

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
 U.S. Public Health Service
 Office of the Surgeon General
 Rockville, MD 20857



MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 23, 2016; 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-855-828-1770 and Meeting ID: 740 536 066 (New)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	CDR	Hamet Touré	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Valerie Marshall	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	CDR	Guillermo Avilés-Mendoza	Vice-Chair	HOAC	ASPR
Present	LCDR	Vladimir Tirado	Vice-Chair	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR	Khang Ngo	Secretary	APAOC	USCG
AWA	LCDR	Eric Zhou	Secretary	APAOC	NIH
Present	CDR	Randy Saria	Liaison	AI/ANCOAG	IHS
Present	LCDR	Dodson Frank	Liaison	AI/ANCOAG	IHS
Present	CDR	David Laird	Past Chair	AI/ANCOAC	FDA
Present	LCDR	James Warner	Past Chair and JOAG Liaison	AI/ANCOAC	USCG
Present	CAPT	David Lau	DCCPR/RedDog /AMSUS	APAOC	Homeland Security

Present	CDR	Kofi Ansah	COA Liaison (pending)	BCOAG	FDA
Absent	RADM	Helena Mishoe	Senior Advisor	BCOAG	NIH
Present	CAPT	Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	FDA
UA	CAPT	Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	Homeland Security

AWA – Absent with alternate; UA – Unexcused absence

Guests:

- LCDR Eithu Lwin (APAOC) – Alternate for CDR Khang Ngo calling in for LCDR Eric Zhou
- LT Jorge Muniz Ortiz (HOAC) – Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee member

I. Call to Order

- CDR Touré called the meeting to order at 1401.

II. Council Roll Call

- CDR Ngo conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Meeting Minutes

- The December 2015 meeting minutes was approved. The January 2016 meeting minutes are pending completion and will be circulated and approved by email prior to the March meeting.
- Post-meeting amendment – The motion to approve the January 26, 2016 MOLC meeting minutes via email was moved, properly seconded and carried. The meeting minutes were approved by email on 8 March 2016. Vote tally 7 “Yes,” 0 “No,” 1 “Abstain.”

IV. Abbreviated Reports

1. Combined Commissioned Corps Leadership Meeting – CDR Touré
 - a. Flint
 - i. The PHS is supporting the Flint Water Crises from a public health emergency perspective. The Surgeon General and the HHS Secretary plan to visit the affected area.
 - b. Zika
 - i. The PHS is actively engaged in the response to Zika. CDC’s Emergency Operation Center issued a Level 1 activation to enhance its response to the

Zika outbreak, reflecting the agency's assessment of the need for an accelerated preparedness in anticipation of local Zika virus transmission by mosquitoes in the Continental U.S.

ii. PHS officers may see deployment activity prior to the Olympics.

c. Promotion Board

i. The promotion board is gearing up for the next cycle, which will run from March to May 2016.

2. Chair – CDR Touré

a. LCDR Marshall attended the February 5, 2016, HS PAC meeting, represented MOLC, and provided an overview of the functions of the Minority Officers Liaison Council.

b. The MOLC Chairs and Liaisons met on February 8, 2016, to discuss the Website Subcommittee, the Minority Health Subcommittee, and COA Liaison function. As a result of this meeting, the MOLC Chairs reached out to the BCOAG Communications and Public Relations Committee to provide assistance on the MOLC Website. Also, CDR Randy Saria will be attending COA meetings along with CDR Kofi Ansah during the next few months.

c. On February 16, 2016, the MOLC Co-Chairs sent a message to the MOLC representatives requesting dissemination of the latest process to invite the Surgeon General to attend or speak at an event.

3. AIANCOAC – CDR Saria

a. Four new advocates have been approved for the 2016-2018 term

b. AIANCOAC has submitted all awards for listing to the MOLC body and listed on the JOAG newsletter.

c. AIANCOAC has submitted membership nomination information to be published in the JOAG newsletter and posted on the JOAG list serve. It has also been requested to be listed on the PPAC list serve. The recent change of the submission of the voting packages to OSG was disseminated to the AIANCOAC leadership and the membership subcommittee.

d. AIANCOAC recruitment shared a PowerPoint about the PHS with LCDR James Warner after last meeting. Afterwards, it was discussed that the MOLC liaisons consider getting a PowerPoint for all the CMAGs be created in developing this as a tool for recruitment. More on this in the next meeting.

e. CAPT Brandon Taylor, IHS DCPS Liaison SE Region, was asked to fill the role as senior advisor to AIANCOAC. He accepted this role even though there is no requirement for CMAGs to have a senior advisor. The Senior Advisor is expected to be a consultant to AIANCOAC, advising on AIANCOAC-related issues, concerns, policies, and procedures. The Senior Advisor may advocate for, but does not officially represent, and is not a voting member of the AIANCOAC.

f. CDR Jennifer Giroux spoke about the leadership potential with the Consortium of State and Territorial Epidemiologist. Their Tribal Epi Subcommittee agreed that

the subcommittee would consider a co-chair for Dr. Michael Landen. The consensus was that this co-chair should be a representative of Tribal Public Health. This is something to consider as a great opportunity for career development.

- g. LCDR Lessina Dele, LT Shannon Saltclah, and LCDR James Warner have volunteered for the MOLC Ceremony Subcommittee.

4. APAOC – CDR Ngo

- a. CDR Khang Ngo participated in the HS PAC All-hands Call on Friday, February 5, 2016 on behalf of APAOC.
- b. APAOC Executive Committee as well as all Subcommittee and Working Group chairs are working on the 2016 Strategic Plan with a draft completion target date of 26 February 2016. The plan will be finalized in March.
- c. APAOC Chair has been successful in reaching out to the Federal Asian Pacific American Council NIH Chapter for collaboration in leadership development for Asian Americans. Likewise, the APAOC Recruitment & Retention Subcommittee has already reached out to them to secure a booth at their sponsored job fair in April. In regards to collaboration with the White House Initiative on Asian American Pacific Islanders group, APAOC continues to work with CAPT Samuel Wu at PHS HQ for health topics that may be of interest to APAOC. As for collaboration with the NIH APAO, APAOC will co-sponsor an event to invite the SG to speak in May for the Asian American Heritage month.
- d. APAOC is seeking guidance from MOLC and other CMAGs for ideas on how to solicit officers outside the DMV area to expand outreach events. Furthermore, APAOC is open to increased collaborative efforts in outreach events and training this year and beyond. For example, perhaps the APAOC Training and Education SC could collaborate with other CMAGs to give PHS related training to all CMAGs at the same time, rather than the same training topic at separate times. This way, each CMAG could devote a few training topics relevant to their groups. This effort would definitely support increased collaboration and show a united front.
 - i. Discussion: CDR Touré inquired about the APAOC strategic planning process and requested to have APAOC share the strategic plan with other CMAGs. He further commented that other CMAGs are open to collaboration with APAOC on training sessions and outreach events. CDR Ngo reported that APAOC currently conducts operational year strategic planning with the goal of transitioning to multi-year plans. CDR Ngo will communicate with APAOC leadership regarding sharing of strategic plan.

5. BCOAG – LCDR Marshall

- a. The last BCOAG General Body meeting was held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, between 1100 and 1200.
- b. The BCOAG Executive Committee is preparing to strategically review the budgets and goals of each Committee. The purpose of this activity is to increase

transparency and to provide the general membership with an opportunity to provide feedback and input into planning overall BCOAG activities

- c. BCOAG is seeking nominations for the George I. Lythcott Award, Hildrus A. Poindexter Award, and the Retired PHS Officers Recognition Award.
 - d. On February 11, Dr. Camara Jones, President of the American Public Health Association, gave an excellent presentation on the Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities, and the role of USPHS Officers in addressing these public health issues. The audio of the webinar is available. The link will be disseminated.
 - e. BCOAG is hosting a heart health awareness month event at Union Bethel AME. Union Bethel will host “Warm Nights”, which is a rotating shelter that serves families and individuals during the cold months. BCOAG Officers will be the special guest volunteers who will perform blood pressure screenings and disseminate educational materials on heart health awareness.
6. HOAC – CDR Avilés-Mendoza
- a. The call for nomination for the Juan Carlos Finlay award will be disseminated February 15, 2016 with a due deadline of March 15, 2016
 - b. The HOAC Education Committee put together a short survey to hear from voting and non-voting members. We want to hear from you in the survey. To capture interest and needs of the group.
 - c. Mentoring of officers is important in HOAC. The education and outreach committee is charged with career development in the bylaws. Promotion process is getting harder so we want to make sure we are giving our officers the greatest opportunities in outreach and career development. Some ideas include inviting senior officers to develop and mentor junior officers. Reviewing CV’s and other activities are in order. Finally taking care of our membership in HOAC is most important.
 - d. We will continue to support REDDOG to include the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS) standards. We are in full force in terms of moving CLAS training forward. Dr. Gracia’s staff at the Office of Minority Health will be participating and hosting a class on the CLAS standards at the COA this year.
 - e. LT Jorge Muñoz volunteer to be part of the Chapter and Bylaws subcommittee.
 - f. HOAC wants to inquiry about selection of new voting members in the other CMAG’s. Do you have template, questionnaire or use any other tools?
7. MOLC Liaison – LCDR Frank
- a. February 8, 2016, MOLC Liaisons met with CDR Hamet Toure’ & LCDR Valerie Marshall to discuss Website Subcommittee, Minority Health Subcommittee and

COA Liaison functions. It was discussed that LCDR Frank cannot attend meetings this quarter due to his involvement in the 2016 Symposium planning committees. CDR Saria plans to attend the COA meetings with CDR Anash starting with the next meeting. We will reassess this next quarter.

- b. February 12, 2016, met with LCDR Eric Zhou and LCDR Trang Tran former MOLC Liaison and they gave us an orientation of their duties and accomplishments and what to expect this upcoming year. Discussed the MOLC Website and nominated CDR Ryan Nguyen as the Webmaster, in which he graciously accepted. Will reach out to CAPT Samuel Wu with Office of Minority Health to discuss collaboration with MOLC.
8. COA Liaison – CDR Anshah
(adapted from 19-31 January 2016 Report to the COA and COF Boards on Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach and Other Activities)
- a. The COA Board of Director met on January 27, 2016. The various COA committees & PAC representatives provided their report to the Board. It was noted among other things that preparation/plans for the 2016 COF was in full swing. CDR Anshah took the opportunity to share with the Board that the CMAGs continue to engage their officers and serve as a resource; that the CMAGs' awards nomination calls have gone out; and that MOLC looks forward to hosting the MOLC awards ceremony and providing career counseling at the MOLC Booth this year at the COF Symposium in Oklahoma, as was done last year.
 - b. It's worth noting that as always COA continues to advocate for the interest of USPHS officers and the COA leadership is taking extra steps to actively engage its membership by attending different PAC & COA Branch meetings as illustrated below.
 - i. 19 Jan – COA Executive Director [Col(ret.) James “Jim” Currie] participated in a MOAA webinar on the new uniformed services retirement plan. COA will be hosting its own webinar on the subject sometime in the coming months.
 - ii. 19-31 Jan – COA Deputy Director (John McElligott) has been soliciting possible exhibitor sponsors for the 2016 Symposium and has been collecting proposals for the site of the 2017 Symposium. Also, COA has devoted time & effort to the planning of the 2016 Symposium and registration for the Symposium for attendees and exhibitors has been opened.
 - iii. 22 Jan- Col(ret.) Currie traveled to Atlanta, where he spoke to a group of PHS officers at CDC, including RADM Jordan Tappero. On 23 January he attended the Atlanta branch's Anchor & Caduceus Dinner, where he was the keynote speaker.
 - iv. 27 Jan – Col(ret.) Currie participated in the monthly call of the Rio Grande COA Branch
 - v. 29 Jan – Col(ret.) Currie drafted a letter to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness asking that PHS officers be included in a

revised DoD Instruction concerning military service child development centers. PHS officers are currently omitted from the priority listing for these centers. That letter is posted on the COA website at http://www.coausphs.org/media/1225/letter_to_u_sec_def_on_child_care_jan_2016.pdf and will be printed in a forthcoming issue of *Frontline*.

- vi. At the request of RADM Jim Lando, COA sent out an Informz email to COA members in Region 5 inviting them to participate in a webinar about SG priorities. The Surgeon General and his chief of staff were sent a copy of the COA email, and the CoS responded favorably.
 - vii. 30-31 Jan – Col(ret.) Currie traveled to Oklahoma where he attended an Oklahoma City branch Dining Out and spoke to the 120 officers and guests there. He talked about the new uniformed services retirement plan, the Congressional intent to revise TRICARE, and the upcoming symposium. He also talked about what COA is doing on other fronts, such as Disney and TSA. RADMs Kevin Meeks and Chuck Grim also spoke.
- c. CDR Ansah extended an invitation to the Col(ret.) Currie to attend one of our MOLC meetings and share his thoughts & vision with us which he accepted. MOLC needs to quickly work to identify which MOLC meeting we will like CO9ret.) Currie to attend so that he can plan accordingly.

9. JOAG Liaison – LCDR Warner

- a. Last JOAG General Meeting 12FEB16.
- b. Next JOAG General Meeting will be 08APR16
- c. The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Membership Committee is excited to announce an upcoming TWO Meet and Greet (M&G) for the month of March.

Tuesday, March 15th: San Francisco

Time: 2-3pm PT

Location: Oakland Federal Bldg., 1120N-North Tower, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94103

Contact: LT Annie Lam (925) 325-2227 (If you have questions or issues accessing the building)

Topic: "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone"

Speakers: CAPT John Moroney (HRSA)

Friday, March 18, 2016: Phoenix

Time: 1200-1300 MST/ Arizona Time

Location: Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Conference Room A

Topic: "Mentoring for Junior Officers"

Speakers: CDR Jose Burgos (Whiteriver Indian Hospital)

- d. JOAG Excellence Award
2016 Call for Award Nominations
Nomination Deadline: Due Yesterday February 22, 2016

The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) is requesting nominations for the following award to be presented at the annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from May 16-19, 2016.

- e. The JOAG Awards Newsletter for the week of February 19, 2016 was sent out yesterday. This newsletter is intended to serve as a “one-stop” resource for all junior officers regarding active awards that are currently soliciting nominations. This current newsletter contains information that was solicited from all of the professional advisory committees (PAC) as well as the USPHS Minority Officer Liaison Council (MOLC) and representatives from the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS). In addition, it also highlights additional active awards that might be relevant to public health service officers.
- f. The JOAG Communications and Publications Committee (CPC) Uniform Subcommittee is developing a PHS trivia question bank. These snippets of information will be included in the “With Pride and Distinction” newsletter to be shared with all junior officers. Email your trivia questions and answers directly to the JOAG Uniform Subcommittee Chair Co-Leads LCDR Donna Chaney (DChaney@cdc.gov) and LCDR Theresa Grant (TAGrant@cdc.gov).
- g. A new JOAG Readiness & Deployment Workgroup <<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url> (R&DWG) was established for the 2015-2016 operational year. The vision of the R&DWG is to promote officer fitness and readiness, and provide opportunities to increase deployment-related knowledge, expertise, and training. The R&DWG Training and Exercise Team aims to provide officers with deployment-related training opportunities to enhance their readiness.

We are conducting a brief survey to 1) identify training and exercise opportunities that officers are aware of related to readiness and deployment and 2) better understand readiness and deployment topics that officers want to learn more about.

Your input is valuable and will guide our team’s direction and activities. This survey should take approximately five minutes of your time. Please respond by March 3rd, 2016.

- h. JOAG is looking for recent graduates from OBC to join the JOAG Peer-to-Peer Networking Program Network. This is an opportunity for junior officers who have recently graduated from OBC to be matched with other junior officers who have 2+ years of experience in the Commissioned Corps. This opportunity encourages junior officers to feel comfortable speaking with peer-level officers, to promote camaraderie, and to facilitate information exchange through peer-based relationships. Website is live on the JOAG website at: https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/JOAG/resources_peertopeernetwork.aspx

From here, you can view our JOAG Peer to Peer Network Flyer and access our officer enrollment forms.

- i. The Agency Training Program (ATP) Subcommittee of the JOAG Recruitment & Retention Committee is seeking officers who are alumni from Agency-specific Training Programs: BOP Internships, CDC Fellowship or Internship Programs, CDC Collegiate Leaders in Environmental Health, CDC Public Health Associate Program/Public Health Prevention Service, CDC Summer Program in Environmental Health, CDC Future Health Leaders Program, EPA Fellowship or Scholarship Program, IHS Scholarship or Loan Repayment Program, NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education, SAMHSA Fellowship or Internship Programs, USDA Student Programs. If you are an alumnus of an ATP and are willing to serve as a 2016 alumni contact officer to individuals who are currently going through an ATP, please take a minute of your time and fill in the attached "Alumni Contact Page." Please submit the completed form by March 1, 2016 to either LCDR Elizabeth Irvin-Barnwell at jcx0@cdc.gov or LT Taran Pierce at bre3@cdc.gov.
- j. The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) has developed a survey tool regarding the future direction of the Corps and Surgeon General at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTQG5DK>. This tool and your responses will be utilized directly by our Corps' own Strategic Planning Work Group to help guide the future direction of the Corps' strategic framework. The deadline for responses is close of business on February 24.
- k. The Training and Education subcommittee of the Professional Development Committee is soliciting articles for publication in the Spring edition of the JOAG Journal. The article will focus on officer's experiences in and recommendations for obtaining an advanced degree. The article should specifically offer advice to officers about how to find the right program and how to successfully complete the program while continuing to be exemplary officers in their current duty stations. You may access the guideline for submissions at https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/JOAG/documents/JOAG_Guidelines_for_Article_Submissions-JOAG_Journal.pdf
Please submit articles to LCDR Valgardson (jvalgardson@bop.gov) by March 1st to meet the Spring edition publication date. Please address any questions to LT Cain (Brutrinia.Cain@fda.hhs.gov) or LCDR Valgardson.
- l. In preparation for the upcoming 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, 16-19 May 2016, we are seeking junior officers (O-4 and below) to serve as an Aide-de-Camp to a flag officer or dignitary while you attend the Symposium. If you are interested in volunteering, please read the attachment, complete the spreadsheet and forward it to LCDR Chandra Jolley, Chandra.Jolley@hhs.gov and LT Taran Pierce, bre3@cdc.gov by 15 March 2016.

- m. Junior Officer Scholarships are being offered for the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium from the C. Everett Koop Living Legacy Fund, which is partially funded by the proceeds of JOAG merchandise sales. The scholarship is available to Commissioned Officers Association members who are officers at the rank of O-3 (LT) or below, and will cover the full registration cost of the Symposium. The scholarship does not cover the registration fee for any pre-conference events, the Anchor and Caduceus Dinner, or any related costs such as travel, housing, etc. No refunds will be made for registrations completed prior to notification of scholarship awards. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is April 4, 2016. For further details on the scholarships, including full qualifications and instructions about how to apply, please visit: <http://symposium.phscof.org/registration>
- n. JOAG has established the Officer Room Share/Car Share Program to assist junior officers with the cost of travel and lodging for the conference. This program will facilitate connections between junior officers to assist in: (1) finding a roommate, which can help offset the cost of housing, either in a hotel or at a local officer's home, and (2) finding an officer to share a ride. Note: officers on official government travel with their room paid by a travel order cannot benefit financially from sharing a room, but are allowed to offer their room to be shared. If you have any questions or concerns about the Officer Room Share/Car Share Program, please contact LCDR Tricia Booker by email at tricia.h.booker.mil@mail.mil, or by phone at 910-670-3964.
- o. The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the JOAG online store, including our new, updated core values coin! Check our new online store and place your order online at: <http://mkt.com/usphs-joag>.
- p. The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) is now LIVE on TWITTER, so follow us @PHS_JOAG!

10. DCCPR/RedDog Readiness Update – CAPT Lau

- a. OSG Updates
 - i. SG and HHS SEC Burwell were in Flint, MI
 - ii. UN General Assembly on Drugs – In synch with Opioid Campaign – Focus on family support; lots of opportunities in prevention, detection, and screening – get support early in cycle –to hopefully prevent addition
 - iii. Chair of Science and Policy – New policy on tobacco use; ongoing project – lots of cities not well controlled and kids have access.
 - iv. Surgeon General - NBA Collaboration – to promote Physical Activity with youths.
 - v. If ops in an agency are going to engage ACA – OSG is a great resource for talking points- get agency approval if officers speaking on behalf of OSG – send e-mail to OSG
- b. DCCPR
 - i. ADM Joan Hunter – temporarily helping with transition and leadership

- ii. CAPT Sylvia Russell to DCCPR
 - iii. 2 new managers for Recruitment Team – CDR Joy Lee from IHS – To be Head of Student and Training branch – COSTEPS, Pharmacy Residents, EIS, etc. ; CDR Antione Smith- From HRSA new CAD Chief; taking over from Francine Barnett
 - iv. LT Brutrinia Cain - detailed to assist with Policy Branch
 - v. Promotion boards start in March and ongoing for next 3 months.
 - vi. Awards: All hands on deck for individual honor awards completion related to Ebola
 - vii. Direct Access – has 3000 Non officer supervisors; working to get everyone online.
 - viii. USAID Partnership – Corps officers to participate in the training.
 - ix. OBC Class 85 just finished
 - x. FDA – 15 March Promotion Ceremony – RADM Carmen Maher - CAPT Dean Coppola
 - xi. Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives - CPOs will nominate– LCDR Cooper
- c. RedDOG
- i. Flint, MI State of Emergency; FEMA not lead; HHS is lead agency supported by FEMA; Stafford act dollars not in play
 - ii. 20 officers deployed to assist – 2 public health officers
 - iii. A public Health Assistance and Support task Force team –MHT, SAT, APHT; Team has deployed home. Did Blood level testing - 9,000 children; 90% of Kids on Medicaid.
 - iv. CDC “0” safety lead exposure to children. There is NO safe level!!
 - v. Psychologic First Aid – train the trainier. Have been asked and tasked to provide additional support
 - vi. Zika – Level 1 activation for the Dept. Have liaison full time dedicated; task force full time dedicated also
 - vii. LCDR DeGrange PCSed out to OSSI – Currently have O-4-O-5 General Response Billet andO-6 Overall Preparedness Billet. LT Yvonne Santiago is also joining the team
 - viii. CAPT Calvin Edwards on 90 day detail to support DCCPR – RedDOG
- d. Current Operations
- i. National Special Events – CAP Teams will be very busy – Lots of ceremonies and ceremonial visits.
 - ii. Office of Attending Physicians
 - iii. Nuclear Summit
 - iv. Ongoing – Flint, MI – State of Emergency/Not a Disaster declaration; different than the Stafford Act; HHS is the leading Federal agency taking point on this. Kudos to APHTs, SATs, MHTs – Great feedback concerning their support of Genesee County Health Department. There were challenging dynamics: Building Trust was in high demand. Focus on rebuilding the trust. Officers greeting with Hugs and Cheers. Second rotation of 4 MH Officers in the field.
- e. Indian Health Service

- i. Need 17-20 officers
- ii. Significant Public Health Crisis/IHS Great Plains response:
- iii. Pine Ridge
- iv. Rosebud
- v. Winnebago
- vi. Looking to provide QA and Accreditation/Case management/administrative support/medical records support/need urgent care and ER support/leadership positions
- vii. 30/60/90 day deployments
 - 1. Rosebud being resurveyed. Currently 3 officers deployed to Rosebud.
 - 2. Currently 4 QA officers deployed for assessment and to assist.
 - 3. Can't be anyone from Medicare/Medicaid
 - 4. Compliance issues with CMS – 3 service units facing shutdown of ER and Hospital –Need long term compliance support.
- f. Training with NORTHCOM/Request from NORTHCOM – Multicultural Training Op in Mexico – see announcement last month in report....– Looking to have cultural exchanges of Disaster Behavioral Health; mixture equivalent of FEMA and ASPR; Training Mexican Responders; 11 day event – need 2 officers with Behavioral Health background and first responders and psychological first aid/fluent in Spanish; Current Mexican president will be in attendance. 01-13 May in Acapulco => Send information to CAPT Waterman ; teach disaster behavioral health.
- g. Have Several missions for CAP Team
 - i. 30 MAR - -1 APR Nuclear Summit – At Washington Convention Center ; last one was in 2010
 - ii. NSS Event – Secret service will be in charge – 4 person teams; on call CAP Teams tapped
- h. Training – Most RDFs have been contacted – Medical training in Anniston AL Feb thru June; also for Log officers and log chiefs/deputy log chiefs. APR – Slots for Veterinarians.
- i. Scaling back down to normal readiness; no longer need to submit rosters to RedDOG
- j. **Readiness Stats – overall 95.17% -** USCG 100%; Medical Category first time over 90% at 91.75 ; 27% of response teams at 100%
- k. Next Quarterly Run 01 APR 2016.

V. Old Business

- 1. MOLC Awards Ceremony Subcommittee – CDR Avilés-Mendoza
 - a. Recommend MOLC to process request for SG/DSG to attend the ceremony.

- i. Discussion: CAPT Lau reiterates etiquette to invite SG/DSG. CDR Touré reminds group that MOLC will need to remain flexible to SG/DSG schedule during the Symposium.
 - ii. Action: Voting member consensus to invite SG/DSG to awards ceremony.
 - b. Recommend MOLC to consider COA financial support from each of the four CMAGs. Funds would be used for gifts for special guests/VIPs, coffee, etc.
 - i. Discussion: CDR Laird inquired if MOLC or CMAGs currently contribute funds. CDR Touré inquired about the amount of contributions in previous years. Approximately \$100-\$150 in past contributions from CMAGs. LCDR Warner indicated that in the past, CMAGs have contributed coins to give to VIPs and speakers.
 - ii. Action: CDR Avilés-Mendoza reported that the subcommittee will propose a budget to MOLC at the next meeting, including a line item for coins.
2. AMSUS – CAPT Lau
- a. Preliminary AMSUS meeting was conducted with the DSG.
 - b. First AMSUS Planning meeting of the operational year scheduled for 04 MAR 2016 @ 1200 EST. Opportunities to join the USPHS AMSUS Planning Team
 - c. Information regarding the Call for Abstracts as well as participation from each CMAG is forthcoming.
 - d. AMSUS 2016 Call for Abstracts

PHS Officers, do you want to present at one of the oldest and most prestigious Uniformed Service conferences in the United States? Have you considered Presenting at the 2016 AMSUS Annual Continuing Education Meeting? The 2016 AMSUS Annual Continuing Education Meeting will be held at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD, 29 November – 2 December 2016 and they are calling for abstracts.

This year the theme is “Raising the Bar,” and it will provide a platform for shared accomplishments, research, and strategies for the future of our "new normal" in healthcare as Federal Health Systems take their efforts to the next level of inter-professional collaborative practices. Session content will address advancements in prevention, wellness, resilience, health promotion, integrated care, as well as complementary and alternative medicine, rehabilitation, and family focused care.

The content track categories are as follows: Clinical Practice, Deployment and Operational Healthcare, Psychological Health, Global Health, Health Technology.

Key Dates:

- The abstract portal submission opens 7 March 2016
- Deadline for Lecture Submission is Friday, 29 April 2016, 11:59pm ET
- Deadline for Poster Submission is Friday, 8 July 2016, 11:59pm ET

Oh, and we almost forgot, if you are already presenting at COF this year, why not take that presentation and submit it to AMSUS too?!! Let PHS showcase how amazing PHS is by considering presentations on research, policy, domestic responses (like Flint), and partnerships championed by PHS officers, like the one between HRSA's BPHC and VA for veterans. These are only a few ideas to let your exemplary work, professionalism and knowledge take center stage at AMSUS in 2016!

AMSUS Background: Organized in 1891 and chartered by Congress in 1903, AMSUS is an organization for federal and international health professionals. AMSUS helps advance the knowledge of healthcare and increase the effectiveness of its members. It is dedicated to all aspects of federal medicine – professional, scientific, educational and administrative. Presently our nearly 8,000 members represent all healthcare disciplines and serve in the Active and Reserve Components of all the uniformed services, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal Agencies.

For more information about abstract submission including the submission portal please go to: <http://www.amsusmeetings.org/ce/>. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to assist with USPHS planning activities for this year's AMSUS conference.

Please reach out to any on the USPHS AMSUS Team: LT Evette Pinder at evettepinder@gmail.com; LCDR Damon Smith at damon.smith@hhs.gov; CDR Malaysia Gresham @ malsaysia.h.gresham.mil@mail.mil; LCDR Cody Thornton @ Cody.Thornton@hhs.gov; CAPT David Lau at David.Lau@ice.dhs.gov

VI. New Business

1. FDA PHS Awareness Day – LCDR Marshall
 - a. The FDA Commissioned Corps Network has invited the Minority Offices Liaison Council (MOLC) to participate in the 8th Annual PHS Commissioned Corps Awareness Day Event at White Oak in the Great Room.
 - b. The purpose of this event is to highlight and celebrate accomplishments of Commissioned Corps officers in order to promote visibility, cultivate interest, and display appreciation for the Commissioned Corps.
 - c. This event is also an opportunity for Commissioned Corps officers, civilians, and students to network and share information.
 - d. MOLC will serve as a table presenter to share information related to our organization.
 - e. LCDR Marshall asked the organizers to put the CMAG tables side by side.
 - f. In addition to representing your individual CMAGs, this is an opportunity to give visibility to MOLC.
 - i. Discussion: LCDR Warner inquired if sales of merchandise will be available. CDR Touré reported that in past years, sale of goods was not appropriate. Inquiry with the organizing group will be made. LCDR

Warner inquired if someone from MOLC will serve as POC for all the CMAGs to help contribute or collaborate. LCDR Marshall reported that a POC will be identified.

2. MOLC Senior Advisor – CDR Ngo
 - a. It is APAOC's understanding that there are plans to select a new MOLC senior advisor this year. CDR Ngo inquired about the consideration given to appointment rotation from each CMAG for the senior advisor. Further, CDR Ngo inquired about the "pending" statuses of the advisors as listed in the roster.
 - i. Discussion: CAPT Lau and LCDR Warner cited reference to the MOLC Bylaws for terms of the senior advisor appointment. The senior advisor is nominated by the respective CMAGs and selected by the MOLC voting members. A new senior advisor will need to be selected for the term starting October 1, 2016 when RADM Mishoe completes her term as senior advisor.

VII. Open Floor

1. Rx for Change – CAPT Lau
 - a. Free training offered at COA and being rolled out to all of USPHS
 - b. *Rx for Change: Tobacco Cessation Intervention for Clinicians* (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm) Sign-up during registration.

This training will focus on providing tobacco cessation intervention at every patient encounter and will cover behavior counseling and pharmacotherapy as it pertains to tobacco cessation and treatment. The training aims to enhance the health care provider's knowledge concerning the Five A Model used for tobacco cessation interventions, and equip the health care provider to provide comprehensive tobacco cessation counseling services. At the end of the presentation, the participant will need to successfully complete a written exam, a skills demonstration and sign a tobacco free pledge in order receive a certificate.
 - c. *Rx for Change: Basic Tobacco Intervention Program (Ask-Advise-Refer)* (offered twice: 8:00 am -- 10:00 am and 10:00 am - 12:00 pm); Sign-up during registration.

Smoking remains the number one preventable cause of disease in the United States. PHS officers have an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. There are lots of resources out there for people to stop smoking. However, personal interaction will go a long way to encourage and inspire patients to attempt to quit. Some officers cite time and fear of alienating patients as barriers to delivering interventions. However, brief intervention models provide time-efficient delivery mechanisms for the busy professional. Even minimal counseling—less than 3 minutes—makes a difference. This program is an abbreviated version of the Five A's tobacco cessation intervention training for busy clinician or individual with no expertise (non-clinician). This training can be applied to any tobacco user within a clinical setting or the community, and is a skill that all public health officers should have. At the end of the presentation, the

participant will need to successfully complete a written exam, a skills demonstration and sign a tobacco free pledge in order receive a certificate.

2. COF Symposium – CAPT Lau
 - a. Joint combined social – will solicit PACs, PAGs, MOLC, CMAG if groups would like to designate the combined social as their organization’s social
3. Support of SG initiatives – CDR Touré
 - a. CDR Touré asked MOLC advisors and representatives about the most suitable way to keep the Surgeon General and the Office of the Surgeon General informed of ongoing CMAG’s initiatives that are conducted to support the Surgeon General’s priorities such as a Walking in communities. CAPT Lau suggested to contact CDR Christine Collins in OSG to inquire about the best approach to accomplish the task.

VIII. Announcements and Adjournment

- LCDR Marshall adjourned the meeting at 15:28.