

# HISTORY



The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee (HOAC) was formed in 1989 and became fully operational in 1990 when the Surgeon General approved its charter. HOAC is administered under the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and serves as one of the four Chartered Minority Advisory Groups (CMAG) within the Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC), which provides information, advice, and consultation to the OSG on issues affecting minority officers.

Hispanics have made lasting contributions to the mission of the USPHS. Dr. Juan Guitéras (1852-1925) collaborated with Dr. Juan Carlos Finlay (1833-1915), who discovered that the *Aedes* mosquito is the disease vector of yellow fever, to eradicate the disease. Dr. Antonia C. Novello was the first woman and first Hispanic appointed to serve as Surgeon General from 1990-1993. Dr. Novello convened a workshop leading to the emergence of a Latino/Hispanic Health Initiative. Dr. Richard Carmona who served as Surgeon General from 2002-2006 laid the foundation for the current transformation of the Corps. Today, Hispanic Officers of the Commissioned Corps continue to add their contributions to our living history.

# GROWING FORCE



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic community is the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States. Latinos accounted for 12.5% and 16.3%, a 43% increase of the total population in 2000 and 2010, respectively. As a clear Growing Force, Latinos are projected to account for 18% of the US population in 2020 and over 30% by 2050. The Commissioned Corps derives its strength from the diversity of its officers. Diversity infuses the USPHS with varied perspectives and creative approaches critical to the development of new solutions to tackle global public health challenges. Every officer has an opportunity to make a unique contribution to the USPHS mission. HOAC offers a forum in which officers can impact the USPHS and Hispanic Health.

# MISSION



The Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee (HOAC) promotes professional development of and advocates for the recognition of contributions made by Hispanic Officers in the USPHS.

# OBJECTIVES



HOAC serves in a resource and advisory capacity to assist in the development, coordination, and evaluation of activities related to Hispanic officers in all categories with these specific objectives:

1. Advocate and promote the professional development and career advancement of Hispanic Officers.
2. Coordinate and facilitate communication among Hispanic Officers, the MOLC, other CMAGs, Chief Professional Officers (CPOs), Professional Advisory Committees (PACs), agencies, and Operational Divisions (OPDIVs) to which officers are assigned.
3. Identify and facilitate resolution of issues of concern to Hispanic Officers and provide consultation and advice to the OSH through MOLC.
4. Support the mission of the USPHS through recruitment and promotion of Hispanic Officers in leadership and management positions.



**HOAC hosted the presentation of the flag to former Assistant Secretary for Health and former USPHS Admiral, Dr. Joxel Garcia. (December 2014)**



***Diabetes Awareness Month Campaign: Active Life and Nutrition - Gateway for Prevention, La Clínica del Pueblo, Washington, DC***

**HOAC Officers with RAMD Boris Lushniak (October 2014)**

# Mid Maryland Mission of Mercy and Health Equity Festival. (September 2014)





**LUNA (Latinos Uniting & Networking for Advancement) Reception (May 2014)  
HOAC Officers pictured with Rosie Rios the 43<sup>rd</sup> Treasurer of the United States.**

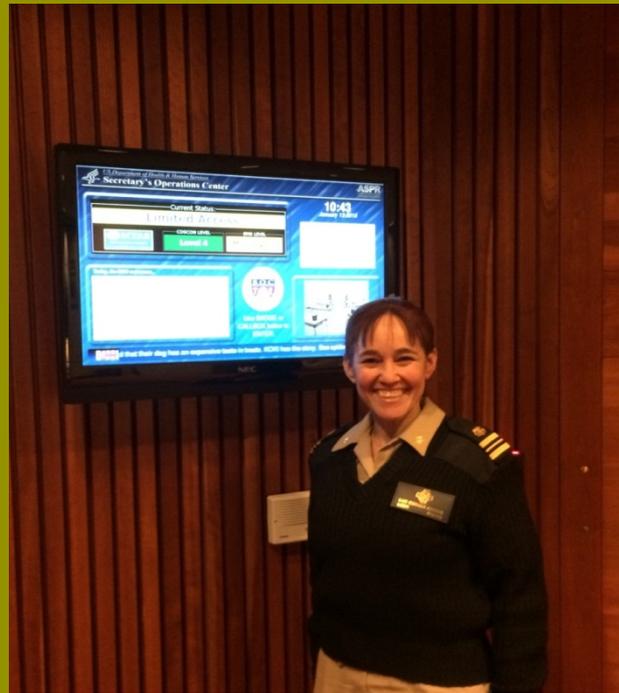
# HOAC Officers in support of the Ebola Mission



LCDR Elizabeth Garza at the Dulles Airport Quarantine Station



LCDR Michelle Sandoval and others Ebola mission, Guinea (as part of the CDC team)



LCDR Luz Rivera stationed at the Secretary's Operations Center (SOC) supporting the Family Support Network during the Ebola mission

# HOAC Officers in support of the Ebola Mission



← LCDR Torres-Cruz night shift Chief of Safety and LT Reyna (Nurse) training Team 2 Members in the MMU Hot zone

Team 1 HOAC Officers with RADM Lushniak (CAPT Rivas-Rivera, LCDR Torres-Cruz, RADM Lushniak, LCDR Burgos, LT Marrero, LT Klotzbuecher-Cruz)



Team 1 Hispanics with RADM Lushniak upon → return from the mission (LCDR Perdue (Mexico), CDR Mosquera (Colombia), LT Marrero (PR), RADM Lushniak, LT Reyna (Mexico), LT Klotzbuecher-Cruz (PR), LCDR Burgos (PR) and LCDR Torres-Cruz (PR)

# HOAC Officers in support of the Ebola Mission



## Team 4 HOAC Officers

CAPT Alonso, LT Santiago, LCDR Fermin, CAPT Belardo,  
LCDR Jimenez, CAPT Reyes

# HOAC Officers in support of the Ebola Mission



LCDR Luna-Pinto training immigration services officers at York Island Border Crossing (Sierra Leone/Liberia) and border town representatives.



PHS Officers with Grand Cape Mount County Health Center staff, and Head of Country Operations, Thomas Nagbe.



LCDR Luna-Pinto and Georgina Castro (CDC Health Promotion Team) learning from Mehran Massoudi (CDC Epi Team/Grand Cape Mount) about potential hotspots near York Island and Bo Waterside Border Crossings.

# HOAC Officers in support of the Unaccompanied Children Mission

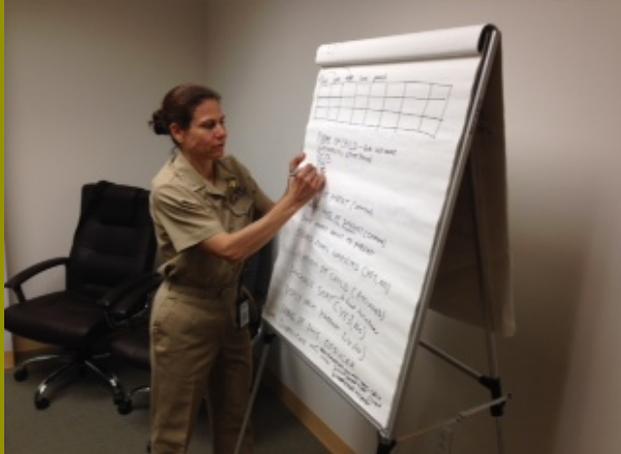


# HOAC Officers in support of the Unaccompanied Children Mission

## Polio eradication activities (2013)



LCDR Sandoval



CAPT Newman, LT Garcia, CAPT Vazquez,  
CDR Nazario, LCDR Baez, CAPT Aponte



# MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

HOAC membership consists of no more than 20 voting members, and an unlimited number of general members who are non-voting but may serve on subcommittees and be active in helping HOAC achieve its mission. At the time they are nominated and appointed to HOAC, voting members must be:

- Active Duty Commissioned Corps (CC) Officers who meet Office of Force Readiness Deployment (OFRD) basic readiness standards; or
- Full-time Civil Servants within the Department of Health and Human Services; and
- Interested in Hispanic Issues to further the HOAC mission.

To learn more about HOAC and apply for membership, please visit:

<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/hoac/>

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