

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary MOLC Awards Ceremony



United States Public Health Service



“To PROTECT, PROMOTE, and ADVANCE the health and safety of the Nation”

Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC)



VADM Antonia Novello, 14th U.S. Surgeon General and the first woman and first Hispanic appointed to this post, had a vision to create a coalition of minority groups that would serve as a liaison to the Surgeon General.

Fulfilling this vision, the Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC) was founded in 1990 to serve as a liaison to the Surgeon General representing PHS racial and ethnic minority officer groups.

The MOLC provides advice and consultation to the Surgeon General on issues relating to the professional practice and the personnel activities (Commissioned Corps & Civil Service) relating to minorities in USPHS.





19th United States Surgeon General



**Vice Admiral (VADM) Vivek H.
Murthy, M.D., M.B.A.**



Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC)

Purpose:

Serves in a resource and advisory capacity to assist in the development, coordination, and evaluation of activities related to ethnic minority officers it represents in the PHS with specific objectives:

- Identifying and facilitating resolution of issues of concern as they relate to the MOLC ethnic minority officers.
- Assessing PHS personnel needs and assisting in meeting these needs through activities in recruitment, training, utilization and recognition of ethnic minority officers.



Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC)

- Developing position papers, statistical reports and/or guidelines where appropriate, in order to advise and comment on matters relating to the personnel issues of ethnic minority officers.
- Promoting the development and utilization of MOLC by the PHS and other Governmental programs.
- Promoting all aspects of MOLC throughout the Agencies and Programs of the PHS.
- Liaising among ethnic minority officers within and among PHS components, and providing advice and consultation to the Agency Heads and operating programs upon request.

Black Commissioned
Officers Advisory
Group (BCOAG)



American
Indian/Alaska
Native
Commissioned
Officers Advisory
Committee
(AIANCOAC)



The MOLC is
comprised of the
four Core
Minority
Advisory Groups
(CMAGs):



Asian Pacific
American Officers
Committee
(APAOC)



Hispanic Officers
Advisory Committee
(HOAC)

United States Surgeon Generals – Minority Representation



VADM Antonia Novello



VADM Joycelyn Elders



RADM Audrey Manley



ADM/VADM David Satcher



RADM Kenneth Moritsugu



VADM Richard Carmona



VADM Regina Benjamin



VADM Vivek Murthy

United States Surgeon Generals – Minority Representation



14th (3/90 – 6/93)



15th (9/93 – 12/94)



Acting (1/95 – 7/97)



16th (2/98 – 2/02)



Acting (2/02 – 8/02)
(8/06 – 9/07)



17th (8/02 – 7/06)



18th (11/09 – 2013)

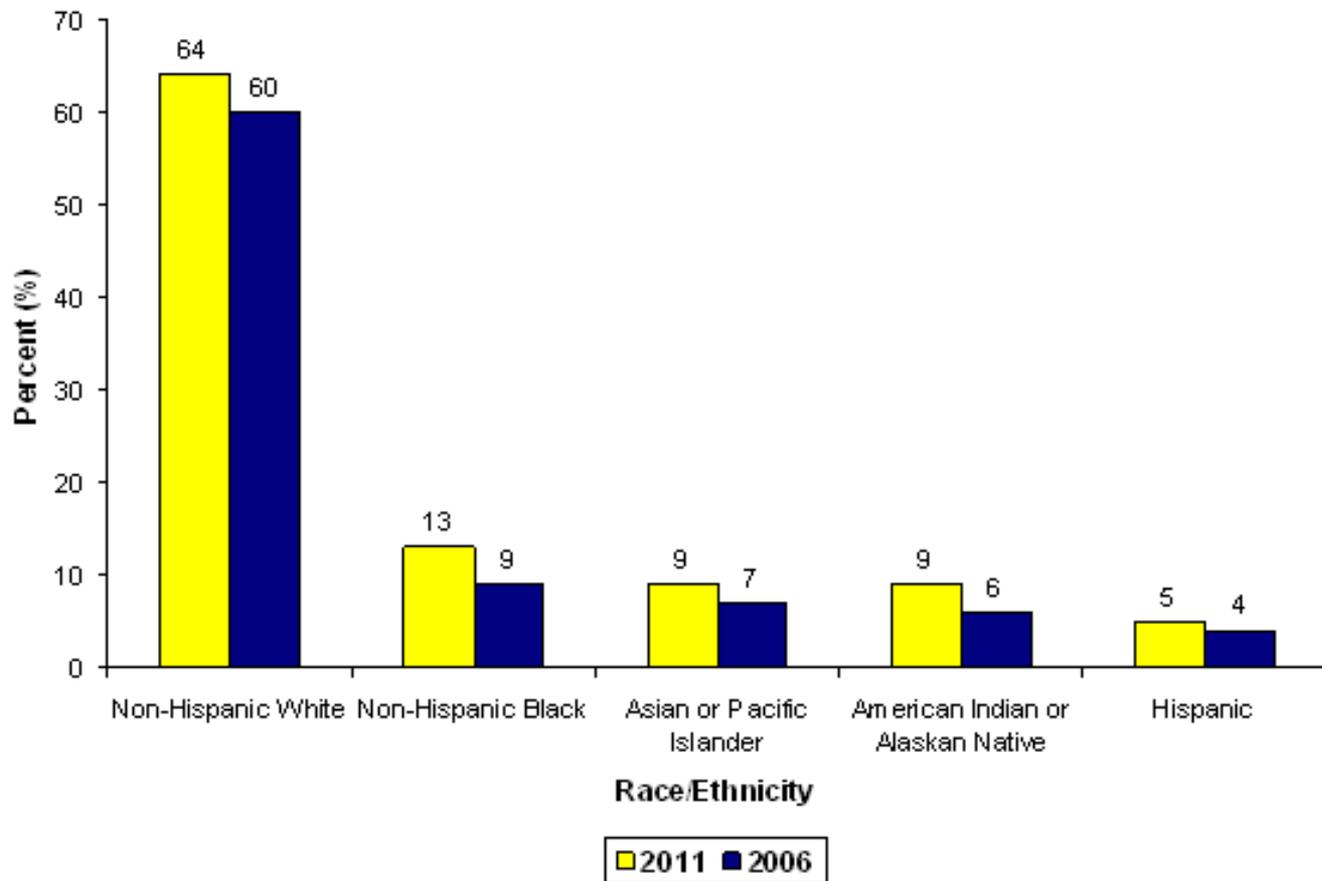


19th (12/14 - present)



Current USPHS Demographics

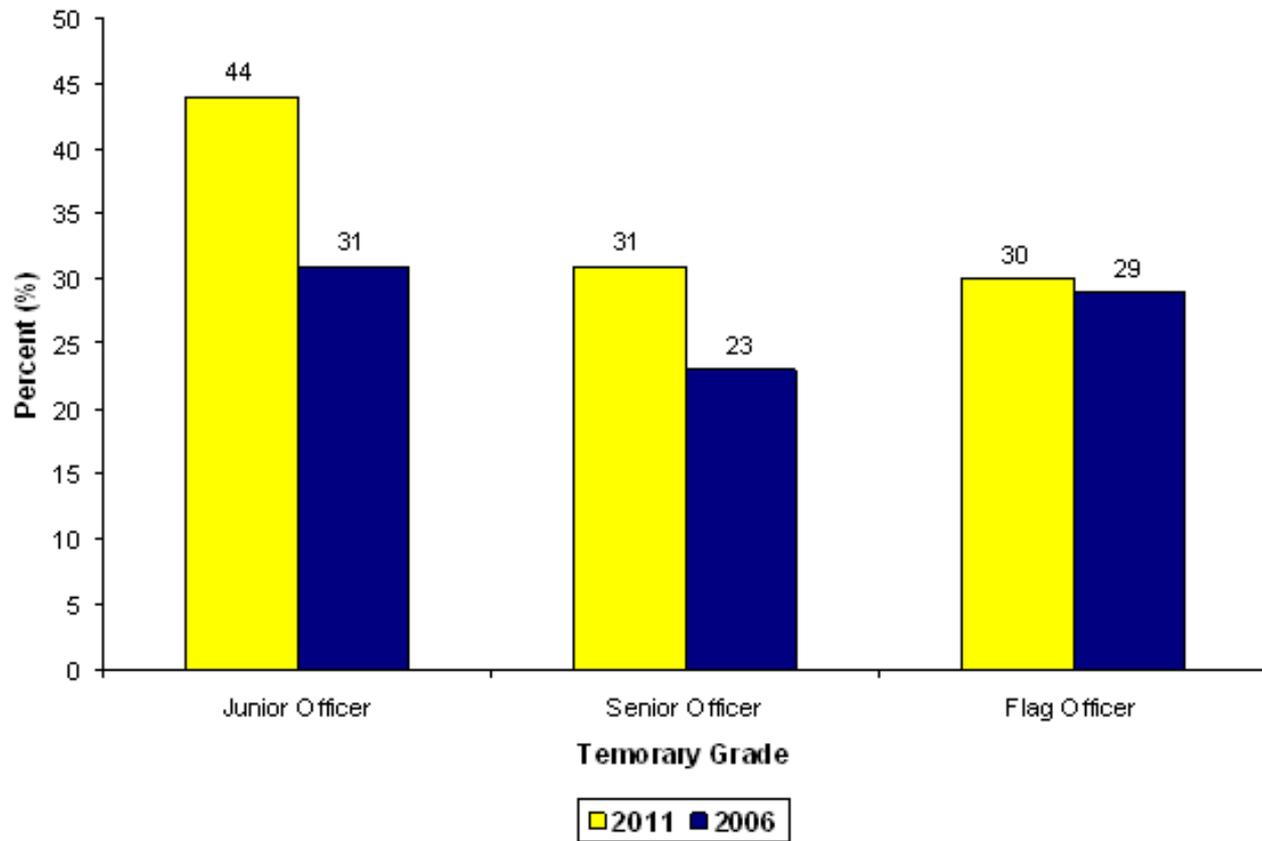
Figure 1. Public Health Service Officers by Self-Reported Race/Ethnicity, United States — 2011, 2006





Current USPHS Demographics

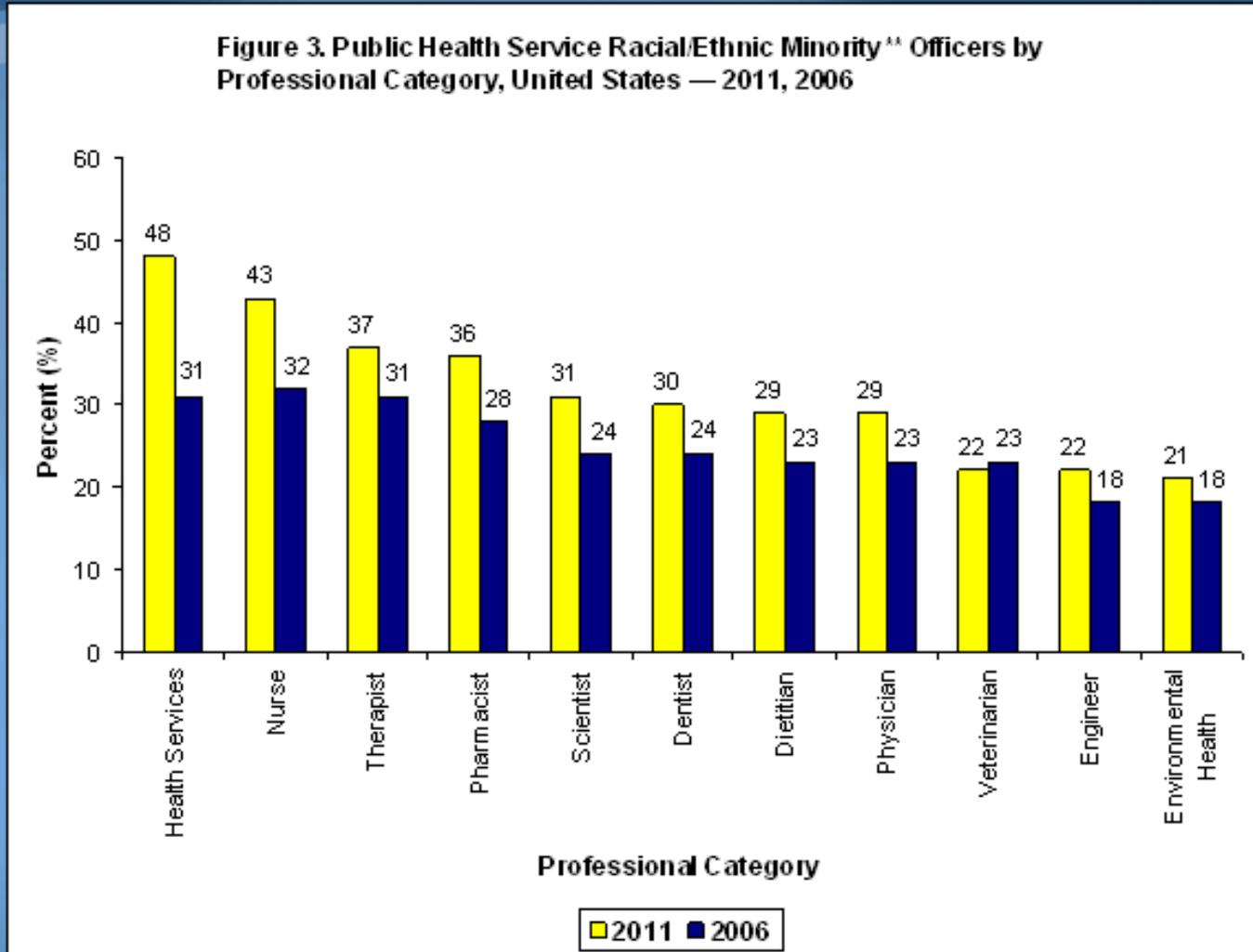
Figure 2. Public Health Service Racial/Ethnic Minority^{} Officers by Temporary Grade, United States — 2011, 2006**





Current USPHS Demographics

Figure 3. Public Health Service Racial/Ethnic Minority^{AA} Officers by Professional Category, United States — 2011, 2006





MOLC CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



AIANCOAC Accomplishments

- Participated in Operation Foothold (RAM Event) during the Operational Period: August 22-29, 2011
- Approximately 40 officers provided Dental, Vision and General Medical services to Pine Ridge community.
- Raised over \$600 dollars for school supplies for Alaska Native Cultural Charter school.

APAOC Accomplishments

- Established the APAOC training program to provide bi-monthly webinar trainings for all USPHS Officers.
- Established the APAOC Mentoring Program which matches senior officers with junior officers to foster leadership and advance career development.
- Established connections to local community organizations to participate in annual health fairs and community events.
- Created the quarterly APAOC newsletter to inform officer on news and events related to career development opportunities and other APAOC activities.

BCOAG Accomplishments

- A founding member of BCOAG, RADM Manley-Forbes was the first African American woman appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health in the U.S. Public Health Service.
- Established the Hildrus A. Poindexter Award in 1990 to recognize a PHS Officer or civil service employee for outstanding service contributing to enhancing the health of communities within the U.S. and/or abroad.
- Established the George I. Lythcott Award in 1996 to recognize a junior officer who demonstrated genuine sense of public service and leadership initiative, and whose contributions helped to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of our Nation.
- Established the NOLA Missions Project in 2007 under CAPT Sheila Merriweather's leadership, to increase efforts in community service with a mission support the recovery efforts of New Orleans

BCOAG Accomplishments

- BCOAG members were one of the first to participate in the international Continuing Promise in 2009 – an interservice, interagency Health Diplomacy initiative utilizing U.S. Navy ships in missions designed to increase the operational capacity of U.S. government personnel to deliver humanitarian assistance, perform public health assessments, conduct public health infrastructure repair and provide health care training of indigenous health workers.
- Four African American women who served as Assistant Surgeons Generals: RADM Denise Canton, RADM Helena Mishoe, RADM Deborah Parham Hopson and RADM Clara Cobb were BCOAG members in 2010.
- Established the first joint community service project with COF, under the leadership of CAPT Postelle Birch-Smith, to provide the opportunity for all interested USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium attendees to participate in the NOLA Mission Project in 2011.

HOAC Accomplishments

- In 1990, Founder of the Minority Officers Liaison Council, VADM Antonia C. Novello was the first woman and first Hispanic Surgeon General. VADM Novello was also the last career Commissioned Corps Officer to be appointed Surgeon General. This year HOAC is honored to present the first award bearing her name.
- VADM Richard Carmona was the second Hispanic appointed to serve as Surgeon General. This year HOAC established an award bearing his name to honor a senior officer.
- In 2009 ADM Joxel Garcia served as the first Hispanic Assistant Secretary for Health, making him the highest ranking Hispanic Officer to ever serve as a Commissioned Corps Officer. ADM Garcia created the first four star flag for the Commissioned Corps. In December HOAC honored him by presenting him with the original flag from his time in service.

HOAC Accomplishments

- Established a partnership with the Office of Minority Health and the Readiness and Deployment Operations Group to help implement training on the National CLAS Standards to the entire Commissioned Corps
- Established a partnership with other Latino Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations such as Ventanillas de Salud and U.S. Mexico Border Health Commission amongst others.
- Established a partnership with the Department of Defense's Defense Language Institute to help pilot language proficiency testing for the entire Commissioned Corps
- Hosted the first ever Hispanic Heritage Month Hispanic Health Webinar Series to educate Commissioned Corps officers on Hispanic health issues.
- This year RADM Epi Elizondo will retire as the highest ranking Physician Assistant to ever serve in any of the Seven Uniformed Services.

2015 Awardees

AIANCOAC Junior Officer Award

LCDR James Warner, USCG

LCDR James Warner received his medical doctorate from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, America's Medical School, in Bethesda, Maryland in 2004. He completed his Family Practice training with the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

LCDR Warner is currently a member of the American Indian/Alaskan Native Commissioned Officers Advisory Committee, Chair of the Minority Officers Liaison Council, Co-Chair of the Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Uniform Sub-committee, member of the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) Houston Branch, a Board Certified Family Physician with the Academy of Family Physicians and member of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians (USAFP).



AIANCOAC Senior Officer Award

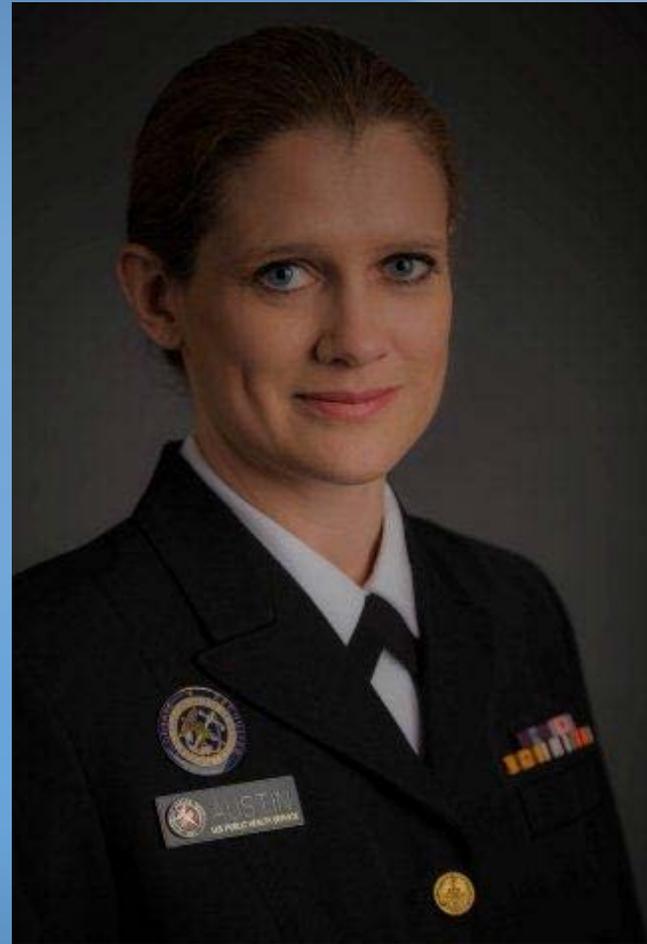
CDR Jeff Maxon, IHS

CDR Jeff Maxon, PharmD, is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation. CDR Maxon started his career as a pharmacist at Parker Indian Health Service Hospital in Parker, Arizona where he was promoted to the Chief Pharmacist for five years before transferring to the Phoenix Indian Medical Center in September of 2012. As of April of 2014, CDR Maxon as the Primary Care Pharmacy Supervisor has improved the pharmacy workflow. CDR Maxon is working diligently to increase access to care by adding new services for primary care patients. CDR Maxon maintains a vision to continue to analyze patient needs and implement solutions to improve patient focused care models and customer service.



AIANCOAC Annie Dodge Wauneka Award CDR Latona Austin, IHS

CDR Austin began her career with the Public Health Service as a JrCOSTEP at Alaska Native Medical Center during the summers of 2001 and 2002. After graduating from the University of Wyoming in 2003 she accepted a position as a clinical pharmacist at Pine Ridge IHS Hospital on the reservation of her birth. She has functioned as a pharmacist and earned numerous certifications. CDR Austin co-authored the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital Anticoagulation Clinic protocol and is co-manager of the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital Anticoagulation Clinic. Presently she is deeply involved with pharmacy and hospital informatics.



AIANCOAC Leadership Award

CAPT Craig S. Wilkins, CDC

CAPT Craig S. Wilkins, currently serves as a Senior Advisor at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) within the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS), Office of the Director. He works and is responsible for strategic efforts to better coordinate and integrate CDC programs and activities from across the Centers and Offices that impact the performance of state, tribal, local and territorial public health agencies. Prior to this position, he served as Acting Director of the Tribal Support Center within OSTLTS. He has had leadership roles and assignments in a multitude of public health programs on the National, Congressional State, Tribal, Local and International levels and has an extensive range of public health experience.



RADM Dawn Wylie, CMO IHS

RADM Dawn Wylie, for 15 years, has collaborated with the Twin Cities - Minneapolis Shriners Hospitals for Children and the local Headwater's Shrine Club in Bemidji, MN to lead the Indian Health Service provider team participating in the Annual Screening Clinic for children. Each year, they've screened ~20-30 children for conditions of an orthopedic and neurologic nature to deformities and burn scarring; of which 30-50% are American Indian/Alaska Native children. Most are accepted for referral to MSP Shriners Hospital for Children for further evaluation and care. This partnership expands needed pediatric specialty services addressing musculoskeletal/neurologic conditions at no cost and saves PRC funds.

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CAPT Allan Lock Award CDR Jerry Zee, CMS

Commander Jerry Zee is the Regional Pharmacist for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Region II which encompasses NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. He has served in the Indian Health Service (IHS) as well as in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

CDR Zee is passionate on all things APAOC and has served in various different subcommittees and workgroups within APAOC since he was commissioned in 2005. He is particularly proud of APAOC's history and heritage in serving the local communities, PHS officers, and part of the Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC).



RADM Kenneth Moritsugu Award LCDR Qiao Bobo, FDA

LCDR Bobo is a scientist Officer in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps. She is a member of Tier 1 Regional Incident Response Team in the National Capitol Region, a voting member of Scientist PAC and JOAG and a board member of DC COA. She has been an APAOC member since 2012. From December 2014 to February 2015, LCDR Qiao Bobo was deployed to Liberia on an 8 week assignment to the Monrovia Medical Unit--a 25-bed field hospital--which functions as an Ebola Treatment Unit.



RADM Sam Lin Award CAPT John Hariadi, DHS

Captain John Hariadi, MD is currently the Associate Medical Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps, responsible for oversight of clinical services for an annual population of 400,000 detainees at 21 ICE detention centers and 250 contract facilities throughout the United States, with a staff of over 900 dedicated healthcare providers. Prior to joining ICE in November 2013, CAPT Hariadi was the Chief of Operational Medicine for the U.S. Coast Guard's Health, Safety and Work Life Service Center, where he oversaw medical operations for 42 Coast Guard facilities worldwide. In over eighteen years of uniformed service, CAPT Hariadi has been deployed extensively to the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Africa. He is a three time recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal.



George I. Lythcott Award

LCDR Kainne Dokubo, CDC

LCDR Kainne Dokubo is a medical officer in the HIV Care and Treatment branch in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Global HIV/AIDS (DGHA). She joined CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer in 2011 and her work has focused on supporting HIV prevention, care and treatment programs through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) globally.

LCDR Dokubo recently deployed to Sierra Leone in support of the Ebola outbreak response, and also works as a physician in the Dekalb County Board of Health TB clinic. LCDR Dokubo currently resides in Atlanta with her husband, son and daughter.



Hildrus A. Poindexter Award

CDR A. John Oguntomilade, HRSA

CDR John Oguntomilade is Global Public Health professional and Dentist with over 15 years of post-doctoral experience. He was recruited as a US DHHS/Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) scholar in 2006, and successfully completed the scholar program before joining the HRSA HIV/AIDS global program in 2008. He has since served as the program officer managing the HRSA US Presidents Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). CDR Oguntomilade has traveled to 11 countries including, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania, and Haiti conducting program assessments, monitoring transitions, providing technical assistance and representing USG in meetings with in-country foreign governments .

A major accomplishment of his career was his leadership and guidance in the successful transitioning of more than 700,000 patients in the HIV care and treatment program initially managed by U.S. implementing partners to in-country local organizations in 10 countries across Africa and the Caribbean. CDR Oguntomilade has represented his agency (HRSA) in U.S interagency, Care and Support and Sustainability technical working groups. He was also selected to serve on the U.S. Government "Surge Team" that developed the operational transitional plan for South Africa. He currently serves as the program officer managing the U.S. Government PEPFAR Medical Education Partnership Initiative Coordinating Center grant that supports 13 foreign medical institutions in Sub-Saharan African.



Retired PHS Officer Recognition Award

CAPT Mary I. Lambert, USPHS (ret)

Dr. Lambert is continuing a long history of service in programs providing for health care needs to addressing public health. Dr. Lambert's past assignments in the Washington D.C. area included Director, Office of Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, a detail to the White House Detail to establish the then new volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, later serving as Director, Medical Reserve Corps Program in the Office of the Surgeon General, as well as deployments in the Nation's Capitol area after the 9/11/01 attack on America and in response to the National Capitol anthrax exposure event.



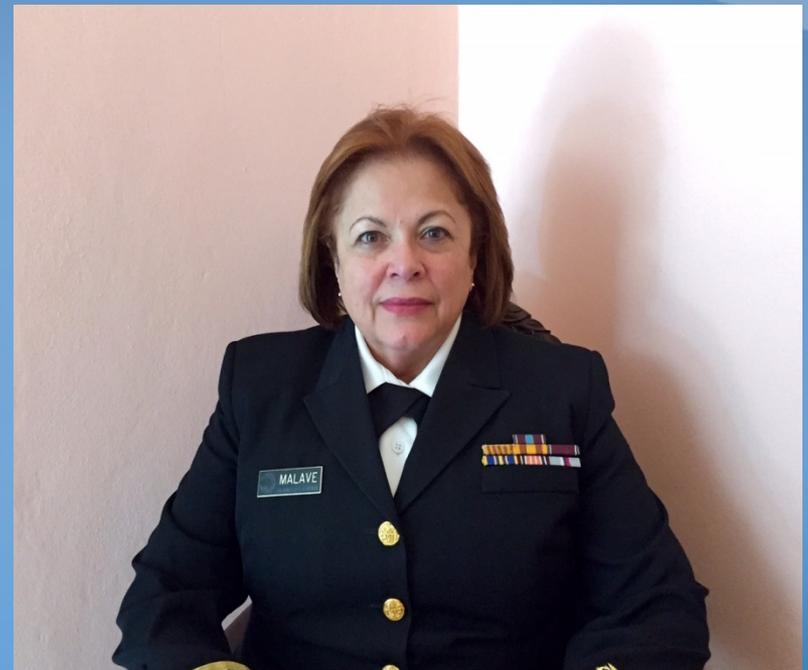
RADM Clara Cobb, RHA

Rear Admiral (RADM) Clara H. Cobb, R.N., M.S.N., FNP, Assistant Surgeon General, is a 32-year career U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned officer. She currently serves as the Regional Health Administrator for the U.S. Department and Health Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and oversees the largest HHS region. RADM Cobb has worked across a myriad of programs, including the National Health Service Corps, Federal Occupational Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. She has been a leader in a series of public health emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts; including the 2004 G-8 Summit; infamous 2004 Florida hurricanes, and the 2005 unprecedented Hurricane Katrina, for which she was the honored recipient of the National 2007 Nurse Responder Award. RADM Cobb was also the recipient of the 2010 Medical College of Georgia Distinguished Alumnus Award, the E. Louise Grant Award; Winston-Salem State University's 2010 *Leadership Institute III: Legacy of Leadership* award; and also in 2010, she was selected by the California Alumni Chapter of Oakwood University as a "Living Legend." In her 32-year career, RADM Cobb has been a staunch advocate for junior officers, having herself, worked her way up in rank from LTJG to RADM. As she nears retirement in the Fall of 2015, she continues to serve as an informal mentor to many junior officers, providing advice and resources related not just to officership, but also work-life-family balance. She exhibits a sincere, holistic concern for officers.



Juan Carlos Finlay Award Career Dedication CAPT Claritsa Malave, HRSA

CAPT Claritsa Malave, M.D., M.P.H., is the Chief Medical Officer for the New York Region II Health Resources Service Administration, Office of Regional Operations (HRSA ORO) and the lead person for HRSA ORO Region II Puerto Rico Sub-Regional Office (PR SRO) in San Juan. Dr. Malave is responsible for planning and overall management of the PR SRO and a member of the Region II Management team. She is the senior staff member and principal point of contact in the Puerto Rico Office. She represents the ORO Region II Regional Administrator in the day to day operations of the office and represents the Agency at meetings dealing with critical public health issues in Puerto Rico and the Region.



Juan Carlos Finlay Award Significant Achievement Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, OMH

Dr. J. Nadine Gracia is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Office of Minority Health is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities. A pediatrician with epidemiology training, Dr. Gracia is an advocate for minority and vulnerable populations and lectures nationwide on health disparities and children's health. She is a National President Emeritus of the Student National Medical Association and a past Postgraduate Physician Trustee of the National Medical Association. A first-generation Haitian-American, Dr. Gracia earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in French at Stanford University.



Juan Carlos Finlay Award Significant Achievement LCDR Elizabeth A. DeGrange, DCCPR

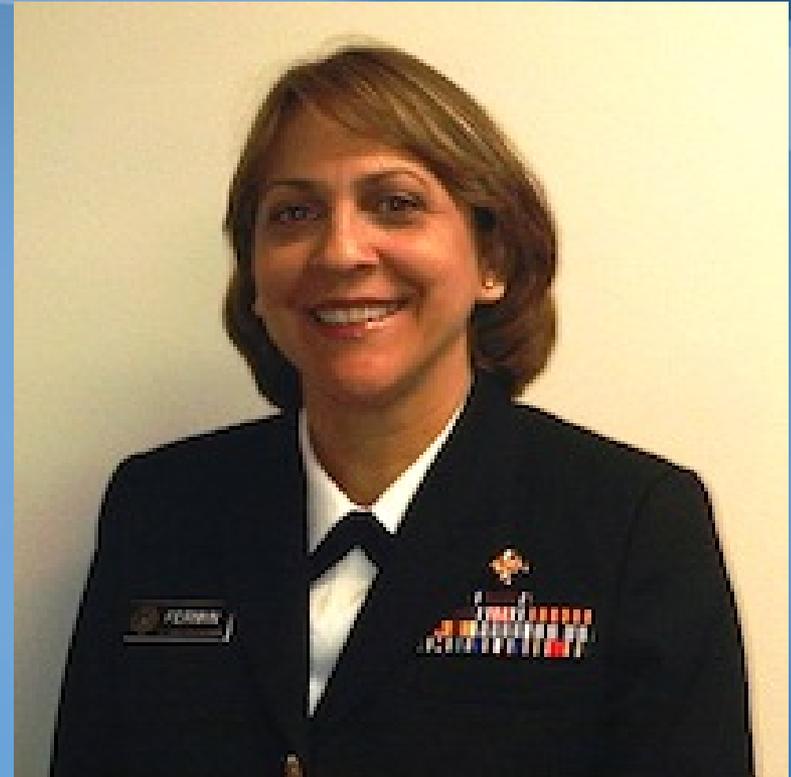
LCDR DeGrange started her education at Wheeling Jesuit University, majoring in Chemistry and Biology. She then moved on to obtain a Master's in Forensic Science at the George Washington University while working on various research studies at the National Cancer Institute's FT Detrick campus. She then moved to the US Army's Research Institute of Infectious Disease (USAMRIID), where she did virology and vaccine development research with viruses such as Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis, Chikungunya, and Ebola.

LCDR DeGrange moved to headquarters, and is now the training officer in the Readiness and Deployment Operations Group of the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness. Since joining the USPHS, LCDR DeGrange served with PHS-2 Rapid Deployment force for nearly 6 years, and has deployed for several missions, including Hurricane's Gustav, Ike, and Sandy, as well as 2 Presidential inaugurations, several Fourth of July celebrations, and the United Nations General Assembly in 2013. As a result of the Unaccompanied Children LCDR DeGrange in her role at RedDOG partnered with Dr. Gracia and HOAC to implement training for the Commissioned on the National CLAS Standards.



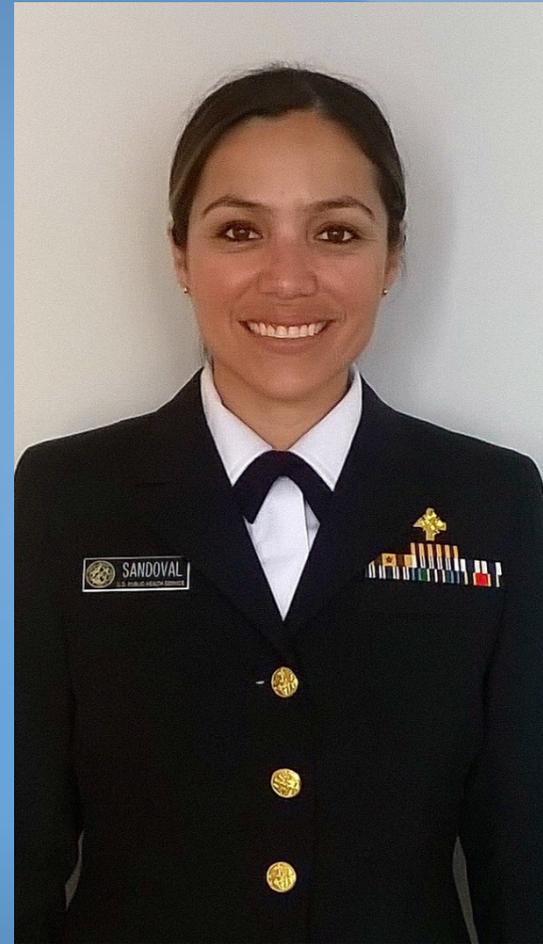
VADM Richard Carmona Senior Officer of the Year CDR Martha S. Fermin, SAMHSA

Commander Martha Sony Fermín, LCSW, is a Public Health Advisor in the Division of State and Community Systems Development, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In this capacity she has the responsibility for monitoring and managing over \$42 million in Mental Health Block Grants. CDR Fermín, previously served as Chief of the Health Services Branch in the Office of Special Population Health, Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care. In this capacity she had the responsibility of overseeing national programs that provide health care for populations that are serviced by Migrant Health, the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health.



VADM Antonia C. Novello Junior Officer of the Year LCDR Michelle Sandoval, CDC

Michelle Sandoval is a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Public Health Service and has been with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 8 years. LCDR Sandoval is currently assigned to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) as a CDC Chronic Disease Epidemiologist. Prior to her ISDH assignment, LCDR Sandoval was with the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine where she was assigned to the United States and Mexico unit in El Paso, Texas and the Los Angeles Quarantine Station in California. LCDR Sandoval has performed epidemiological research in the following areas: Hepatitis, TB, health disparities, border infectious diseases, migration health and mental health. LCDR Sandoval has spent time overseas in both Africa and Latin America, working on a variety of public health initiatives, ranging from polio eradication; outbreak investigations; to implementation and evaluation of collaborative programs.



RADM Epi Elizondo, RHA

RADM Elizondo was selected by Surgeon General Regina Benjamin as the Chief Professional Officer for the Health Services Officer category effective August 10, 2010. He began his USPHS career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Since his transfer from the U.S. Air Force, he has served in a variety of positions including a PA clinician, Assistant Health Services Administrator, Chief Physician Assistant (PA), Regional Minority Health Consultant, Deputy Regional Health Administrator (DRHA), and currently as the Regional Health Administrator (RHA) for HHS/OASH Region VI.

In 2004, he was appointed Deputy RHA and in 2006, he was promoted to RHA in Region VI. As RHA, he serves as the senior Federal public health official and scientist in the region. In this capacity, he performs essential functions for the Department in three major areas: prevention, preparedness, and agency-wide coordination. He also serves as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region D Senior Health Official for Pandemic Influenza.

RADM Elizondo is the only two star Physician's Assistant to ever serve in any of the 7 Uniformed Services. He is also the only Hispanic Flag Officer currently serving in the Commissioned Corps. He has served as HOAC's Senior Advisor for the last couple of years.



Officers in Action







Photo by Kun Shen





St. Raymond & St. Leo the Great
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