



Junior Officer Advisory Group

<http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag>

JOAG Reports, May 2011

I. Executive Committee Reports

****No reports from, Senior Advisor, Ex-officio, Vice-Chair, Chair Elect, Financial Liaison or Executive Secretary**

Chair Report: LCDR Carlos Bell

- The 2011 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium is just around the corner. Please make sure to join JOAG and your fellow officers during the following events: the JOAG General Meeting (Sunday, 19 June), the face-to-face with RADMs Lushniak and Halliday, the JOAG Social (Wednesday, 22 June) and the JOAG Let's Move New Orleans event. Additionally, don't forget to visit the JOAG Booth (near registration) and the JOAG Uniform Inspection Booth available throughout the conference.

If you have any questions about the above JOAG events at the Symposium, please feel free to contact LCDR Jamie Mutter (zwy4@cdc.gov), JOAG Executive Secretary.

II. Committee Reports

Awards Committee: LCDR Merel Kozlosky & LT Benjamin Chadwick

- The next full Awards Committee meeting will be held on 13 JUN at 1200 Eastern Time. An agenda and reminder will be sent to committee participants.
- The Call for Nominations for the three JOAG awards (JOAG Excellence Award, Junior Officer of the Year Award, and the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award) closed on 25 MAR. We received a total of 22 nominations. The Award Leads are now coordinating the review of the nominations. LT Adora Ndu is the lead for the JOAG Excellence Award, LCDR Barbara Cohn is the lead for the Junior Officer of the Year Award, and LCDR Tiffany Sanders is the lead for the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award. The JOAG Chair will announce the award recipients at the USPHS Symposium this June.
- Three Award Historians (LT Sara Azimi-Bolourian, LT Kelly Leong, and LT Elizabeth Thompson) are tracing the history of each of the three JOAG awards. They are writing a history of each award, including a listing of all past recipients, to publish on the JOAG website.
- Thank you to JOAG Voting Members in your first term year for submitting your activity logs for review for eligibility for the Special Assignment Award. Our goal is to submit an SAA endorsement package for all eligible Voting Members to OSG in

time to present the SAA at the USPHS Symposium if possible. Voting Members will be notified soon as to whether they will be included in the SAA endorsement package.

- The Office of the Surgeon General concurred with and signed off on JOAG's USPHS Commitment to Service Award Proposal (previously referred to as the Longevity of Service Award). JOAG has had the opportunity in the past to give input in other awards, but this is the first time that JOAG has been the lead in an award proposal. This proposal has been a multi-year effort for the JOAG Awards Committee. The proposal included that JOAG would take the lead on developing the draft implementation policy and ribbon design, so stay tuned for the next steps.
- Two other projects in progress are the Commissioned Corps Awards Subcommittee's awards guidance document and the Junior Officer Recognition Subcommittee's survey of junior officer recognition efforts of PACs and other advisory groups. The JOAG Awards Committee Co-Chairs are working to move these projects forward as soon as time permits.

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

- The JOAG general meeting will be on Sunday in the Grand Chenier room on the 5th floor.
- Finalized the location for the social and the activity that we will be doing there.
- The Social flyer has been created and submitted to the JOAG newsletter.
- The JOAG Social will take place on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 7pm. at Pat O'Briens.
Pat O'Briens Courtyard Restaurant.
624 Bourbon Street
New Orleans, LA 71030
www.patobriens.com
- We have also requested that the social and meet and greet be placed on the events page for the symposium.
- Our budget for the meet and greet bags was turned into Robin on May 11th.

Communications & Publications Committee (CPC): LCDR Christina Coriz & LCDR Janice Arceneaux

- **JOAG Website:** Our May Website update will include the newly formed Health and Fitness Tips created by the Inter-Services Committee. The Health and Fitness Tips have been created to encourage junior officers to stay motivated and provide useful physical fitness and nutrition information. Please contact LCDR Christina Coriz, corizc@niddk.nih.gov if you have any questions regarding the JOAG Website. Go to the following link to view the JOAG Website, <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/>
- **JOAG Journal:** The Editor Subcommittee is in the final stages of completing the Spring Journal. We expect to distribute it in the new couple weeks. Please watch for the request for Journal Articles for the Summer Issue. If you have any questions regarding the JOAG Journal, please contact LCDR Janice Arceneaux Janice.Arceneaux@CMS.hhs.gov or LTJG Tilghman Tracy.Tilghman@fda.hhs.gov . If you are interested in working on this subcommittee, please contact LTJG Tilghman Tracy.Tilghman@fda.hhs.gov. Must be available to edit at least two issues of the JOAG Journal for the current operational year.
- **Uniform Subcommittee:** The subcommittee is making final edits to Volume I of the With Pride and Distinction Uniform announcement. The uniform announcement will

be posted to the JOAG listserv bi-monthly to educate and promote the appropriate wear of the PHS uniform.

- **Next Meeting:** Our next committee meeting will be held May 18, 2011 at 14:00 – 15:00 EST. Please feel free to join the Communications and Publications Committee meetings, held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1400 EST. Call Information: Dial In 712-775-7200, Participant Access 420864 #.
- To obtain a copy of the recorded JOAG Meetings and Journeyman Series, please contact LT Hiren Patel at hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov

Development Committee: LCDR Corey Palmer (LCDR Kevin Bates, Alternate)

- **Chair:** LCDR Corey Palmer
Co-Chair: LCDR Kevin Bates
Secretary: LCDR Monica Jessup
Website Coordinator: LT Keisha Johnson
- **Mission:** To develop, manage and promote activities related to JOAG merchandise.
- **Purpose:** The Committee works with COF to plan, promote, and implement development activities that benefit public health professionals, including USPHS junior officers. The Committee also coordinates the JOAG Booth at the annual COF Symposium.
- **Updates:**
 - The final approved merchandises that will be offered at this year’s COF Symposium are mugs and gym towels. Additional coin racks will be order for the Symposium, as well.
 - There will be 3 different T-shirts available this year at the conference. We will have the Serious and Funny Slogan T-shirts from this year and a back by popular demand Funny Slogan winner from a few years ago.

Serious Slogan:

“U.S. Public Health Service: Building the Foundation for a Healthier Nation”

Funny Slogan:

“Uniform pants that actually fit: \$41

Ribbon for doing what you were hired to do: \$1

Protecting, promoting and advancing the health and safety of our Nation:

Priceless”

Back by Popular Demand – Funny Slogan:

"U.S Public Health Service: Explaining Ourselves Since 1789. We're Not the Navy"

- We are also planning to send out a call for volunteer announcement for the JOAG Booth on the JOAG listserv this week.

Inter-Services Collaboration Committee: LCDR Brett Maycock

- The Inter-Services Collaboration Committee met on May 10, 2011, from 1130 – 1230 EST.
- The Community Service Subcommittee will be participating with other uniformed services in welcoming WWII veterans upon their arrival to the National WWII

Memorial located on the National Mall on Saturday, May 21, 2011, as part of the National Honor Flight Program. Visit <http://www.honorflight.org/> for more information on the program.

The National Honor Flight Program transports WWII veterans to Washington, DC to visit the National WWII Memorial. Most of the veterans participating in this program have never seen the National WWII Memorial nor thought they would be given a chance to visit. It is truly a touching and rewarding experience. Volunteers will help unload wheel chairs, greet visitors when they arrive, welcome veterans to the memorial, take family pictures, distribute water, and express appreciation to veterans for their service.

Location: National World War II Memorial, located just outside the information desk on 17th Street between Constitution & Independence Avenues, NW Washington, DC. Free parking is available on Constitution Avenue, before 0830 only. The Metro is another transportation alternative.

Date and Time: Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 0900 – 1300 EDT. *Please note that some volunteers may be needed as early as 0700 if there are early bus arrivals; the shift for these volunteers will be from 0700 – 1100 EDT. The exact show times will be emailed to all volunteers prior to the event.*

Uniform of the Day: Service Khaki.

This event is open to both senior and junior officers. Adult family members and friends are welcome to volunteer as well. The names of volunteers (including family members and friends) must be submitted to LT Jeffrey Gildow at jeffrey.gildow@ihs.gov or LCDR Karen Livornese at klivornese@cc.nih.gov by **12 PM EST, on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.**

- The Physical Fitness Subcommittee is seeking new members who are interested in and motivated about promoting physical fitness in the Commissioned Corps. The Physical Fitness Subcommittee is developing Corps-wide policy regarding physical fitness training and creating new health and wellness resources for officers. If interested in joining the Physical Fitness Subcommittee, please contact LT Kelly Summers at Kelly.summers@fda.hhs.gov
- The next Inter-Services Collaboration Committee will be on June 14, 2011, from 1130 – 1230 EST.

Membership Committee: LCDR Irene Chan & LCDR Kit Burnham

- **Voting Membership Subcommittee:**
 - The survey was sent to Voting Members on Sunday, May 1, 2011, and can be accessed through the following web address:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JOAG_VM_Nominations_2011-13.
 - Surveys must be completed NO LATER THAN Monday, May 23, 2011.
 - All application packages are available in the HHS Portal. Directions for accessing the portal are as follows:
 1. Sign onto HHS Portal
 2. Click JOAG tab at top
 3. Under "Community Projects" box, click the second "JOAG Voting Members" project
 4. Click the "Documents" tab at the top
 5. Click on the folder entitled "Files for VM applications 2011"
- **SOP Subcommittee:** Edits are currently being reviewed by Membership Committee Chairs. We anticipate a draft will be sent to the EC Liaison by the end of May.

- **Meet and Greet Subcommittee:** Meet and Greets have been held in Central NJ, DC, Raleigh, OKC, NYC and ATL. We appreciate Voting Member assistance with the meetings and look forward to continued participation from Voting Members.
- **CAD Anniversary Subcommittee:** Overall, we have sent congratulatory e-mails to over 150 junior officers this term.
- **Website Subcommittee:** No updates
- **Guidance Document TaskForce:** The draft guidance document has been submitted to the EC Liaison for a first round of comments and edits.
- Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 1300EST. Call-in # 712-451-6175 passcode 674654. The meeting agenda has already been distributed.

Policy and Procedures Committee (P&P): LCDR Damon Smith

- No updates at this time

Professional Development Committee (PD): LCDR Rajal Mody & LCDR Samuel Schaffzin

- **Journeyman Series**
 - The last Journeyman Series was held on March 11, 2011. CAPT Dean Coppola and CDR James Simpson spoke on the topic of Mentoring.
 - Please email LCDR Heidi Hudson (cvv2@cdc.gov) with questions or suggested topics for the Journeyman Series.
 - We are planning to make a standing Journeyman series topic on promotions that to be presented every fall.
- **Professional Development Survey**
 - The survey subcommittee has developed an online survey that combines questions previously developed by the JOAG Policy and Procedures Committee on JOAG membership satisfaction and questions regarding professional development needs of junior officers. The survey was recently approved by the JOAG EC and will be sent to all persons on the JOAG List serv.
- **Mentoring**
 - LCDR Matthew Weinburke is serving as this sub-committee lead and LCDR Shani Smith is providing additional leadership support
 - Members of the subcommittee have reviewed descriptions of each PAC's mentoring programs that were presented at a PHS-wide mentoring review in December. The subcommittee will be providing guidance on a mentoring white paper that is under development
 - They discussed next steps during the Mentoring subcommittee call on April 12, 2011
 - The sub-committee was also recently asked to help develop a junior officer – senior officer shadowing program. This was in response to junior officer feedback gathered in a survey that was sent out last year. Although this is not a traditional 1 to 1 mentoring program, it will provide junior officers with an opportunity to shadow and learn from a senior officer. The group will meet in May to discuss next steps on how to pilot this initiative.
- **Uniform inspection**
 - The Professional Development Committee was asked by the JOAG Executive Committee to help develop a uniform matrix that shows the PHS uniforms in the first column and the equivalent uniforms from the other services in the adjacent columns. LT Skip Payne, lead of the Uniform Inspection subcommittee, has

developed the draft matrix in collaboration with LCDR Gene Gunn, the JOAG Uniform Liaison. The draft guidance was reviewed by the EC and the sub-committee is addressing edits/comments as needed. Once approved by the JOAG EC, this resource can be shared with JOAG members over the JOAG listserv and posted on the JOAG Resource Page.

- Members of the sub-committee highlighted the topic of uniform inspection at the FDA PHS awareness day on May 10, 2011.
- The sub-committee intends to set up and staff the uniform inspection booth at COF. Similar to last year, they are concerned about travel restrictions and funding approval to participate in COF and that it may impact their ability to adequately staff the uniform inspection booth.
- Looking at the tentative schedule and those available with experience, the sub-committee recommends that the booth be staffed on the following days and times:
MON 1700 – 1830 (focused on dinner dress uniform)
TUE 0700 - 0745
WED 0700 - 0815
THUR 0830 - 0930
- A call for junior officers was sent out over the JOAG listserv requesting for officers to assist with the uniform inspection booth
- **Other**
 - Last PD committee meeting: May 10, 2011, 1030-1130 EST
 - Next PD committee meeting: June 14, 2011, 1030-1130 EST
 - Dial-in Number: 712-451-6175: Access code 911718

Recruitment & Retention Committee (R&R): LT Martin Guardia & LT Krista Pihlaja

- **Subcommittee/Initiative Updates:**
 - The **COSTEP Connection Program** (CCP) is awaiting the selection of 2011 COSTEPs to assign each a junior officer mentor. A call for volunteers for COSTEP mentors is currently being finalized. An after action report is being completed for the COSTEP Non-Select Recruiting Program.
 - The **Career Fairs List Subcommittee** is scheduled to submit the September career fairs list in July.
 - The **R&R Publications Subcommittee** has received permission to create a recurring segment titled “Recruitment and Retention Matters” in the *JOAG Journal*. Look for the first article in the next *Journal* regarding a recruiting event at Johns Hopkins University. An article addressing the Online Career Resources Initiative is currently awaiting more information before proceeding.
 - The **Alumni Contact Initiative** (ACI) submitted final documents to DCCR for inclusion in the recruitment “toolbox.”
 - The **Online Career Resources Initiative** has met with volunteers to proceed with USPHS publicity on career related websites.
 - The **TAPS Initiative** has finalized the white paper effectuating the TAPS recruiting program in the Inter-services Collaboration Committee. The R&R Committee Co-Chairs have reviewed the document and will be submitting their comments shortly. After the white paper on the program is approved, the lead JOAG committee will be chosen to implement the program.
 - The **Agency Liaison Proposal** lead will develop a call for volunteers for members who wish to get involved with this proposal. The future of developing this program into a standing subcommittee will be explored since recruitment literature materials

have been piloted for this program and a presentation has already been made to CDC fellows and interns.

- **R&R Committee Website** has gone live! A few minor changes will be passed to the website coordinator for correction.
- The **R&R SOP Subcommittee** has been formed and a lead identified. The subcommittee is updating the R&R SOPs and this will be complete by May 31, 2011.
- **Other updates:**
 - The quarterly PAC update memo has been drafted and will be sent out to the JOAG PAC liaisons shortly.
 - The next R&R Committee meeting is Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 1200-1300 EST. The call-in number is 712-432-0111, passcode 633865.

Welcoming Committee: LCDR Glendolynn Johnson

- The next Welcoming Committee meeting will be Friday, June 3, 2011.
- The Welcome Letter, JOAG Brochure, and link to website were distributed via email to two (2) officers during the month of May.
- The WC is coordinating the attendance of JOAG Voting members in the DC area at each OBC graduation and Open House.
- There is no OBC for the month of June.
- Volunteers are needed to attend OBC open house and graduation for the months of July-September.
- The 2010-2011 JOAG poster for COF symposium has been completed and is currently being reviewed.

III. Workgroup/Program Reports

Forward Thinking Workgroup: LCDR Hollie Cook & LCDR Joel Nelson

- No updates at this time

Historian Workgroup: LT Joe Hill

- No updates at this time

HOSA Workgroup: LCDR Stefanie Glenn & LCDR Timothy Thomas

- Approval has been given to move forward with the pilot. Emails have been sent out to the identified officers in the areas of the pilot locations. Deadline given for return of the applications is 20May2011.
- After all applications received, the workgroup will convene a meeting to select our volunteers. We are hoping for at least 3-5 volunteers per site. After selections have been made the Junior Officers will be notified via email.
- We are working on a training program for the junior officers, and during the summer months, we will be providing training to the officers. The officers will also be encouraged to contact the student advisor (teacher) during the summer months.
- Next meeting is TBA once we receive the applications back from the junior officers.

Officer Intermediate Course: LCDR Jessica Feda

- The first pilot session of the Officers Mid-Level course is complete and was very successful. Updates to the course are being performed.

- The second pilot is in progress and will complete in mid-July. At that time, the OMC course will be taken down and complete final adjustments.
- The final product will be complete and running by end of summer/early fall.

Uniform Advisory Committee: LCDR Gene Gunn, Jr.

- No updates at this time

IV. Agency/Organization Reports

COF Board: LCDR Yvette Waples

- The COF Scientific and Training Symposium will be held on June 20-23, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Early bird Registration for this event has been extended to **May 15th**. COF will be offering again this year scholarships to junior officers (O-3 and below), civil servants, and students. The scholarship money is applied towards the cost of registration. The process to apply has been integrated into the online registration system. All scholarship applications must be received by **May 15th**. Information about applying for one of the scholarships can be found at: <http://www.phscofevents.org/registration.cfm>.

MOLC: LT Karen Ho

- The MOLC awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 during the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in New Orleans. MOLC will also have a booth for information and outreach during the symposium.

OCCFM: LCDR Kyle Lyons

- Only new things to report from OCCFM is new Category Specific Appointment Standards CC231.03 was signed by the ASH effective 6 May 2011.
- OCCFM continues to work with OSG and OASH with finalizing Administrative Actions and Involuntary Separations Directives due to changes from ACA. In the hopper for final considerations are all revamped leave policies and a directive to afford “whistleblower” protection to Corps officers.
- Recommendations from the 2010-2011 Uniform Advisory Committee has been submitted to the SG for concurrence prior to being sent to the ASH for signature.
- OCCFM continues to engage with OSG, OGC and OASH in finalizing a directive dealing with Lapse of Appropriations (aka Furlough) and the status of the Corps should the event happen again.

OCCO: LCDR Mary McCormick

- **Division of Commissioned Corps Assignments**
 - Two lists of new Call to Active Duty (CAD) personnel are currently at the Senate & awaiting approval.
- **Division of Commissioned Corps Recruitment**
 - COSTEP selections for 2011 are also awaiting Senate approval.
- **Division of Commissioned Corps Officer Support**
 - The promotion success rates are awaiting confirmation.
 - The new Appointment Standards (both general & category-specific) have been approved by the ASH. These will apply to current & future applicants only.

- **Division of Commissioned Corps Training and Career Development**
 - **OBC** – This course is being changed to a CAD course, meaning that new PHS officers will be CAD directly to OBC. They will report to their agency positions after completing OBC, as the other Uniformed Services do.
 - **OMC** – The first on-line pilot course was completed on 20 April. The second on-line pilot is now in progress. An in-residence OMC will be piloted in June, in Gaithersburg, MD; this session is already full. To be placed on a list for a future OMC, please contact your agency liaison.

OFRD/OSG/OS: LT Olin Bakke

- **OSG**
 - Accountability Working Groups continue addressing issues raised in the Commissioned Corps Accountability Review.
 - A Director for the new Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness (DCCPR) will soon be selected. All interested applicants have been asked to submit materials by 20 May 2011.
- **OFRD**
 - ***OFRD-Training***
 - **Officer Basic Course (OBC)** – OBC-42 Begins Saturday, 07-May and concludes with graduation on Friday, 20-May. If you are in the DC area and available, please attend the graduation held at the Gaithersburg Holiday Inn, 2 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879. **Note:** No Officer Basic Course will be conducted during June.
 - **Provisional OBC (POBC)** – POBC was designed to provide training for officers who have not completed all requirements for BOTC/IOTC and have never attended an OBC. POBC iterations hold a maximum of 30 enrollees. Should you wish to attend, please contact LCDR Dean Trombley (dean.trombley@hhs.gov) of OCCO-COTA. Refer to **APPENDIX A**
 - **OFRD Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2011** – FTX 2011 is underway. All Pre-Training Site Surveys (PTSS) to Kentucky, Texas, and South Dakota have been conducted. We have engaged a variety of entities (i.e. state, county, local NGOs) at each location. The FTX tentative training dates are listed below. Additionally, OFRD is partnering with NDMS and additional federal partners to train Tier III assets on the FMS.
 - Group 3 Teams - Paducah, KY – May 15-24, 2011
 - Group 2 Teams - Pikeville, KY – June 5-14, 2011
 - Group 1 Teams - Southern Texas – July 23-30, 2011
 - Group 4 Teams - Pine Ridge, SD – August 21-30, 2011
 - Group 5 Teams - Pine Ridge, SD – August 21-30, 2011
 - **OFRD Training** - OFRD is continuing its partnership with National Naval Medical Center's (NNMC) and Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) Staff Education and Training to provide ACLS, TNCC, PALS, ATLS, and NRP to Capital Area Provider (CAP) Teams.
 - **OFRD BLS Instructor Cadre** – OFRD is actively recruiting highly motivated officers who wish to teach BLS as part of the OFRD National Capital Region Military Training Network (MTN) BLS cadre. These individuals are an invaluable asset to OFRD, the colleagues attending OBC, co-workers, and DOD educational partners including NNMC
 - ***OFRD-Response: Public Health/ Medical Missions – Domestic***

- Officers interested in joining a Tier 1/ 2 should send CVs OFRD-Response@hhs.gov.
- Upcoming Deployments (Planned Events)
 - Peace Officer Memorial
 - Day of Remembrance
 - Independence Day Celebration
 - Battle of Manassas
 - Arctic Crossroads
- ***OFRD-Global Operations: Public Health/ Medical Missions***
 - Currently, officers deployed to the Dominican Republic conducting training of DMIS system to US Army and other DOD personnel as part of overall WHIX 08 and DENRETE activities.
 - Active, ongoing planning for Public Health Mission to Peru later this year as part of a joint mission with DOD.
 - Conducting Field Training for Tier-3 personnel in a joint field exercise with NDMS. All questions related to these training evolutions should be sent to OFRD@hhs.gov.
- ***OFRD-IT: Basic Readiness and FMRB***
 - Please use the [OFRD website](#) to view the latest [Readiness Guides](#) in order to view your [Projected Status](#) on Direct Access. You will also find other helpful links.
 - **Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB) Update:** The last FMRB evaluation was conducted in December 2010. The next FMRB evaluation will be conducted in May 2011. Officers who feel they have met requirements should contact OFRD@hhs.gov ASAP.
 - **Projected Readiness Status** – Check your Readiness Status by visiting your Direct Access profile and viewing your [Projected Readiness Status](#) as of 1-July-2011. Send all readiness related questions to OFRD@hhs.gov.

V. PAC Liaison Reports

Dental Category: LT Scott Williams

- COF Dental Category Day Junior Officer Volunteers Requested
 - The 2011 DePAC Dental Category Day Planning Committee is seeking enthusiastic junior officers to serve as volunteers at the 2011 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in New Orleans.
 - Junior officers are needed to serve as aides-de-camp as well as greeters/hosts for speakers and guests during 2011 Dental Category Day and other tasks as assigned on June 21, 2011.
 - On behalf of the Dental Category Day Planning Committee and DePAC, we would like to thank you in advance for your participation. Interested junior officers should contact any of the individuals listed below.
 LT Scott B. Williams: scott.williams@ihs.gov
 CAPT Todd Tovarek: todd.tovarek@dhs.gov
 CAPT Darla Whitfield: darla.whitfield@dhs.gov
Please note that attendance at the 2011 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in New Orleans will not be funded by the Dental PAC Category.

- Be prepared for the billet transformation process. The Dental Category is scheduled to be the next category in the process.

Dietitian Category: LCDR Merel Kozlosky

- The 2011 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held on 19-23 JUN (Sunday through Thursday) in New Orleans. Dietitian Category Day will be held on Tuesday, 21 JUN with a social dinner that same evening. Please contact LCDR Merel Kozlosky at kozloskym@cc.nih.gov if you would like to see the Dietitian Category Day agenda.
- The Dietitian and Therapist categories will team together to host a Healthy Lifestyles Booth, including a Wii Fit, at the USPHS Symposium. Dietitians are needed to staff the booth during exhibit hall hours. Any dietitians who will be at the symposium and would be willing to give time to work at the booth would be greatly appreciated. The exhibit hall hours are Wednesday, 22 JUN from 0700-1330 and Thursday, 23 JUN from 0800-1000. Please contact LCDR Diane Phillips at diane.phillips@ihs.gov and LT Amanda Loveless at aloveless@bop.gov if you would like to volunteer to staff the booth.
- The next Dietitian PAC meeting will be Thursday, 19 MAY from 1230 to 1400 Eastern Time. Future meetings will be held every other month on the third Thursday of the month from 1230 to 1400 Eastern Time.

EHO Category: LCDR Jamie Mutter

- The EHOPAC Award nominations are currently under review and should be announced soon. The awards will be presented at this year's NEHA Conference in Columbus, OH.
- The EHOPAC will be conducting their fall 2011 (October) meeting on the campus of East Tennessee State University. Details will be provided to the category as they become available.
- CAPT Mike Noska, EHOPAC Chair, is currently deployed to Japan to assist with nuclear issues. This is CAPT Noska's second deployment since the disaster.

Engineer Category: LT Benjamin Chadwick

- The last Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) was held on April 20th, 2011.
- New Billets for the Engineering Category are in the process of being finished up. For those engineers who have not responded to the e-mails and completed the Billet process should do so as soon as possible. If you are in a Multidisciplinary Billet, please respond to the e-mail stating that you are waiting on a Multidisciplinary position and CC your supervisor. Multidisciplinary Billets will be started in a few months.
- The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) 2011 Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo will be held on May 24th-27th at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas.
- The next EPAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th at 2:00 PM (EST).

HSPAC Category: LCDR Brett Maycock

- The Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HSPAC) is seeking members for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2012. 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.
- Please complete the self-nomination form and send it along with a current curriculum vitae (in the format suggested on the HSO website and 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 (preferably a single PDF document which includes a scanned file of the signature page) mail, or fax by **June 30, 2011**, 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/Fax: 404-498-2215
 Email: talspach@cdc.gov
 - There is a need for HSO Aide-de-camp volunteers for the 2011 COF Symposium in New Orleans, LA, JUNE 19, 2011-JUNE 24, 2011
 - **What is an aide-de-camp?** The official definition is a uniformed junior officer (02-04) acting as secretary and confidential assistant to an officer of flag rank “the Principal”.
 - **What can I expect if I volunteer to be an aide-de-camp?** Coordinating your principles daily meeting schedule and finding out the locations of where the sessions take place will require scouting and impeccable organizational skills. You will be expected to act as a shadow of that flag officer, and whichever sessions your principle attends are the sessions you will attend as well. It is essential to keep your schedule flexible in case of any last minute changes which may happen periodically, and always remember that your principles schedule takes precedence above all other schedules.
 - **What uniform am I expected to wear?** The tradition is to wear whatever your principle wears, which in most situations will be:
 Service Khaki is the prescribed uniform of the day for Symposium attendees.
 The uniform for the Anchor & Caduceus Dinner on Monday evening 20 June is Dinner Dress Blue (Service Dress Blue w/miniature medals and bow tie) for 04 and below.
 - **How will I know what to do?** Once you reply back stating your interest, the aide-de-camp coordinator will email you a PowerPoint presentation that provides a general overview of the position. It is essential that you read and understand it completely.
 - **What if I would like to volunteer and I am not able to attend the full conference?** It is recommended to volunteer as much time as you can to this position, but the aide-de-camp coordinator will try to accommodate your schedule to meet other required attendance throughout the conference.
 - If you are interested please contact LT Olin Bakke @ Olin.Bakke@hhs.gov
 - The next HSPAC meeting will be held at the COF Scientific and Training Symposium,

during Category Day.

- As a reminder to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the HSO Listserv, please go to <http://usphs-hso.org/phsdb/listserv>

Nurse Category: LCDR Janice Arceneaux

- No updates at this time

Pharmacy Category: LCDR Yvette Waples

- Listed below are opportunities for Pharmacy Category officers to be involved in PharmPAC:
 - Nominations are being solicited from pharmacists who are interested in serving on the PharmPAC as voting members. Anticipated openings for the 2011-2014 term are listed below, but all nominations will be kept on file for future consideration. **Junior officers** and civil service pharmacists are encouraged to apply. Openings for three year terms beginning 01 November 2011 for PHS pharmacists serving in the following organizations include:
PAC Members (voting):
Bureau of Prisons – 3 openings;
Indian Health Service – 4 openings;
Food and Drug Administration – 1 opening; and
Ex-minimus – 1 opening*
Nomination Process
Please contact CDR Timothy Murray, PharmPAC Administration Section Co-Lead, timothy.murray@ihs.gov regarding this announcement.
All nomination materials must be submitted electronically by COB 27 May 2011.
To learn more about the PharmPAC and membership please visit <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/>.
 - Please find below two opportunities to volunteer your time and/or experiences to help further PHS pharmacy recruitment.
 1. Call for volunteers to form a new workgroup to assist with the UPOC Newsletter.
 2. Call for submission of articles and pictures of recruitment activities for publication in the Spring 2011 UPOC Newsletter. This is inclusive of activities at ASHP Midyear in Anaheim, APhA in Seattle and any other recent recruitment activity.
Please contact LCDR Selena Ready at selena.ready@fda.hhs.gov to volunteer to assist with either (or both) of these opportunities.
- **Next PharmPAC General Meeting:**
02 June 2011, from 1400 to 1500 EST
Agenda and call-in information will be distributed prior to the meeting

Physician Category: LCDR Rajal Mody

- **Call For PPAC Voting Member Nominations:** PPAC is accepting nominations for the next class of voting members. See the attached “call for nominations” or the PPAC website at <http://usphs-ppac.net/PPACNews.htm> for more information. Please pass this along to any interested parties.

- Next PPAC Business Meeting is THURSDAY, May 19, 1300-1500. Call-in number: 866-816-2251 or 517-477-5361, code: 9700730.
- Next PPAC Forum will be WEDNESDAY, June 15, 1300-1500. Topic: Domestic Field Assignments. Domestic field medical officers will discuss their job roles, highlighting opportunities, challenges and benefits of working in their field assignments. A projected outcome will be to identify recommendations from field officers and officers interested in field assignments. This forum follows a successful forum call in 2010 that featured medical officers in international assignments. Call-in number: 866-816-2251 or 517-477-5361, code: 9700730.

Scientist Category: LCDR Robin Toblin

- No updates at this time

Therapist Category: LCDR Kit Burnham

- **CPO Report**
 - CAPT Gausted is thankful and excited to take over as the Therapist CPO. He is looking forward to serving in this capacity for the next few years.
 - The Therapy category had the highest readiness % of any category.
- **Special Guest Speaker**
 - ADM Lushniak spoke to the Therapist category about the Period of operation in the absence of appropriations (POAA). ADM Lushniak fielded questions about the status of the corps.
- **Information Management Chair**
 - LCDR Jodi Tanzillo reported an update for the Retiree Task Force. The goal of the task force is to determine methods to increase communication between Retired Therapist Category members and current Therapist category members. The task force had these four recommendations: 1) Place an article in frontline to invite any retired Therapist Category members to submit contact information to develop a list of interested retirees 2) Establish a sign-up sheet that can be used at the COA Category Day retirement ceremony for those retirees that attend 3) The Retirement Recognition Subcommittee submits bi-annual surveys to the category to obtain contact information from retiring officers and 4) Category Roster Subcommittee, through the use of the Category Portal, would manage the retiree contact information with a dedicated Field Representative for a retiree roster listing if the need were to develop dependent on the number of retirees that want to maintain contact.
- Recordings of the TPAC meetings are available on demand from LCDR Christopher Barrett Christopher.barrett@tchealth.org if interested.
- Next TPAC meeting will be held on June 17th, 2011 at 1200 EST. Call in: 1-866-705-8612 Passcode: 9396977
- The Therapist Professional Advisory Committee (TPAC) is a public health professional group under the Office of the Surgeon General. We are a multidisciplinary category composed of highly skilled and mobile health-care providers from the following professions: audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and speech language pathology. The Therapist Category supports the mission of the Commissioned Corps of the U. S. Public Health Service to *protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation.*
- To join the TPAC list serve: USPHS_THERAPIST@LIST.NIH.GOV and click on “Click here to subscribe or unsubscribe to the List serve”.

Appendix A – Provisional OBC

Provisional Officer Basic Course (POBC)

The Provisional Officer Basic Course (POBC) online course has been developed for officers who have **not** successfully completed the 2, 3, or 5 day Basic Officer Training Course & Independent Officer Training Course (BOTC & IOTC) or attended the residential Officer Basic Course (OBC).

The Provisional Officer Basic Course (POBC) has been implemented to provide officers who have not received the Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon (CCTR), with the mechanism to do so through the completion of this 8 week online course. The goal of POBC is to provide the participants updated, relative, useful information (officership, readiness, and deployment topics) that is needed by all officers to meet our mission “To protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation”.

All officers that have not been award the CCTR (1200 plus officers) have been sent and email with a Survey Monkey link for them to denote their level of interest with participating in this course. Those that denote interest in participating will be sent a list of future POBC dates for the rest of Fiscal Year (FY) 2011.

If they are interested in participating in this online training course ***they must:***

1. Meet the requirements as listed:
 - a. Officer must be basic ready to enroll in course
 - b. Officer must own all three required uniforms (SDB, BDU, and Summer Whites)
 - c. Officer must send full length, front and side view photos in each of the three required uniforms.
 - d. Officer will fully participate in all activities
 - e. Integrity (nothing more need be said)
 - f. Participation in all of the weekly modules, discussion questions and quizzes is mandatory and must be completed within allotted time.
 - g. Officer will complete the course on his/her own time, it is not an expectation that an agency will allow duty time to complete the course
 - h. Officer must be available for the 2 hour capstone call in order to enroll in course
2. Read, accept, and sign POBC “Officer’s Expectations Form” and have your supervisor sign.
3. Fax the signed Expectation Form NLT 3 weeks prior to start date of your class to:

Division of Commissioned Corps Training and Career Development

Attn: LCDR Dean R. Trombley

Fax #: 240-453-6141

4. Verify your ability to log onto the Blackboard Learning Management System

Once they have completed these steps will be placed on the list of potential participants and will be notified when they are placed in a specific class. They are asked ***not*** to make direct contact with anyone from the Division of Commissioned Corps Training and Career Development regarding POBC until they have been notified that they have been selected for class time and only if they are instructed to do so.

Questions: Dean.Trombley@hhs.gov