



August 2, 2011

Dear Commissioned Corps Officers and staff.

Please join me in welcoming the following individuals as additions to the Office of the Surgeon General Leadership Team.

Senior Public Health Advisor
Outreach and Policy

Lesley Russell, PhD

Director,
Division of Commissioned Corps
Personnel and Readiness

RADM Scott F. Giberson

Senior Communication Specialist

Gayle Converse

Attached is biographical information so that you may get to know them as they begin their new positions.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed countless hours to the new accountability structure,

Sincerely,

Regina, Benjamin MD, MBA
Surgeon General
Vice Admiral, US Public Health Service



Dr Lesley Russell has substantial experience in working in health policy in the United States and Australia, both in and out of government. She has been actively involved in health policy research, analysis and commentary across a wide range of issues and a number of collaborations. A particular focus has been on health care reforms in Australia and the US, mental health, Indigenous health, health disparities, and the impact of cost on patients' compliance with their treatment and medication regimes.

Dr Russell also has extensive experience in internal and external communications, strategic marketing, media management and public affairs in the private and non-governmental sectors. She has a PhD in Biochemistry from the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University, a BA from the Australian National University and a BSc (Hons) from the University of Tasmania.

Prior to joining the Office of the Surgeon General she was a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, working on a range of issues in public health and around the enactment and implementation of health care reform.



RADM Scott Giberson was selected by Surgeon General VADM Regina Benjamin as Director of the new Division of Commissioned Corp Personnel and Readiness (DCCPR). He will assume his new role starting September 1, 2011 transferring from his current position in Indian Health Service (IHS) as the National HIV/AIDS Program Principal Consultant. In March 2010, he was chosen by the Surgeon General to serve as Chief Professional Officer for the Pharmacy Category. RADM Giberson began his Corps career in 1994 and has served in roles as a clinical pharmacist, chief pharmacist, senior public health advisor, senior medical program officer, acting division director, and principal consultant.

RADM Giberson's career began and progressed within the Indian Health Service (IHS) as a clinical pharmacist in three IHS sites. He was a founding member of the IHS National Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Program in 1997. He served as faculty at the IHS Clinical Pharmacy Practice Training Program and as adjunct faculty at multiple schools of pharmacy. In 2001, RADM Giberson responded to the Anthrax attacks in New York City and was later chosen by his peers as the coordinator for both the National Nurse and National Pharmacy Response Teams as he worked for the first time under the newly-formed Department of Homeland Security. In 2003, RADM Giberson was detailed for three years from the Office of Global Health Affairs to the Department of Defense. He served on many international health programs for the U.S. Pacific Command involving more than 23 countries. His bilateral country work also included Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, India and Thailand, having traveled extensively working with foreign militaries on HIV/AIDS and other initiatives. Following his work in the Pacific, he transitioned back to the IHS as the principal consultant for their National HIV/AIDS Program. He has expanded the national program and built the IHS HIV infrastructure and network.

RADM Giberson is a recognized leader and advocate for advancing the scope of pharmacy practice and career diversity. He was one of the first National Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Pharmacy Practitioners and licensed Pharmacist Clinicians in the PHS and served as the primary author on the first report to the Surgeon General on Advanced Pharmacy Practice. During his career he has spoken many venues domestically and internationally and was a privileged member of an IHS Family Practice Medical staff for most of his career. He served as a consultant to the U.S. Marine Corps Command Staff and College during its Capstone exercise. He was also selected to attend the GSK Program for Pharmacy Leaders, at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

RADM Giberson has received numerous awards including the IHS Junior Pharmacist of the Year, the PHS Allen Brands Pharmacist of the Year, and a Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal. RADM Giberson holds a Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy from Temple University, a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts, and a graduate certificate in Health Emergencies in Large Populations, which is a graduate-level program developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross. RADM Giberson credits his wife Lynette and son, Payton, as his biggest inspiration and support.



Gayle Converse joins the staff of OASH/OSG bringing more than 30 years of experience in professional broadcasting, public relations and video production. She has earned a nationwide reputation for excellence in news production and story placement.

The first woman broadcast news director in Southwest Virginia, Converse later became an anchor at NBC affiliate WXII-TV in Winston-Salem, N.C. where she took the “Noon Report” to number one in Nielsen and Arbitron ratings and maintained the number one spot for almost nine years before she returned to news management.

She served as news and public affairs director of National Public Broadcasting station WHRO-TV/Radio in Norfolk, Va. where her stories were aired by major broadcast networks to include CNN and NPR. In 1995, she became lead producer for the nationally syndicated and *Cable in the Classroom* one hour news magazine television program “Race for the Presidency.” Converse worked on Washington, D.C.-based shows “Special Report with Bit Hume” (Fox) and “Hardball with Chris Matthews” (CNBC).

In 2002, Converse joined Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) in Atlanta, Ga., where she served as media relations officer for former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher. While at MSM, she became a credited consultant for the Academy Award-nominated documentary “Super Size Me.”

From 2009-2011, Converse served as media relations director for former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Louis W. Sullivan.