

"La Gaceta"

Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee's Newsletter

Newsletter September 2015
Issue 3

Chair, LT Yvonne Santiago
Vice-Chair, CDR Edgardo Alicea
Secretary, CDR Carolina Luna-Pinto
Treasurer, LT Jorge Muñiz-Ortiz

MOLC Representatives - CDR Maricela Bonilla and LCDR Vladimir Tirado



Inside

HOAC Chair's Corner	1
Getting to Know	2
Deployment Spotlight	3
Hispanic Heritage Month	3-4
Join a Subcommittee	5
HOAC Activities	6
HOAC Merchandise	6

HOAC Activities

◆ See page 6

HOAC Chair's Corner – LT Yvonne Santiago

¡Bienvenidos a Todos! Welcome all to the 3rd Edition of La Gaceta, the Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee's (HOAC) newsletter. It has been an extremely busy operational year for our organization as we are working to fulfill many of the strategic goals set at the beginning of this year.

This month we Celebrate El Mes de la Herencia Hispana (Hispanic Heritage Month) and what a great moment for our organization to celebrate the essence of who we are and the community we serve. In celebration of HHM, HOAC is hosting a series of health webinars geared toward addressing some of the health disparities the members of the Hispanic/Latino community face today. It brings us great pride to be able to provide this to the Corps.

As we approach this last quarter, we are proud to say that one year after the Unaccompanied Children Mission our organization has managed to successfully implement all of the recommendations suggested to the Office of the Surgeon General. We would certainly not be able to accomplish this without full support from MOLC and OSG and for that we are extremely grateful. To date HOAC is piloting the first ever language proficiency testing program for the Commissioned Corps. We have also launched a Conversational Spanish practice course called HOLA-HHS which is expanding across many of the Agencies within HHS. We are set to launch our first Spanish Language Practice course giving officers the opportunity to practice their language skills one-on-one. We have partnered with the U.S. Mexico Border Health Commission, the Office of Minority Health, and the Department of Defense - Northern Command (NorthCom) amongst others to train "Promotores de Salud" (Promoters of Health) at the southwest border. This training is unique as our officers will offer emergency response training in Spanish to these first responders helping ease some of our future efforts during deployments in the region but it will also give our Commissioned Corps Officers an opportunity to have hands-on training in cultural and linguistic competencies.

One of the highlights of this operational year was MOLC's 25th Anniversary Celebration during the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium. We welcomed back 14th Surgeon General VADM Antonia C. Novello as she served as the keynote speaker for the Celebration. This was a very proud moment for our organization as VADM Novello was the first woman and first Hispanic Surgeon General.

I am excited to serve as your Chair! It is truly an honor and a privilege and I want you all to know that it is through your hard work and dedication that our organization is flourishing.

Cordialmente,

LT Yvonne M. Santiago
2015 HOAC Chair



Author LT Santiago

Getting to Know: CDR Carolina Luna-Pinto

CDR Carolina Luna-Pinto is a senior public health advisor for the Quarantine and Health Services Branch in the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). She is the Officer-in-Charge at the CDC San Juan Quarantine Station and has served in multiple roles within the Branch, as Training Activity Lead/Training Manager for the Communications, Preparedness and Response, and Training Team and Field Operations Training Center, and as a Quarantine Public Health Officer for the Miami Quarantine Station.

She joined CDC in 2008 as a Quarantine Public Health Officer for the Miami Quarantine Station, serving as Acting Officer-in-Charge on multiple occasions, and mentor to over 50+ new staff through the establishment of a field staff training plan that centers on building capacity to respond to public health threats at ports of entry. She joined the U.S. Public Health Service in September 2009. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist.

CDR Luna-Pinto established the Branch's first training center reaching geographically dispersed workforce at 20 CDC Quarantine Stations and CDC headquarters through a strong distance-based learning program focused on core competencies, standard protocols, and best practices in adult learning, capacity building, and workforce safety.

She built a foundation for the framework used to prepare and train surge and deployed staff during the Ebola response 2014. This framework and materials continue to be used to build capacity among affected and unaffected countries. She pioneered a new Train the Trainer program through a partnership with Customs & Border Protection (CBP) at their Field Operations Academy at Glynco, Georgia, and field office at MIA, and led multiple evaluation efforts to improve training materials offered to core partners including CBP, airlines, and emergency medical services. As a public health officer for 7 years, she has been on the front line of multiple emergency responses of national interest and visibility such as the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the 2010 Haiti Cholera and Earthquake, the 2011 Japan Radiation response, the 2012 and 2014 resettlement of unaccompanied children into the U.S., the 2013 H7N9, the 2014 MERS-CoV, and 2014-2015 Ebola response, and deployed to Lackland Air Force Base to support the unaccompanied children humanitarian response, to West Africa during the height of the Ebola outbreak to provide technical assistance on border health issues at airports, seaports, and land border crossings, to the CDC Emergency Operations Center to support the communications and training teams, and to the Washington, DC Quarantine Station to support entry screening operations.

CDR Luna-Pinto received her Master of Public Health with a specialization in health communications and behavioral science, and minor in epidemiology from Tulane University in 1999, and has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Psychology. Her 17 years of experience in the field of epidemiology, health education and communication, operations, capacity-building, and emergency response have afforded her an opportunity to lead public health investigations and interventions. Before her time with CDC, CDR Luna-Pinto managed public health education campaigns for CDC, the Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on health topics such as infant immunizations, diabetes, and food security, respectively and provided services to migrant populations and Hispanic/Latino communities. She also led research programs on childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. She has twin 6 year olds that keep her busy every day, but enjoys spending time with her husband of 18 years, the twins, and her pug Georgie.



Author CDR Luna-Pinto

Getting to Know: CDR Jorge Ruano-Rossil through his writing

An article published in Honduras by Ceiba Magazine (University of Zamorano) was featured in ARGENPAPA's magazine, the largest and most important potato growers association in Argentina. The article was written by one of our own HOAC officers, CDR Jorge Ruano-Rossil. Take a look:

<http://www.argenpapa.com.ar/noticia/812-efectos-no-intencionados-de-fungicidas-para-controlar-el-tizon-tardio-de-la-papa-en-la-proliferacion-del-afido-verde-del-duraznero>

Deployment Spotlight: Deployment Ready Starts at Home

By CDR Miguel A. Cruz

Preparing for the next major public health event goes beyond a need to be Deployment Ready. Many times we forget that loved ones usually stay behind to handle all our affairs including keeping our homes and families safe. This month, in addition to festivities related to our Hispanic heritage **we celebrate National Preparedness Month**. This is a time to reflect about those most closest to you and their unmet needs in a disaster situation, particularly if you are not there. Before you grab your deployment bags and kiss them goodbye, take time to sit down with your family and go over your own household preparations and scenarios or a few “what ifs”. If something happens when you are out on deployment, do they know what to do, is there a plan to follow, can your child or parents escape from his/her room in a fire unassisted? Do they have an emergency evacuation kit, important documents in a safe, or are all the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors operational?

Those simple steps can represent the difference between returning home from deployment to your family for “Rest & Relaxation” break or to attend someone’s funeral or hospitalization. Most disaster events are unpredictable or unexpected. However the better your family is prepared the better you will feel knowing that you took the time to ensure that your family’s wellbeing is always first. That way you will be able to focus in the mission ahead, and do your best to help others.

For those interested, sites like Ready Gov <http://www.ready.gov/>, the American Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/> have great tips on how to prepare for disasters. Tips offered range from how to protect our homes, the elderly, those with disabilities and even pets. Getting deployment ready is a family affair and starts at home today.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are still significant gaps understanding Hispanic family dynamics when confronting large disasters. In addition some emergency organizations services lack bilingual staff, communications tools, for addressing barriers to disaster preparedness. (Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, 2008)

According to the 2007 survey by the Ad Council “many Latinos feel ill prepared for emergencies, about 1/3 have a family emergency plan”.

Several surveys and behavioral studies had highlighted the vulnerabilities of Hispanics in disasters which could reduce their ability to cope with the after effects of a large disaster.

Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, observed during the week that included Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. Congress expanded the observance in 1989 to a month long celebration (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15) of the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Sept. 15 is the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

Fun Facts during Hispanic Heritage Month

64%

The percentage of those of Hispanic origin in the United States who were of Mexican background in 2012. Another 9.4 percent were of Puerto Rican background, 3.8 percent Salvadoran, 3.7 percent Cuban, 3.1 percent Dominican and 2.3 percent Guatemalan. The remainder was of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic/Latino origin.

54 million

The Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2013, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or racial minority. Hispanics constituted 17 percent of the nation's total population.

22

Number of states in which Hispanics were the largest minority group. These states were Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Top 10 Novellismos for Success

By CDR Guillermo Aviles-Mendoza

At 0700 on 21 May 2015, in a standing room only, members of the Chartered Minority Advisory Groups (CMAGs) of the USPHS Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC) met to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of MOLC. VADM Murthy, 19th US Surgeon General and Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Lushniak, greeted the audience and introduced the Guest of Honor, Dr. Antonia C. Novello, 14th Surgeon General and first woman to serve in the rank of VADM in the USPHS. VADM Novello delivered an inspiring speech which received multiple standing ovations and concluded with the Top 10 Novellismos for success.

VADM Antonia C. Novello's Top 10 Rules for Success:

10. Be a pioneer, don't be afraid to forge new directions
9. Don't deny your roots as you walk the ladder of success
8. Don't underestimate your capabilities, others will do it for you
7. Achieve the highest level of Education, key to door of opportunities
6. Set Goals for yourself and share them with those that believe in you
5. When you get to the Top, don't forget you owe something to peers, family and the community
4. Don't be afraid to speak your mind
3. Take care of yourself, spiritual, physical, and mentally
2. Never loose sense of who you really are, even when others believe they know you better than yourself
1. Plan BIG and dream of greatness. Remember that the best revenge is success



RedDog Training Coordinator, LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange, VADM Antonia Novello, HOAC Chair, LT Yvonne Santiago, and HOAC Deployment Sub-committee Co-Chair, CDR Guillermo Aviles-Mendoza during HOAC sponsored dinner for the 25th anniversary of MOLC, the Minority Officers Liaison Council (Created by VADM Novello during her tenure as Surgeon General)

Join a HOAC Subcommittee: We are still looking for a few good men and women

Join the newest Subcommittee... HOAC Deployment!

Our mission is to:

- Serve as the go-to place for deployment related educational and training resources for officers interested in serving Hispanic communities
- Serve as a resource and support network for HOAC officers interested in enhancing their deployment skills or learning more about deployment teams, roles and opportunities.

Volunteer opportunities in our Training & Education Workgroup include officers interested in helping us build a wide-range of educational resources to enhance deployment readiness for better serving Hispanic communities. **Current initiatives or workgroups include:**

- National CLAS Standards: partnership with OMH & RedDOG [LEAD: [LT Yvonne Santiago](#)]
- Language Proficiency Testing - Pilot Program in NCR Region ongoing to test officers at DoD facilities (Defense Language Proficiency Testing) in Spanish Listening & Reading. [LEAD: [CDR Alfredo Sancho](#)]
- HOAC Readiness & Deployment Roster - Make sure you're part of this roster so you don't miss out! [LEAD: [CAPT Jeasmine Aizvera](#)]
- HOAC Promotores de Salud & CC Training Event - build partnership capacity and strengthen community resiliency in the U.S.-Mexico Border and raise awareness of disaster preparedness and response practices in at-risk populations [LEAD: [CDR Guillermo Avilés-Mendoza](#)]
- ¡Hola HHS! ¡Hola FDA! (Spanish Language Group Practice Lunch & Learns) [Various LEADs depending on geographic area]
- 'Hablemos' (one-on-one Spanish language learning across geographic area) [LEADs: [LT Ije Perry](#) & [LT Jay Wong](#)]
- Training & Education WG [LEADs: [LT Ije Perry](#) & [LT Jay Wong](#)]
- Ebola Response WG [LEADs: [CDR Luna-Pinto](#), [LCDR Evelyn Rodriguez](#), [CDR Rafael Torres-Cruz](#)]
- Unaccompanied Minor WG [LEADs: LCDR Luz Rivera & [LT Restrepo](#)]
- PHS Athletics: SG Fitness Team Roll-Call [LEAD: [LCDR Elizabeth Garza](#)]

For more information on any of our initiatives, feel free to contact the lead directly to find out more or join us at our next monthly meeting. We meet the first Friday of every month from 1200-1300 EST and are always looking for new enthusiastic officers to join us!

To join a HOAC Sub-committee contact the chairs listed here:

Awards and Recognition	CDR Lorena Crowley lorena.c.crowley@ice.dhs.gov
Charter and Bylaws	LT Thomas Gammarano Thomas.gammarano@hq.dhs.gov
Communications and Public Relations	CDR Carolina Luna Pinto hjz1@cdc.gov and LT Karly Gomez Karly.A.Gomez@ice.dhs.gov
Deployment	LCDR Elizabeth Garza iwm8@cdc.gov and CDR Guillermo Aviles-Mendoza Guillermo.Aviles-Mendoza@hhs.gov
Nomination and Membership	CDR Antonio Vargas Antonio.Vargas@hhs.gov and LCDR Diana Vargas Diana.Vargas@foh.hhs.gov
Recruitment and Retention	LT Jorge Muñoz-Ortiz Jorge.MunizOrtiz@FSIS.USDA.gov
Outreach and Education	CDR Gerald Brozyna Gerald.Brozyna@cms.hhs.gov and LCDR Michelle Sandoval ftv2@cdc.gov

HOAC Activities

Join the **HOAC Spanish Language Group Practice Program**

¡Hola HHS! ¡Hola FDA! ¡Hola CMS! ¡Hola HRSA! ¡Hola SAMSHA! or join ¡Hablemos!one-on-one sessions.

- For those in Rockville, MD ¡Hola HRSA! (POC: [LT Israel Garcia](#) & [LT Anca Tabakova](#))
- For those in the Washington D.C. area ¡Hola HHS! will next meet on September 25th at CDC/USDA. (POC: [LCDR Garza](#) & [CDR Aviles-Mendoza](#))
- For those in Silver Spring area, ¡Hola FDA! meets weekly (POC: [LCDR Rivera](#))

Need to meet the APFT challenge? Contact [CDR Aviles-Mendoza](#) & [LT Muniz-Ortiz](#) to join the HOAC APFT during Hispanic Heritage Month set for Sept 26th in Washington, DC area.

HOAC *Esprit de Corps* Merchandise

Help show your HOAC and PHS Pride by purchasing the "New" HOAC T-shirt, car static cling, or coin.



Contact LT Jorge Muñoz-Ortiz for t-shirts, stickers, and coins: Jorge.MunizOrtiz@FSIS.USDA.gov

Inspirational Quotes

Cesar Chavez is arguably the most well-known Latino civil rights activists in history. A Mexican-American, Chavez was supported by the American labor movement and used a nonviolent, unionized approach in an effort to bring awareness to the struggle of the Hispanic farm workers across the nation but particularly in California and Florida.

Chavez improved the lives of countless Hispanics. He coined the phrase, "Si, se puede." Cesar Chavez Day is a holiday in California, Colorado and Texas and takes place on his birthday, March 31st, each year. He died on April 23, 1993.

Huff Post—Latino Voices

HOAC Newsletter Team

CDR Miguel Cruz (mgc8@cdc.gov)

CDR Carolina Luna-Pinto (hjz1@cdc.gov)

LCDR Raphael Torres-Cruz (torrescruz@od.nih.gov)

Interested in submitting an article to feature in any of the sections?

- * Articles are due by the 15th of August and February
- * Limit to 250-500 words
- * Please include a title and state your name in the "by" line.
- * Pictures are welcome!

Mission

The HOAC promotes professional development of and advocates for the recognition of contributions made by Hispanic officers in the USPHS.

<http://dcp.psc.gov/osg/hoac/Default.aspx>

