



**U.S. Public Health Service  
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee**

**Chief Professional Officer Pharmacy Update**

**March 2011**

**Commissioned Corps**

- The Corps is rapidly moving forward following the lift of the hiring pause. **Two lists have already been sent to the Senate Committee** that will now be in charge of our confirmations. The first list contained over 250 names. This is due to the backlog across many months. The second list had less names, but still contains prioritized applicants from Agencies. The key message is that we DO have a new process and it has commenced.
- PharmPAC members have been very proactive with me to prepare to respond to any OCCO, OCCFM or OSG requests as hiring resumes. I want to personally thank all of you that volunteered. I also want to recognize all of you as a category since your volunteerism and initiative during and after the pause have resulted in a good deal of recognition on many leadership fronts. We are continually mentioned in many meetings as a best practice model so-to-speak. Keep up the great work.
- **The 10 Commissioned Corps Accountability Structure** Working Groups continue to press onward. We have very good pharmacy representation within the 10 groups and many have stepped forward for additional leadership responsibilities including our current PAC Chair, CDR Mallette. Good job – I am certainly proud of all you do. These groups are fairly intense and will last roughly 5 more weeks.
- **GI Bill transferability** was discussed between OSG, the ASH and our Secretary. No issues thus far as it now needs to be coordinated between the HHS Secretary and SecDef.

**Promotions**

- Promotion boards for all categories have officially commenced. Selected members of the pharmacy promotion board have been briefed by me and are standing by to complete their task. As you already know, promotions and promotion board information is highly confidential. Stay tuned for more general promotion information:  
[http://dcp.psc.gov/promotions\\_table\\_of\\_contents.aspx](http://dcp.psc.gov/promotions_table_of_contents.aspx)

**Billets**

- Billet reform continues in the pharmacy category. A more detailed update from CDR Mike Crockett. [**As of 3/1/11, 32 officers have still not selected a standard billet.** (676 of 708 officers selected. Of the 676 officers who have selected standard billet titles, 498 have completed position-specific information for their billets. That means 178 + 32 = 210 still must do step 2.)
- **We will continue to make sure you are reminded this is NOT a voluntary action, but rather a mandated process by OSG. There WILL be potential administrative actions placed in an officer's personnel file if this is not done. Please comply with this request.**

**Readiness**

- Update from CDR Nate Yale from the PharmPAC Career Development Section. Readiness has been reported to be above 95% for those eligible for promotion from our category. Please remember that readiness is a year-round activity, not just for promotion cycles or months.

## **OBC**

- OBC completed its 41<sup>st</sup> class. I had the privilege of doing their pinning ceremony, Oath and closing remarks on behalf of OSG. OBC Graduation schedule is on CCMIS page: <http://dcp.psc.gov/COTA/OBCD.aspx>

## **COSTEP**

- **COSTEP process** has also commenced and names were selected and submitted with 1662s. The COSTEPs will need to be brought on as Ready Reservists and we await policy to begin. We will notify COSTEPS 45 days prior to their Call-to-active-duty if we will not be able to meet that deadline. However, we are optimistic this process will work out.

## **Meetings**

- APhA will be held in Seattle March 24-28. If possible, I encourage you to attend our Federal Pharmacy Forum on Friday, March 25.

## **CPO Initiatives Update**

- We have completed the (post-ACA) 2011 Revised Report to the Surgeon General on Supporting Health Reform through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. I presented the Report to the Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of Staff. They were very supportive. We have also collated nearly 10 critical support letters from major stakeholders such as APhA, ASHP, IHS, HRSA, VA and others. OSG will now set a date for me to meet with VADM Benjamin to discuss the Report.
- Last call I challenged each of you to attempt to motivate or inspire two other officers. It can be anything from pride in uniform wear, mission, APFT, or something of your choice. I had a handful of officers follow up and do this. Keep in mind that if we want a good Corps and good careers, it starts with each and every one of us. I firmly believe that the pharmacy category is often looked to, across all of the Corps, for its initiative. Some of this is clearly demonstrated through action vice words and our volunteerism to help the Corps in OCCO and OCCFM as well as recruitment is showing me that we are seriously committed to the positive future of our Corps. Thank you.
- Please continue to utilize LCDR Jones and LT Tsai in my absence or if I am on leave:. I will be attending a joint executive leadership capstone course next week with DOD and will be unavailable until the evenings. ([Christopher M. Jones@ondcp.eop.gov](mailto:Christopher.M.Jones@ondcp.eop.gov), [Yiyong.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Yiyong.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov))

**RADM Scott Giberson**  
**Chief Professional Officer, Pharmacy**  
**U.S. Assistant Surgeon General**