



**U.S. Public Health Service
Environmental Health Officer's Professional Advisory Committee
(EHOPAC)
Meeting #172 Minutes, February 14th, 2012**

1. Call to Order 1300 Eastern DST

EHOPAC Chair CDR Scotty Hargrave called the meeting to order. Roll call was held for members in attendance. Names of guests participating via phone and WebEx were recorded.

EHOPAC Members Participating in Meeting #172

EHOPAC Members Present	EHOPAC Members Absent
CAPT Michael Welch, Chief Professional Officer	CAPT Jean Gaunce
CDR Scotty Hargrave Chair	CAPT Charles Higgins
CDR Lisa Delaney Vice-Chair	CDR Danny Walters
CDR James Howell Treasurer	CDR Dave Cramer
LCDR Carla Tuite Secretary	CDR Shawn Lafferty
CDR John Spriggs	
LCDR Michael Reed	
LCDR Joe Laco	
CDR Dino Mattorano	
CDR Melanie Mayor	
LCDR Derek Newcomer	
CDR Chris vanTwuyver	
CDR Jennifer Freed	
Liaisons Present	Liaisons Absent
LCDR Eva McLanahan (EPA) JOAG Liaison	CAPT Gary Noonan (Ret) American Academy of Sanitarians Liaison
LT Jessica Schwarz COA/COF Category Day Liaison	Vacant ARP Liaison
	Vacant OCCFM Customer Service Representative
	LTJG Kazuhiro Okumura (USDA) COA/COF Category Day Liaison (ex officio)

	Vacant CAM Liaison
	CAPT Wendy Fanaselle COA Board Liaison
	CDR Don Williams (IHS) EHAC Liaison
EHOPAC Guests Present	
CAPT Larry Cseh CAPT Michael Noska CDR Christopher Kates CDR Mary O'Connor CDR Michelle Hawkins LCDR Carolyn Oyster LCDR Christopher Smith LCDR Derek Newcomer LCDR Michael Quinn	LT Beth Osterink LT Dana Robison LT Hristu Chepa LT Jessica Schwarz LTJG Kazuhiro Okumura LTJG Lauren Shade Ms. Gwendolyn Hudson

2. CPO's Report – CAPT Michael Welch (IHS)

- Follow up on those who were dropped from the President's Challenge
 - Encouraging the EHO's to use the alternative to the President's Challenge (APFT)
- Update on temporary commissioning freeze:
 - Temporary freeze is continuing.
 - Right now there is approximately 70-75 EHO applicants
 - Working on getting a list of those boarded and those who applied.
- Promotion boards are beginning soon and expected to end prior to the close of April.
- CAPT Welch is in a different job position now, so his job title and signature has been changed.
- EHO Billet Transformation information will soon be in Direct Access.

3. PAC Chair's Report – CDR Scotty Hargrave (FDA)

- Request for volunteers to assist with the OCCO application process.
 - It should be an eye opening experience for those who volunteer.
- National Prevention Strategy Document workgroup – from the Surgeon General's office.
 - 6 officers from EHOPAC participated.
 - The award information for these officers is being collected and is a priority.
- Discussed changing the BDU's to the ODU's.
 - The discussion is ongoing.

- A plan is being put into place for the transition period.
- Officers should NOT purchase ODU's until requested to do so.
- Remind Agencies that there is a "value-added" component for a Corps officer vs. a civilian

4. Liaison Reports

JOAG Liaison Report **LCDR Eva McLanahan**

- Call for 2012 JOAG Award Nominations was recently distributed via the JOAG and EHOPAC Listservs. Nominations are due March 16, 2012.
 - Junior Officer of the Year Award
 - JOAG Excellence Award
 - VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award
- Call for JOAG voting membership nominations for the 2012-2014 operational year will be sent out the end of this month. Q&A Session for those interested in applying will be held on March 7 from 1200-1300 EST. Details will be posted soon to the JOAG listserv.
- JOAG Journeyman Speakers Series presentation on "Post 9/11 GI Bill" (Presented by Norman Chichester & Mary Boone) was held on January 13. Contact LCDR Eva McLanahan (mclanahan.eva@epa.gov) for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.
- At our last JOAG General Meeting, OFRD Liaison stated that the readiness figures from Dec 2011 are complete and will soon be distributed to PAC Chairs and CPOs.
- Deployment Uniform Update: The policy on the new deployment uniform should be released soon. The plan is to transition to the Coast Guard Operational Dress Uniforms (ODUs). The specifications have been finalized and there will be a one year phase-in process.
- JOAG is working on a "Take a Junior Officer to Work Day" pilot program on the FDA Silver Spring campus. This program is designed for a senior officer to mentor a junior officer, via shadowing, for a day. We will keep you informed as it will be very helpful to have PAC input and support.
The next JOAG Journeyman Speakers Series will be held on Friday, March 9, 2012 from 1300-1400 EST on the topic of "Affordable Care Act: Implications for the Corps.". Call-in: 213-342-3000, passcode 864814.
- The next JOAG General Member Meeting will be held on Friday, April 13, 2012; 1300-1500 EST. Call-in: 218-936-4700, passcode 791-9605.
- For more information on how you can get involved in JOAG and for meeting time information, visit the JOAG Website at <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG>
- Miss a meeting? JOAG digitally records each meeting, including the Journeyman Speakers Series. For an mp3 copy of the recording, email LCDR Hiren Patel, hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov.

Category Day Planning Committee: Report to the EHOPAC February 2012
LT Jessica L. Schwarz

Highlights for January-February:

- The Category Day Planning Committee is well into the planning and implementation of Category Day for 2012. Category Day will be Thursday, June 21st and the conference will be held in College Park, MD. General information on the conference can be found here:
<http://www.phscofevents.org/>
- Conference registration is now open:
<http://www.phscofevents.org/registration.cfm>. Officers O-3 and below are encouraged to apply early for the junior officer scholarship to have their registration fees waived. More information is on the conference registration page.
- The Planning Committee met with the speakers for 2012 on January 26th. The Committee is working on inputting speaker information into the online management system. Friday speakers will receive an email to login and check their information and fill out their financial disclosure forms so that we can begin the process of getting CEUs approved. Speakers must enter the information no later than Friday, February 17th.
- The Committee met with LCDR Jenifer Freed to discuss the scope and structure of the newly formed Training Subcommittee. Many of the current Planning Committee members are planning on serving on the Training Subcommittee when it goes active.
- Any questions, concerns or feedback about COF and Category Day can be sent to LT Jessica Schwarz at Jessica.schwarz@ihs.gov or LTJG Kazu Okumura at kazuhiro.okumura@fsis.usda.gov

EHAC Liaison Report

Submitted by CDR Don Williams, EHAC Liaison to EHOPAC

The National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) is currently conducting site visits to the 15 environmental health programs that are up for initial or reaccreditation this year. There are no new schools seeking accreditation at this time but there are two seeking approval for additional programs. Eastern Kentucky University, a major source of COSTEPs, is planning to have their new MPH program accredited and the University of Findlay (Ohio) which has an accredited Graduate program is seeking the same for their Undergraduate program.

The site visits are conducted by a two person team unless a trainee is accompanying them. Each person that is an official team member must attend

one as a trainee. The team has one Academic and one Practitioner member who visit the campus to validate what was reported in the Self-Study that each program seeking either accreditation or reaccreditation completes in the fall before the year they are seeking.

The results of the visits will be discussed at the annual meeting of the EHAC and will include representatives of each program to answer questions from the full Council. The members of the council then vote to give several levels of approval ranging from full accreditation to partial accreditation or notice of what is needed to achieve those designations.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittee: Marketing and Recruitment

Chair: LCDR Jennifer Freed for CDR David Cramer

Current initiatives (and projected completion date if applicable):

- New EHO recruitment display
- Promoting and Marketing the 2012 JRCOSTEP season
- Using technology and social media to promote our category
- Coordinating EHOs to speak at local and state associations

Notable news/activities/accomplishments since last EHOPAC meeting:

- **New M&R Chair:** CDR Dave Cramer! Welcome and Congratulations!
- JRCOSTEP News: Approximately 20 EHO students have been selected for a JRCOSTEP at this time. Approximately 25 EHO applications were available for review during selections week.
- CDR Cook, LT Wright, and LT Burbage are working on a new EHO display with the assistance of NPS graphics offered by CAPT Higgins. This will replace the old and dated displays with something new, lightweight, and easy to ship, and easy to set-up.
- Facebook: Our “page” (for recruiting purposes) has 213 “likes”, and our “group” (for current EHOs) has 92 members. Both are gaining new members all the time. We are currently following HHS Social Media policies for our facebook page.
- Please use the career section of the EHOPAC website to list any new job opportunities!
- Four EHOs called to duty in January and February, see attachment. Current # of EHOs is 367, up 1 from December 2011. Our category numbers have been steadily declining since reaching a high of 387 in October 2009.
- As of February 2012, we have 22 boarded applicants. However only a few of those seem to be available at this time. It is unknown how many applicants we have that have not been boarded yet. M&R will try to get this information to have an accurate count of applicants for 2012, since no new applications are being accepted right now.

- Many concerns were received from EHOs regarding the news that headquarters will not process any EHO applications after December 31st for an undetermined period of time. It is not clear how and if EHOs should continue with recruitment activities during this time. More information is needed to answer questions from potential applicants and EHOs.

Long Term Goals:

- Support EHO recruitment efforts by developing and maintaining new and innovative recruitment tools and recruitment methods.
- Develop and maintain contacts with applicable academic programs and accreditation bodies for both undergraduate and graduate levels programs.
- Market JRCOSTEP opportunities to students, schools, and agencies and increase the number of JRCOSTEP placements.
- Develop methods/tools to convince non-IHS OPDIVs to consider hiring JRCOSTEPs.
- Increase the Category strength to 400.
- Continue contacting and supporting well-qualified applicants with the application and job search process.
- Increase involvement and recruitment of appropriate graduate school students.

Items for EHOPAC Input/Discussion:

- EHO Applicant Pool

Actions previously directed by EHOPAC (Status and projected completion):

- None

Attachment A. Category Statistics – as of 2/14/12

New officers since December 2011: 4

Rank	Name	Agency	CAD	Qual. Degree
LT	Donald Hoeschele	DHS/CG	2/11/12	
LTJG	Beth Wittry	IHS	2/10/12	
LTJG	Sarah Safari	DHS/CG	2/10/12	
LT	Eun Gyung Lee	CDC	1/6/12	

Current number of EHOs: 367 (↑1 since 12/13/11)

By agency:

ATSDR 17 (↓1 since 12/13/11)
 BOP 2
 CDC 69 (↑1 since 12/13/11)

DHS	25	(↑2 since 12/13/11)
DOD TMA	2	
EPA	17	
FDA	86	
HRSA		5
IHS	98	(↓1 since 12/13/11)
INTERIOR	13	
NIH	10	
OS	10	
PSC	9	
USDA		4

By rank:

O-2	21	(↓1 since 12/13/11)
O-3	68	(↓1 since 12/13/11)
O-4	84	(↑4 since 12/13/11)
O-5	87	(↓2 since 12/13/11)
O-6	104	(↑1 since 12/13/11)
O-7	3	

Subcommittee: Information Technology

Current Subcommittee Members:

LCDR Joe Laco (Chair), CDC, CAPT Gary Perlman, ATSDR, CDR Bobby Villines, IHS, LT James Speckhart, USCG, LCDR Eva McLanahan, EPA, CDR Robert Morones, IHS, LCDR Mark Strauss, South Central Foundation – Alaska

Current initiatives:

- Website security
 - Continued monitoring
 - Site Lock through iPower
 - Working on installation
 - Admin Tools Joomla! security extension.
- Joomla! (2.5.1) update
 - Migration occurred due recent phase-out of 1.6 and 1.7.3 and security problems with previous Joomla! version.
 - Includes one step Joomla! Updates
 - Increased security

Notable news/activities/accomplishments:

- Continued work on website updates
- Security Update
 - Security Issues from Russia
 - Block for access to just US and Canadian visitors

- Readiness Section on Website now operational
 - Readiness-specific top drop-down menu for accessing resources
 - Right-side of the website in Readiness section
- History Subcommittee timeline on website
 - Meeting on 1/20 with History Subcommittee
 - Joomla Add-on tool already on the prototype website.
 - CC highlights
 - EHO highlights
 - Bios
 - CPOs
 - Distinguished EHOs
- Filed an Incident Report with the US Department of Homeland Security's Computer Emergency Readiness Team, Dec 22nd.
 - Increased international traffic
 - possible attempts to gain unauthorized access to our web host account
- Broken resource links repaired on website.

Goals:

- Continued security monitoring and maintenance of ehopac.org website
 - SiteLock revision
 - **Admin Tools**
 - Added security features
 - Seamlessly upgrades Joomla! without the need to re-construct the website (whew);
 - Implement multiple country-specific IP address blocking;
 - Allows us to make a unique URL to login as an administrator (no longer relying on the vulnerable www.ehopac.org/administrator);
 - Automatically alerts us if someone is attempting to login as an administrator several times unsuccessfully;
 - Examines changes in all PHP files and alerts us of potential hacker infiltration; and
 - Identifies and block hackers who follow certain patterns of attack (multi-hits per second, etc).
 - **\$27 one-time fee**
- Update users for permissions for author/publisher.
 - Author Level
 - Other subcommittee users
 - Publisher Level
 - IT subcommittee users
 - Approval for posted content
- Joomla! 2.5.1 migration
- Continued work with EHOPAC subcommittees

- Marketing and Recruiting
 - Vacancy Sharing for applicants
 - Job board
 - Postings
 - Facebook
- History
 - Time Line
 - Pics

Items for EHOPAC Input/Discussion:

- None at this time

WEBSITE STATISTICS

During the first week of February the EHOPAC website automatically blocked seventeen (17) attempted hackers (based on various criterion, including attempting to gain access three or more times per minute). Here is the listing of the hackers' IP address by country, and the number of hackers blocked.

Blocked due to country blocking parameters:

China	5
Germany	3
Ukraine	5
Others	4

Hacker attempts have drastically increased recently. Our site remains safe, is regularly backed up, and continues to be highly popular (1000 hits per month).

2012

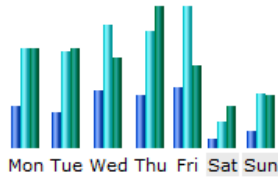
Month	Unique visitors
Jan 2012	1022
Feb 2012	371
Total	1393

2011

Month	Unique visitors
Jan 2011	903
Feb 2011	786
Mar 2011	827
Apr 2011	755

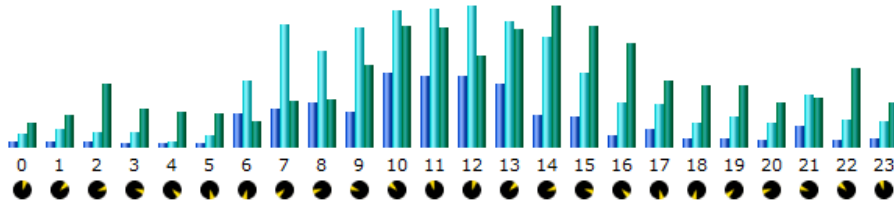
May 2011	789
Jun 2011	657
Jul 2011	685
Aug 2011	617
Sep 2011	781
Oct 2011	849
Nov 2011	936
Dec 2011	1200
Total	9785

Days of week



Day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mon	458.80	1103.80	37.19 MB
Tue	385.40	1067	37.26 MB
Wed	639.75	1363	33.55 MB
Thu	587.25	1290.25	52.70 MB
Fri	671.25	1560.25	30.73 MB
Sat	90.50	285	15.68 MB
Sun	188.60	593	19.42 MB

Hours



Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
00	111	291	15.05 MB	12	1540	3021	55.09 MB
01	132	379	19.41 MB	13	1348	2699	71.84 MB
02	102	310	38.00 MB	14	691	2369	85.16 MB
03	93	317	23.11 MB	15	662	1607	73.65 MB
04	70	127	21.55 MB	16	253	948	62.53 MB
05	98	249	20.22 MB	17	372	921	40.45 MB
06	706	1426	16.08 MB	18	187	531	37.09 MB
07	822	2622	27.70 MB	19	189	639	37.77 MB
08	949	2078	29.17 MB	20	139	536	26.98 MB
09	768	2559	49.98 MB	21	437	1136	29.53 MB
10	1593	2925	73.77 MB	22	160	578	47.34 MB
11	1513	2978	72.00 MB	23	184	567	26.51 MB

Visits duration			
Number of visits: 1709 - Average: 222 s		Number of visits	Percent
	0s-30s	1343	78.5 %
	30s-2mn	116	6.7 %
	2mn-5mn	72	4.2 %
	5mn-15mn	60	3.5 %
	15mn-30mn	32	1.8 %
	30mn-1h	58	3.3 %
	1h+	28	1.6 %

Referrals to EHOPAC.ORG from foreign countries

Jan 2012= 23%

Feb 2012= 0 (implemented country blocking algorithm)

Blocked Hackers/ Intrusion Attempts:

Nine (9) hackers were blocked who attempted to gain access by malicious activity (by various means; for example, three or more attacks in one minute). Note: blocking only prevents users from the offending IP address from visiting the website. Since the blocking algorithm reviews behavior, if the hackers use another IP address, their malicious behavior will be caught. It is still somewhat like the whack-a-mole game.

Continuity of Web-Operations

Our insurance policy resides in regular backups and robust (18 character passwords). In the event of a disaster, we should be able to be operational within a brief while. Trial runs of website continuity of operations (from compromised website and damaged SQL database to restored (from a backup) is about 30 minutes.. We are able to initiate an emergency shutdown of the website within about 15 minutes. These times will vary depending on problem/disaster notification time.

EHOPAC Readiness Subcommittee Report

Current Subcommittee Members:

Chair: CDR Lisa Delaney, CDC
 Members: CAPT Colleen Petullo, EPA
 CAPT Mark Miller, CDC
 CAPT Larry Cseh, CDC/ATSDR
 CDR Brad King, CDC/NIOSH
 CDR Jason Barr, NIH
 CDR Martin Smith, IHS
 CDR Christopher VanTwyver, FDA
 LCDR Elizabeth Valenti, FDA
 LT Patrick Wallace, FEMA

LT Aaron Otis, CDC
Dr. Robert Emery, Univ of Texas

Current initiatives (and projected completion date if applicable):

- Developing 2012 Subcommittee work plan
- Update Readiness Subcommittee page on the EHOPAC website
- Update the EHO Readiness Guide originally developed in 2004. The purpose of the document is to identify necessary skill sets and competencies necessary for a successful OFRD deployment.
- Develop novel approaches to assisting officers meet Basic Readiness and submit recommendations to CPO.

Notable news/activities/accomplishments since last EHOPAC meeting:

- Posted Readiness Subcommittee page on the EHOPAC website.
- Completed transition to new Chair, CDR Chris van Twuyver

Long Term Goals:

- Continued support to officers attaining and maintaining readiness.
- Support the Chief Environmental Health Officer.
- Lead the way for the Environmental Health Responder.

Subcommittee: Professional Image and Standards

Current Subcommittee Members: CDR Rick Rutherford, CDR Timothy Jiggins, CDR Robert McCleery, CDR Tina Lankford, CDR John McKernan, LCDR Derek Newcomer, LCDR Elena Vaoli, LCDR Luis Rodriguez

Current initiatives (and projected completion date if applicable):

- Reviewing uniformed service branches appointment standards for the EHO equivalent
- Reviewing the Lt. Christian's Little Blue Book (<http://cryptome.org/dodi/lt-christian-book.pdf>) for translation into an USPHS resource guide

Actions previously directed by EHOPAC (Status and projected completion):

Reviewing EHOPAC appointment standards with anticipated review completion date of 7/1/2012

Long Term Goals:

Conduct review of EHO appointment standards and provide recommendation on changes, if deemed appropriate

Subcommittee: History

Current Subcommittee Members:

Michael	Reed (Chair)		
Jeffrey	Conner	Victoria	Murray
Kenneth	Crombie	Amanda	Parris
Tim	Duffy	Fredrick	Ramsey
William	Fournier	Susan	Shaffer
Theresa	Gallagher	Kelli	Stamper
Robert	Gruhot	Martin	Stephens
Patrick	Hintz	Christian	Witkovskie
Abraham	Maekele	Vince	Garcia

Current Initiatives:

1) Flag & Chief Professional Officer Biographies Team (Lead: Kelli Stamper) **IN PROGRESS – As of 2/13/12.**

- In January had a call with the IT group to discuss the timeline and ideas for how bios will be presented on the site;
- Our work team has had one team call since the last report. That call was focused on sharing ideas for dealing with scheduling challenges when trying to arrange interviews with the CPOs and Flag Officers, as well as strategies for making phone interviews go as smoothly as possible and capture the information.
- The draft version of CAPT Chelikowsky's biography was sent out today to the team for review and editing, with a timeline of 2/24 to get comments back. The final draft will go to the History Chair for final changes and approval.

Kelli	Crow	Interview completed, revising draft
	Welch	Interview completed, revising draft
	Randy Grinnell	Contacted to request interview
	Marsland	Interview completed, draft bio in progress
Tim	Meeks	Biography complete, awaiting photo
	Chelikowsky	Interview completed, bio out for review
	Todd	
Vince	Holman	
	Young	
	Verrone	
Jeff	Touch	
	Smith	Have requested OPF thru CPO
	Taylor	Have requested OPF thru CPO

Abraham	Shepherd	Draft bio under revision & to CAPT Shepherd for approval.
	Richie Grinnell	Agreed to participate, Scheduling interview.
	Jim Liberman	Have requested OPF thru CPO

2) Data Team: (Leads: Patrick Hintz and Robert Gruhot) **IN PROGRESS – As of 2/13/12** – Continues to summarize EHOPAC meeting minutes from the past decades, year by year (Murray and Shaffer). The summaries are nearing completion and once complete will be posted on the website. Future team/subcommittee meetings will need to focus on brainstorming for new tasks and to plan for continued maintenance of the minute summaries and photo gallery. This team will end up becoming archivists and having to maintain what we start....including the pictures. Maybe that will be a task in itself....how to continue our work once we rotate off.

I am thinking that I will have to postpone our next team meeting until next week. Planning the day before was probably too soon to plan a meeting. I think I will still hold a meeting with Bobby, Rob, Victoria, Martin Stephens, and me if possible on Wednesday. That way, we can have a more fact-finding and logistical discussion preceding the data team meeting. We can have a follow up meeting with Martin and Bobby later if we need to based on brainstorming ideas for the photo archive.

3) Historical Photo Gallery (Lead: Patrick Hintz) **IN PROGRESS – As of 2/13/12** – Planning conference call with IT Subcommittee (Bobby Villines) to further discuss photo gallery. Rob Gruhot is adding pictures to the EHOPAC picture website. An ongoing project could be coming up with various themes and using the archive to populate those albums.

4) IT Team (Lead: Martin Stephens) **IN PROGRESS** – No report.

Completed Initiatives: No new completed activities.

Notable News/activities/accomplishments since last EHOPAC meeting:

None

Items for EHOPAC Input/Discussion: None

Actions previously directed by EHOPAC: None

Attachments: None

Subcommittee: Awards and Recognition

- 4 Additional awards announced for nominees on listserv
- Nominate Senior or Junior Officers

Subcommittee: Membership

- All in order with contacts
- Information has been shared.

6. New Business

CAPT Noska Thanks Committee for Opportunity to Serve

The December meeting was CAPT Noska's last meeting as PAC Chair. He thanked the PAC for the great experience as PAC Chair. He expressed his gratitude for all the officers he's met and all he's learned about the PAC and the category.

7. Meeting adjourned 14:34 Hrs. EDT

Next meeting April 10th at 1300 EST