

MINUTES, 9-23-10 FINAL  
Meeting via Teleconference

## CALL TO ORDER

CDR Tejashri Purohit-Sheth called the meeting to order at 1304

## **ATTENDEES (MEMBERS) & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

See attached Attendance Roster

## **PARTICIPANTS**

See attached Attendance Roster.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 29, 2010 meeting were approved.

## **CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT (RADM CLARE HELMINIAK)**

- CAPT Helminiak is on travel status, no report at this meeting. There will, however, be a special Medical Category Town Hall meeting that RADM Helminiak will oversee on Monday 9/27/10 at 11:00 am-1:00 pm. All officers are encouraged to attend the teleconference.

## **SG/PAC MEETING UPDATE & PAC CHAIR REPORT (CDR TEJASHRI PUROHIT-SHETH)**

- SG/PAC met yesterday
- Regular corps commissioning standards need to be updated for 3 categories: Engineers, HSO, EHO. Leadership has currently submitted a revised CFR regarding appointment standards.
- Status of Global Health Awards update: Army Institute with Heraldry will provide first round of samples for making the medals, and anticipate their QA will be done by end of this month. This is being overseen by OCCO's CDR Lyons, who will review the samples. It is anticipated that this should be available for purchase by the end of the calendar year; however, OCCO still needs to develop policies/procedures for nomination/application, which is anticipated to come from OFRD. Ideally, the awards would not be provided to officers until spring of 2011.
- For officers living in the D.C. Metropolitan area and need to access the PKLN building, note that ID's need to be updated for PKLN building access.
- Uniform Advisory Committee has been established: there are 15 voting members, with several alternates with plans for one meeting a month, addressing 5-6 issues per month. Not intended to be a massive rewrite or

rehaul of the policies. They are intending to evaluate several issues to include: phase back in of salt and peppers, winter blues, scarves available for uniform wear, possible expansion of coverall for inspection type activities (e.g. FDA and CDC), seeking alternatives to Woodland BDUs (depleting in amounts quickly, Navy phasing out in Dec. 2010, Air Force in April 2011), and adopting an optional service dress khaki uniform, and use of Cardigan sweaters

- Funding for Physical Training Uniform (PTU) has been secured. The PTU will consist of a yellow moisture wick T-shirt, with USPHS symbols as well as shorts with 6" and 8" seams.
- **T-grade promotion eligibility will be posted in OPF as well as an email will be sent to officers notifying them of eligibility.**
- **All P-grade promotions will be competitive, to include O-2 and O-3, which were previously non-competitive starting with the April 2011 Boards.**
- **Permanent promotion results will be released soon as per CAPT Stevens in OCCO. Success rates to O-4, O-5 and O-6 were 42, 80, 27% respectively.**
- **There is no legal basis for the promotion of ready reserve officers with the passage of the PPACA. OCCFM is in the process of drafting a legislative proposal to correct this oversight in the Act.**
- **New annual COER will be available electronically Oct. 6, 2011**
- **Officer midlevel pilot starts on 10/16/10**
- **Provisional OBC is ongoing.**
- **Anyone that was in the Corps prior to the date of the Act, March 23, 2010. Orders will need to be issued, but challenging for 4000+ officers.**
- **Call to active duty 457 eligible for hiring as ready reserves, 350 brought on board, a handful of others are left to be on board; these officers minus the CO-STEPS, have had their names submitted to Senate for confirmation to be transferred into the regular corps.**
- **Last quarterly update on September 30, 2010; immunization documentation remains the single most issue for not being ready**
  - **Memo sent from OFRD: all officers to go into Direct Access to check projected readiness status, as of the time that the readiness has been done**
  - **If they are missing immunizations, all officers should be sent to MAB with the cover sheet provided by OFRD, officers can document what they would like to document**
  - **There is an email specific [MAB-immunizations@hhs.gov](mailto:MAB-immunizations@hhs.gov) for documentation, etc., specific how to adequately document the immunization, which is checked by full complement of staff**
  - **OFRD has access to this email as well.....can filter questions as well to bring some level of economy of scale**
  - **OFRD has a cover sheet on which to Fax the immunizations to MAB to ensure adequate documentation of immunization data**
  - **OFRD notes that they are not going to penalize an officer who has appropriately document immunizations**
  - **There are a number of documentation delays; however, anything that is received by the 30<sup>th</sup> will still be used for calculation purposes**

- **Public health sciences track: scholarship program for health professionals, with anticipation of 150 med students, 250 nurses, 100 dental students, etc.**
- **Graduates of programs, incur 2 for 1 obligated service time as active duty (in contrast to armed forces, 1:1)**
- **National Prevention and health promotion and Public health council: SG is the Chair, made up of 12 SEC Cabinet Level staff (SEC Sebelius), SG has the option of adding others, to include DOD, HUD, VA, ?? the other two; has 17 Cabinet level entities**
  - **SG chaired first meeting via Telecom, status report submitted to Congress in June 30, 2010: what is going to be done in developing National prevention Strategy; nominated designees to speak on their behalf at working groups (lower level), first face to face**
  - **meeting took place at the White House, chaired by the SG. The group blessed the direction that we are moving on with the National Prevention Strategy, which is a sentinel event, unprecedented in National history; Congress est. prevention trust fund, made up of \$ 15 billion, 500 mil in FY 10, 250 mil in 2011, 2 mill annually thereafter. Input from local, state govt, academics, trying implement anything that prevents disease. CC will be anticipated to be engaged for implementation once developed. 6700 CC forefront in the national prevention effort.....need to stand ready to implement.**
  - **Management and Mission Review of the corps is ongoing**
  - **RADM Rutstein will be retiring effective on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

## **COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### ***AMSUS (CAPT Linda Ulrich & CDR Gerald Taylor, reported by CDR Purohit-Sheth)***

- The next meeting will be held October 31-November 5 in Phoenix and will be hosted by the US Navy.

### ***Awards (CDR Paul Jung)***

- No updates

### ***Billets, Officer Profiles and Selection Systems (CDR Rochelle Nolte, reported by CDR Purohit-Sheth)***

- Billet collecting system tutorials will be available during the transformation to this new system. There is a 22 minute supervisor tutorial.
- In the billet collecting system, officers will have a standard billet title for duties performed, 14 standard billets for medical. Unique billet information describing specific duties related to the current job will be added to this. The new billet system will be position based rather than officer based. This change is intended to provide clarity to the billets, making it better for both

the agencies and the Corps and leading to effective and efficient officer management.

- Medical category is anticipated to launch in November.
- CDR Rochelle Nolte has gathered a group of volunteers to respond to basic question that they may have as pertaining to this new system.

### ***Career Development and Training (CAPT Barbara Stinson and CDR Milton Irizarry)***

- Ongoing mentoring process continuing for officers who ranked in the lowest quartile for promotion ranks in the last cycle; CD/T members have personally been engaged in mentoring as well as RADM Helminiak
- Surveying officers in different Agencies to see the caliber of training that has been received with respect to the new COER
- CDR Irizarry will provide names of subcommittee members who will be available to answer basic questions related to COER
- CDR Purohit-Sheth outlined the changes to COER

### ***Category Coin (LCDR Joshua Schier, reported by CDR Purohit-Sheth)***

- CDR Purohit-Sheth noted that the coin may be ordered on line and has provided a link in her recent PPAC Newsletter.

### ***COF/COA Report (CDR Dana Thomas)***

- No report

### ***Communications Committee (CDR Susan Lukacs)***

- Town Hall meeting call-in# posted on our website for 9/27/10 meeting
- Juliana Grant revamping the PPAC website, she is making updates; presentation of changes at next meeting, and officers will have the opportunity to comment upon the website
- Sharing documents: from results of survey, PPAC Portal has not been used to share documents, and has been disbanded
- So how do we share documents: subcom has discussed several items and they intend to try to use dropbox
- LCDR Thomas Bender provided an overview of dropbox
  - Serve as repository for documents as well as to share documents
  - Has ability to undelete things if there are useful documents to resurrect
  - Two ways of sharing files on dropbox:
    - Public mechanism, directory: files there can be shared via a public link, and can be sent to others; same security level as a file being sent as an email
    - Share files that would be limited to membership of the PPAC, or subgroup; would then have to use shared directories

- One can always access documents via the [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com) website, without having to install software plug-in. It is not necessarily to install the plug-in. One can create you account and access via the website only.
- Utility for PPAC: share files within a group and look back at archive

***Compensation Committee (LCDR Sylvie Cohen and LCDR Jeffrey Sherman, reported by CDR Purohit-Sheth)***

- Worked with Nancy on Best Kept Secrets; no additional updates.

***Membership (CDR Sheryl Lyss and CDR Lori Newman, reported by CDR Purohit-Sheth)***

- PPAC has approved revisions to the bylaws, which included provisions:
  - For balance of rotation of members
  - To fill vacancies when a PAC VM leaves
  - To better define chair/vice chair succession
- Nominations have been received for PPAC Voting membership. Subcommittee convening on Tuesday Sept. 28, 2010 to discuss nominations. We have 15 excellent applicants for 10 VM positions. Officers who applied should not expect to hear anything until mid- to late October.

***Mental Health (CAPT Marc Safran)***

- This committee continues to seek suggestions regarding the mental health of officers and the population that we serve.
- Biggest task right now is to develop their report on officer mental health and morale, which was presented at Annual COF/COA; report anticipated to be finalized by Dec 2010 or January 2011
  - Paperwork/admin requirements are pervasive
  - Not value medical officers' time
  - Some reports of PHS medical officers had difficulties accessing mental health care
- Comments/suggestions are welcome

***Outreach Committee (CAPT Joannie Shen)***

- Special PPAC Forum will be held on Wednesday October 27 at 10:00 EST so our overseas officers can share their experiences in various International remote, unique, and/or isolated assignments. Organizer is LCDR Jennifer Varani.

***Promotion Guidelines Committee (CAPT David Goldman & CDR Laura St. Martin)***

- No notification across the PACs to reconvene the PAC POCs to discuss new benchmarks.
- Officers interested in joining promotion subcom contact David Goldman

### ***Readiness Committee (CDR Paul Kruszka)***

- CDR Kruszka reported 4th quarter readiness at 66%;
- out of 916 med officers, as of last week
  - 335 were not ready, of these 112 missing vaccines
  - LT Olin Bakke states other categories have similar readiness numbers with a range of 66-73%
  - Large part of this due to MAB not being caught up
  - 1/3 of our officers are missing a vaccine
  - OFRD emailed all of these officers to re-submit the vaccination information using the OFRD FAX coversheet, and officers need to keep records of all documentation recording submission to OFRD
- Readiness subcom: has contacted officers who are only missing one item
- LT Olin Bakke has volunteered to help any officers who are having any issues with placing BLS and APFTs into Direct Access

### ***Recruitment (CAPT Nancy Sahakian reported)***

- DCCR has developed a recruitment document called Best Kept Secrets, which is 15 pages long, and contains
  - Descriptions of various agencies
  - pay compensation scale
  - information on scholarship
  - loan repayments
- This will be available on the USPHS.gov website after finalized; however, it is a living document, and updates will be made quarterly as needed

### ***Retention, Medical Officer Liaison to OCCO (CAPT Carlos Plasencia)***

- No report at this meeting.

### ***Retirement (CDR Lana Shiu)***

- No updates

### ***Uniform (CDR Lana Shiu and LCDR Ken Norris)***

- No update

### ***JOAG Report (LCDR Rajal Mody)***

- No update.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

CDR Tejashri Purohit-Sheth adjourned the meeting at 1441.

## **FUTURE PPAC MEETINGS**

***The next PPAC teleconference will be a special PPAC Forum on Wednesday October 27, 2010 at 10:00 am EST.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
CDR Tejashri Purohit-Sheth  
PPAC Chair  
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