirement Ceremony; Congratulations and Fair Winds and Following Seas RADM Cobb!!

Army 10 Miler 11 OCT 2015 Over 230 USPHS signed up – most of ANY service, including Army

2 weekends ago - Long Island Tough Mudder – We passed NYPD and FDNY – Bragging rights ☺.

CDR Angela Mtungwa is now the Indian Health Service CC Chief Liaison/IHS DCPS (Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel Support)

#### **AMSUS Report:**

- AMSUS Involvement opportunities to meet benchmarks. Especially for officers who missed promotion and are sincerely interested in involvement opportunities. COA and AMSUS are the two most visible conferences for USPHS during the year. AMSUS planning usually ramps up in the second half of the year after COA. Great opportunity for interested officers to get involved.
- International Committee – USPHS should have multilingual members on this committee. It would be great to have members attend AMSUS and have the opportunity to chat with and network with our large international delegation with many different tongues. Also a great opportunity for officers with the respective CMAGs and other languages not covered by a CMAG
- MOLC AMSUS Representative – To represent MOLC for AMSUS and to report out
  - In addition, each CMAG – AIANCOAC/HOAC/BCOAG/APAOC can each have a representative on the AMSUS Committee too. They can report back to their respective CMAGs and also great involvement opportunity for the right officer(s).
- \$100 Registration Fee – AMSUS is offering a discounted \$100 registration fee for those who do **not need any CME/CE/CEU credit and just wanted to attend**. Full access to the entire conference but cannot sign up for the free JHOC – Joint Humanitarian Operations Course
- For all the students out there, AMSUS offers free registration. Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) will attend free also.
- JHOC – Joint Humanitarian Operations Course – Free 2 day course occurring 03-04 DEC => All day both days. **Free registration for all full paying registrants.**
- HOSA – Health Occupation Students of America – We will be working with them so they can attend also. An OSG initiative in working with HOSA. They will also be staffing the Rock N Roll 10K
- Rock N Roll 10K – will be occurring on Saturday 05 DEC 2015 in the AM. We will be making this a PHS Athletic Event also. CDR David Lau and LT Angelica Chica will coordinate this as a PHS Athletic Event.
- Other services SGs are already confirmed to attend (Army, Navy, Air Force) in addition to Dr. Jonathan Woodson, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.
- Working on getting either a MMU exhibit or HHS NDMS display.

- US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) will be attending in force with 75-100 participants.
- USPHS Leadership Session Tentatively scheduled for 31 NOV Monday in the afternoon
- Tentative tour of SAMMAC (San Antonio Military Medical Center) – BAMC (Brook Army Medical Center) and The CFI (Center for the Intrepid)
- USPHS Leadership Session on Monday afternoon 30 NOV 2015 => More info to come
- USPHS AMSUS Planning Committee – if interested, contact CDR David Lau [David.Lau@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:David.Lau@ice.dhs.gov) (USPHS AMSUS Committee Senior Advisor)

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports:**

### **a) The MOLC Website Subcommittee**

The subcommittee includes:

Leads: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaisons.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Chair & Co-Chair: CDR David Laird, LCDR James Warner.

- With assistance from OSG, LCDR Karina Aguilar has prepared the MOLC Demographic Report for MOLC review. Once the report is approved, it will be posted on the MOLC website.
- An article on the MOLC Demographic Report is being drafted to submit to the COA Frontline.
- The MOLC Website Subcommittee is preparing a PHS Unit Commendation award nomination package for their significant contributions to update the website. This package should be ready for submission by September 15.

### **b) Questions for MOLC:**

- Meeting credits for SAA vs. UC Award
- Award status for MOLC Awards Planning Subcommittee

### **c) MOLC Awards Subcommittee**

- The subcommittee is working to complete several action items.
- A Certificate of appreciation will be requested for all subcommittee members.
- The subcommittee will be nominated for a PHS Unit Commendation.

## **Old/Unfinished Business –**

- SSA due by OCT 15

## **New Business-**

- AMSUS representative- ask CMAG's to provide volunteers
- Demographics report- to be reviewed and approved by email vote and posted in the MOLC Website.
- JOAG representative- ask CMAGs for volunteers. Position to rotate every year thru the CMAGs. Review the Bylaws to verify if changes need it for this position to qualify for SSA.
- CAPT Novan's presentation on Leadership
  - o Open to CMAGs
  - o Volunteers to setup webinar

## **• Adjournment - LCDR James Warner**



The Meeting was adjourned at 1618 hours EST by LCDR Warner.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; September 22nd, 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 22nd, 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-857-232-0476 and Passcode: 815530

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Present	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Absent	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
*Absent (Deployed)	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- CDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1405 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Bonilla convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR) Timothy Cunningham (JOAG Representative).

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 June and July meetings were approved with CDR Ansah's revision of June COA report.

## ○ Abbreviated Reports:

### 1. Chair's Report – LCR Warner

- Demographics report: SG approved content and now uploaded to MOLC website at [https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/molc/Demographics\\_2014.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/molc/Demographics_2014.aspx).
- SAA: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 deadline is correct for awards submission. CDR Laird and Goodrich-Doctor are working on routing.

### 2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Warner & CDR Laird

1. Completed reviewing and voting on new nominees for AIANCOAC voting members. Reviewed our Appointment Letters and the policy for updating new letters.
2. Reviewed deadlines for CMAG voting package to MOLC by 15SEP15 and SAA award received by 15OCT15.
3. Nominated JOAG MOLC Liaison.
4. USPHS Promotion Coordinator Presenters: CAPT Mary McCormick, DCCPR and CAPT Daisy Mitchell, CDC, Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2015, Time: 1400 -1500 Eastern Standard Time Webinar Link (join as a participant): <<https://webconf.cdc.gov/gwk5/SZOTRMOG>>
5. Developing Mentor and Contact Rosters for AIANCOAC members. This will be taken on by the Membership Chair & Mentoring and Career Development & Recruitment and Retention subcommittees.
6. Fundraising is making t-shirts and the designs will be sent out for review.
7. LCDR Angela Battese and LCDR Adrienne Tveit are working with AIANCOAC and Admiral Meeks, OK Area for preparations for the COA meeting next year symposium in OK City. POC information has been forwarded to MOLC award banquet sub-committee.
8. RADM Dawn Wylie is retiring and will no longer be on AIANCOAC after JAN 2016.
9. AIANCOAC voted to approve survey monkey for joint MOLC and CMAG use.

### 3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran

- APAOC had the executive and general meeting on September 16, 2015.
- APAOC requests appointment of 10 members for a three year term beginning January 1, 2016. The voting member nomination packages were submitted to MOLC on September 15, 2015.
- APAOC nominated LT Jeannie Hong for the JOAG MOLC Representative consideration.
- APAOC is in the process of collecting all SAA nomination packages and will submit to MOLC by October 15, 2015. APAOC requested for clarification on the SAA activity log.
- Regarding the shared survey monkey, APAOC has discussed among its voting members and decided that with the current usage, the free survey monkey and max.gov capabilities are sufficient.
- APAOC will provide an education & training on Promotions on October 21, 2015.

### 4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah & CDR Goodrich-Doctor

- Invitation to attend BCOAG's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: October 9 – 11, 2015
  - Training Conference – Friday, October 9, 2015, 8am - 4pm, Food and Drug Administration

- BCOAG 25th Anniversary Social – Friday, October 9, 2015, 6pm - 9pm, Fire Station Bar and Grill
- Community Service Event Options – Saturday, October 10, 2015
- Sunday Worship Service – Sunday, October 11, 2015 11am – 1pm The Church of Christ and DC Zion Baptist Church
- **Main Event: BCOAG 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, Saturday, October 10, 2015, 7pm – 11pm, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Bolling Club Grand Ballroom, 50 Theison Street, Washington, DC – For tickets (until September 25<sup>th</sup>) and to RSVP to other 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events please go to <http://bcoag25thanniversary.eventbrite.com>**
- BCOAG is preparing awards for submission to MOLC by the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

#### **5. HOAC Report – CDR Bonilla**

- Next HOAC meeting will be 10/1/2015
- New voting members selected for 2016-2018, voting member packages being put together.
- Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off with several webinars/presentation: 9/16 “Hispanics in the U.S.”, 9/21 “Hispanic Community Health”, 10/13 Virtual conference on “Educating Latinos on the Affordable Care Act”.
- Shared Survey Monkey Acct proposed by HOAC: would allow for unlimited questions and access to statistical analysis: CDR Warner reports AI/ANCOAC is interested, LCDR Tran reports APAOC is NOT interested. CDR Ansah and Goodrich-Doctor state they have not yet conferred with BCOAG yet, but will do so.

#### **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

- COA Director & Staff met with RADM Patrick O’Carroll, special assistant to Dr. Karen De Salvo, to discuss the COA request to Dr. De Salvo to include \$5 million for PHS officer training in her FY ’17 budget submission (19AUG).
- COA Staff distributed a letter the director had draft, to all Senate offices, urging the prompt confirmation of Dr. Karen De Salvo to be Assistant Secretary of Health (5SEP). The COA director, Col (ret.) Currie, made a presentation 9/11/15 to JOAG on “*The US Public Health Service Officer and the Political Process: A Primer*” as part of the JOAG Journeyman Series. He talked for thirty minutes and then took questions from those on the line. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation was provided to the MOLC on 9/22/15.

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- No report.

#### **8. JOAG Report – LCDR Cunningham**

- The new JOAG Representative to MOLC has not yet been selected. JOAG received statements of intent on Friday from each of the CMAGs that would be able to rotate on.

A selection will be made soon. The Junior Officers Advisory Group (JOAG) Communications and Publications Committee distributed the JOAG Mid-Year Report for 2015 via the JOAG Digest. Inside this publication you will find all of the exciting accomplishments completed by our subcommittees so far this year.

- Submissions for the Fall JOAG Journal will be accepted until October 9, 2015. Articles should be submitted to [joagcpcsubmission@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:joagcpcsubmission@fda.hhs.gov). Please contact LCDR Daveta Bailey ([Daveta.Bailey@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Daveta.Bailey@fda.hhs.gov)) for more information. The Summer JOAG Journal is also now available on the web: <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/JOAG/journal.aspx>
- The first JOAG General Member Meeting for this operational year is scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2015 at 1300-1500. Call-in number: 626- 677-3000 Passcode: 791 – 9605. The new JOAG Chair is LCDR Elizabeth Garza, she is stationed at CDC.
- Please save the date and join us for an off-cycle Journeyman Speaker Series on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 1300-1400 with distinguished guests VADM Vivek Murthy and RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams! More information will be provided as we draw near, but we wanted to advertise the event now so that junior officers could place the event on their calendars. Phone number: 1-860-970-0300. Passcode: 6904646.

#### **9. DCCPR/RedDog Readiness Update – CDR Lau**

US Deputy Surgeon General RADM Boris Lushniak will officially be retired 01 OCT 2015; Retirement ceremony took place 03 SEP 2015 at NIH – very well attended and broadcasted also; will be available on COA website for viewing.

RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams will officially be new US Deputy Surgeon General on 01 OCT 2015; promotion/pinning ceremony to occur in OCT TBA.

#### **DCCPR/HQ Updates:**

-Lots of personnel changes in HQ:

Awards Coordinator - LCDR Adriana Meyer-Alonzo has PCSed; LCDR Dorinda Ball is the new awards coordinator and will be coming on board in the middle of the month; currently awards movement on the slow side due to the transition.

Adverse Action Officer – CDR Martha Wanca is transitioning out

Additional changes already mentioned in previous meetings.

Operational Leadership of the Corps – HQ needs to be staffed with the best possible people/personnel => if you know officers who would be great for HQ, please reach out and talk to them/encourage them.

#### **RedDOG Updates:**

- MMU Team Commanders – encouraged to get awards in for Ebola Responders for processing

- Special Assignment Awards – team leadership awards

-NEPA (National Emergency Preparedness Award) – In policy now

- Target goal is to get awards into eOPFs by the end of the years

-RedDOG lost one personnel who PCS'ed out; RedDOG will have new FTE/Position available in the new FY.

- Transition of Team Leadership => Currently some teams are undergoing Team Commander changes/numerous teams are getting new team commanders/deputy team commanders; should be done by the end of this year.

- Ebola supplemental money for training – not sure if we will get or not; if we get additional resources, these will be used for additional training opportunities; current focus is on domestic preparedness vs. emergency or global response.

- We are still currently supporting operations in West Africa

- Final Budget for 2016 – there is still the threat of Govt. shutdown; may have CR => not huge impact on RedDOG/us for 2016

**- The Corps has been deployed every single day of SEC Burwell's tenure and in the last 18 months.**

- We need to have a prepared Corps trained and ready to respond.

#### Ongoing Operations:

- We continue to support CDC in Sierra Leone and Guinea; Epidemiology and vaccine trials => we are providing pharmacy support in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia; providing lab support in Liberia

Future Operations – Visit by the Pope = Washington DC, Philly, NY; also overlaps the UN General Assembly meeting; will have 90-100 officers deployed

Cache Rehab Opportunity – Need Pharmacy and Logistics Officers => one mission in Alaska and one mission in Hawaii

Clinical Support to State of Indiana => for HIV outbreak; still in discussion stages; recovery is already actively engaged.

Tropical Cyclone Activity – RIST 9 has been very active in current cyclone season; accolades to. CDR DeGrange – IRCT Online training available; 21 OCT is the deadline to sign up; occurs first 3 weeks of NOV; self-paced

New APFT => will not be available until 01 JAN 2016.

Syrian Refugee Crisis – currently there are no USG plans taking refugees similar to what happened in 1999 during the Kosovar Refugee Crisis when a camp was set up at Ft. Dix and we had PHS deployed to provide medical care and environmental support. If there is a deployment, RDF, MHT, SAT, APHTs will all be deployed and it will be an “All hands on deck” situation.

TDY Opportunities – if the budget is passes, there will be some additional TDY opportunities to HQ/in office – potentially 3-4; one will be reimbursable; others will not be; will be for 1-90 day length.

#### AMSUS Report

- AMSUS (The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States) will be 01-04 DEC 2015 in San Antonio

- 30 NOV 2015 will be the pre-conference day – The Interservice Leadership Session is scheduled to take place 1300-1500 with discussions centered around the Ebola Response
- Battlefield Acupuncture Sessions take place on 30 NOV 2015 – 2 sessions
- We will have a MMU exhibit set up with Air Force flying out and setting up a unit similar to the one in Liberia; USPHS officers will staff and will have full hot zone with PPE demos and realistic all the way down to the chlorine wash stations. Great opportunity for those who have not had a chance to see and witness the MMU; only chance and last chance. CDR Jennifer Moon is the lead
- USPHS Booth will be at AMSUS also CDR Ericka Murray is the Lead
- Great volunteer and involvement opportunities for AMSUS
- Volunteers for MMU Exhibit and USPHS Booth will have exhibitors passes (free)
- \$100 guest registration for all who do not need the CME/CE/CEUs
- HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) will have a very large number visiting and attending on 02 DEC 2015
- USPHS Holiday Luncheon will be on 04 DEC 2015 from 1130-1300. Will also be HSO Luncheon. LCDR Patricio Garcia lead.

**USPHS Athletic Event => Rock N Roll 10K will be on Saturday 05 DEC 2015 in the morning => come join us; sign up; HOSA also invited; CDR David Lau and LT Angelica Chica are the leads**

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Zhou**

The subcommittee includes:

Leads: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaisons.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Chair & Co-Chair: CDR David Laird, LCDR James Warner.

- The 2014 USPHS Demographic Report is now available on the MOLC website at [https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/molc/Demographics\\_2014.aspx](https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/molc/Demographics_2014.aspx). Thank you everyone for your prompt feedback to make this project a success. Please help us disseminating this information to your CMAG. We plan to keep all professional PACs informed of this report as well.

- An article on the 2014 USPHS Demographic Report has been submitted to the COA Frontline for publication.

## 2. MOLC Awards Ceremony – CDR Goodrich-Doctor & CDR Ansah

- The subcommittee is working to complete several action items.
- A Certificate of Appreciation was requested for all subcommittee members.
- The subcommittee will be nominated for a PHS Unit Commendation – a draft of the nomination is in progress.

### ○ Old/Unfinished Business – CDR Warner

**a) SAA: Clarification** received by CDR Warner's contact is "The methodology used in determining a member's participation is purely at the discretion of the nominating official. The Awards Issuance does not specifically address nor provide for much guidance in determining eligibility other than what is noted in the Commissioned Corps Instruction, Section, 6-3. d." Therefore, for the MOLC SAA every 30 mins will be counted towards one day/event of MOLC activity to be recorded in MOLC log towards MOLC SAA purposes. CMAGs may follow their own rules per their discretion.

**b) Proposed MOLC liaison to AMSUS:** Brought up at August meeting to be brought to all CMAGs: Does MOLC need a dedicated AMSUS liaison: the AMSUS planning committee represents USPHS to the SG. CDR Ansah and CDR Warner states BCOAG and AI/ANCOAC have CMAG members on the AMSUS planning committee already. CDR Goodrich-Doctor brought up the question that if all CMAGs had representation on AMSUS, would the CMAG and/or MOLC still desire a dedicated MOLC liaison to AMSUS? CDR Warner requests this be brought up to each CMAG and reported back to him.

### ○ New Business –

- **MOLC SAA log:** will be sent by CDR Laird for all who are interested in receiving the MOLC SAA Award. The log must only include MOLC specific activities such as MOLC meetings/meeting preparation time and any time spent in MOLC subcommittees. A total of 30 "hours" is required. Logs should be submitted to CDRs Laird and Warner.
- **SAA and other Awards:** Question arose as to whether the hours used in the SAA can also be used towards other awards such as Unit Commendations and Citations. CDR Warner will follow up and get back to us on this.
- **OCB Graduation:** October 4<sup>th</sup> Open House. October 16<sup>th</sup> graduation- come and support! (CDR Kofi will represent MOLC at graduation). Those interested in attending should contact CDR Ansah.
- **Space A discussion:** possible presentation?

### ○ Adjournment - CDR Warner

The Meeting was adjourned at 1438 hours EST (by CDR Warner).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; October 27th 1400-1600 EST.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 27th 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-857-232-0476 and Passcode: 815530

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Absent*	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Present	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Present	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Present	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- CDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1402 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Bonilla convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR), CDR Dawn Dineyazhe, proxy for CDR Laird.

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 September are not available for review. They will be sent out for review and approval by the next MOLC meeting.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

- **Chair's Report – LCDR Warner**
- Routing of Awards & Details for Form PHS 6342-1 have been updated from OSG and all SAA awards from CMAGs, UC for MOLC, and individual awards for MOLC have been moved forward. Notification that MOLC is not able to submit for SAA, refer to previous email.
  - In 1990, an MOU was established between OSG and the CMAG's, not with the MOLC directly, to ensure each CMAG had an equal voice, the MOU outlined a yearly rotation of the positions of responsibility within MOLC ensuring each CMAG had an equal chance to represent MOLC as a whole.
    - The SG has the authority to issue "appointment" memos to the CMAG's not the MOLC.
    - MOLC members are not formal "appointments" by the SG. Officers from each CMAG are considered "representatives" to comprise the MOLC.
    - In order to make this change, revisions would be required of all bylaws.
  - Making this change would create an unnecessary administrative function and increased workload for OSG/IO, CMAG and MOLC members.
    - This request does not further the mission of the CMAG in how they provide advice to the SG on issues related to each group being represented.
    - This request does not further the mission of the MOLC by increasing the MOLC's capacity as a resource advisory to assist in the development, coordination, and evaluation of activities related to ethnic minority officers within the PHS.
- Webinar to by Ret Captain Jim Knoben on leadership completed on Friday, September 25, 2015
  - With a brief updated review on PPAC 15OCT15.
- Letters of Appreciation: website & symposium completed and sent to subcommittee leadership.
- SAA Awards from CMAGs have been forwarded.
- UC Awards from MOLC have been forwarded.
- Individual Awards from MOLC have been forwarded.

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Warner**

1. Admiral Meeks was on the call from OK Area and is attempting to get a COA sponsored scholarship for symposium registration fees. The weekend before the symposium there will be a remote area medical conference in Durant OK, May 14-15. Requesting a large turn-out for the symposium.
2. Looking for new Culture Chair representative.
3. Reviewed COER deadlines and OPF recommendations.
4. SAA awards, UC awards, and individual awards submitted for MOLC.
5. Developing Mentor and Contact Rosters for AIANCOAC members. Started with new survey being developed for AIANCOAC Officers on survey monkey account.

6. LCDR Angela Battese and LCDR Adrienne Tveit are working with AIANCOC and Admiral Meeks, OK Area for preparations for the COA meeting next year symposium in OK City. Additional POC is Julie Erb-Alvarez, COA President OKC Area, [Julie.Erb-Alvarez@ihs.gov](mailto:Julie.Erb-Alvarez@ihs.gov).
7. No AMSUS volunteers for upcoming DEC event or liaison opportunities.
8. Next Meeting is 19NOV15.

### 3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran

- APAOC had an education & training session on “Promotions: Writing for Impact” on October 21.
- APAOC announced the 2016 Executive Committee on October 20.
  - o APAOC Chair – CDR Cai Shu (Cathy)
  - o APAOC Chair-Elect – CDR Kun Shen
  - o Executive Secretary – LCDR Nhi Beasley
  - o Corresponding Secretary – LT Thomas Gammarano
  - o Treasurer – LT Xinzhi Zhang
  - o MOLC – CDR Khang Ngo, LCDR Eric Zhou
  - o Strategic Planning Chair - LCDR Trang Tran
- APAOC is still in the process of collecting all SOPs for the subcommittees and ask for a due date of November 30.
- APAOC has submitted all SAA nomination packages to MOLC as of October 15, 2015.
- CDR Diem-Kieu Ngo from APAOC would like to serve as the AMSUS liaison for MOLC. She served as the PharmPAC Liaison for AMSUS in the past and is familiar with this role.
- APAOC does not support the idea of nominating MOLC members who meet the required criteria for the former MOLC SAA awards for an individual award. In addition, APAOC advocate for MOLC to put an award tracking system in place for all CMAGs starting this year.

### 4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah & CDR Goodrich-Doctor

- BCOAG celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary from October 9 – 11, 2015
  - o Training Conference – Friday, October 9, 2015, 8am - 4pm, Food and Drug Administration – The retirement session of this training was recorded. We will share the recording with other CMAGs as soon as it is available.
  - o BCOAG 25th Anniversary Social – Friday, October 9, 2015, 6pm - 9pm, Fire Station Bar and Grill
  - o Community Service Event Options – Saturday, October 10, 2015
  - o Sunday Worship Service – Sunday, October 11, 2015 11am – 1pm - The Church of Christ and DC Zion Baptist Church
  - o Main Event: BCOAG 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, Saturday, October 10, 2015, 7pm – 11pm, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Bolling Club Grand Ballroom, 50 Theison Street, Washington, DC
    - Over 100 officers and guests attended including current and retired Corps leadership.
    - RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams served as the keynote speaker.

- October 2015 BCOAG Health and Disparity Committee Highlights Food Allergy Awareness
  - What Is A Food Allergy?
    - A Food Allergy is an abnormal response of the immune system to food protein. Here are some of the common food products that cause an Allergy response; soy, milk, nuts, wheat, fish, and shell fish. These food products are called an allergen. After a person is exposed to a food allergen either by inhalation, swallowing, or skin absorption, an allergic reaction begins. During an allergic reaction, the body produces an antibody (IgE). The antibody attaches to a Mast cell (a form of a blood cell), the Mast cell releases chemicals such as histamine that cause the allergic reaction. Sometimes food intolerances are mistaken as food allergies, such as Lactose intolerance (the body inability to digest lactose), it is not a food allergy, because there is no immune system response and food allergies require an immune response. Due to food intolerance, more people claim food allergies than those that are clinically proven. Only 5% of children have clinically proven food allergies, and 4% of teens and adults have clinically proven allergies.
  - How Do People Get Food Allergies?
    - An individual's ability to form IgE against food is an inherited predisposition. Usually, people with food allergies come from families in which some type of allergy is common, such as hay fever, asthma, and hives. It is more likely for a person with two allergic parents to develop food allergies than someone with one allergic parent.
  - What Are The Symptoms? What To Do If You Are Having An Allergic Reaction To A Food?
    - Histamines can cause a person to have various food allergy symptoms. The symptom for an allergic reaction to a food product depends upon the tissue in which the Histamine is released. If the mast cells release histamines in the ears, nose, and throat, a person may feel an itching in the mouth and may have trouble breathing or swallowing. If the affected mast cells are in the gastrointestinal tract, the person may have abdominal pain, vomiting, or diarrhea. If the histamine is released by skin mast cells, hives can form. Most symptoms of an allergic reaction go away shortly after the exposure stops, with the exception of anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is the most severe allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis is life-threatening and requires immediate medical attention. Symptoms can progress rapidly, so it is eminent that you go straight to the emergency room at any suspicion of anaphylaxis. It is extremely important for people who suspect they have food allergies to be tested. Once food allergies are identified, avoid these foods to prevent allergic reactions. Always carry your EpiPen (medicine injected in the thigh when having a severe allergic reaction) if required, because reactions to food can cause devastating illness and, in some cases, be fatal.
  - References:
    - <http://www.webmd.com/allergies/guide/food-allergy-intolerances>
    - [http://www.webmd.com/allergies/guide/allergy-basics?page=2es:](http://www.webmd.com/allergies/guide/allergy-basics?page=2es)

- USPHS Demographics Report Discussion: CDRs Goodrich-Doctor and Ansah urged BCOAG officers to review the newly released USPHS demographics report. The report was discussed during the October 8<sup>th</sup> BCOAG meeting.
  - Below are a few questions provided by BCOAG members:
    - How many individuals from racial/ethnic minority groups apply vs. accepted?
    - If an officer did not report can they report retroactively?
    - Is it possible to conduct a census of the Corps (maybe every other year)?
    - Would it be of interest to compare the demographics of the U.S. with the demographics of the Corps to get a “true face of the Corps”?
    - Is it possible that some of the criteria the Corps uses (i.e., GPA criteria) is causing a decrease in the number of racial/ethnic minorities?
- BCOAG is not interested in partnering with CMAGs to purchase a survey monkey account – BCOAG does not have a need for this type of account.

#### **5. HOAC Report – CDR Tirado**

1. MOU with OMH/ US\_Mexico Border Health Commission to train Promotores de Salud in Emergency Preparedness
2. HOAC Awards: Richard H. Carmona- recipient CDR Alfredo Sancho; Antonia C. Novello- recipient LT Yvonne Santiago
3. HOAC APFT during Hispanic Heritage Month took place in Washington, DC area.
4. CDR Evelyn Rodriguez will volunteer as AMSUS Liaison
5. Biannually Newsletter- La Gaceta
6. Hablemos(pilot program one on one Spanish language learning)

#### **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

- No report.

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- No report. See MOLC Subcommittee Website notes.

#### **8. JOAG Report – CDR Warner**

1. The “Grant Hall Open House” event allows members of the public to view and experience the history of the Lincoln Assassination Trials tribunal courtroom. Volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of activities, including limiting the number of guests per occupancy requirements, maintaining the integrity of historical artifacts, and educating the public by providing historical information. Volunteers will be provided appropriate equipment, and historical information via email and during a 30 minute orientation prior to the event.  
 Location: Historic Ulysses S. Grant Hall, Fort Lesley J. McNair, JB Myer-Henderson Hall 103 3rd Avenue SW, Building 20, Washington D.C. 20319  
 Date and Time: Saturday, November 7, 2015. Volunteers may sign up for one of two available shifts: 0930-1200 EDT and 1130-1400 EDT.

2. The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Membership Committee is excited to announce an upcoming Meet and Greet for the month of November.  
Time: 1200-1300 EST  
Location: Room 424, 11th floor, EPA Regional Office, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19103
3. 2016 Call for Award Nominations  
Nomination Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2015  
The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) is requesting nominations for the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration award to be presented at the annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from May 16-19, 2016.  
The JOAG VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award recognizes an active duty or retired senior officer at the rank of O-5 or above in the USPHS Commissioned Corps who exemplifies outstanding leadership by example, mentorship and empowerment of junior officers, unwavering support of the Commissioned Corps and its mission, and overall inspiration and motivation to the PHS community. Nominations are only accepted from junior officers (at the rank of O-4 or below in the USPHS Commissioned Corps).
4. The JOAG Awards Committee is in need of volunteers for the following opportunities:  
Awards de-identifier - Volunteers needed to assist with de-identifying Carmona Award nomination packages.  
Awards reviewer – Reviewers needed to assist with reviewing Carmona award submissions.
5. The JOAG Professional Development Book Club is designed to give Junior Officers a platform to discuss various aspects of leadership and management in order to develop new skills or enhance existing skills. We will utilize books on the JOAG Professional Development Reading List (available at [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)) and select a book on a quarterly basis to read and discuss.  
Our next scheduled book club session will be on November 19, 2015 from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EST, discussing the book, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In* by William Ury. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact LT Morgan Walker ([Morgan.Walker@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Morgan.Walker@fda.hhs.gov); 301-796-1583)
6. PHS officers, civilian co-workers, family, and friends (and your dogs!) are invited to join the Pedestrians and Pooches Walk, a one-mile walk, with man's best friend, to support Step it Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities. This event coincides with the National Walking Summit, with sponsorship and participation from America Walks, the Everybody Walk! collaborative, the National Park Service Healthy Parks Health People initiative, American Veterinary Medical Association and the USPHS Veterinary Category, to promote walking and the human-animal bond.  
Date & Time: Friday, October 30, 2015 from 1230-1400 EDT, Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington D.C.

## 9. DCCPR/RedDog Readiness Update – CDR Lau

### **RedDOG Report:**

***Last Readiness Run: 95.2% overall; highest to date; first time ever over 95% for all of Corps;***

PPAC scored over 91%; first time ever over 90%; Kudos to CAPT Goldman

Roseburg, Oregon Shooting – MH#3 and SAT #3 deployed for 2 weeks; Mission OIC was CAPT Jenny Nussbaum; all boots on the ground 24 hours after; some 12 hours after incident request; involved 18 officers with 13 deployed in direct support; had over 1500 contacts meeting with school and tribal officials

We sent out first team to Liberia for the Ebola crisis one year ago.

Coordinated Papal Visit – Response was most complex and largest to date

Current Ops – Therapeutic Studies - CDC and NIH in Guinea and Sierra Leone

- New Mission – support for protection of clinical requirements for CDC teams-need independent providers – Physicians, PAs, etc.

Future Ops – Possible IHS Pine Ridge Mental Health Mission – Standing by

Awards: 100s of Ebola related awards currently being processed.

Moratorium on Global Health Engagement and Training Missions lifted

- PACFLEET – We are engaged in discussions/planning for Pacific Partnership 2016; in PACOM AOR – looking at re-establishing role of PHS
- SOUTHCOM – MEDRETEs – Central and South America; Continuing Promise in 2017 is the next one

CHASM Like Mission during COA in OKC – In discussions MAY 14-15 – Collaborating with Remote Area Medical (RAM); working closely with RDF #4 on this

National Guard Bureau – IRT Program – In discussions concerning potential training collaboration and opportunities

South Carolina – Possible support; team commanders should be validating rosters; APHT #3 is on call; currently the federal response for SC so far has been Mortuary Officers/request for DMORT teams due to interruption in burials.

LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange is currently detailed to OSSI

NEW => There will be a Coordinating Officer/Team Commander Emeritus for each of the types of deployment teams. This is a new position to coordinate each of the respective types of teams, and the officers will not serve a dual role as a team commander. All team leaders will be reporting to the Coordinating Officer for RDF, MHT, SAT, APHT, RIST, NIST, etc; more to come

### **DCCPR Report**

CAPT Shih/DSI – Data Conversion is 96% accurate; after 01 JAN 2016, we will be using only Direct Access Number; no more use of SERNO

Direct Access Shutdown from 18-31 DEC 2015 ; DEC Leave needs to be entered in advance prior to shutdown.

IT Charter Advisory Committee had their first meeting; currently working to migrate all PAC websites onto HHS Servers over the next year or so; will also have a unified help desk for HHS IT.

HQ Vacancies – there will be about 100 FTEs/vacancies at CC HQ – Please send good qualified officers; lots are at O-4 and O-5 level

Step It Up campaign for SG's Walking and Walkability – There is a special Pandora App.

There is also a Fit Bit Challenge

Next SG Call to Action will be concerning the Opioid Epidemic/working with SAMHSA on this US Surgeon General will be making an appearance on Dr. Oz

#### Operations:

Midlevel Course in NOV

Next OBC is in DEC; 26 new officers

Flag Officer Promotions – 14 new Flags – Congratulations!!

TSA PreCheck – Ongoing Discussions / Hopefully by 2016

Recruitment: Currently 115 ongoing 1662s; 108 are boarded and needing assignments/1662s; 301 open applications

#### Awards:

- New CC Awards Coordinator – LCDR Dorinda Ball
- Changes are in place to transition to a new electronic submission process for all awards.
- There will be no more distribution of hardware packets with CC Honor Awards
- On track to get all awards caught up by the end of the year
- GET NEW AWARDS TURNED IN !!

#### Retirements:

RADM Clara Cobb, RHA for Region 9 – 17 SEP 2015 Ceremony/Retiring at end of SEP

RADM Newton Kendig, CMO and Assistant Director for BOP – 16 OCT 2015 Ceremony/Retiring at end of OCT

RADM Chris Bina will be taking over as Assistant Director for BOP on 01 NOV 2015 after RADM Kendig Retires

#### Additional Notes:

Pedestrians and Pooches Walk 30 OCT 2015 – Sponsored by Vets

NPAC will be sponsoring the second annual Healing with CAARE Mission in North Carolina 18-19 JAN 2016

BCOAG 25th Anniversary Celebration – Keynote was US Deputy Surgeon General RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams; COL Jim Currie (Ret.) from COA attended also

Army 10 Miler – We had 252 USPHS officers run; this was the largest of any service

Awards to CPOs: SG ESM went to RADM Terri Clark and RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams

US Deputy Surgeon General Change of Command Ceremony/Promotion Ceremony: 26 OCT 2015 at HHH Great Hall.

CPO Boards – HSOs furthest along/ Nursing and Therapists next

DCCPR Adverse Action Officer – CDR Marti Wanca PCSed to IHS/LCDR Kyle Lyons serving as Acting



DEC OBC Pinning – Next one is 11 DEC 2015 => Try to attend  
Uniform Updates and Changes – Numerous changes to female uniform discussed => Preliminary information; final guidance will be forthcoming

### **AMSUS Report**

- AMSUS (The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States) will be 01-04 DEC 2015 in San Antonio
- <http://amsusmeetings.org/meetings/>
- 30 NOV 2015 will be the pre-conference day – The Inter-Service Leadership Session is scheduled to take place 1300-1500 with discussions centered around the Ebola Response: The 2 presentations are: 1) Lessons Learned from U.S. Public Health Services Reintegration Mission as Part of the USGov Ebola Response CDR Alfredo Sancho, Ph.D., MPH, MA, USPHS and 2) Multi-Service Collaboration for International Public Health Missions through DOD Humanitarian Assistance Program CDR Alfredo Sancho, Ph.D., MPH, MA, USPHS
- USPHS Update – 03 NOV 2015 1000-1100 – US Deputy Surgeon General RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams
- Battlefield Acupuncture Sessions take place on 30 NOV 2015 – 2 sessions
- MMU exhibit set up => with Air Force flying out and setting up a EMEDS unit similar to the one in Liberia; USPHS officers will staff and will have full hot zone with PPE demos and realistic all the way down to the chlorine wash stations. Great opportunity for those who have not had a chance to see and witness the MMU; only chance and last chance; Staffing opportunities also => CDR Jennifer Moon is the lead
- USPHS Booth will be at AMSUS also; staffing opportunities => CDR Ericka Murray is the Lead
- \$100 guest registration for all who do not need the CME/CE/CEUs
- HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) will be attending on 02 DEC 2015
- Hotel Block is open
- USPHS Holiday Luncheon will be on 04 DEC 2015 from 1130-1300. Will also be HSO Luncheon. => LCDR Patricio Garcia planning lead.
- USPHS Social will be evening of Tuesday 01 DEC 2015 at River's Edge Café, 200 South Alamo Street on the RiverWalk
- Joint Humanitarian Operations Course (JHOC) certification will be taught on 03-04 DEC 2015; free for those paying regular registration.
- AMSUS Awards Banquet – 03 NOV Thursday –
  - Humanitarian Assistance Award: USPHS Monrovia Medical Unit (MMU)
  - Operational Medicine Award: USPHS MMU Team
  - Joel T. Boone Award: CAPT George Durgin

USPHS Athletic Event => Rock N Roll 10K will be on Saturday 05 DEC 2015 in the morning => come join us; sign up; HOSA also invited; => CAPT David Lau, CDR Vicky Ottmers, and LCDR Patricio Garcia are the leads <http://www.runrocknroll.com/san-antonio/schedule/10k/>

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Zhou**

The subcommittee includes:

Leads: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaisons.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Chair & Co-Chair: CDR David Laird, LCDR James Warner.

- The article on the 2014 USPHS Demographic Report has been slated for publication in November issue of the COA Frontline. Please stay tuned!
- The 2 new pages for presentations/webinars and photo gallery have been added to the MOLC website.
- We have a 700% increase in the number of visitors/hits since May 2015 when the MOLC Website Subcommittee first updated the website.

### **• MOLC Awards Ceremony – CDR Goodrich-Doctor & CDR Ansah**

- The subcommittee will be nominated for a PHS Unit Commendation – the nomination was finalized and approved by the MOLC Chairs.

### **○ Old/Unfinished Business – CDR Warner**

**a) Shared Survey Monkey Account:** BCOAG and APAOC CMAGs have decided they do not need the account, while HOAC and AIANCOAC would like to share an account. The shared cost for a yearly account would be \$300/2= \$150.

**b) Final Webinar proposed:** Topics include Space A perhaps set up by CDR Lau.

**c) AMSUS representation:** All CMAGs have representation on AMSUS committee. No CMAG interest at this time for having an official MOLC AMSUS representative. If this was done, an amendment would need to be made to the MOLC By Laws to reflect this newly created

position. For now, MOLC prefers to hold any movement on this issue, until the new MOLC & CMAG voting members are in place for 2016. Until this issue can be revisited, each CMAG AMSUS representative is to provide an AMSUS report to their CMAG. CMAGs can coordinate their reports if needed with CDR Lau, who is a former AMSUS Chair and is providing an AMSUS report to MOLC.

○ **New Business –**

- **MOLC SAA** : not authorized. Unit Commendation (UC) Award will be sent for the MOLC Website Subcommittee, demographics, and MOLC Awards Ceremony Subcommittee.
- **MOLC Awards Tracking System**: CDR Warner has compiled unofficial files of Award write ups, letters of appreciation, etc. for the next Chair for continuity and to be able to check the status of written awards.
- **Thank you letters for Webinar speakers/COA financial sponsors**: CDR Warner proposes also giving MOLC coins to the two moderators and 2 presenters, but a MOLC coin has not yet been developed. CDR Shen started work on this last year and states a coin mold costs about \$200. CDR Lau states he knows some vendors that can make the mold and/or coins. CDR Warner then proposed a gift of CMAG coins, but there was no general interest. CDR Warner would like points of contact/vendor information from each CMAG be brought back to MOLC at the next MOLC meeting.
- **Arizonans Concerned About Smoking**: This group would like to incorporate their award presentation into the MOLC Awards Ceremony. Their incorporation hasn't been officially voted on yet. Right now, their request is under review and will need approval by MOLC and OSG. If they are included, banquet size and time needed for award ceremony may need to be increased. CDR Kofi Ansah is lead on this.

○ **Adjournment - CDR Warner**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1615 hours EST (by CDR Warner).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 24th 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-857-232-0476 and Passcode: 815530, Leader Code: 3969

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Absent*	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Absent	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Present	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Absent	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- CDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1406 hours EST.

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Bonilla convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR), CDR Cara Nichols, proxy for CDR Laird.

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 September & October are not available for review. They will be sent out for review and approval by the next MOLC meeting.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

● **Chair's Report – CDR Laird**

- Wish everyone a happy holiday season this week. I want to thank everyone for their contribution this year as we wind down for the year.
- Between the last meeting all CMAG awards should be directly submitted to the OSG Awards Coordinator for all CMAG awards except for SAA's or awards that requested MOLC submission and signature. This can be further discussed in new business for additional dialogue.
- Based on the new direction from OSG, MOLC is currently submitting the following awards for this year:
  1. UC MOLC Ceremony 25th Anniversary
  2. UC MOLC Website/Demographics Report
  3. PHS Citation LCDR Cunningham
  4. PHS CM Eric Zhou
  5. SAA HOAC
  6. SAA BCOAG
  7. SAA APAOC
  8. SAA AIANCOAC

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Warner**

- Our monthly meeting was Thursday 19NOV15 but was cancelled.
- Next Meeting is 03DEC15.

**3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran**

- APAOC had the executive general meeting on November 18, 2015.
- APAOC leadership is currently going through the transition period to prepare for next year.
- APAOC will host the Change of Command/Holiday Celebration on December 11, 2015 from 6p-9p at the DCCPR Headquarter.

**4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah & CDR Goodrich-Doctor**

- The November BCOAG general body meeting was held on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at the FDA/White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, MD. About 20 officers, including 3 retired officers, attended the meeting in person with several others attending remotely via audio-conference.
- Discussions centered on the group's activities through 2015 with the various BCOAG committees and liaisons providing an overview of their 2015 activities to the body.
- The 2015 BCOAG elections results were also shared with the membership; and the incoming Voting Members and Executive Committee were introduced to the general body.
- The BCOAG chair thanked all for their involvement and hard work during 2015
- Two officers received BCOAG Chair's Awards which were presented by CDR Hamet Touré (out-going BCOAG Chair). The recipients of the Chair Awards and their citations are:

- LCDR Avena Russell - *for excellence as Chair of the BCOAG 25th Anniversary Committee and promoting collaboration and interaction between active duty and retired officers.*
- CDR Kofi Ansah – *for selfless dedication to BCOAG, mentoring of Junior Officers, and fostering unity and solidarity among officers.*
- The next BCOAG general meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2015.

#### **5. HOAC Report – CDR Tirado**

- E-learning program/Spanish Language Webinars continuing in conjunction with Office of Minority Health. Last webinar was on 11/10/2015.
- CDR Aviles-Mendoza replacing CDR Bonilla as MOLC representative for 2016
- HOAC Executive committee/voting members selected for 2016.

#### **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

- No report.

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- CDR Khang Ngo and LCDR Eric Zhou will be serving as the MOLC Representatives for APAOC next year.
- CDR Khang Ngo (and alternate), LCDR Eric Zhou (and alternate), and LCDR Trang Tran had the transition t-con this morning to go over the activities for this year and what to expect for next year.
- CDR Ngo has been invited to attend the November and December MOLC meetings during the transition.

#### **8. JOAG Report – CDR Warner**

1. New to JOAG and looking for a way to get involved? The JOAG Policy & Procedures Committee is looking for volunteers! We are recruiting officers to assist with a new Code of Conduct Work Group led by LCDR Erica Sison. Please contact her at [ilz7@cdc.gov](mailto:ilz7@cdc.gov) for more information.
2. Please join the JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee, Uniformed Service Community Service Projects Subcommittee, and USPHS volunteers as we participate with the U.S. Navy and other uniformed service volunteers in the annual “Wreaths Across America Day” event at multiple locations. There is no limit to the number of officers who may attend this event. All junior and senior officers are welcome to volunteer. Family and friends are welcome to attend the ceremonies. The names of volunteers must be submitted to LCDR Jennifer Smith at [jtj5@cdc.gov](mailto:jtj5@cdc.gov) and LT Rachael Cook at [Rachael.Cook@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Rachael.Cook@fda.hhs.gov) <<mailto:Rachael.Cook@fda.hhs.gov>> by Friday December 4, 2015 at 1200 EST.
  - A) Arlington National Cemetery  
 Memorial Drive Arlington, Virginia 22211  
 Date and Time: Saturday December 12, 2015 from 0930 to completion. The final ceremony will be held at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier at 1200 EST.
  - B) Marietta National Cemetery

500 Washington Ave. NE  
Marietta, GA 30060  
Saturday December 12, 2015  
1130 EST – 1330 EST (approximate end time)

- C) South-View Cemetery  
1990 Jonesboro Rd. SE  
Atlanta, GA 30315  
1115 EST – 1315 EST (approximate end time)

3. The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Membership Committee is excited to announce an upcoming Meet and Greets (M&Gs) for the month of December. We invite officers in the area to attend.
  - A) Location: San Francisco Federal Building, 15DEC15, 1130-1230, room TBA.
  - B) Location: Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Conference Room A  
Friday, December 18, 2015, 1300-1400 MST/ Arizona Time.
4. The JOAG Communications & Publications Committee (CPC) is soliciting ideas for articles to be featured in the Winter 2016 issue of the JOAG Journal. Deadlines: Article drafts are due by close of business 14 December 2015 and final submissions will be due by close of business on 21 December 2015.
5. The JOAG Senior Advisor will serve as a resource, advisor, and liaison to assist in the development and coordination of activities related to junior officers in the Commissioned Corps. The Senior Advisor is expected to be a consultant to the JOAG, advising on JOAG-related issues, concerns, policies, and procedures. The Senior Advisor may advocate for, but does not officially represent, the JOAG. E-mail complete nomination package to LCDR Elizabeth Garza at [egarza@cdc.gov](mailto:egarza@cdc.gov) <<mailto:egarza@cdc.gov>> . Nominations are due no later than close of business, Tuesday, December 1, 2015
6. The Fall JOAG Journal was published and sent out on the JOAG List Serve on 13NOV15. There were several great articles put together by the Communications and Publications Committee. If you would like a pdf please contact me.

## 9. DCCPR/RedDog Readiness Update – CDR Lau

- RADM Scott Giberson – New role as Senior Advisor to the Office of the Surgeon General
- Detail => RADM Joan Hunter will lead Transition Team for reorganization of USPHS; CAPT Sophia Russell will be deputy.
- US Surgeon General VADM Murthy appeared on Dr. Oz 09 NOV
- CPO Selections – HSO CPO is awaiting approval; Nurse and Vet CPO are next in line
- **Direct Access:**  
=>will be offline from 18 DEC thru 04 JAN; will be unavailable.  
=>Advance Leave entry must be entered by 17 DEC 2015 by LMCs (Leave Maintenance Clerks)

- HQ Changes: CAPT Karen Sicard leaving as Policy Director; transitioning to Office of General Counsel / CAPT Mary McCormick and CDR Barnett will be transitioning to Policy Branch
- Officer Midlevel Course in NOV – 40 Students
- Next OBC with 26 students will be 07-19 DEC; All encouraged to attend pinning and graduation.
- Direct Access: we are still 800 officers short for the leave certification.
- CMS hosting a 2 Day Retirement Seminar for CC => Will take place 08-09 DEC; A 2 day retirement seminar: POCs are CDR Jill Christ and LCDR Kevin Kunard. All PHS invited. Will be recorded also.
- 2015 Dec 8th, Commissioned Corps Retirement Seminar (Morning Session)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rg-ASpw2KQU>
- 2015 Dec 8th, Commissioned Corps Retirement Seminar (Afternoon Session)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJJ55JAROsM>
- 2015 Dec 9th, Commissioned Corps Retirement Seminar (Morning Session)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbV8LcXreus>
- 2015 Dec 9th, Commissioned Corps Retirement Seminar (Afternoon Session)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHJwHvmQxBg>
- Policy: Probation period for all new CADs will be 36 months.
- USPHS will start using the DD-214 for retirements and separations, similar to DoD => JAN 2016

### **RedDOG**

- APFT Standards => 17 DEC 2015 is the last day for APFT input for 2015; 18 DEC or after it will be under the new standards
- IRCT Online Course –web based, self-paces; takes a couple of hours a week; takes about 3 weeks to complete the course.
- Awards: over 200 individual honor award nominations were received related to Ebola; a special Ebola Awards Board was stood up to address these nominations.
- Paris shootings/terrorist attacks: All #4 Teams placed in an Advisory State due to a heightened state of awareness.



- Currently there are 7 missions continuing in Africa related to Ebola; CDC and NIH are in 3 countries still and will continue to actively support; these missions are for 45-60 day deployments.
- State of the Union Address in January: Deployment will be 12 days long
- National Guard Bureau – We are working together to look at partnering with the IRT (Innovative Readiness Training) Program for training
- RAM (Remote Access Medical) mission opportunity - A CHASM like mission in OK weekend before the conference; RDF #4 will be engaged; 14-15 MAY 2016 are the tentative dates; collaborating with IHS also.
- Senior Command Coordinator => New positions for each of the deployment teams types; goal is to have a senior coordinating official for each of the team types. Teams will go thru the Senior Command Coordinator. Positions will be filled by Former team commanders of each type of the team.
- AAR is currently being worked on for the Ebola Campaign

## MOLC Subcommittee Reports

### 1. MOLC Website- LCDR Zhou

The subcommittee includes:

Leads: LCDRs Trang Tran, Eric Zhou, MOLC Liaisons.

1. BCOAG: LCDR Makeva Rhoden.
2. HOAC: LCDR Karina Aguilar.
3. APOAC: CDR Ryan Nguyen.
4. AIANCOAC: CDR Cara Nichols & LCDR Andy Tran.
5. MOLC Chair & Co-Chair: CDR David Laird, LCDR James Warner.

- All final meeting minutes for MOLC general meetings from **June-December** should be sent to LCDRs Trang Tran & Eric Zhou by **January 5, 2016** to post on the MOLC website.

- **MOLC Awards Ceremony –CDR Ansah**

- A request was sent to COF for (i) Location/time slot for the 2016 MOLC Award and (ii) MOLC Booth.
  - Preliminary indications point to a MOLC Awards Luncheon at the 2016 COF.
  - MOLC has also responded to COF with regard to the ACAS awards indicating the council's willingness to allot 10 minutes to COF for this purpose.
  - **Post-Meeting Notes:** We have received clearance from OSG, following the November MOLC meeting, that the allocation of the 10 mins in the MOLC agenda to COF for the ACAS awards does not pose any conflicts or ethical issues.

- *The understanding, though, is that no request that because PHS officers are not to present a (non-OSG, non-PHS, non-sanctioned USPHS award) to a sponsored group and/or on behalf of the sponsored group to a third party, our officers cannot be involved in any aspect of the presentation for the two ACAS awards. COF has been asked to inform ACAS of this caveat.*
    - COF and Tim O’neil need to be connected with a POC from MOLC/Awards Subcommittee to start discussions for the MOLC Awards Luncheon; Booth needs, and Agenda.
    - Incoming MOLC Vice-Chair/HOAC needs to identify their representative for this purpose (as that person will be chairing the MOLC Awards Subcommittee).
  - **Old/Unfinished Business – CDR Warner**
    - a) **OSG Awards:** Awards briefing sent to CMAG Leadership by CDR Warner which includes recommendations on award writing, process and routing. CDR Warner will send this 2013 presentation which is current with updated points of contact to MOLC.
    - 
    - b) **MOLC Coin** CDR Warner to give complied information to new MOLC Chair to decide if/how MOLC coin will be developed.
    - c) **AMSUS representation:** Individuals within each CMAG will represent AMSUS and will work with CDR David Lau. The next MOLC/CMAG leadership will revisit the issue of whether a dedicated MOLC AMSUS representative is needed.
    - d) **Google email account:** information to be sent to CDR Warner
  - **New Business –**
    - **MOLC Files** : are being compiled by CDR Warner for next MOLC Chair.
    - **CMAG 2016 MOLC Liaisons:** - should attend the December 2015 MOLC meeting.
  - **Adjournment - CDR Warner**  
The Meeting was adjourned at 1510 hours EST (by CDR Warner).
- Next Meeting:** Tuesday; December 22nd24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 1400-1600 EST.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service



Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 22nd 2015, 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-857-232-0476 and Passcode: 815530, Leader Code: 3969

Attendance	Name	MOLC Position	Group	Agency
Present	LCDR James Warner	Chair	AIANCOAC	USCG
Present	CDR David Laird	Chair	AIANCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Kofi Ansah	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor	Vice-Chair	BCOAG	NIH
Absent	LCDR Vladimir Tirado	Secretary	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR Maricela Bonilla	Secretary	HOAC	IHS
Present	LCDR Eric Zhou	COF Liaison	APAOC	NIH
Present	LCDR Trang Tran	COF Liaison	APAOC	FDA
Absent	CDR Shen Kun	Past-Chair	APAOC(Ex-Officio)	FDA
Absent	LCDR Sophia Hsu	Past-Chair	APAOC (Ex-Officio)	BOP
Absent	CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG(Ex-officio)	FDA/OCA
Present	CAPT Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	DHS/ICS
Present	RADM Helena Mishoe	Sr. Advisor	BCOAG	NIH

\*Excused Absence

o **Call to Order**

- CDR Warner, the 2015 MOLC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1410 hours EST. Guests on today's call: CAPT David Lau, LCDR Frank Dodson (IHS), CDR Hamet Touré, PharmD MPH (FDA)

o **Council Roll Call**

- CDR Bonilla convened roll call (as indicated above). Quorum was present.
- The following guests were present on the call: CDR David Lau (DCCPR).

o **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes from 2015 September, October & November reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

○ **Abbreviated Reports:**

• **Chair's Report – LCDR Warner**

- This is our final meeting for the year and I want to thank everyone for their contribution this year on MOLC. Letters of Appreciation were sent out and you should have received them to be placed into your OPF.
- Between the last meeting we further discussed with OSG the ability to have other groups present at our awards ceremony for 2016 and the MOLC will welcome ACAS to present awards during the MOLC Luncheon at the 2016 USPHS Symposium in Oklahoma City. ACAS will have 10 minutes during the agenda.
- I did send out the OSG Awards Process today via email. If you would like to further discuss we may do so under old business for the awards process.

**2. AI/ANCOAC Report - CDR Warner**

1. Next Meeting is 21JAN16. Last meeting was 03DEC15.
2. New Leadership:  
Chair: LCDR James Warner,  
Vice Chair: LCDR Dodson Frank  
Treasurer: LCDR Mike Henson  
Secretary: LCDR Angela Battese  
Two MOLC Representatives: LCDR Randy Saria LCDR Dodson Frank
3. AIANCOAC website has been updated with new members
4. AIANCOAC is seeking new chair for Bylawas Subcommittee
5. Reviewed the Direct Access shut down for December and the new COLTS leave update policy.
6. AIANCOAC is developing a survey monkey for identifying potential AIANCOAC members and volunteers for officer professional development to be sent out to the corps.

**3. APAOC Report - LCDR Tran**

- APAOC had the Change of Command/Holiday celebration party on December 11, 2015. It was a great success. The new APAOC chair and executive committee members were introduced to the general members.
- APAOC leadership is currently going through the transition period to prepare for next year.
- APAOC is doing a survey with the voting and non-voting members. The valuable information gathered from the survey will be used for APAOC program planning for 2016 and beyond. APAOC is aiming to do this type of survey on an annual basis.

**4. BCOAG Report - CDR Ansah**

- The December BCOAG general body meeting was held on Thursday, December 10, 2015.
- There was further discussion on the organization's activities through 2015 with the various BCOAG committees and liaisons providing an overview of their 2015 activities.
- The incoming Voting Members and Executive Committee were introduced to the general body.

- The BCOAG chair thanked all for their involvement and hard work during 2015.
- The next BCOAG general meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2016.

#### **5. HOAC Report – CDR Bonilla**

- CDR Aviles-Mendoza replacing CDR Bonilla as MOLC representative for 2016. LCDR will be staying on as MOLC representative.
- HOAC Executive committee/voting members selected for 2016.

#### **6. COA Liaison Report - CDR Ansah**

- **Nothing new to report**

#### **7. MOLC Liaison Report: LCDR Tran**

- CDR Khang Ngo and LCDR Eric Zhou will be serving as the MOLC Representatives for APAOC next year.
- CDR Ngo attended the November MOLC meeting and is attending the December MOLC meeting during the transition.

#### **8. JOAG Report – CDR Warner**

1. Next JOAG General Meeting will be 12FEB16. Last JOAG General Meeting 11DEC15.
2. JOAG Public Health and Community Services Committee, National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee, and D.C. Central Kitchen, to participate in a volunteer opportunity assembling meals for those in need in Washington D.C. on Sunday, January 24, 2016. The volunteer event will take place from 0845 - 1200 EST on Sunday, January 24, 2016, at D.C. Central Kitchen in Washington D.C. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact: LT Kelly Verdin
3. JOAG Awards Newsletter for the week of December 14, 2015. This newsletter is intended to serve as a “one-stop” resource for all junior officers regarding active awards that are currently soliciting nominations. Questions about the Awards Newsletter can be sent to the Awards Committee CC Awards subcommittee chair LCDR Sam Skariah ([sam.skariah@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:sam.skariah@fda.hhs.gov)).
4. The JOAG Outreach Committee’s Research and Development Subcommittee is looking for volunteers to brainstorm and research ideas for merchandise items, which will be presented to the JOAG Executive Committee. The majority of the subcommittee’s work will take place from December through April. The first meeting will be held on December 22 (1pm EST)! If you would like to be a part of the R & D Subcommittee, please reply to LCDR Bonebrake.
5. The JOAG Outreach Committee is initiating a new JOAG t-shirt design. We’ll be putting the winning design on our JOAG wicking t-shirt that will be on sale at the 2016 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium to be held May 16-19, in Oklahoma City. We will also be incorporating our redesigned JOAG logo (once that is finalized) into the design as well. Potential ideas that best represent JOAG include advocacy; the ‘junior officer voice’; resource and support network; professional development; leadership & service opportunities; and supporting the OSG to increase our visibility in the community. Our JOAG theme for this year is ‘building public health leadership & advancing deployment readiness’. Please consider submitting your idea for what

our JOAG t-shirt should look like to LCDR Dawn Montoya at [dmontoya@bop.gov](mailto:dmontoya@bop.gov) <<mailto:dmontoya@bop.gov>> by January 11th, 2016.

6. The JOAG Membership Committee, Meet and Greet (M&G) Subcommittee is looking for additional officers to be Meet & Greet (M&G) Regional Leads and Regional Alternate Leads in different regions. The vacant regions are as follows: Atlanta-Federal Center, Cincinnati, OH, Detroit, MI. If you are interested in being an M&G Lead and develop activities with junior officers (JOs) in your city or region, please contact LCDR Mona Patel at [mona.patel@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:mona.patel@fda.hhs.gov) <<mailto:mona.patel@fda.hhs.gov>> or LT Rebecca Wong at [Rebecca.Wong@fdihb.org](mailto:Rebecca.Wong@fdihb.org).
7. The January 2015 Journeyman Speaker Series (JSS) presentation on Friday, January 8th, 2016 at 1300-1400 EST with a presentation from LCDR Deborah Hastings and LT Katrina Piercy, the APFT co-leads of the JOAG Readiness & Deployment workgroup. They will be providing an overview of the new Annual Physical Fitness Test standards. Conference Call Dial-in: 1-302-202-1106, Conference Code: 825385 Please send any advance questions to LCDR Ghiya ([gwt7@cdc.gov](mailto:gwt7@cdc.gov)) and LT Jeisy Scott ([fvx0@cdc.gov](mailto:fvx0@cdc.gov)), JOAG JSS Co-Chairs.
8. JOAG is looking for a junior officer who has a penchant for PHS history, record-keeping and enjoys working independently. The "JOAG Historian" tracks organizational information by year. The historian also conducts research on past JOAG initiatives and programs, and authors historical articles for the JOAG Journal and other publications. This is an excellent opportunity for a detail-oriented officer who would occasionally like to flex their creative muscle! The historian duties are supported through several JOAG Committees' ongoing work. This position is housed within the Communications & Publications Committee's (CPC) Outreach Subcommittee. This role is shared between two officers.
9. The JOAG Officer Health and Fitness Promotion Team (OHFP Team), under the newly established JOAG Readiness and Deployment Work Group, is looking for volunteers to assist on the development of a Federal Employee Wellness Facility Log. The purpose of this project is to create a resource log for PHS officers to inform them of fitness facilities and offerings available at their duty stations. Interested Officers: Please contact the OHFP Team lead LCDR Catherine Beer, [catherine.beer@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:catherine.beer@fda.hhs.gov) and Project leads LCDR Ashlee Januszewicz, [ashlee.Januszewicz@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ashlee.Januszewicz@fda.hhs.gov) and LT Lysette [lysette.deshields@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:lysette.deshields@fda.hhs.gov) as soon as possible, but ideally before January 31 2016. They will likely be taking in volunteers all year long.
10. The JOAG Policy & Procedures Committee is looking for volunteers! We are recruiting officers to assist with a new Code of Conduct Work Group led by LCDR Erica Sison. Please contact her at [ilz7@cdc.gov](mailto:ilz7@cdc.gov) for more information.

## **9. DCCPR/RedDog Readiness/AMSUS Update – CDR Lau**

- OBC 84 - Graduation was last Friday 18 DEC
- CAPT Karen Sicard transferred From Policy to Office of General Counsel
- LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange – accepted position in OSSI full time; left RedDOG

- Tiger Team => Transition process. Transitioning DCCPR to a functioning CCHQ -RADM Joan Hunter and CAPT Sophia Russel I leads.

### **REdDOG**

- APFT now under new APFT standards – since 18 DEC
- Next readiness run 15 JAN 2016
- Operations = All Tier 1 and Tier 2 Teams on Advisory Status thru MARCH; Will need to report deployable team members up to RedDOG on Monday and Friday.
- Ebola Response still ongoing - CDC and NIH
- State of the Union JAN 12<sup>th</sup>; clinicians; 7-10 day window. 12 days deployment total
- PACOM - Pacific Partnership - May time frame thru August - 120 days; in discussions.
- SOUTHCOM - Continuing Promise – in discussions
- RAM Event 14-15 MAY 2015 Pre COA – Durant, OK
- Team Commander Summit this year – Get new team commanders oriented
- Senior Command Coordinator => new position for deployment team types
- Unaccompanied Children Activities – ACF is in red on capacity – at 85% capacity; anticipate being at 95% capacity shortly; # of UC is greatest that it's ever been.

Language Testing by DoD across CONUS – MOU being created now; need to identify officers with language skills; 66 test sites nationwide, mostly at Military Entry Processing Sites (MEPS) – CDR Alfredo Sancho lead ; more to come.

### **AMSUS** –

- DSG RADM Trent-Adams , RADM Scott Giberson, RADM Epi Elizondo, RADM Peter Delaney, RADM Dawn Wylie were the USPHS Flagg who attended.
- AMSUS Keynote - VADM Bill McRaven 9<sup>th</sup> SOCOM Commander – Took down Bin Laden
- The Monrovia Medical Unit (MMU) exhibit was by far the most popular exhibit at AMSUS. Strong interest by everyone, including allied SGs. In discussions on having it at CDC MUSEUM.
- German Army came and thanked us for being in Liberia
- Operational medicine and Humanitarian Assistance Awards – to the MMU Teams
- Joint Humanitarian Operations Course - 2 day free course.
- Next 4 Years at National Harbor
- Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA Students) – strong success at AMSUS
- Battlefield Acupuncture + Advanced course – Free Certification available at Andrews AFB

RX for Change – Tobacco Cessation Intervention training for all USPHS officers. Instructor training. Free certification with free CME/CE/CEUs. Will be rolled out to all of USPHS and free certification will be offered at COA. Everything is online free also.

## **MOLC Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. MOLC Website- LCDR Tran**

- All final meeting minutes for MOLC general meetings from **June-December** should be sent to LCDRs Trang Tran & Eric Zhou as soon as feasible to post on the MOLC website.

- **MOLC Awards Ceremony –CDR Ansah**
- **Nothing to report but reiterated the following from the November report.**
- A request was sent to COF for (i) Location/time slot for the 2016 MOLC Award and (ii) MOLC Booth.
  - Preliminary indications point to a MOLC Awards Luncheon at the 2016 COF.
  - MOLC has also responded to COF with regard to the ACAS awards indicating the council's willingness to allot 10 minutes to COF for this purpose.
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- Meeting to be had with Tim O'neil in January 2016 to start discussions for the MOLC Awards Luncheon; Booth needs, and Agenda.

#### 1. **Old/Unfinished Business – CDR Warner**

- Google email account for logging our MOLC Database information [molc.usphs@gmail.com](mailto:molc.usphs@gmail.com). I will pass along to the new Chair the recovery password.
- Pass MOLC Files to new leadership
- Pass Gmail account recovery password to new leadership passed.
- Send email to treasurer about new leadership members
- AMSUS reps from each CMAG to work with Captain Lau.

d) **Google email account:** information to be sent to CDR Laird

#### ○ **New Business – CDR Laird & CDR Warner**

- **MOLC Files** : are being compiled by CDR Warner for next MOLC Chair.
- **CMAG 2016 MOLC Representative:** CMAGs should send contact information (name, email, phone) to CDRs Warner, Laird and also incoming MOLC Secretary CDR Zhou before next meeting.
- **Introduction of new MOLC Officers**
- **Confirmation of new line for next MOLC year.** Currently using CDR Kofi Ansah's line and he has no objections to MOLC continuing to use this line next year.

#### ○ **Adjournment - CDR Laird**

The Meeting was adjourned at 1502 hours EST (by CDR Laird).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday; January 26th, 2015 1400-1600 EST.