

JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP (JOAG)
 UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE



JOAG General Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 12, 2010 1300-1500 EST
CALL IN NUMBER: 800-857-2603; PASSCODE: 9479205

I. Roll Call

LCDR Jamie Mutter:

Voting Membership					
Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV	Category
Excused Absence	LCDR	Bair-Brake	Heather	CDC	Veterinarian
✓	LCDR	Ball	Harvey	DHS	Therapist
✓	LCDR	Bell	Carlos	FDA	HSO
✓	LCDR	Constantine	Amy	FDA	HSO
✓	LT	Coriz	Christina	NIH	HSO
✓	LCDR	Dailey	Alex	IHS	Engineer
✓	LCDR	Denkinger	Blakeley	FDA	Dietitian
✓	LCDR	Feda	Jessica	BOP	Therapist
Excused Absence	CDR	Glover	Maleeka	CDC	Scientist
✓	LCDR	Janisko	Thomas	ASPR	HSO
✓	LCDR	Kozlosky	Merel	NIH	Dietitian
✓	LCDR	Maycock	Brett	DHS	HSO
✓	LCDR	Mody	Rajal	CDC	Physician
✓	LCDR	Mutter	Jamie	CDC	EHO
✓	LCDR	Ngo	Diem-Kieu	FDA	Pharmacist
✓	LCDR	Palmer	Corey	HRSA	HSO
✓	LCDR	Rice	Morrisa	HRSA	HSO
Excused Absence	LT	Taxera	Martin	IHS	Nurse
✓	LCDR	Toblin	Robin	BOP	Scientist
✓	LCDR	Waples	Yvette	FDA	Pharmacist
✓	LT	Williams	Scott	IHS	Dentist

II. Executive Committee Reports

Ex-Officio Report

CDR Maleeka Glover

- No report submitted

Chair Report

LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo

- JOAG has requested to have VADM Benjamin, the new Surgeon General, speak at an upcoming JOAG meeting. More details to follow.
- JOAG continues to request for meeting minutes and agenda for the PAC Chairs Group meetings to ensure we are present during meetings or comment on meeting minutes involving topics/issues that affect junior officers across all categories.
- The Officer Basic Course graduation ceremony is now only 1 hour in length and will start at 2:30 PM EST. Representatives from Corps organizations are highly encouraged to attend. The JOAG Welcoming Committee will take the lead and coordinate for a JOAG voting member to attend each OBC graduation in addition to the JOAG OBC Informational Session.
- OFRD Field Training for spring 2010 is still in the planning stages. OFRD will send out a listserv notice of all the upcoming training, which will mostly involve the RDF, MHT, SAT, and APHT teams.
- Next readiness status check is at the end of March; OFRD will send emails out in early March to remind officers who will have deficiencies. Officers can also check in Direct Access if they will have any deficiencies and what their readiness status will be come April 1.
- Starting June 1, officers will no longer be able to enter immunizations data on the OFRD website (self-reporting capability will cease). All immunizations records need to be sent to the MAB; OFRD will pull immunizations data from the MAB starting June 1. OFRD assures us that this change will have minimal affect on any administrative actions. Officers are encouraged to reconcile their immunizations records with the MAB and OFRD before June 1.

Vice Chair Report

LCDR Blakeley Denkinger

- No update at this time.

Chair-Elect Report

LCDR Carlos Bell

- No update at this time.

Financial Liaison Report

LCDR Alex Dailey

- Status of the account is unchanged at \$2,132.93.
- Financial Liaison is coordinating with the Development Committee as they narrow down merchandise items for the USPHS Symposium
- A new account tracking spreadsheet has been developed and submitted to the Executive Committee for review and comment; awaiting feedback.

Executive Secretary Report

LCDR Jamie Mutter

- No update at this time.

III. Committee and Liaison Reports

Committee & Workgroup Reports

Awards Committee: LCDR Merel Kozlosky & LCDR Morrisa Rice

- The most recent Awards Committee meeting took place on 4 JAN and the next meeting will take place on 1 MAR. The Awards Committee meetings will take place on the first Monday of each month at 1200 Eastern Time unless a different announcement is made.
- The Call for Nominations for the three JOAG awards (Junior Officer of the Year Award, JOAG Excellence Award, and the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award) is currently out and the nomination deadline has been extended until COB on February 22, 2010. Information on these awards and nomination procedures can be found on the JOAG website at http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/index_files/Awards.htm. Questions about these awards or nomination procedures can be directed to the following Award Leads: LCDR Ayoub Suliman for the Junior Officer of the Year Award, LCDR Tracy Branch for the JOAG Excellence Award, and LCDR Melissa Burns for the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award. Please consider self-nominating or nominating another deserving officer.
- Proposals for an Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and Longevity of Service Award are currently being reviewed by the JOAG Executive Committee. After the review, feedback will be provided to the Awards Committee regarding any revisions to be incorporated before the proposals are submitted through the chain of command.
- A suggested Awards Guidance document will be submitted to the JOAG Chair for preliminary review; if approved as a JOAG sponsored document, a subcommittee will be formed within the Awards Committee to work on updating the document. Once the updates are made, the document will be submitted to the JOAG Executive Committee for final approval and possible posting on the JOAG website in the future.
- Other initiatives the Awards Committee is working on include the Junior Officer Recognition Initiative to develop recommendations for PACs and advisory groups on how to increase recognition of junior officers and JOAG Website Transformation to develop the awards committee section of the JOAG website.
- JOAG voting members who log 30 or more “days” of active JOAG participation are eligible to be considered for the Special Assignment Award (SAA). The Awards Committee Co-Chairs are currently collecting JOAG Activity Logs from voting members to determine if we have sufficient voting members having completed the 30 day requirement to put forth a package to the OSG for endorsement of the Special Assignment Award for those voting members at this time.
- The Awards Committee Co-Chairs will review the committee’s roster over the next month to ensure that officers are correctly categorized as either participants or observers.

COF Planning Committee: LCDR Heather Bair-Brake and LT Scott Williams

- The COF Planning Committee is working out the details of JOAG’s activities at the USPHS symposium.
- The room, tables and chairs have been reserved for the meet and greet.
- The tables and uniform inspection booth have been reserved for the registration/common area.
- The restaurant for the JOAG social is being finalized.
- The program coordination sub-committee would like to start advertising for the meet and greet and the social in the next JOAG newsletter
- The volunteer sub-committee has not received any requests for volunteers, but is ready to coordinate.

Communications & Publications Committee (CPC): LT Christina Coriz

- JOAG Journal: LTJG Tracy Tilghman is the Editor-in-Chief for the Winter Issue of the JOAG Journal. The Winter issue is currently under creation. The tentative distribution date is scheduled for the last week of February. A call for articles for the Spring JOAG Journal will be distributed shortly. Please contact LT Coriz, corizc@nidk.nih.gov or LTJG Tilghman Tracy.Tilghman@foh.hhs.gov if you have any questions about the JOAG Journal.
- JOAG Website: The JOAG website continues to be updated on a regular basis. To view the most recent updates, like the due dates for JOAG awards, JOAG Voting Membership information and the Fall 2009 JOAG Journal, please visit the JOAG website at, <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/>
- JOAG Recordings: Miss a meeting? Please contact our JOAG Recorder LT Hiren Patel, Patel, hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov, to request a copy of JOAG meetings.
- Next Meeting: February 17, 2010 at 14:00 – 15:00 PM EST. The focus of our meeting will be the JOAG Website.

Development Committee: LCDR Thomas Janisko

- Continuing to develop the 2010 Product line for the 2010 COF Conference.
- Soliciting names of junior officers to staff the COF Booth at the COF Conference where we will sell merchandise.
- We are looking for funny and serious slogans to put on the JOAG T-shirts for the 2010 COF Conference. Deadline is March 26, 2010. Please send slogans to John.diehl@hhs.gov.

Inter-Services Collaboration Committee: LCDR Brett Maycock

- The Inter-Services Committee had a meeting on February 9, 2010.
- The Transitional Assistance Program (TAPs) Subcommittee continues to codify a white paper based on the data they collected about the TAPs programs across the county. The focus of the white paper is to provide recommendations for the Commissioned Corps on how to utilize the TAPs programs as a venue for recruiting new Commissioned Corps officers, from other uniformed services. LCDR David Lau will send a draft to the Inter-Services Committee general membership for review and feedback. Once this has been completed, the final draft will be sent to the JOAG EC for their review and then onto OCCO.
- The TAPs Subcommittee is looking for someone to take the lead on future projects. LCDR David Lau has indicated that he will act in a supporting capacity (Co-Chair) to any junior officer interested in taking on the Chair position. If interested, please contact LCDR Brett Maycock at Brett.Maycock@dhs.gov or LCDR David Lau at David.Lau@dhs.gov
- The Community Services Sub-Committee and its officers in the Atlanta region have put together a proposal to partner with Fort McPherson/Fort Gillem's Child and Youth Services Center in providing 3-5 PHS officer volunteers to support a Fishing Rodeo, at Stephens Lake, Fort Gillem, Georgia. The Fishing Rodeo targets children aged 12 and under in a half day of fishing fun. The event will take place from 0800 – 1200 on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Officers that volunteer for this event will wear a modified uniform: PHS T-shirt and ball cap. Once approved by the JOAG EC, a request for volunteers will be sent out to officers in the Atlanta region.
- The next Inter-Services Committee meeting will be held on March 9, 2010, from 11:30 – 12:30 EST.

Membership Committee: LCDR Robin Toblin

- The Call for Nominations for voting membership was released yesterday, 2/9, including new FAQs document; documents also on JOAG website
- Please consider self-nominating or recommending potential nominees to LCDR Toblin (rtoblin@bop.gov)
- Q&A session on voting membership on Wed, 3/3 from 1200-1300 Eastern (call-in number (712) 432-0111 Access Code: 633865)
- Nominations are due Fri, 3/19

- 4 Meet and Greets occurred before this meeting in Atlanta, DC, NYC, and Chicago -Seattle, Raleigh and CO/WY looking to host future events
- New program under review to contact junior officers at the one year anniversary of their CAD date and invite them to participate in JOAG

Policy and Procedures Committee (P&P): LCDR Carlos Bell

- “Take a Junior Officer to Work” Sub-Committee:
 - Lead: LCDR Robyn Bent
 - Survey used to gauge interest in developing a shadowing program .
 - Survey was distributed via the JOAG Listserv and the PAC Listservs.
 - The survey closed on Friday, February 5th, 2010.
 - Since then, we’ve had:
 - 841 responses/764 completed (90.8%)
 - 581 junior officers (JOs) (69.4%) & 256 senior officers (SOs) (30.6%)
 - 73.7 % of JOs would be interested in participating in this program
 - 71.3 % of SOs would be interested in participating in this program
 - The Subcommittee will now work on analyzing the results of the survey and create a report for EC review.
- Charter Sub-Committee
 - The Subcommittee has reviewed the JOAG Charter and is working on finalizing suggested revisions.
 - To date, four revisions have been suggested.
 - EC will review Charter before being submitted to the OSG for approval.
- Bylaws Sub-Committee
 - Lead: LT Damon Smith
 - Revisions to the membership eligibility language of the Bylaws was revised and sent out to the voting members for approval.
 - 18 of the 20 voting members voted, and all approved the revisions.
 - The Subcommittee is currently working on additional revisions which will be sent out to the voting members for approval.
- SOP Sub-Committee
 - Lead: LCDR Tammy White
 - The Subcommittee has revised/reformatted each Committee SOP.
 - Committee SOPs will only include language specific to the Committee.
 - Each SOP was also split into 3 Articles (Article I: Mission, Article II: Responsibilities, and Article III: Procedures)
 - The general language will only be included in the JOAG General SOP, and will be revised by the Executive Committee.
- Website Sub-Committee
 - Lead: LCDR Shary Jones
 - The PPC home page of the JOAG Website is finish.
 - After the PPC Subcommittee page has been completed, the PPC webpage will be submitted to the JOAG Communications and Publications Committee for posting.
- The JOAG Strategic Plan “ad-hoc” Sub-Committee
 - Lead: LT Christopher M. Jones
 - The Workgroup suggested the leadership of JOAG, the voting members, to be involved with updating the Strategic Plan.
 - The Workgroup is currently looking at everyone’s feedback and using this to update the S.P.
 - Final draft will be ready before the March PPC and submitted to the EC for approval.
- Member Satisfaction Survey “ad-hoc” Sub-Committee
 - The Workgroup continues to work on developing the Membership Satisfaction Survey.
 - Hope to have a rough draft ready for EC review by mid-March.

Professional Development Committee (PD): LCDR Harvey Ball & LCDR Rajal Mody

- Career Pyramid
 - LCDR Maycock reported that revisions to the pyramid would be completed in the next few days, and it will be re-returned to the JOAG EC for review, prior to submitting to PAC Chairs Group for review.
- JOAG newsletter
 - LT Garza and LT Arceneaux submitted a newsletter article comparing the new and the old GI bills
 - The publications subcommittee held a call on January 26. Several new ideas for newsletter articles were generated including an article describing AMSUS, a day in the life of an Aid-de-camp, and an article describing resources for leadership training at various agencies
 - LT Garza will be assuming the lead of this subcommittee and will be holding monthly calls
- Journeymen Series
 - RADM Michael Milner, RHA Region 1, and Chair of the HSOPAC. RADL Milner will speak on the topic of “billet creep” in March
 - A panel discussion centered on the topic of balancing demands of OPDIVs with one’s billet and officership is scheduled for May
 - LT Hudson has created a tracking tool for this series that will be sent to the EC for review
- Professional Development Survey
 - The survey team has received comments from the EC and is in the process of incorporating them
- Uniform Inspection Booth
 - LT Skip Payne has come up with a tentative schedule for the booth; this has been forwarded to the Conference Planning Committee
 - It has been decided that our committee will not be organizing a photo booth in conjunction with the inspection booth
- Website
 - Committee co-chairs will be contact with the JOAG Publications Committee to touch base on the status of proceeding with committee website plans outlined by LT Scott Lebreque.
 - The committee will be revising the Reading List.
- Mentoring
 - LCDR Arceneaux will lead a subcommittee around mentoring issues. This will include COER specific mentoring and developing feedback on the HHS mentoring program
- Universal email
 - There is interest in looking into the possibility of a universal email for all USPHS officers. LCDR Ball will be contacting the committee to solicit volunteers to look into this
- Next PD committee meeting: planned for 09 March, 1030 - 1130 ET, but might change to 16 March 1100 – 1200, time will be confirmed within next week. (Dial-in Number: 712-451-6175, Access code: 911718)

Recruitment & Retention Committee (R&R): LCDR Jessica Feda and LCDR Corey Palmer

- The Recruitment and Retention Committee currently has five primary subcommittees and initiatives: the COSTEP Connection Program, Alumni Contacts Initiative, Career Fairs Information Subcommittee, Publications Subcommittee, and the Online Career Resources Initiative.
- The Recruitment and Retention Committee’s leadership is as follows:
Co-Chairs: LCDR Corey Palmer and LCDR Jessica Feda
Secretary: LTJG Brittany Laymon
Committee Recorder: LT Chinyelum Umejei
Committee Website Coordinator: LTJG Daveta Bailey
COSTEP Connection Program Lead: LCDR Tara Cozzarelli and LT Joel Hustedt
Career Fairs Information Subcommittee Lead: LCDR John Kathol
Recruitment and Retention Publications Subcommittee Lead: LT Shani Smith
Online Career Resources Initiative Lead: To be determined this week
TAPs Initiative Lead: LCDR David Lau (In Transition)

- R&R Committee Mission: To increase the number of junior officers within the commissioned corps.
- **Missions and updates:**
 - **COSTEP Connection Program:** This workgroup serves to coordinate preceptors with junior COSTEPs to enhance the COSTEPs overall experience and their knowledge of career benefits with the Public Health Service. The COSTEP Connection Program has drafted a proposal for the COSTEP Non-Select Contact Pilot. The purpose of this initiative is to make contact with COSTEP applicant who qualified but were not selected for a COSTEP position due to various reasons, such as limited billets, funding and resources. The primary objective is to encourage COSTEP non-selects to pursue a career within the USPHS. The draft is currently undergoing review by the DCCR. Once changes have been made through DCCR, the proposal will return to the JOAG Executive Committee for further review. In addition, further insight into current COSTEP non-select contact programs will be investigated through DCCR contacts.
 - **Career Fairs Information Subcommittee:** Their goal is to compile and disseminate a list of career fairs throughout the academic year at many colleges and universities. In addition, they update and monitor the Career Fairs Resources Guide which is a very informative and interactive guide to constructing and successfully recruiting at a career fair booth. The updated Career Fairs Resources Guide is under R&R Committee leadership review and will then be submitted to the JOAG Executive Committee. Recently, the February Career Fairs list was disseminated on the JOAG listserv and March Career Fairs list will be coming soon. Please see the JOAG website for the current list.
 - **The Alumni Contact Initiative** is currently in development stages, but it has unlimited potential. They are working to devise a program that would capitalize on junior officer alumni contacts and allow a personal, yet free targeted recruiting effort. They have devised template letters which could easily be modified by each officer to email to their alumni university counselor, career counseling office, professors, student body listserv, and etc. The Alumni Contact Initiative has received approval from Division Commissioned Corps Recruitment (DCCR) on their general template. DCCR is working with its contractors to polish it up and brand the template with the PHS logo and color code it. A complete proposal on how this Initiative will proceed has been reviewed by the R&R Co-Chairs and is awaiting revisions. The proposal will be reviewed next by the JOAG Executive Committee.
 - **The Online Career Resources Initiative** was originally designed to post free PHS career advertisements on job posting websites, and it could be especially useful if the advertisements were posted on discipline specific websites. This Initiative is in transition and a new Lead will be chosen shortly. DCCR is very supportive of this program and more will be discussed at our quarterly DCCR and JOAG R&R Committee meeting in early March.
 - **The R&R Publications Subcommittee:** This subcommittee was designed to publish articles on the R&R Committee's operations and PHS recruiting in the JOAG Journal. To date, this workgroup has published a number of articles. The subcommittee is currently working on an article idea to highlight new developments in USPHS recruiting to add transparency to this process. We feel this is critical as "every officer is a recruiter" and should understand the process and new developments to include the electronic call to duty and the recruitment call center. In addition, we are hoping that this subcommittee could serve to disseminate our committee information through the JOAG liaisons to each of the PACs recruiting subcommittees to enhance communication. The latest updates from the R&R Committee to each of the PAC recruiting subcommittees will soon be forthcoming to each of the JOAG PAC liaisons.
 - **TAPs Initiative:** This initiative is a collaboration between the R&R Committee and the Inter-Services Committee. This initiative serves to discern the possibility of PHS officers recruiting at our sister-services TAPs programs. TAPs are transitional assistance programs that all exiting service members are required to attend. The TAPs Initiative has determined

which TAPs programs that would be amenable to having PHS officers speak or leave printed materials. They are also working on a proposal to enact the program.

- **Other updates:**
 - The Recruitment and Retention Committee Co-Chairs will meet quarterly with DCCR leadership (CAPT Coppola and CDR Pryor) to discuss and coordinate efforts. The next meeting will hopefully be in the first week of March.
 - LT Patel-Larson is working on developing a proposal to capitalize on recruiting efforts through agency training programs.
- **Items Pending Review:**
 - COSTEP Survey : Being reviewed by the JOAG Executive Committee
 - COSTEP Non-Select Proposal: Being reviewed by DCCR
 - Alumni Contacts Proposal: Being further revised by the Alumni Contacts Initiative Lead and will then be submitted to the JOAG Executive Committee
 - Career Fairs Resources Guide: Being reviewed by the R&R Co-Chairs
- The next R&R Committee meeting is **March 17th** at 1230-1330 EST. Call-in number 1-906-481-2000; Passcode: 833928.

Welcoming Committee: LCDR Amy Constantine & LCDR Yvette Waples

- Welcome Letter, JOAG Brochure, and link to the JOAG website were distributed via email to 39 newly commissioned officers in the month of January.
- The Communications and Publications Committee has inherited a well developed and impressive PowerPoint presentation from the Recruitment & Retention Committee. The Welcoming Committee will be using this presentation at the monthly OBC JOAG Informational Session.
- The JOAG Welcoming Committee Website Sub-Committee has been created and is in the initial phase of gathering ideas for content.
- **Next Welcoming Committee Call:**
April 2, 2010 (2 – 3 PM)
Call in number: (712) 432-0111
Participant Access Code: 228673 #

Liaison Reports

COF Board: LCDR Blakely Denkinger

- COA has developed a grassroots letter writing campaign for which it is asking its members to write letters to their U.S. Senator and Representative in support of providing transferability of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for PHS Commissioned Corps officers.
- COA has created a document with rules to follow and helpful hints to keep in mind when writing elected representatives. This document as well as sample letters can be found on the COA website at: <http://www.coausphs.org/lainitiatives.cfm>
- After writing letters to elected representatives, officers are being asked to send copies of all of the letters to the COA Government Relations Director, Judith Rensberger at jrensberger@coausphs.org. COA will send follow-up letters to the Representative and Senator, thus doubling the impact of the letters.
- The COF Annual Scientific and Training Symposium will be held May 24-27th in San Diego. COF provides scholarships to all junior officers that do not received funding to go to the meeting from their OPDIV. In past years all junior officers that apply for a scholarship and that meet the eligibility criteria have received scholarships, so consider applying for a COF scholarship if your office is not able to pay for you to attend the meeting.

HOSA Workgroup: LT Samuel Schaffzin

- A final draft of the JOAG HOSA Workgroup Charter was submitted to the JOAG Executive Committee and the workgroup is awaiting feedback.
- Held a JOAG HOSA Workgroup Call on 28 January
 - Items covered on the call:
 - LCDR Bell (EC Liaison to the workgroup) introduced himself to the participating workgroup members and outlined his role as Liaison. He shared the EC's vision for the workgroup and fielded questions.
 - Karen Koeninger, Associate Director of HOSA, was a guest participant. She provided a brief update on the "state of HOSA", shared recent successes, current challenges/needs, etc. She expressed her support for the work of the JOAG HOSA Workgroup and agreed to help with next steps in piloting a mentorship program.
 - Deliverables and Next Steps: Apply EC feedback and finalize charter – 2/10, draft criteria for junior officer screening and participation – 2/10, create a JOAG HOSA presentation template for junior officers – 2/10, consider long term tracking mechanisms for the initiative – 4/10, work with HOSA leadership to identify 5-7 pilot locations to target – 3/10 – 5/10)
- Next JOAG HOSA Workgroup call will be held on 04 March
- Items to be discussed on the next call:
 - Review Final Workgroup Charter
 - Deliverables and Next Steps

MOLC: LCDR Nicole D. Gaskin-Laniyan

- No update at this time

OCCFM: LCDR Kyle Lyons

- No update at this time.

OCCO: LCDR Mary McCormick

- No report submitted

OFRD/OSG/OS: LT Damon Smith

- No report submitted

Uniform Advisory Committee Liaison: LCDR Gene Gunn

- No report submitted

Dental Category: LT Scott Williams

- The JOAG interest survey has been placed on the Dental Bulletin Board and Dentists Listserve.
- DePAC is currently finalizing the agenda for the Dental Category Day of the 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium.
- The Dental Category is reported as having the highest number of basic qualified officers (97.49%).
- There are 3 tentative training missions on medical readiness scheduled for the following dates:
 - March 16-23, 2010 in Tennessee
 - April 20-27, 2010 in West Virginia
 - June 15-22, 2010 in Kentucky
- There are currently 51 PHS officers deployed to Haiti, including 2 dentists (CAPT Jeff Gaskin and CAPT Jim Shaeffer) and 1 dental hygienist (LTJG Sean McMahan).
- A direct link to current info and updates on USPHS Haiti Earthquake Mission can be found at: <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf/HaitiEarthquake2010.htm>
- The Commissioned Corps Facebook page has been officially launched.
- Every officer is encouraged to receive H1N1 immunization.
- Every officer is encouraged to attend the **2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium** in San Diego, CA to be held May 24-27, 2010.

Dietitian Category: LCDR Blakeley Denkinger

- Congratulations to CDR Kirsten Warwar who was selected to be the next Dietitian/Nutritionist PAC Chair (effective 1 APR 2010)
- Congratulations to the following recipients of the Dietitian/Nutritionist PAC awards:
 - Dietitian Responder of the Year: LCDR Michael Mero
 - Junior Dietitian of the Year: CDR Pamela Vodicka
 - Senior Dietitian of the Year: CDR Kathleen Edelman
- Congratulations to the following officers that were elected to be voting members of the Dietitian/Nutritionist PAC:
 - CDR Connie Torrence-Thomas
 - CDR Kathleen Edelman
 - CDR Robert Collison
 - CDR Kirsten Warwar
 - CDR Suzan Gordon
 - LCDR Mary McCormick
 - LCDR Greg Mahrt
 - LT Daniel Baker
 - LTJG Kari Wato
- The next D/N PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 24 MAR 2010 @ 1300 EST. Call-in information and an agenda will be sent out via the listserv.

EHO Category: LCDR Jamie Mutter

- Environmental Health Officer Responder of the Year (ROY): **LT Elena Vaouli**. LT Vaouli is one of 3 PHS officers serving as consultants to the government of American Samoa through an EPA detail.
- The Awards and Recognition Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing the selection process for the Edward (Ted) Moran, John G. Todd, John C. Eason, Thomas E. Crow Awards. Nominees may be commissioned officers or civil service employees. For additional information, contact CDR Scotty Hargrave, Chairman of the EHOPAC Awards and Recognition Subcommittee at 214-253-4930 or via e-mail at scotty.hargrave@fda.hhs.gov. Nominations must be submitted to CDR Hargrave by April 2, 2010.
- <http://www.ehopac.org/> - new website format
- EHOPAC Adopt a School Program
 - The EHOPAC Marketing and Recruitment Subcommittee is beginning a new program for Environmental Health Officers to act as recruiting liaisons to accredited environmental health programs at colleges and universities.
 - Please view the guidelines and expectations for the program on the website. If you have any questions about the Adopt-a-School Program, including enrollment, please contact LCDR Laco (htr6@cdc.gov) or LCDR Mike Quinn (michael_m_quinn@nps.gov).

Engineer Category: LCDR Alex Dailey

- An EPAC meeting was held on Thursday, January 28, 2010.
- RADM Barror, our previous Chief Engineer, was awarded the Exemplary Service Medal.
- Currently about 60 officers deployed to Haiti. RADM Rodenbeck noted that requests from the gov't of Haiti go through the UN, then to US State Dept (USAID), then to various US Dept's as determined to be needed. An 8-person contingent from APHT #4 deploys today to conduct environmental health evaluations on what needs to be done for the next 2 weeks. As we go from rescue stage to recovery, there will be more requests. More than likely the call will be for small strike teams. Logistical issues are currently the biggest problem.
- Dr. Koh, the ASH, has started a high-level investigation of how the PHS is structured and its effectiveness. Our former Acting SG, VADM Galson, and other senior leadership had been recommending this and had the opinion that the current structure is not serving us well. The goal is

to help our management become more efficient. RADM Rodenbeck noted that JOAG was participating as well, which indicates that they're reaching out to include all groups.

- CDR Scharen noted that 600 officers have responded so far to the JOAG "Take an Officer to Work" survey.
- On Feb 18th there will be an Engineer's Breakfast and awards ceremony held at the FDA White Oak Campus at 7:30 AM in the Building 66 Atrium.
- There is currently statutory wording in the Senate reform bill, among other items that COA sponsored – scholarship programs managed out of the OSG that would commit officers upon graduation – that would allow changing the Corps to Regular Corps only.
- CAPT Beck, the OFRD Liaison, noted that the percentage of junior officers that are maintaining basic readiness has increased; he largely attributed this to the improved Officer's Basic Course.
- **The next EPAC meeting will be held on: Thursday, March 25, 2:00-3:30 PM EDT.**

HSO Category: LCDR Brett Maycock

- The HSPAC had a meeting on February 5, 2010, lead by the new HSPAC Chair, CDR George Durgin.
- Admiral Milner announced that the selection process for the new Chief Professional Officer (CPO) is ongoing. It is anticipated that a new HSPAC CPO will be selected by June 1, 2010.
- The HSPAC is seeking new members for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2011. The HSPAC provides advice to the Surgeon General (SG) and the Health Services Chief Professional Officer (CPO) on professional and personnel issues related to the Health Services category. Selections are based on the nominee's commitment to public health activities and specified criteria in the HSPAC Charter (e.g., organizational, discipline, gender, minority representation), are made by the HSPAC and approved by the SG. HSPAC members are expected to obtain the necessary agency support to attend six scheduled meetings per year. With permission of the HSPAC Chair, members stationed outside of the Washington DC area, may participate in up to five of these meetings via teleconference. A member is required to participate in one HSPAC meeting in person in Maryland or DC. Attending the COA conference can be substituted to meet the requirement of participating in one meeting in person. A self-nomination form (which includes a space for supervisory approval) is attached and can also be found on the HSPAC Web page at: http://www.usphs-hso.org/pac/subcommittees/membership/pac_nomination.shtml
Interested officers should complete the self-nomination form and send it along with a current curriculum vitae (including a summary sheet) and a cover letter describing how your specific experience and expertise will benefit the HSPAC. Retired HSO working in a civil service capacity are encouraged to apply. The completed package must be submitted via e-mail (email is preferred; submit a scanned file of the signature page), mail, or fax by **June 30, 2010**, to:

CDR Todd Alspach
Chair, Membership Subcommittee, HSPAC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of Laboratory Systems
Laboratory Practice Standards Branch
12 Executive Park Dr., NE, MS F-11
Atlanta, GA 30329
Phone: 404-498-2758
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- The HSPAC is calling for nominations for the "**Stanley J. Kissel Jr. Award for Outstanding Health Services Professional of the Year.**" The nominee must have made a significant impact on public health, on either a national level or local population. Nominations must also include evidence of leadership in the achievement(s) being cited, and must describe how the officer serves as a role model to others. Furthermore, the nominations must demonstrate how the accomplishments are above and beyond their usual duties and responsibilities of the nominee per their billet or job description. Nominations must be received by **March 19, 2010.**

- The HS-PAC is also inviting nominations for the “**Joseph Garcia Jr. Award for Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year.**” This award will go to a junior health service professional who made a significant contribution to the advancement of the nation’s public demonstrated leadership in their work, and show involvement in health-related professional or community organizations or activities. Commissioned corps officers from the Health Services category and equivalent civil service professionals, excluding current voting members of the 2010 HS-PAC, are eligible for these awards. Nominations must be received by **March 19, 2010**. The award will be presented in May at the 2010 U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Scientific and Training Symposium in San Diego, CA. Nominations that do not follow the correct format will not be reviewed. Award criteria and nominations forms for either of these awards may be obtained from the HS PAC webpage at <http://www.usphs-hso.org> or by contacting: CDR Travis Fisher at travis.fisher@ihs.gov (406)275-4904
 - Current voting members of the HS PAC are not eligible to receive this award. All Nominees must meet and maintain Readiness Standard throughout the year.
- The Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG) is seeking nominations for **The Lester Caplan Award**. This award is to recognize a PHS tribal direct hire or PHS civil service optometrist who has demonstrated exemplary work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the PHS. This award is presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG). Lester Caplan, O.D., M.Ed., the “Father of Indian Health Service Optometry”, took time from his Baltimore, Maryland practice to serve as a special consultant to the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) from 1969 to 1985, charged with establishing and developing optometric services, facilities and staff throughout the IHS healthcare system. Named to commemorate Dr. Caplan’s commitment and founding contributions to IHS Optometry, this award honors and recognizes those whose achievements have likewise enhanced the health and vision of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The deadline for the award submission is **March 3, 2010**.
- The Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG) is seeking nominations for **The Edward Hamilton Award**. This award is to recognize a career USPHS Optometry Commissioned Officer who is recognized by his/her peers for outstanding work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the PHS. This award is presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG). CAPT James E. Hamilton brought eighteen years of active duty experience with the Air Force and Marine Corp to end his uniformed career with twelve years of distinguished duty in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Assigned to the Indian Health Service (IHS), CAPT Hamilton’s exceptional leadership and clinical abilities were reflected in his appointment by the Director to be the first Indian Health Service Senior Consultant for Optometry in 1976. His exceptional service in this position, overseeing and nurturing the fledgling IHS optometric program, established a course of consistent growth in clinical facilities and staff as well as quality patient care. Named to honor CAPT Hamilton’s insight, integrity, dedicated leadership and persistent hard work, it is for the demonstration of those same qualities in contributing to the mission of the Public Health Service that this award honors and recognizes its recipients. The deadline for the award submission is **March 3, 2010**.
- The next HS PAC meeting will be held on April 2, 2010, from 1000 – 1500 hours.
- As a reminder to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the HSO Listserv, please go to <http://RowellAir.com/Listserv/hsoletterserv.php>

Nurse Category: LTJG Martin Taxera

- No report submitted

Pharmacy Category: LCDR Yvette Waples

- The PharmPAC Awards Committee is requesting nominations for four awards to be presented at the annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium to be held in San Diego, CA, from May 24-27, 2010.
- **The U.S. Public Health Service USPHS Award Improving Pharmacy Service or Public Health through Leadership Excellence** is sponsored annually by the George F. Archambault Foundation, through the generous financial support of the Bayer Corporation, to recognize a PHS pharmacist who has improved pharmacy service or public health through demonstrating exceptional leadership accomplishments. The accomplishment cited must have occurred and been completed between March 2008 and February 2010. The award comes with a grant to support the recipient's continued management skills education.
- This award is targeted on selection of a mid-career individual. For PHS officers this means an officer at the CDR or lower grade at the deadline for nominations. A civil service pharmacist must be a GS-14 or lower at the time of at the deadline for nominations. Eligibility is limited to a pharmacist working in clinical or administrative settings that manages a provision of direct patient care services as well as a pharmacist whose excellence in management improves public's health on a local, regional, or national basis.
- All nominations and appropriate documentation for the **Archambault Managerial Excellence Award must be received by COB 15 March 2010.**
- Please send all electronic nominations and requests for additional information or assistance, to: CDR Brenda Stodart (*for the Archambault Managerial Excellence Award only*)
Administration Section
Phone: 301-796-3102
Email: brenda.stodart@fda.hhs.gov
- **The U.S. Public Health Service Allen J. Brands Clinical Pharmacist of the Year Award** recognizes the achievements of pharmacists in the PHS that provide traditional pharmaceutical services, with primary emphasis on activities accomplished within the past 18 months. All nominations and appropriate documentation must be received by **COB 31 March 31 2010.**
- **The U.S. Public Health Service Mary Louise Andersen Leadership Award (Non-Clinical)** recognizes the achievements of pharmacists in the PHS in nontraditional or administrative roles, with primary emphasis on activities accomplished within the past 18 months. All nominations and appropriate documentation must be received by **COB 31 March 31 2010.**
- **The U.S. Public Health Service George F. Archambault PHS Career Achievement Award in Pharmacy** recognizes senior civil service (GS-II and above) or commissioned corps (0-5 and above) pharmacists serving under the authority of the PHS, with at least 15 years of PHS service, for outstanding achievements and/or contributions to the pharmacy profession in the PHS. All nominations and appropriate documentation must be received by **COB 31 March 31 2010.**
- Please send all electronic nominations and requests for additional information or assistance to the following:
LT Christopher Jones
Administration Section
Phone: 301-796-3132
Email: christopher.jones@fda.hhs.gov
- Details of the award criteria and nomination packets can be found on the award section of the PharmPAC Web site - <http://www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/award1.html>.
- Please take the time to nominate deserving pharmacists, both civil service and commissioned corps, for these awards.
- **The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting and Exposition** will be held March 12-15, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The APhA Federal Forum, held at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, has been expanded to two full days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting (March 11-12). The APhA Federal Forum offers a wide array of professional development and education opportunities for federal pharmacists and technicians. The PharmPAC will be organizing a Meet-n-Greet for fellow PHS pharmacists.

- After twenty-five plus years of service to the USPHS and serving as Chief Pharmacy Officer for four years, RADM Robert Pittman is retiring effective March 1, 2010. A farewell celebration is being planned. More details will be provided through the listserv.
- RADM Arthur Lawrence has been appointed as the Interim Chief Pharmacy Officer effective February 6, 2010.
- Listed below are opportunities for Pharmacy Category officers to be involved in PharmPAC:
- Administration Section is looking for officers to serve as agency liaisons from the following locations: NIH and OS. If interested, please contact CDR Jennifer Fan (Jennifer.Fan@samhsa.hhs.gov)
- University Point of Contact (UPOC) is needed for the following pharmacy schools:
Husson University School of Pharmacy – Bangor, Maine
Albany College of Pharmacy Vermont Campus – Colchester, Vermont
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Georgia Campus – Suwanee, Georgia
If interested, please contact CDR Jeff Mallette (jxmallette@bop.gov)
- Next PharmPAC General Meeting:
04 March 2010, from 1400 to 1530 EST, Surgeon General’s Conference Room; Agenda and call-in information will be distributed prior to the meeting

Physician Category: LCDR Rajal Mody

- Chief Medical Officer, CAPT Helminiak, is undertaking recruitment activities and is planning town hall meetings at each agency. She plans to work with CAPT Coppola (OCCO) to do this and wants officers to undertake this effort also.
- Currently, there are only 946 medical officers, with the Indian Health Service continuing to lose medical officers.
- The Career Development and Training and the Recruitment committees are pursuing the development of a new mentoring program for all newly commissioned medical category officers. Ideally, the new officers will receive the Welcome Package along with the name and contact information of their assigned mentor shortly after commissioning. This initiative is waiting on the new Associate Recruiter Program to be finalized.
- The Uniform Committee is continuing to consider category insignias and will be discussed by PAC chairs.
- Next meeting: Thursday 3/18, 1300 ET

Scientist Category: LCDR Robin Toblin

- SciPAC is one of top 5 categories in readiness percentage
- LCDR Sally Hu won ROA ADM Koop Junior Officer of the Year award
- Junior Scientist of the Year award nominations due 3/15 (contact LCDR Hu, hus@od.nih.gov)
- Career Development breakfast to be held Monday morning of COF Symposium
- Abstracts for Epidemiology Interest Group meeting at COF due 2/19 (contact LCDR Samanic, samanicc@mail.nih.gov)

Therapist Category: LCDR Jessica Feda

- Next TPAC meeting is February 26th, 2010. 1200 EST. Call in number 1-866-705-8612, code 9396977
- The Therapist Category recently deployed two therapists in support of the medical mission in response to the earthquake in Haiti. Our thanks to LT Carlos Estevez, PT and LCDR Joe Christ, OT.

Veterinarian Category: LCDR Heather Bair-Brake

- No report submitted

IV. New Business

- CAPT Coppola, JOAG Senior Advisor, spoke to the JOAG general membership and informed us of the new and exciting new Corps initiatives under the new Surgeon General. He encouraged all

Junior Officer Advisory Group Meeting Agenda
Friday, February 12, 2010 1300-1500 EST
CALL IN NUMBER: 800-857-2603; PASSCODE: 9479205



I. Roll Call

II. Executive Committee Reports

Ex-officio	LCDR Maleeka Glover
Chair	LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo
Vice Chair	LCDR Blakeley Denkinger
Chair-elect	LCDR Carlos Bell
Financial Liaison	LCDR Alex Dailey
Secretary	LCDR Jamie Mutter

III. Committee and Workgroup Reports

Awards Committee	LCDR Merel Kozlosky & LCDR Morrissa Rice
COF Planning Committee	LCDR Heather Bair-Brake & LT Scott Williams
Communications & Publications Committee	LT Christina Coriz
Development Committee	LCDR Thomas Janisko
Inter-Services Committee	LCDR Brett Maycock
Membership Committee	LCDR Robin Toblin
Policy and Procedures Committee	LCDR Carlos Bell
Professional Development Committee	LCDR Harvey Ball & LCDR Rajal Mody
Recruitment and Retention Committee	LCDR Jessica Feda & LCDR Corey Palmer
Welcoming Committee	LCDR Amy Constantine & LCDR Yvette Waples

IV. Liaison Reports

COF Board	LCDR Blakeley Denkinger
HOSA	LT Samuel Schaffzin
OCCFM	LCDR Kyle Lyons
OCCO	LCDR Mary McCormick
OFRD/OSG/OS	LT Damon Smith
MOLC	LCDR Nicole D. Gaskin-Laniyan
Uniform Workgroup	LCDR Gene Gunn
Dentist	LT Scott Williams
Dietitian	LCDR Blakeley Denkinger
EHO	LCDR Jamie Mutter
Engineer	LCDR Alex Dailey
HSO	LCDR Brett Maycock
Nurse	LT Martin Taxera
Pharmacist	LCDR Yvette Waples
Physician	LCDR Rajal Mody
Scientist	LCDR Robin Toblin
Therapist	LCDR Jessica Feda
Veterinarian	LCDR Heather Bair-Brake

V. New Business

VI. Final Announcements / Adjournment

Our next Journeyman Series call will be held on March 12, 2010 at 1300-1400 EST.

Our next regular JOAG general meeting will be held on April 9, 2010. Please watch the listserv for details.

REMEMBER: General members should send an e-mail of their attendance during or shortly after the meeting to LCDR Jamie Mutter (JMutter@cdc.gov) to have their attendance recorded in the minutes. **Please put “JOAG attendance” in the subject line and include your name, rank, category, and OPDIV.**

Miss a meeting? JOAG digitally records each meeting, including the *Journeyman Series*. For an mp3 copy of the recording, email LT Hiren Patel, hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov.