



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

Chief Professional Officer Pharmacy Update

June 2011

Commissioned Corps

- This update provides comprehensive and up-to-date info on the list of **Commissioned Officer nominees sent to the Senate Sub-Committee for confirmation**. List “#0” (of Commissioned Corps officer nominations) was Senate-confirmed and officers were called to active duty last month. List #1 and #2 were just confirmed by the Senate sub-committee on May 26. List 1 had 253 officer nominations and List 2 had 68. That means we will soon be commissioning well over 300 officers, including pharmacists. Once confirmed, our internal process will complete all the steps post-Senate confirmation, and candidates will be called-to-active duty. This should be efficient and we should begin to see this in July. Candidate lists #3-6 have been combined into one list for efficiency - now in the Department approval process (prior to Presidential or Senate confirmation). For future commissioning candidate lists, anyone can refer to the following URL to check. This will assist us with transparency and communication and decrease questions to leadership. We generally do not have any information prior to this list. <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/nomis.html>. For list one, the nomination number is PN528-01-112 and for List 2 it is PN527-112
- The **former Reserve Corps officers now deemed Regular Corps** by the ACA have not yet received their orders in their OPFs. However, this process does NOT affect the officer in any way regarding benefits, roles, etc. Those officers deemed Regular Corps officers ARE considered Regular Corps. You will receive a Regular Corps ribbon after the orders are processed. Please do not email Corps leadership requesting the Regular Corps ribbon. Thanks for your understanding.
- Everyone in the chain is aware of the need to bring **COSTEPs** on rapidly once the authorities have been approved to bring them into the Ready Reserves. It has been brought to our attention – and this may change by the time this CPO report is released, that authority has been given to the Secretary of HHS to bring the COSTEPs into the RR. Therefore, OCCO will move rapidly (on those officers with identified 1662’s) to bring them on board. All 1662’s for COSTEPs should be immediately sent to OCCO if they have not already been sent. As we find out more, we will inform all on this process.
- Revitalization of the Commissioned Corps Special Pay Advisory Board (CPAB) has commenced. Workgroup met in May and had a very productive discussion summarizing all category special pays. Our own CAPT Mary Kremzner is Co-Chair and RADM Giberson serves as a member as CPO.
- Once again, 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 “- for the right reasons.

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

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. All pharmacists have completed Step 1. Only a handful remain for Step 2. 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.

Benchmarks

- Category Benchmarks are completed and posted on CCMIS webpage. Decreased 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.)

Recruitment

- As you will notice in the coming months and beyond, there may be a shift in recruitment 'philosophy'. As uniformed officers, we have a responsibility to adapt and meet the Department and Agency needs. As the recruiting processes develop within the new Corps structure, please be aware of any potential changes. There will likely be thematic emphasis or more targeted recruitment on the following 5 'categories':
 - Vulnerable and medically underserved populations
 - Hard-to-fill positions
 - Our 24/7 response capacity and responsibility
 - Support to need identified by other uniformed services
 - Unmet public health need

As a bit of an editorial, each of these situations is an exciting and wonderful opportunity for our Corps and our category to demonstrate its value in times of need. This is another situation where our values and principles for service can come to the forefront. These are appropriate needs and are supported at the highest levels. If you have any questions, please ask our Recruitment Section leads and they may contact me for further information. We will be learning more about this process in the near future, so please stand-by and thanks (as always) for your volunteerism.

Readiness /OFRD

- Update from CDR Nate Yale from the PharmPAC Career Development Section. 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 and will proceed unless further fiscal constraints eliminate potential for these trainings. Paducah, KY is first scheduled for June.

OBC

- OBC Graduation schedule is on CCMIS: <http://dcp.psc.gov/COTA/OBCD.aspx>. Next OBC - July.
- RADM Giberson was asked to stand-in for OSG and make graduation remarks to the May OBC class. This was the second graduation ceremony request. He also was requested to serve as keynote remarks for 5 pinning ceremonies this past year. This also helps to strengthen a positive relationship between category and OSG.

COSTEP

- See above under Commissioned Corps

Meetings

- Continued preparation for the COF meeting in New Orleans. The planning committee is working diligently to make everything come together. Clear travel guidance for officers attending the Commissioned Officer Foundation annual symposium was released. Please check within your Agency to obtain guidance.

CPO Initiatives Update

- I was privileged to spend over an hour with VADM Benjamin discussing the Pharmacy Report to the Surgeon General: Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. This was a unique opportunity. VADM Benjamin was very engaged and asked salient questions. We will continue our dialogue on a follow-up meeting in the near future. All indications are we continue to move in the right direction.
- Please continue to utilize LCDR Jones and LT Tsai in my absence:
([Christopher M. Jones@ondcp.eop.gov](mailto:Christopher.M.Jones@ondcp.eop.gov), Yiyong.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov)

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