



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

**Chief Professional Officer Pharmacy Update**

**May 2011**

**Commissioned Corps**

- OSG continues to answer questions related to the furlough status of the Commissioned Corps for future proactive understanding of the appropriate guidance.
- The Corps continues to Commission new officers. Lists are sent twice a month for Senate Confirmation.
- Appointment standards policy completed and posted on CCMIS webpage
- Revitalization of the Commissioned Corps Special Pay Advisory Board (CPAB) has commenced. We have convened another Special Pay Workgroup to address this issue and will update the previous 2007 and 2009 Reports to submit once again. Meetings will likely be in May and September.
- Regarding pharmacists, we will commission nearly 100 pharmacists in the next few months. That will bring our PHS Commissioned Corps pharmacy total to nearly 1200 pharmacist officers. Well done, especially amidst a nearly year-long hiring freeze. We have inspired the recruitment process and sold our career based on service and our values. If we continue “to build it”, they will come.
- Travel guidance for Agencies for the Commissioned Officer Foundation annual symposium is soon to be released. Currently, the memo for signature is with our Assistant Secretary of Health.
- Pharmacist volunteers continue their collaboration with OCCO and assisting to bring officers on board in all categories. I want to personally thank all of you that volunteered once again. I also want to once again 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 Corps leadership fronts.
- **The 10 Commissioned Corps Accountability Structure** Working Groups completed their task to produce a Report to OSG the Commissioned Corps. OSG is reviewing the Reports and will implement the new Accountability structure in the very near future. Be aware leadership position announcements may come out in May or June. If you are interested in a position within the new structure, please watch Commissioned Corps listserve.

**Promotions**

- Promotion boards for all categories have been ongoing since February. Selected members of the pharmacy promotion board have been briefed by me and will complete their task. Stay tuned for more 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 is forthcoming. Please be reminded this is NOT a voluntary action, but rather a mandated process by OSG. Officers will not be held accountable if supervisors are delayed with compliance in Steps 3 and 4. However, please continue with steps 3 and 4.

**Uniforms**

- Briefing to be set up between Surgeon General and uniform recommendations still pending. Spring/Summer UOD in place effective 11 April 2011.

## **2012 Benchmarks**

- Created a POM to sign for OSG to redistribute the weight of the 5 precepts to decrease weight of Readiness Precept to go from 5% to 0% since Readiness is now a requirement. (Unable to remove Readiness Precept until official Commissioned Corps Policy removes it from official Precepts. Policy with signature was drafted and sent and is still with Secretary.)

## **Readiness /OFRD**

- 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, however those not eligible for promotion have decreased the average readiness rate. Please remember that **readiness is a year-round activity**, not just for promotion cycles or months.
- Overall readiness for all categories was about 93%. Congrats to all officers.
- 2011 Field trainings have been approved.

## **OBC**

- OBC Graduation schedule is on CCMIS: <http://dcp.psc.gov/COTA/OBCD.aspx>. Next OBC - May.

## **COSTEP**

- No word back on nomination of COSTEP nominees. Waiting for delegation to the Secretary HHS to appoint COSTEPS to Ready Reserve. All 1662's for COSTEPs should be immediately sent to OCCO. As we find out more, we will inform all on this process. 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.

## **Meetings**

- ASHP House of Delegates. CDR Tim Murray represented US PHS and consulted with me on various issues. This is a good way to stay up-to-date on the issues of concern in the non-federal sector. Many thanks for his efforts
- Continue to prepare for the COF meeting in New Orleans. The planning committee is working diligently to make everything come together.

## **CPO Initiatives Update**

- The **CPO Special Initiatives Report 2010-2011 was released** through the PHS Listserve in April. Please review. Many thanks for all your efforts.
- 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), [Yiying.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Yiying.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov))

**RADM Scott Giberson**

**Chief Professional Officer, Pharmacy**

**U.S. Assistant Surgeon General**